SEA Environmental Report: PART 1
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SEA Environmental Report: PART 2	
An SEA Environmental Report is attached for:	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
The Responsible Authority is:	East Dunbartonshire Council

SEA Environmental Report: PART 3	
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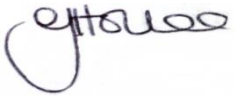
Signature (electronic signature is acceptable)	
Date	18th July 2016

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Local Biodiversity Action Plan

sustainable thriving achieving
East Dunbartonshire Council
www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk

Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures

Non-Technical Summary

Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

As part of the preparation of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAB), East Dunbartonshire Council carried out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The process of SEA is a systematic method for considering the likely environmental effects of this Plan. It aims to:

- Integrate environmental factors into the Plan preparation and decision-making
- Improve the Plan and enhance environmental protection
- Increase public participation in decision making
- Facilitate the openness and transparency of decision-making

Key SEA Stages

The key SEA stages carried out in the preparation of the LBAP were:

Scoping: This is the process by which details for the Environmental Report were determined. Through the Scoping Report the level of detail and the consultation period was determined for the Environmental Report and followed by a consultation with the appropriate Consultation Authorities: Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA).

Environmental Assessment: The Environmental Report documented the environmental assessment of the LBAP. The assessments of the relevant components (e.g. ambition, aims, objectives and actions) were carried out in parallel to the development of the Plan. This helped the plan-maker to refine the Strategy in order to avoid or mitigate the negative environmental impacts and to further enhance the positive environmental impacts.

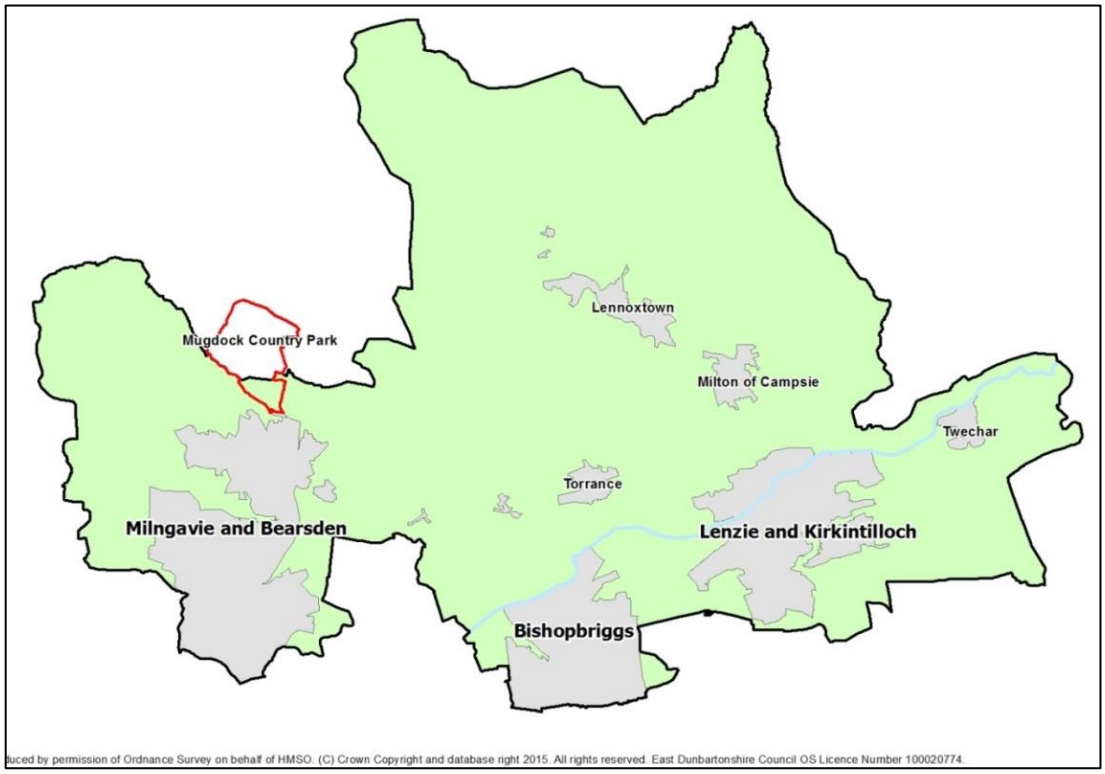
Post-Adoption Statement: The Post-Adoption Statement will demonstrate how the findings of the SEA have been taken into account in the adopted Strategy. In accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Post-Adoption Statement will highlight:

- How the environmental considerations have been incorporated into the LBAP;
- How the findings of the Environmental Report have been taken into account;
- How opinions expressed, from both the Community and Consultation Authorities during the consultation of the Environmental Report have been taken into account;
- The reasons for choosing the LBAP as adopted in light of other reasonable alternatives; and,
- The measures to be taken to monitor the significant effects of the implementation of the Plan.

The purpose of SEA is to inform the development process of the LBAP. The assessment identified, described and evaluated the likely significant negative and positive environmental effects of the LBAP including any alternatives. This was beneficial in order to reduce, avoid or mitigate any potential environmental impact and further enhance any potential positive impacts. This Environmental Report presents the results of the SEA for the LBAP and establishes a monitoring framework and measures to mitigate any adverse impacts that may occur as a result of the strategic document.

Key facts relating to the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Responsible Authority:	East Dunbartonshire Council
Title of PPS:	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
What prompted the GNS?	Although the LBAP is not a statutory requirement it was prompted by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan commitment, the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004. The Act places a duty on all local authorities and public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity in carrying out their functions.
Subject:	Biodiversity
Period covered:	2017 - 2021
Frequency of updates:	The Strategy will be reviewed annually and updated in 2021
Area covered by the GNS:	East Dunbartonshire Council and Mugdock Country Park (which lies within the Stirling Council area; in collaboration with Stirling Council). Cross-boundary issues for biodiversity into neighbouring authorities will be given recognition.



Purpose of the GNS:

In response to the requirements for Scotland to contribute to meeting the targets set by the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for East Dunbartonshire intends to:

- Contribute to the (relevant) objectives and targets of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy through effective, co-ordinated local action
- Identify nature conservation priorities for East Dunbartonshire, and targeted actions for the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species that are important at the local level
- Contribute to a forum for the Biodiversity Partnership to work together on preparation of the LBAP, share ideas and collaborate on projects/actions which can be developed and maintained over the long term

- Raise awareness of biodiversity/ecosystem services and its importance in the local context and encourages local communities to get involved in the actions in their area
- Ensure opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity are promoted and embedded in local policies and decision making processes
- Identify opportunities for and facilitates strategic, landscape scale, cross boundary initiatives for nature conservation
- Encourage greater biological recording in the area
- Realise the social and economic benefits of biodiversity through education and action
- Provide a framework for the monitoring and evaluation of local biodiversity actions/activity against both local and national targets and objectives/priorities, preferably incorporating the use of the UK-wide Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS).

Plan Aims and Objectives:

Aims:

- Protect, restore and expand East Dunbartonshire's natural and semi-natural habitats to create a robust and connected natural environment
- Avoid local extinctions by increasing the range and population health of our most vulnerable species
- Connect people to the natural environment, raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity and increase the involvement of local communities in conservation projects
- Integrate the conservation of biodiversity into decision making processes and all aspects of land management
- Increase the knowledge of East Dunbartonshire's biodiversity through data collection, collation and sharing

Objectives:

Rural Ecosystem

- Improve knowledge of priority species and habitats found within rural areas
- Maintain and, where possible, increase the quality and extent of grassland habitats
- Encourage sustainable management of rural land and promote biodiversity friendly working practices on farmland
- Retain and enhance boundary features to increase functional connectivity across the landscape

Urban Ecosystem

- Protect biodiversity features on designated sites and encourage the inclusion of biodiversity friendly practices in the management of parks and other open spaces
- Raise awareness and improve knowledge of biodiversity through environmental education, events, targeted surveys and training
- Promote the importance of biodiversity throughout Council Services and incorporate biodiversity projects into work programmes to aid delivery of the statutory biodiversity duty
- Ensure good design and placemaking within new developments and encourage the inclusion of biodiversity enhancements in open space provision and within the built environment
- Increase participation in environmental community projects and volunteering activities including citizen science

Freshwater Ecosystem

- Restore lowland raised bog condition and function on a further 5ha
- Contribute to the delivery of the Scotland River Basin Management Plan ecological water quality objectives
- Improve the function of river valleys as wildlife corridors
- Improve quality and extent of the pond resource and knowledge of associated priority species
- Ensure sustainable management of the water environment

Woodland Ecosystem

- Protect and prevent loss of ancient and long established woodland
- Encourage the sensitive management of the woodland resource, including scrub, to improve the long term ecological value of all woodland habitat
- Ensure woodlands, especially those close to urban areas, are accessible and promote awareness of their value to local communities
- Encourage natural regeneration, new natural colonisation and native tree planting at new sites to increase the extent of priority woodland habitat, ensuring minimal conflict with other priority habitat types.

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Context of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

In order to guide both the development of the Plan and the environmental assessments the relevant international, European, national, regional and local Plans, Policies, Programmes, Strategies and Masterplans have been identified. In particular, the relevant legislative documents focused on those related to biodiversity including:

- Convention on Biological Diversity 1992
- Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020
- EU Birds Directive
- EU Habitats Directive
- Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
- Scottish Planning Policy
- Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands 2004 and The 2020 Biodiversity Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity 2013)
- Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan 2012 (Clydeplan Proposed Plan)
- East Dunbartonshire Council Local Improvement Plan 2016 – 2019
- East Dunbartonshire Council Open Space Strategy 2015 – 2020
- East Dunbartonshire Proposed Local Development Plan
- Emerging East Dunbartonshire Council Green Network Strategy

Section 1.2 of the main report contains a more comprehensive list of relevant actions that will directly influence or be influenced by the LBAP. Appendix A also contains a detailed overview of the relevant environmental objectives of these legislative documents as well as others relevant international, European, national, regional and local legislative drivers.

Environmental Baseline Data for East Dunbartonshire

The environmental baseline information for East Dunbartonshire has been identified in relation to each of the environmental factors (*Population and Human Health; Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna; Cultural Heritage; Landscape; Soil and Geology; Water Quality; Air Quality; Climatic Factors and Material Assets*). The information has been collated using a range of statistics and resources, including information from Scotland's Environment Web, SNH, SEPA, Historic Environment Scotland, SNIFFER, Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Government, National Records and Air Quality Scotland, as well as local information obtained from the different relevant Services within the Council. The baseline data has been updated if and when available data has become available in order to ensure that the data is as relevant as possible.

Section 2.1 of the main report contains a full outline of the environmental baseline data for each of the environmental factors considered in SEA, including spatial representations of the main environmental constraints in East Dunbartonshire using Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

Existing Environmental Problems

Reviewing the environmental baseline data for East Dunbartonshire helped to identify any existing environmental problems that would need to be taken into account during the preparing and implementation of the LBAP. The likely nature of the environment without a Plan to improve local biodiversity value has also been described along with the implications of this for the Council, where appropriate.

The main challenges identified include:

- East Dunbartonshire has eight datazones which fall into the top 25% most deprived areas in Scotland located in Hillhead, Lennoxtown, Auchinairn and Milngavie as identified in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.
- There is a significant reliance on public transport and access to primary facilities, particularly in areas of deprivation and due to East Dunbartonshire's ageing population.
- East Dunbartonshire has a range of local, national and international cultural heritage assets of value including the Antonine Wall UNESCO World Heritage Site and the Forth and Clyde Canal Scheduled Monument.
- The local area is key for tourism and is host to tourist attractors including the Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills, Mugdock Country Park and West Highland Way in addition to the Antonine Wall and Forth and Clyde Canal. There is concern that increased access to the local environment can devalue these sites for tourism and the local economy.
- The local natural environment hosts a wide range of designated and non-designated environmental and ecological assets including protected and priority species and habitats. The various Local Nature Conservation Sites for biodiversity and geodiversity, SSSI designations, Tree Preservation Orders and Local Nature Reserves link directly to the aims of the Plan so it is essential that their management and protection is maintained throughout the life of the Strategy.
- River and canal corridors in East Dunbartonshire contribute significantly to wide ranging habitats and biodiversity. However, habitat connectivity requires addressing.

- There are 36 sites identified as being geologically diverse, of which 34 have been assigned as Local Geodiversity Site (LGS). The area also hosts 1 RIGS (Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site) and 1 SSSI of geological importance.
- East Dunbartonshire has a number of areas with high/moderate scenic value as well as specific landscape characters and settings across the Council area, including the Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills. Enhanced biodiversity can contribute to protecting and promoting valued landscapes.

Assessment of Environmental Effects

The main function of the Environmental Report as part of the full SEA process is to suggest ways to improve the environmental performance of the plans and strategies through assessment of the environmental effects identified. An assessment of the Plan's direction, ambition, aims and objectives was carried out initially which highlighted an overall positive effect on the environment with the potential for significant impacts. The positive nature of the effects has been enhanced, where it was deemed appropriate, through the integration of SEA suggested alterations to the wording or focus of the individual Plan components, much of which have been integrated as the Plan preferred option into the main document. In addition, the actions for each of the priority habitats were assessed. A summary of the findings are detailed below:

SEA Factors	Environmental Impacts of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Population and Human Health	The overall effects of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) were considered to be primarily major positive due to a number of factors: • Opportunities to enhance recreational and cultural provision within communities including improved open space and access to the local natural environment; • Greater understanding of the current local species and habitat value; and, • Potential opportunities to involve local communities in biodiversity and conservation projects and opportunities for environmental education.
Cultural Heritage	The overall effects of the LBAP were considered to be not significant. Although there were a select number of actions that were likely to present positive impacts in terms of improving the visual setting of historical designations such as the Antonine Wall and Gardens and Designed Landscapes, the impacts are likely to be minor and therefore present no significant impacts.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets	To overall effects of the GNS on this environmental factor were considered to be significantly positive in nature as the intention of the Plan was seen to have a direct impact on improving and protecting biodiversity value and presented actions that would directly result in biodiversity gain. The positive nature of the effects is due to a number of factors: • An active approach to enhancing or creating new wetland, grassland and woodland habitats; • Protection of important and valued natural designations such as LNCS, LNR and SSSI; • Encouragement of safe use of existing core paths and active travel routes in East Dunbartonshire due to improved setting and visual amenity of the wider natural environment;

SEA Factors	Environmental Impacts of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan
	• Promotion of active travel and links to the aims of the Green Network Strategy; • Greater consideration of the protection and sustainable use of natural resources; • Greater understanding of the role of local biodiversity including ecosystem services; and, • Promotion of flourishing biodiversity for the natural environment and for long-term protection and prevention of wildlife loss.
Soil and Geology	The overall impacts for this environmental factor were not considered to be significant. Some of the individual actions would result in potential impacts to important geodiversity sites and peatland/blanket bog due to their location and nature. However, the nature of these selected actions was likely to have a minor impact on this environmental factor.
Landscape	The overall effects of the LBAP are considered to be minor positive in nature due to: • Reductions in habitat fragmentation and improved links, particularly to and from the green belt; • Improvements to the urban-rural divide; and, • Contributions towards improving the visual setting, especially in the Local Landscape Areas.
Water Quality and Climatic Factors	The overall effects of the GNS were considered to be minor positive in nature due to opportunities to enhance the role of biodiversity for natural flood management, water storage and the prevention of surface water run-off, as well as its role in carbon capture and improved ecosystem services.
Air Quality	The overall effects of the GNS were considered to be minor positive in nature due to the following factors: • Opportunities to enhance the role of biodiversity for ecosystem services and for pollutant management and carbon sequestration, particularly where opportunities are located within or near to Air Quality Management Areas; and, • Improving the role of woodland for local air quality improvements.

Sections 3.5 and Appendices D, E and F provide full details of the assessments for the Plan's direction, ambition, aims, objectives and actions respectively.

Mitigation and Monitoring

Mitigation measures have been proposed through the environmental assessments and incorporated into the Plan where necessary in order to avoid, reduce, mitigate or offset any potential adverse environmental impacts and enhance any uncertain, neutral, positive environmental impacts identified. The mitigation measures incorporate all environmental factors which were scoped into the assessment and will be the responsibility of East Dunbartonshire Council to implement in conjunction with key agencies and stakeholders.

The full range of SEA suggested alterations and mitigation measures for each of the assessments can be reviewed in **Appendices D, E and F.**

The mitigation measures will form part of the Post-Adoption Statement for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, prepared as soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of the Plan, in accordance with Section 18 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The environmental baseline data (**Section 2.1**) and the monitoring indications as part of the proposed monitoring framework (**Section 4.2**) will form the basis of future monitoring of the potential effects, predicted and unforeseen, of the Plan on the local environment.

Statutory Consultation

The Environmental Report and the Local Biodiversity Action Plan was subject to a 6 week consultation with the public and key agencies between 1st August 2016 – 12th September 2016.

Section 1: Policy Context

1.1. Key Facts

East Dunbartonshire Council is preparing a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) 2017 – 2021 which will take a strategic approach to protecting biodiversity across the East Dunbartonshire Council-wide area, including Mugdock Country Park (Stirling Council and the Joint Committee for the Park will be involved in issues related to the Park). The LBAP intends to recognise the importance of biodiversity at both a national and a local level. The production of a new LBAP will replace the Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2013 (East Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire) for an updated, co-ordinated and targeted approach to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.

An ecosystem approach was taken in the development of the LBAP, focussing on Urban, Rural, Woodland and Freshwater ecosystems. Each Ecosystem Plan has its own set of objectives and provides information on associated priority habitats and lists the priority species. The actions within the plan tend to take a habitat focused approach to conserving biodiversity but some species that need an additional helping hand or that we need to gather further survey information for may also have specific actions.

Given that the LBAP is being prepared at the same time as the Green Network Strategy the preparation of both documents have been aligned, as well as alignment with any related content in the Active Travel Strategy.

1.2. Relationship with other Plans, Programmes and Strategies

1.2.1. There are a number of other Strategies and Plans nationally, regionally and locally that the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) needs to be integrated with. These include:

International:	Kyoto Protocol 1997
	Convention on Biological Diversity 1992
	Aichi Biodiversity Targets
European:	European Biodiversity Strategy
	Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020
	EU Birds Directive
	EU Habitats Directive
National:	UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework
	Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
	Scottish Forestry Strategy 2006
	Scottish Planning Policy
	National Planning Framework 3
	Planning Advice Note (PAN) 60: Planning for Natural Heritage
	PAN 65: Planning and Open Space
	Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands (2004) and The 2020 Challenge for Scotland' Biodiversity (2013))
	Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) 2011
	River Basin Management Plan for Scotland
	Scottish Biodiversity List
Regional:	Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan 2012
	Emerging Clydeplan (Proposed Plan)
	Emerging Clyde and Loch Lomond Flood Risk Management Plan

Local:

East Dunbartonshire Council Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016 - 2019
East Dunbartonshire Council Local Plan 2 (until adoption of emerging Local Development Plan)
Local Development Plan Green Infrastructure and Green Network Supplementary Guidance (emerging)
Local Development Plan Design and Placemaking Supplementary Guidance (emerging)
East Dunbartonshire Core Path Plan
East Dunbartonshire Council Local Transport Strategy 2013 – 2017 (until adoption of updated Local Transport Strategy in 2017)
East Dunbartonshire Council Active Travel Strategy 2015 - 2020
East Dunbartonshire Council Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2016 - 2020
East Dunbartonshire Council Open Space Strategy 2015 - 2020
The Campsies: A Strategic Review and Action Plan (2011)

1.2.2. Cross-boundary effects with neighbouring authorities will be considered through the integration of the LBAP as well as a consideration of Plans and Strategies produced by the neighbouring authorities. This will be particularly important in relation to Mugdock Country Park, which lies within the Stirling Council area. However, it is not expected that the LBAP will require consideration of transboundary effects with neighbouring EU Member States.

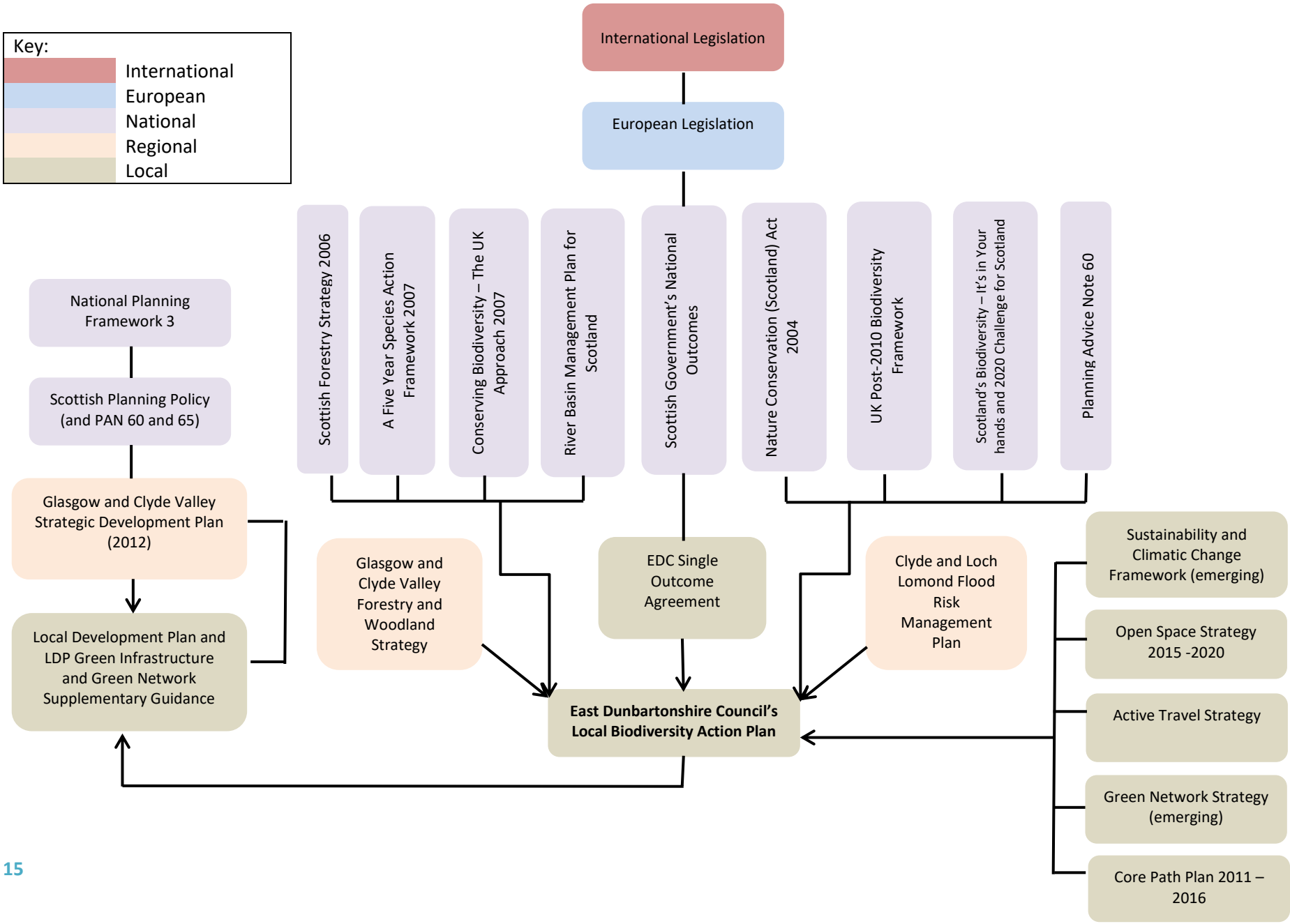
1.2.3. **Appendix A** lists key legislation, plans, programmes, policies and strategies that influence or are influenced by the LBAP. This list includes documents that refer to international, European Community, and national environmental objectives; regional and local objectives. Their content, where appropriate, has been used to inform the environmental objectives for the SEA of the LBAP.

1.3. Environmental Protection Objectives

1.3.1 The environmental objectives that are contained within International, European, UK and Scottish legislation, as well as national guidance, which are considered to be of the greatest relevance to the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, will be taken into account when preparing the strategic action. These are set out in **Appendix A**.

Figure 1: Interrelationship of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan with other Plans, Programmes and Strategies

This is a diagrammatic representation and as such does not include every one of the plans listed. It is useful for demonstrating such relationships



Section 2: Environmental Context

2.1 Environmental Baseline Data

2.1.1 Table 1 below summarises the main baseline environmental features, assets and the environmental implications for the preparation and development of the LBAP. The table also contains the SEA objectives used to assess the LBAP and further sub-criteria used within the assessment tables. GIS maps have also been produced to spatially identify natural and built environmental designations and constraints in East Dunbartonshire and are show in Figure 2 – Figure 6.

Table 1: Environmental baseline data

POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH		
SEA OBJECTIVE: To improve human health and community wellbeing		
Summary of baseline environmental data	**Environmental implications for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan**	**Source of baseline data**
East Dunbartonshire has a total population of 105,860 (2013); a decrease in population of approximately 3% since 2001. Population Projections forecast this trend to continue during the period between 2010 and 2035 with a reduction of 9.8% expected. East Dunbartonshire has a decreasing and ageing population. This is highlighted through the population projections in 2010 that by 2035 East Dunbartonshire's population will be 94,343 with a large increase in the 75+ age group and a projected decline of 22.8% of the under 16 age group in comparison to the 2010 population statistics. The number of people aged over 65 years old is forecast to increase by 11,000 people between 2010 and 2035.	East Dunbartonshire hosts various areas within the top 15% of deprived areas in Scotland and is showing an increase in non-economically active population and older people. Through community engagement, there will be opportunities for these groups of people to become involved in biodiversity projects. This can result in improved quality of environment and will have a potentially positive impact on their wellbeing. There is scope to improve the number of people partaking in walking and cycling through active encouragement of the natural environment and outdoor activities. Enhancements to biodiversity and habitats are likely to promote cycling and core path routes in East Dunbartonshire. This will potentially lead to	Population statistics Trends in health from 2001 to 2011. Life expectancy Physical activity levels, particularly through walking and cycling to work. Information related to SIMD area and economic statistics Access to open space, health and recreational facilities. Community-led projects in East Dunbartonshire Number of volunteers, particularly with interest in biodiversity

Areas of Hillhead and Lennoxtown are within the top 15% most deprived SIMD data zones in Scotland. Generally the health of the residents of East Dunbartonshire is good with nearly 73% of the residents being generally healthy, in comparison to the average of Scotland (68%) according to the 2001 census. The level of residents found to be in general health status of 'not good' within East Dunbartonshire and Scotland was 8% and 10% respectively. In terms of walking and cycling to work in 2012/13, East Dunbartonshire had low rates of walking (5.1%) when compared with the Scottish national average (13.2%). Walking to work rates in East Dunbartonshire represent the 2nd lowest rates in Scotland against all other Council areas. There are similarly low levels of cycling to the Scottish national average (2.3%). The percentage of economically active people living in East Dunbartonshire has decreased over recent years; however, this percentage is still higher than both the Scottish and British national averages.	supplementary positive outcomes in reducing car travel. The associated conflicts between the rights for public access to the environment and the need to protect biodiversity will need to be considered. Of those who are economically active in East Dunbartonshire, 0.2% of this population work in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry. The management and protection of biodiversity for both preserving biodiversity and the livelihoods of those who are involved in this industry is vital.	
CULTURAL HERITAGE		
SEA OBJECTIVE: To protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment		
Summary of baseline environmental data	**Environmental implications for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan**	**Source of baseline data**
East Dunbartonshire has: - ➢ 1 UNESCO World Heritage Site; Antonine Wall. A buffer zone has been identified	Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas contribute to the character of the streets in East Dunbartonshire. Through appropriate management and enhancement, where	Historic Scotland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

around the Wall to help protect its setting. This is set out within the Antonine Wall Management Plan 2014-19 which was developed by Historic Scotland in partnership with East Dunbartonshire Council, Falkirk Council, North Lanarkshire Council, West Dunbartonshire Council and Glasgow Council. ➢ 43 Scheduled Ancient Monuments. In particular the Forth & Clyde Canal is made up of a series of Scheduled Ancient Monuments. ➢ 181 Listed Building, including five bridges, five mileposts, one horse trough and Milngavie Railway Station. The Luggie Water Aqueduct and Bridge, Kirkintilloch, is Category A. ➢ 15 Conservation Areas (4 of which are designated as outstanding) ➢ 21 Townscape Protection Areas ➢ 3 sites recommended as having the potential for meeting national inventory standards as Gardens and Designed Landscapes. 30 such sites have also been identified as having local value. ➢ A number of registered Buildings at Risk: **<u>Baldernock</u>** • Outbuilding **<u>Bearsden</u>** • Colquhouns of Garscadden Burial Enclosure **<u>Bishopbriggs</u>** • Cawder House Stables • Huntershill House	necessary, the character of these assets can be further promoted. The varied and rich historic built and natural environment in East Dunbartonshire should be a vital consideration for the LBAP. The LBAP should consider the role and importance of biodiversity to the setting and value of the Antonine Wall. The requirements to protect Forth and Clyde Canal, both as a main water body and Scheduled Ancient Monument, will be influential to the LBAP.	East Dunbartonshire Council United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation – World Heritage Site Designation Scottish Natural Heritage Scottish Canals Heritage Strategy 2013-38

Cadder • Cadder Smithy **Kirkintilloch** • Broomhill Hospital, Outbuildings, Lodge and Cottages • Old Aisle Cemetery Gatelodge • 18A West High Street • Former Kirkintilloch Town Hall **Lenzie** • Woodilee Hospital Administration Block **Lennoxtown** • Lennox Castle • High Kirk of Campsie		
BIODIVERSITY, FLORA AND FAUNA		
SEA OBJECTIVE: To protect, enhance, create and, where necessary, restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity		
Summary of baseline environmental data	**Environmental implications for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan**	**Source of baseline data**
East Dunbartonshire has: - ➢ 6 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) ➢ 2 Regional Scenic Areas ➢ There are networks of 110 Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) throughout East Dunbartonshire. There are 76 LNCS designated for their biodiversity value with the remained being designated for their geodiversity value. ➢ Important Wildlife Corridors will be reviewed 2015/2016 so these designations along with LNCS are subject to alteration. ➢ 485 Tree Preservation Orders + 1 pending designation at Camstradden Drive East, Bearsden.	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna directly influence the LBAP. The implementation of the LBAP will have a direct positive impact on protecting and enhancing the species and habitats in East Dunbartonshire. This will be particularly significant to those that are vulnerable/protected. Where specific projects are highlighted in the LBAP to achieve the aims, native species should be considered in order to enhance natural resources that are specific to the local area. The importance and impact of Protected Species and INNS for biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire should be considered through the LBAP.	Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Action Plan Scottish Natural Heritage East Dunbartonshire Council Native Woodland Survey of Scotland report for East Dunbartonshire, October 2010 East Dunbartonshire Council Local Development Plan Main Issues Report, 2013

➢ 3 Local Nature Reserves (LNR) which include Merkland LNR, Lenzie Moss LNR and Kilmardinny Loch. The local habitats in East Dunbartonshire that have been prioritised under the previous iteration of the LBAP are: ➢ Urban ➢ Rural ➢ Woodland ➢ Wetland Woodland in East Dunbartonshire: ➢ Native woodland in East Dunbartonshire comprises 22.1% of the total woodland area (4.8% of the total land area). ➢ 95ha of woodland is present on ancient woodlands, which makes up 34% of native woodland ➢ The main native woodland types in East Dunbartonshire are lowland mixed deciduous woodland (34%), wet woodland (25%) and upland birchwoods (21%). There are a number of protected, priority and Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) in East Dunbartonshire. These are outlined in Appendix B.	The variety of biodiversity, flora and fauna in East Dunbartonshire contributes to its scenic value. This possesses a valued interest for economic benefits in terms of increased tourism to the area. Woodland resources in East Dunbartonshire have the potential to be a vital consideration for the LBAP, especially if an ecosystems approach is taken. It is important that native woodland is managed. Enhancement of biodiversity, flora and fauna has the potential to significantly contribute to and enhance existing or new habitat networks and connectivity in East Dunbartonshire. The environmental implications related to the vision of the Central Scotland Green Network are an important consideration for the LBAP.	

SOIL AND GEOLOGY		
SEA OBJECTIVE: To protect and, where appropriate, use high quality and sensitive soils in a sustainable manner and conserve recognised geodiversity assets		
Summary of baseline environmental data	**Environmental implications for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan**	**Source of baseline data**
		East Dunbartonshire Council

Despite three quarters of the land in East Dunbartonshire being utilised for agricultural processes, the district has a small percentage (5%) of prime agricultural soil. Currently East Dunbartonshire has not designated any areas of land as contaminated land as defined in the Environmental Protection Act 1990. However, a list of potential contaminated sites has been created based on previous land use. On this list 626 potentially contaminated sites (to varying degrees of contamination) have been identified. There are currently 25 sites of Vacant and Derelict Land within East Dunbartonshire with a total area of 62 hectares. These and other Brownfield land locations within East Dunbartonshire may have potentially contaminated land, depending on their historic uses. East Dunbartonshire also has 1 RIGS (Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site) at Clachan of Campsie. It also has 34 sites designated as Local Nature Conservation Sites for their geodiversity value. A number of different sites in East Dunbartonshire have been identified as having varying levels of soil carbon richness and peatland including the Campsie Fells and the Kilpatrick Hills.	Reductions in both the level and quality of biodiversity can have significant adverse effects on soil quality and functions. Where this is the case, soil is more likely to be exposed to elements, causing erosion and potential soil acidification. The LBAP has the potential to positively impact on the quality of soil for growing in terms of contributing to soil functionality and nutrients. Development on Vacant and Derelict land has the potential to result in the removal of habitats or INNS, although this would relieve pressures in green belt locations.	EDC Local Plan 2 EDC Local Development Plan Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Register 2013 James Hutton Institute Scottish Natural Heritage British Geological Survey UKRIGS (Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site)
LANDSCAPE		
SEA OBJECTIVE: To protect and, where appropriate, restore landscape character, local distinctiveness and scenic value		

Summary of baseline environmental data	Environmental implications for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Source of baseline data
East Dunbartonshire's landscape is diverse in terms of character and land uses. The district is characterised by five main types of landscape character: Drumlin Foothills; Rolling Farmland; Broad Valley Lowland; Rugged Moorland Hills; and urban areas. The topography of East Dunbartonshire is generally low lying, undulating land with the exception of the two Local Landscape Areas; the Campsie Fells and the Kilpatrick Hills to the North and West of the district respectively. There are several Local Landscape Areas (LLA) within the East Dunbartonshire Council boundary area including the Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills. All of the LLA are shown on the maps within the Environmental Report. East Dunbartonshire has a total of 973.46 hectares of urban open space; the greatest proportion of which is classified as semi-natural greenspace and Regional Greenspace. The green belt is a Development Plan policy which covers the East Dunbartonshire area, with the exception of the upland areas; its objectives include maintaining the character and distinctiveness of the areas settlements.	Valued biodiversity and habitats can potentially impact positively on the setting and improve visual amenity. Any significant actions discussed to deliver the Biodiversity Action Plan will need to consider any designations within East Dunbartonshire in order to prevent effects to the landscape. Habitat connectivity within East Dunbartonshire should be considered in the LBAP for improvements to reduce fragmentation across the various landscapes. The impact of actions on LLA should be considered. East Dunbartonshire has a strong local distinctiveness and genetic diversity that has the potential to be lost without the interventions of the LBAP.	EDC Local Plan 2 British Geological Survey UKRIGS (Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site) Glasgow & Clyde Valley Landscape Character Assessment, 1999
WATER QUALITY		
SEA OBJECTIVE: To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance the ecological status of water bodies		
Summary of baseline environmental data	**Environmental implications for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan**	**Source of baseline data**

The main watercourses within East Dunbartonshire are the River Kelvin, Glazert Water, Allander Water, Luggie Water, Forth and Clyde Canal and Bothlin Burn. East Dunbartonshire also has two reservoirs in Milngavie and a number of other small dams in various locations throughout East Dunbartonshire, which are of significant value to the surrounding area. From the 2009-2015 River Basin Management Plan cycle, East Dunbartonshire had: ➢ 5.52 km of good quality watercourses ➢ 33.82 km of watercourses with good ecological potential ➢ 16.01 km of moderate quality watercourses ➢ 19.88 km of watercourses with moderate ecological potential ➢ 48.19 km of watercourses with poor ecological potential ➢ 17.32 km of poor quality watercourses ➢ 28.31 km of watercourses with bad ecological potential All groundwater resources were also assessed in 2008 and found to be of good ecological status. *Flooding is discussed in Climatic Factors	The water in East Dunbartonshire is a vital resource. The management and control we have over this resource has major implications on a number of factors, including, water quality, biodiversity and human health. These are important considerations for the LBAP. Potential pollution of water from sources such as transport emissions in the atmosphere and in soil can result in eutrophication. This can result in algal blooms and alter the quality of the water and have a negative impact on biodiversity. Biodiversity has shown to have positive impacts on improving water quality. In particular, many species have cleansing abilities. The LBAP is likely to present options/opportunities for this. The requirements of the Water Framework Directive should be taken into account.	SEPA – RBMP Data East Dunbartonshire Council Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Action Plan
AIR QUALITY		
SEA OBJECTIVE: To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance air quality		
Summary of baseline environmental data	**Environmental implications for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan**	**Source of baseline data**

Emissions from transport has been identified as the main contributor of NO_2 and PM10 (particulates) pollution, specifically, in East Dunbartonshire. Domestic emissions are the main contributor of CO_2 emissions. The busiest routes that are of concern in relation to air quality within East Dunbartonshire are the A803 and B812 in Bishopbriggs; the A81 through Milngavie; and the A809 and A739 through Bearsden. There are currently two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) declared within East Dunbartonshire, Bishopbriggs (2005) and Bearsden Cross (2011), both of which were declared an AQMA after several years of exceeding national NO_2 and PM10 objective levels. Whilst traffic levels across the Council area have been shown to be decreasing since 2009 from 125,356 (per 1000 vehicle miles) to 118,830 (per 1000 vehicle miles) in 2013, which can be attributable to a number of factors including the promotion of sustainable travel and influencing economic factors, levels still remain relatively high. Of the number of people in East Dunbartonshire who are of an economically-active age: ➢ 6,454 people (9.5%) work or study at home ➢ 12,422 people (18.25%) use public transport (train, underground, metro,	Contributing factors that can lead to increased emissions and result in air pollution, include, transport (both private and public) and developments which generate traffic flows and general movement to and from areas. There are possible transboundary effects of air pollution to neighbouring Local Authorities such as Glasgow, West Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and Stirling that should be taken into account in the development of the LBAP. In areas of particularly poor air quality, emissions in the atmosphere as well as potential acid rain can adversely alter and affect biodiversity. Ecosystem services are also likely to be changed as a result. Planting can be beneficial for improving air quality through the removal of pollutants in the soil and in the air. Woodland and forestry will also contribute to this as carbon capture assets.	East Dunbartonshire Council National Air Emissions Inventory Scottish Government DEFRA Scottish Transport Bus and Coach Statistics No. 32, 2013 Local Transport Strategy 2013 - 2017

light rail, tram, bus, minibus or coach) to access work or place of study of distances of 5km to 30km+ ➢ 26,884 people (39.5%) drive a car or van to access work or place of study of distances of 5km to 30km+ ➢ 18,156 people (26.7%) access work or place of study by other means of transport of distances of 5km to 30km+ The number of people travelling to work by car or van is approximately 4% more than those in the rest of Scotland. Many people living in East Dunbartonshire travel to their workplace in neighbouring authorities such as Glasgow.		
CLIMATIC FACTORS		
SEA OBJECTIVE: To contribute towards the reduction of Scottish greenhouse gas outputs in line with Government targets in order to reduce or prevent the overall effects of climate change including those related to flood risks		
Summary of baseline environmental data	**Environmental implications for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan**	**Source of baseline data**
A significant source of carbon dioxide in East Dunbartonshire is attributable to vehicular transport emissions, which contributes towards climate change, although the largest proportion of CO_2 emissions is attributable to domestic emissions. Travel: ➢ The level of public transport access varies across the area. Kirkintilloch is served by bus services that provide access to towns and villages in East Dunbartonshire and adjacent local authorities such as Glasgow. However, there are areas that do not have services	There are many areas within East Dunbartonshire that are currently within Flood Risk Areas. Climate change is resulting in an increase of flash flooding events in Scotland which is having an adverse effect on habitats, biodiversity, flora and fauna. The effects of climate change, including an increase in temperature, can disrupt breeding and growth for species, which has the potential to reduce numbers or even eradicate species from the local area. Ecosystem services can be both positively and negatively impacted as a result of influencing	Scottish Government SEPA East Dunbartonshire Council UK Climate Impacts Programme Online Handbook of Climate Trends across Scotland 2006 (as updated) (SNIFFER Guidance) Scottish Household Survey 2013 (access to cars per household)

that are frequent or operate out-with peak travel periods and daytime hours. ➢ Although rail patronage has increased by approximately 10% from the period 2012/13 to 2013/14, accessibility to such services means there is a significant reliance on car-based travel in the area. ➢ The number of bus passenger journeys in Strathclyde and South West Scotland has decreased since 2007/08 to 2012/13, which equates to a decrease of 21%. The total distance travelled by buses 2007/08 to 2012/13 decreased by 17%. This can be attributable to a reduction in the number of services that operate or alterations to routes. This trend is reflected in trends across Scotland which has seen a decrease in 4% in bus and coach journeys between 2012 and 2013. ➢ Traffic levels have decreased during recent years from the particularly high volumes experienced during the mid-2000s. This may be a result of the economic downturn. ➢ In 2013, 86% of households in East Dunbartonshire had access to at least 1 car. ➢ Glasgow is a key attraction for both employment and high education opportunities for the population of East Dunbartonshire which increases the need for travel. ➢ See *Air Quality* for the number of people who travel by car or van to access their place of work or study.	climatic factors. Where the effects of climate change alter ecosystem services, climate regulation can be less effective which will have additional negative impacts on biodiversity. Climate change is contributing to flash flooding events in Scotland. Adaptation to the effects of climate change can present opportunities for biodiversity to adapt to a changing environment and circumstances.	Office of Rail Regulation (rail patronage by region, 2013/14) Scottish Transport Bus and Coach Statistics No. 32, 2013 SEPA Flood map Scotland's Climate Change Declaration 2013-14 Report (SSN; Keep Scotland Beautiful; EDC) 'Local and Regional CO2 Emissions Estimates for 2005-2012', Department of Energy and Climate Change

CO_2 emissions associated with the expenditure of energy from industrial/commercial (including agriculture) and domestic buildings accounts for 142.7 ktCO_2 and 271.6 ktCO_2 respectively in 2012. Such energy use has a significant impact on air quality. Flooding has been an issue in the Kelvin Valley for many years with the most recent flood events occurring in 1994 and 2005. The main areas of concern for potential flooding are the River Kelvin and its tributaries – the Allander, Glazert and Luggie Waters. East Dunbartonshire only has one operating landfill (Inchbelle Quarry, Kirkintilloch) but is only used for the disposal of inert materials, mainly construction materials. All household and commercial municipal waste is transferred to landfills in North Lanarkshire. Therefore, there is minimal methane produced from landfill within East Dunbartonshire to impact on climate change.		
MATERIAL ASSETS		
SEA OBJECTIVE: To promote the sustainable use of community assets in East Dunbartonshire		
Summary of baseline environmental data	**Environmental implications for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan**	**Source of baseline data**
East Dunbartonshire is supplied by various levels of transport infrastructure, through well serviced rail networks, bus routes encompassing the whole district and the various road networks that link settlements within East Dunbartonshire together with providing routes out with the district.	The LBAP is likely to encourage the enhancement or creation of core paths with connections to the wider green network in East Dunbartonshire. This would also provide opportunities for, and encourage, active travel. Natural resources in East Dunbartonshire should be used sustainability and at a limited rate to	Scottish Government East Dunbartonshire Council Transport Scotland SPT

There are 54km of A class roads, 47 km of B class roads and 34km of C class roads. This amounts to 27% of the road network. There are 369 km of unclassified roads. East Dunbartonshire has a network of Core Paths and public open spaces which provide opportunities for recreation. Some of these also provide active travel routes from residential areas to services and businesses. Studies into housing requirements have indicated that East Dunbartonshire has one of the highest net needs for affordable housing, compared to other Scottish Local Authorities. The Local Plan and emerging Local Development Plan identifies the location of new development proposals with potential for changes to transport infrastructure/routes. There are 99 Right of Way paths in East Dunbartonshire of the highest classification. There are also 82 'other' Rights of Way which are classified as paths that have seized use, have been partially built on or overgrown. East Dunbartonshire has 8 'Scotways' Heritage Paths and 2 other Heritage Paths have been designated by East Dunbartonshire Council. Through the East Dunbartonshire Council area, there are a number of different cycleways including traffic-free routes, both off and on the National Cycle Network, and on-road routes that are not on the National Cycle Network. Many of these routes are regional/cross-boundary and	reduce pressures on biodiversity. Use of such resources has the potential to negatively impact on biodiversity, either by reducing the assets or restricting resources that will help manage biodiversity. The LBAP has the potential to influence planning decisions. Biodiversity should be integral to the planning process. The LBAP will need to consider the location of roads/paths/networks to sensitive habitat areas to prevent disturbance or harm to biodiversity.	Local Development Plan for large scale development proposals.

provide links to Loch Lomond, Glasgow, Stirling and Edinburgh.		

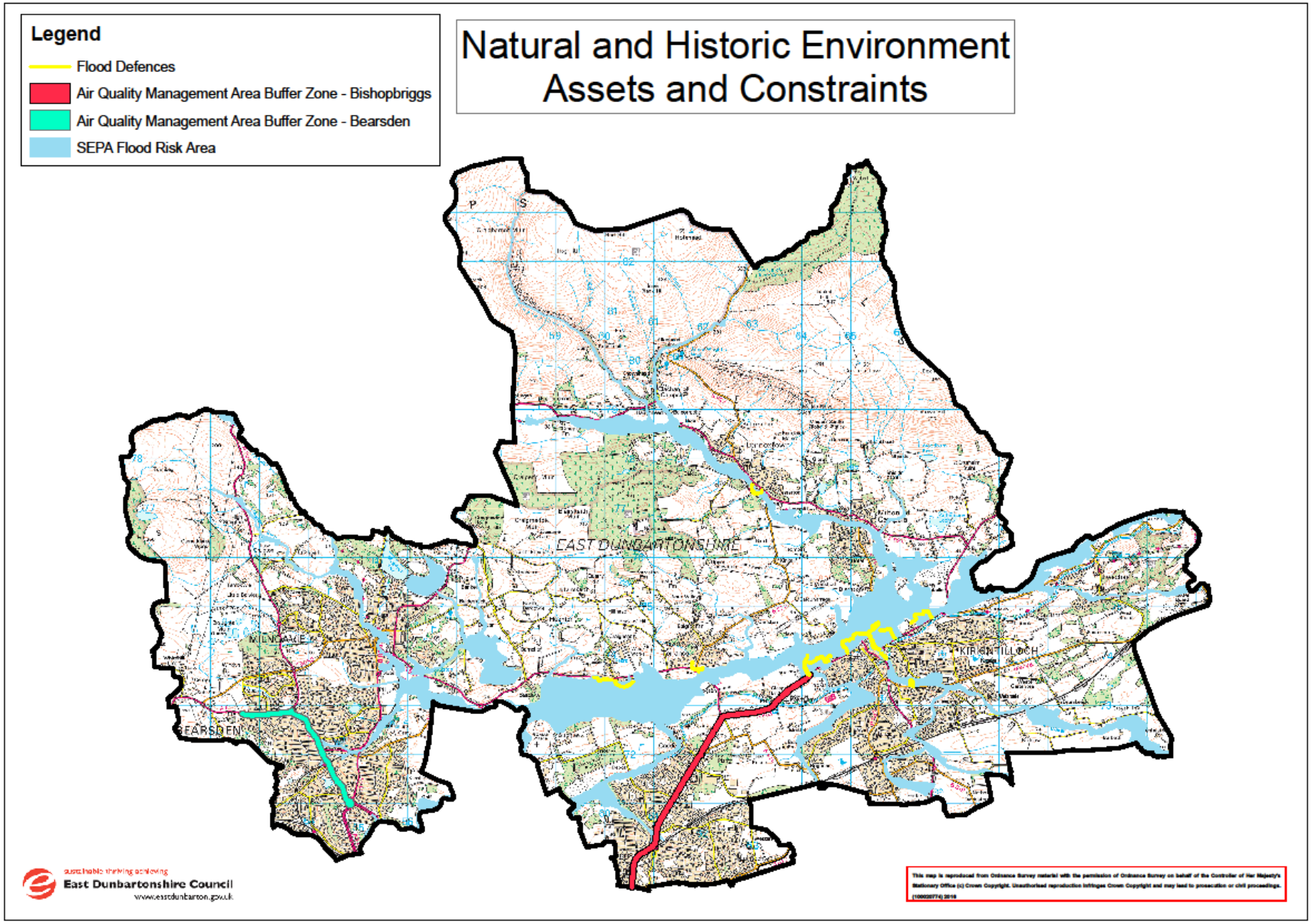


Figure 2: Flood Defences, Air Quality Management Areas and SEPA Flood Risk Area (March 2015)

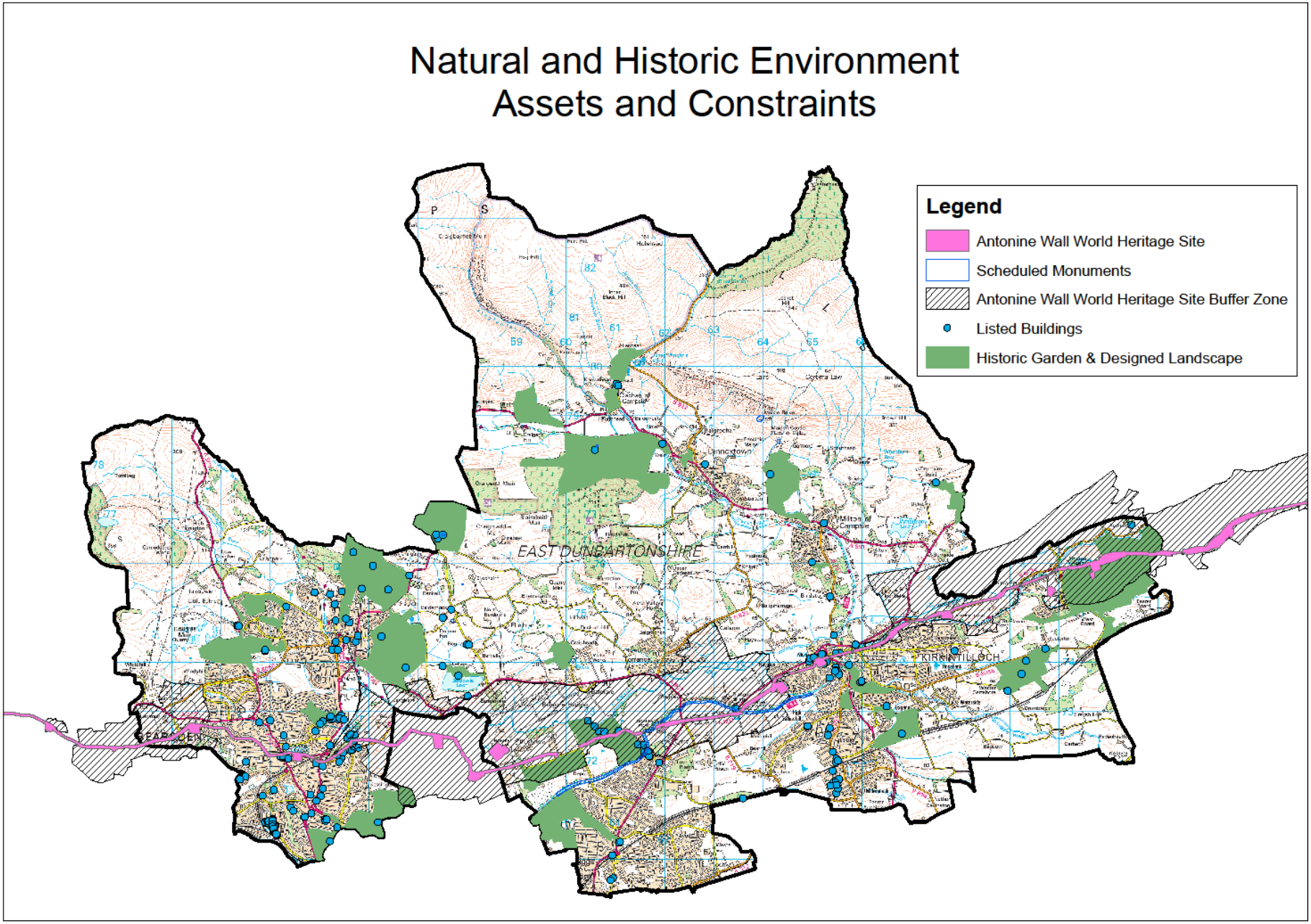


Figure 3: Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and Buffer Zone, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Listed Buildings

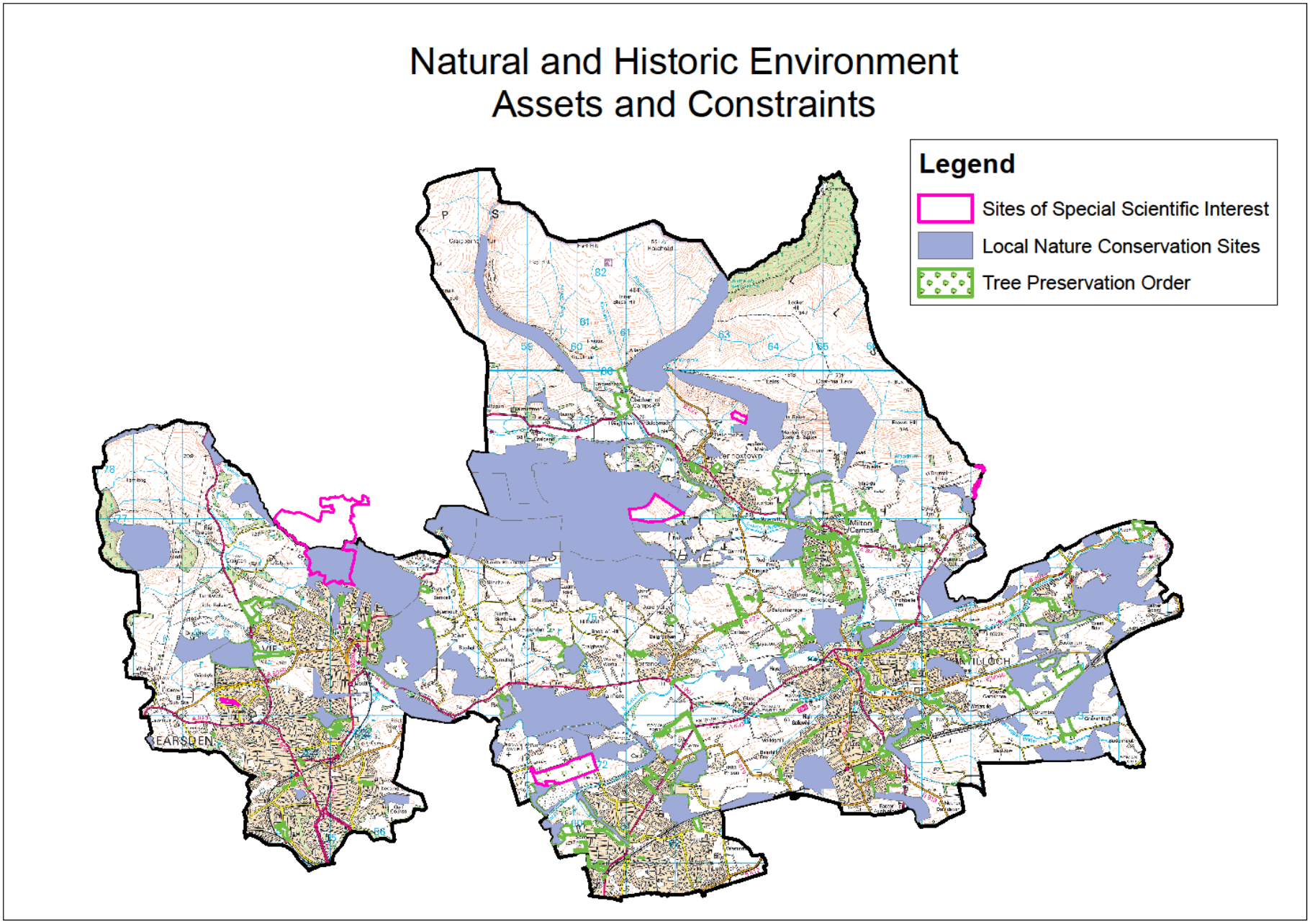


Figure 4: Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Nature Conservation Sites and Tree Preservation Orders

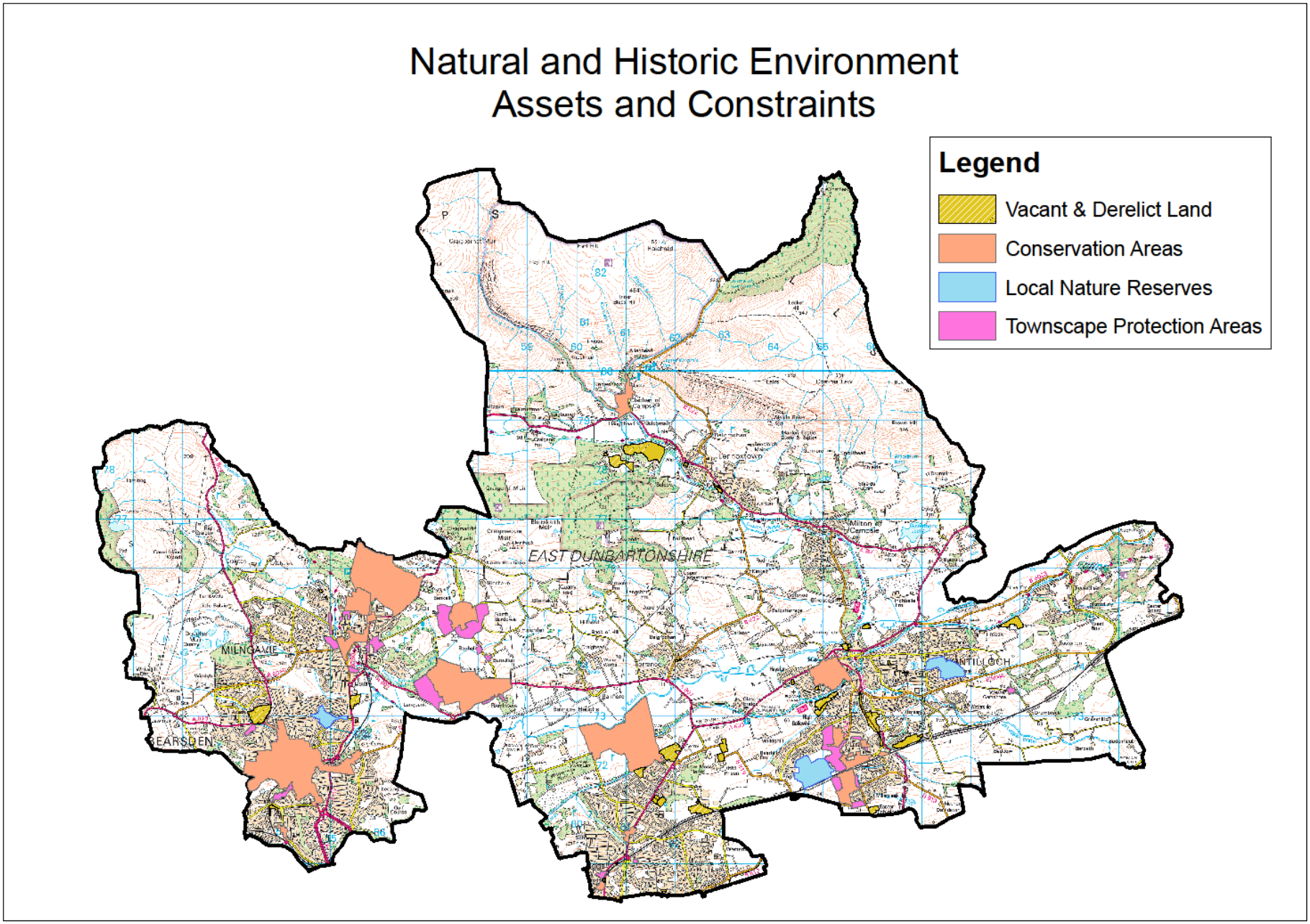


Figure 5: Vacant and Derelict Land, Conservation Areas, Townscape Protection Areas and Local Nature Reserves

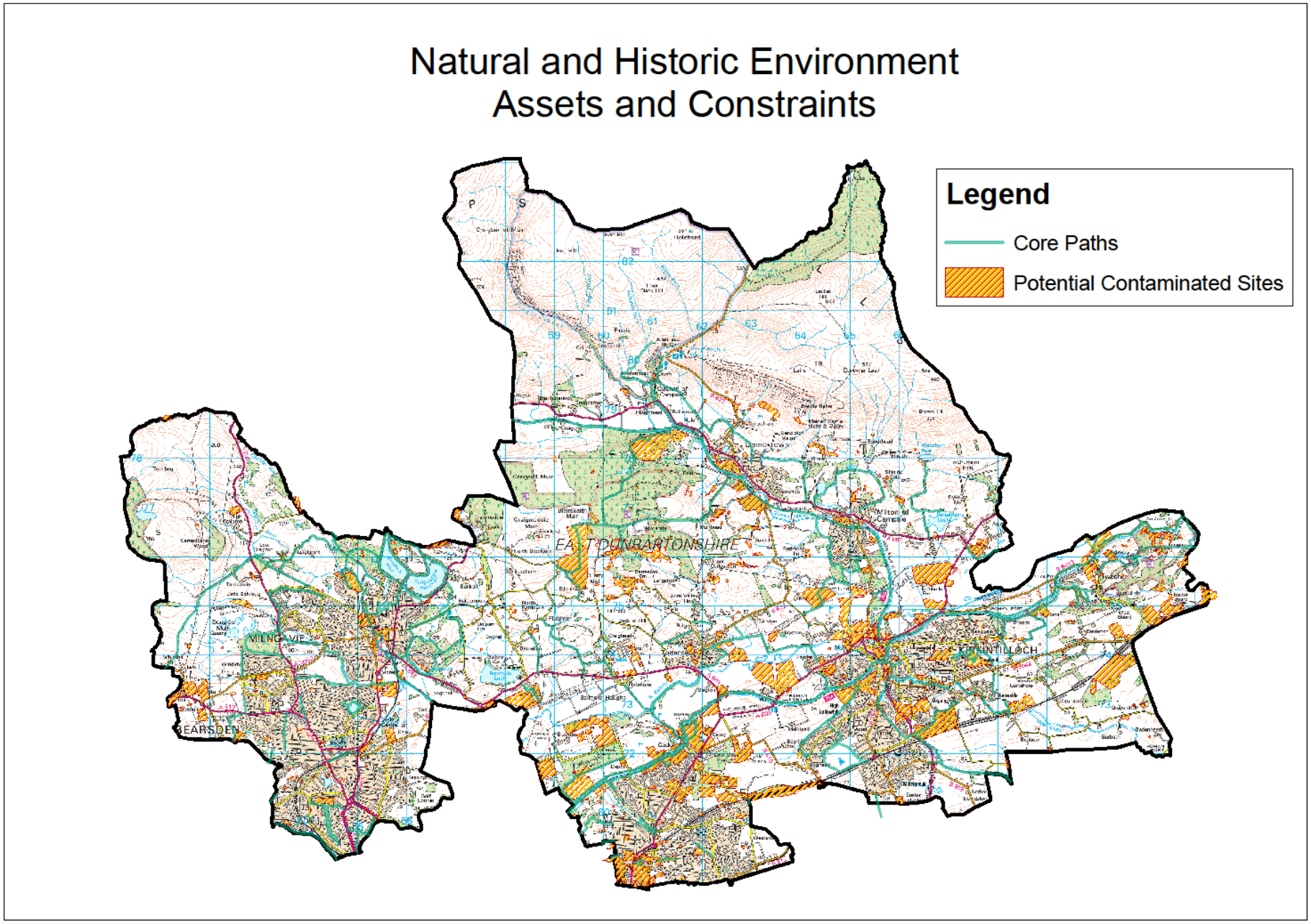


Figure 6: Core Paths and Potential Contaminated Sites

2.2 Environmental Issues[1] for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

2.2.1 The purpose of this section is to explain how existing environmental issues will affect or be affected by the LBAP and whether this strategic action is likely to aggravate, reduce or otherwise affect existing environmental issues. These issues identified are outlined in **Table 2** below.

Table 2: Environmental problems relevant to the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

	Relevant Environmental Issues
Population and Human Health	With areas of deprivation in East Dunbartonshire and an increasing ageing population, there is a significant reliance on public transport to access facilities such as town centres, retail parks, healthcare and leisure facilities. To reduce this need and pressure, there is significant evidence that core path networks can be integrated with interventions that enhance and promote biodiversity. This will provide further health benefits to deprived or vulnerable members of the community. However, conflicts may arise between increasing public access within East Dunbartonshire and the need to conserve biodiversity. This will be a vital consideration for the LBAP to address and prevent such conflicts.
	Local pollution and atmospheric emissions, from sources such as transport and domestic emissions, can aggravate asthma and cause/exacerbate other health issues such as respiratory disease. There is a link between the presence of diverse, and often plentiful, flora and improvements to air quality. The LBAP has the potential to encourage this and therefore improve health conditions.
	It is vital that awareness of biodiversity is prioritised through the LBAP to address the lack of awareness amongst the population of East Dunbartonshire.
	Although the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry has the smallest proportion of economically active people working within this sector in East Dunbartonshire, the role of biodiversity for the livelihood of those involved is vital to ensure sustained incomes and for the delivery of quality goods (e.g. locally sourced produce) to the local communities.
	Encouraging the involvement of the community in biodiversity projects has the potential to benefit health and wellbeing. There is scope for this to be promoted through the LBAP.
Cultural Heritage	There are a number of cultural heritage assets in East Dunbartonshire including the Antonine Wall (UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the Forth and Clyde Canal which require protection and management.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	East Dunbartonshire has a wide range of designated and non-designated sites, including those of ecological importance and protected species. This is seen through a number of Local Nature Conservation Sites and Important Wildlife Corridors, Tree Preservation Orders and Local Nature Reserves. East Dunbartonshire also has 6 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Management of biodiversity through the LBAP will have significant impacts on these sites.
	River and canal corridors in East Dunbartonshire contribute significantly to wide ranging habitats and biodiversity. However, habitat connectivity requires addressing. The LBAP has the potential to improve the connectivity of habitats where these concerns exist.
	Invasive Non-Native Species in East Dunbartonshire have been identified which should be recognised through the LBAP.

[1] The term "environmental issues" is the name collectively given to air, water, soil, biodiversity, climatic factors, landscape, material assets, population and human health as well as cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage) in the EU Directive 2001/42/EC. In practice they are referred to as "SEA topics".

	Relevant Environmental Issues
	There are a number of protected species and habitats within East Dunbartonshire which will need to be considered as part of the LBAP. The BAP provides the scope for continued enhancement and protection of such species to avoid any loss.
Soil and Geology	There are a number of potentially contaminated land areas in East Dunbartonshire. The management and enhancement of biodiversity can result in potential opportunities to remediate such land.
	There are several sites in East Dunbartonshire that have been identified as peatland. The LBAP should consider the role of biodiversity in managing ecosystem services including carbon storage, drainage and to alleviate flooding.
	There are 36 sites identified as being geologically diverse, of which 34 have been assigned as Local Geodiversity Site (LGS). The area also hosts 1 RIGS (Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site) and 1 SSSI of geological importance. The LBAP should consider these designations in terms of the role of biodiversity in their protection and enhancement.
Landscape	The varying landscapes within East Dunbartonshire, including the green belt, make up a series of habitats. However, many of the habitats networks are disconnected. Enhancing biodiversity through the LBAP will help to ensure habitat connectivity.
	East Dunbartonshire has a number of areas with high/moderate scenic value as well as specific landscape characters and settings across the Council area, including the Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills. Enhanced biodiversity can contribute to protecting and promoting valued landscapes. The LBAP should take into account the specific landscape features to ensure that biodiversity is sensitive to the local landscape and to retain East Dunbartonshire's local distinctiveness.
	Where biodiversity projects are developed, the cumulative effects on the landscape of their implementation should be accounted for.
Water Quality	There are a number of good/moderate quality watercourses in East Dunbartonshire including the Forth and Clyde Canal which is a Scheduled Monument. These assets require protection to which the LBAP can contribute in order to reduce, prevent or offset any adverse impacts to biodiversity.
	Enhanced and managed biodiversity has potential opportunities for improving water quality.
Air Quality	Unacceptably high levels of air pollution can be harmful to the environment and human health. East Dunbartonshire currently has two designated Air Quality Management Areas (Bishopbriggs and Bearsden Cross). These are managed through Air Quality Management Plans and the emerging Air Quality Strategy.
	Changes to air quality can have a significant impact on ecosystems, which can affect biodiversity.
Climatic Factors	Domestic emissions account for the largest proportion of carbon dioxide in East Dunbartonshire, although emissions from transport account for the largest proportion of NO_2 and PM10 emissions. This contributes to the effects of climate change which include changing temperatures and rainfall patterns, and increased incidences of extreme weather events. . Where appropriate, all options contained within the LBAP should consider its role in mitigating or adapting to the effects of climate change.
	The role of biodiversity for carbon sequestration should be maximised through the LBAP.
	Climate change has a direct link to flood risk. The SEPA Flood Risk Map has identified several locations within the East Dunbartonshire Council area which could have a significant impact on species and habitats.

	Relevant Environmental Issues
	The effects of climate change can alter natural processes for flora and fauna, and the effects that changes to ecosystem processes can have on biodiversity has the potential to be both negatively or positively affected.
Material Assets	As a result of the spatial strategy of the impending Local Development Plan there is potential for a rise in developments in East Dunbartonshire over the life of the Plan. Through required infrastructure improvements for new developments there may be the potential for disturbance to species, including fragmentation of habitats, which may result in potential significant impacts on East Dunbartonshire's biodiversity assets.
	It is important that natural resources in East Dunbartonshire are managed sustainably.
	There are a series of Core Path Networks and open spaces in East Dunbartonshire which create recreational opportunities, promote active travel and provide a sense of community. Enhanced biodiversity has the potential to contribute to the value of these assets in East Dunbartonshire's environment and contribute to improvements to network connectivity. However, where paths are located within or pass close to sensitive habitat areas, consideration should be given to mitigating any potential disturbance or harm to wildlife.

2.3 Evolution of the Environmental Baseline in the Absence of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

2.3.1 The SEA process is also required to assess the likely impact on the environment if the LBAP was not implemented. Without a Local Biodiversity Action Plan covering East Dunbartonshire, it is likely that an opportunity would be lost to halt biodiversity loss and contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity in the area. Although the main aim of the LBAP is to ensure the environmental protection of biodiversity and habitats, it is also intrinsically linked to social inequalities, such as health and wellbeing, and contributions to the local economy. In the case that an LBAP was not developed, a sustainable approach to biodiversity would not be considered. In terms of the SEA topics, the evolution of the environment without the influence of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan include:

2.3.2.1. **Biodiversity**: It is likely that key species and habitats will not be managed in a coordinated way and a proactive approach to enhancing biodiversity would not be practiced. This has the potential to result in a decline of species and habitats in terms of quantity and quality, at both a local level and in neighbouring communities. There would also be concerns over the future of a number of identified protected species in East Dunbartonshire. It is unlikely that the Biodiversity Partnership and steering group would be able to contribute to a number of biodiversity, or related, projects to the same extent as when these were promoted through the LBAP.

2.3.2.2. **Population and Human Health**: It is likely that awareness of biodiversity will be lower without the influence of the LBAP and so the benefits of biodiversity for human health and wellbeing as well as the role our communities can play in protecting biodiversity will not be encouraged.

2.3.2.3. **Cultural Heritage**: With East Dunbartonshire having a rich and varied range of cultural heritage assets, including the World Heritage Site Antonine Wall, it is vital that the role of biodiversity in protecting and enhancing these assets is recognised. It is less likely that this opportunity will be present without the LBAP. The linkage between biodiversity and cultural heritage will be lost, and the benefits of biodiversity in delivering cultural services in East Dunbartonshire will not be promoted.

2.3.2.4. **Soil and Geology**: Without the implementation of the LBAP, there is less likely to be actions developed in terms of protecting and enhancing the effects of biodiversity on soil in East Dunbartonshire, as well as the role of quality soils for species and habitats.

2.3.2.5. **Landscape**: Habitat connectivity in East Dunbartonshire is likely to be promoted through the LBAP. Without it, fragmented habitat networks can become more prevalent in East Dunbartonshire or the opportunity to enhance them would not be available. The LBAP and emerging Green Network Strategy have the potential to promote and enhance habitat connectivity. In addition, the areas of East Dunbartonshire that are valued for their amenity and wildlife would be less likely to be enriched without an LBAP.

2.3.2.6. **Water Quality**: The LBAP would present an opportunity for a coordinated approach to managing biodiversity in relation to the water bodies in East Dunbartonshire. In the absence of a LBAP, it is unlikely that actions will be developed to protect particular water species or to enhance the role of biodiversity in water quality improvements. Despite the existence of River Basin Management Plans, there would be an increased risk of deterioration in the ecological quality of water courses without the LBAP.

2.3.2.7. **Air Quality and Climatic Factors**: Evidence shows that biodiversity plays a minor role in suppressing air pollutants, thus presenting opportunities to improve air quality. Likewise, biodiversity plays a role in carbon sequestration, including benefits to the protection of peatland. If a LBAP is not developed, awareness of the benefits of biodiversity for climate change and air quality improvements will not be promoted and there would be a reduced opportunity to maximise these roles. However, air quality in East Dunbartonshire will predominantly be managed through the Air Quality Strategy.

2.3.2.8. **Material Assets**: The LBAP would present an opportunity to further promote the sustainable use of materials and contribute to improvements to Core Path Networks through habitat improvements in East Dunbartonshire. Although the sustainable use of materials is promoted by other legislation, and the Green Network Strategy will have a direct influence on Core Path and Habitat Networks, the absence of a LBAP will limit this opportunity and reduce the influence of biodiversity for benefits to the relevant material assets.

2.3.3. Although many of these factors will potentially improve or be managed with the influence of other Council Plans and Strategies including the Local Plan 2, the emerging Local Development Plan, Green Network Strategy, Active Travel Plan and Sustainability and Climate Change Framework for East Dunbartonshire, as well as influencing regional and national targets, the value of biodiversity is likely to decline and biodiversity may be lost without intervention from the options discussed in the LBAP to mitigate and monitor the effects to biodiversity.

Section 3: Assessment of Environmental Effects

3.1. Assessment Framework

3.1.1. There are a number of key assessment stages that have been identified for the SEA of the LBAP. Each of the stages will require a tailored assessment method as detailed in **Table 3.** The assessment focuses on the planned ambition and aims of the LBAP in order for biodiversity issues to be addressed and improved in East Dunbartonshire. The themes and actions set out in the action plan programme will also be assessed. It should be noted that only the significant environmental impacts will be identified and assessed through the SEA process.

3.1.2. In addition to this, the assessment evaluates the Plan as a whole in terms of the potential cumulative effects (direct, indirect, secondary and synergistic) associated with the implementation of the Plan.

Table 3: Assessment framework

Assessment Stage	Assessment Method
Strategic Direction and Ambition	The SEA assessment questions and indicators have been used to establish whether the strategic approach in order to deliver the ambition of the LBAP is compliant with the SEA objectives. Overall, the preferred strategic approach to deliver the LBAP is justified. The ambition for the Plan will also be assessed. The ambition of the Plan will also be tested for compliance against the SEA objectives.
Aims	The aims of the Plan, and any reasonable alternatives to them, have been tested against the SEA objectives for alignment and compliance. The outcome of this assessment has guided the refinement of the LBAP aims throughout its development.
Objectives	For each of the priority habitat areas identified in the LBAP, a set of objectives have been developed. The objectives, and any reasonable alternatives, have been tested against the SEA objectives for alignment and compliance. The outcome of this assessment has guided the refinement of the objectives throughout the LBAP's development.
Habitat action plans	The LBAP details actions for each habitat type. The action plans have all been assessed against the SEA assessment questions in order to highlight the most environmentally positive options. The actions will be both site-specific and area wide.
Cumulative, secondary and synergistic effects	Using the assessments of actions and with the use of GIS mapping, where appropriate, the cumulative, synergistic and secondary effects of the Plan have been tested. Any impacts for neighbouring authorities have also been considered.

3.2. Assessment Methodology

3.2.1 The SEA Directive requires the environmental effects of 'reasonable alternatives' to the strategic document to be identified, described and assessed where appropriate. The East Dunbartonshire LBAP has been assessed against the list of environmental issues set out in Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

3.2.2 It also requires environmental assessments to consider the environmental objectives established at International, European Community and national levels that are relevant to the strategic document. During the Scoping stage of SEA, it was determined that the environmental issues likely to be significantly impacted by the LBAP are Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality and Climatic Factors. Consequently, Material Assets was scoped out of the assessment. The Consultation Authorities were in agreement with this level of scope, as expressed in their views following the consultation at the Scoping stage (**Appendix C**). However, following further consideration of the environmental factors and the anticipated impacts of the LBAP for the environment, Material Assets has been scoped back into the assessment to align the SEA of the LBAP with the SEA for the emerging Green Network Strategy and Active Travel Strategy given the links between each of these documents.

3.2.3 East Dunbartonshire Council has adopted a set of SEA Objectives and criteria questions (**Appendix G**) for the environmental issues that were scoped into the assessment, shown in **Table 4**, which were derived from other legislation and Strategies (**Appendix A**). The criteria questions are used to guide the assessments of all elements of the Plan.

Table 4: SEA objectives

Factor	SEA Objectives
Population and Human Health	To improve human health and community wellbeing
Cultural Heritage	To protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	To protect, enhance, create and, where necessary, restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity
Soil and Geology	To protect and, where appropriate, use high quality and sensitive soils in a sustainable manner and conserve recognised geodiversity assets
Landscape	To protect, enhance and, where appropriate, restore landscape character, local distinctiveness and scenic value
Water Quality	To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance the ecological status of water bodies
Air Quality	To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance air quality
Climatic Factors	To contribute towards the reduction of Scottish greenhouse gas outputs in line with Government targets in order to reduce or prevent the overall effects of climate change including those related to flood risks
Material Assets	To promote the sustainable use of community assets and natural resources in East Dunbartonshire

3.3 Alternatives

3.3.1. Through the development of the LBAP there may be alternatives as to how the Plan is delivered or implemented. An Options Assessment was initially undertaken by East Dunbartonshire Council's Greenspace and Biodiversity Policy Officer in order to highlight the benefits and risks of each Option and to determine the preferred approach to delivering a Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

3.3.2. Each of the feasible strategic options for the delivery of the Plan have been assessed to ensure that they in alignment with the SEA objectives. Each potential approach is intended to be realistic, deliverable and consistent with other PPS. The assessment of the strategic options will highlight the SEA preferred option and will guide the final approach to the delivery of the LBAP. The reasonable alternatives to the LBAP which have been assessed include:

- Replacing and updating the existing LBAP to cover the same area (East and West Dunbartonshire)
- A stand-alone LBAP covering East Dunbartonshire Council area only
- A LBAP prepared jointly with a different adjoining local authority
- Retain the existing Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Action Plan with no revision
- Address biodiversity issues in the emerging Green Network Strategy

3.3.3. The environmental assessment will also, where appropriate, propose further alternatives to the proposed aims, habitat objectives and action plan as well as suggest changes to from an SEA perspective that will form part of the LBAP. This will guide any required mitigation measures in order to reduce any potential negative/adverse impacts or to suggest enhancements to those receptors that provide potential positive impacts to East Dunbartonshire.

3.4 Assessment Findings

3.4.1 An environmental assessment has been undertaken for the aims, objectives and actions proposed for the LBAP and have been assessed against the SEA Objectives and criteria, based on their predicted impact on the current environmental baseline. The assessment has been conducted using professional judgement and GIS analysis where appropriate.

3.4.2 The environmental assessments have been recorded in the form of a matrix identifying the environmental performance of each **strategic direction**, the **ambition**, **aims**, **priority habitat objectives** and **actions** against the SEA objectives and criteria. The environmental effects are recorded according to their nature (positive, neutral, negative, unknown or no significant effect). The significance of these effects is determined using a combination of the magnitude of the impact and the importance or sensitivity of the receiving environment. A full and detailed assessment, including commentary and mitigation, for the aims, objectives and actions are provided in **Appendix D, E and F,** respectively.

3.4.3 Recommendations have been made where necessary so that environmental considerations are incorporated into the LBAP process. The assessments also seek to enhance the environmental benefits of the LBAP and suggest recommendations to further enhance or protect the environment.

3.4.4 **Table 6** provides a full assessment of the preferred strategic direction for the delivery of the LBAP. **Table 7 and 8** provide summarised assessments of the ambition and aims of the Plan. For each of the proposed priority habitat objectives and actions, including alternatives and

recommendations considered, the key environmental factors are outlined including the influence of SEA on the development of the LBAP.

3.4.5 In cases where the assessed SEA Preferred Option has not been carried forward into the Plan as a Preferred Option the detailed non-environmental reasoning for this has been expanded upon within the assessment summary.

3.5 Assessment: Strategic Direction

3.5.1 The SEA legislation requires the environmental effects of any 'reasonable alternatives' to the Plan to be identified, described and assessed. The following alternatives were considered as part of the SEA of the strategic action (Table 5).

Table 5: Reasonable alternatives for delivering the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Alternative Approach	Outline and Implications of the Strategic Direction
STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1	
Replacing and updating the existing LBAP to cover the same area (East and West Dunbartonshire)	This option to deliver the LBAP would involve updating the existing LBAP for Dunbartonshire. Although it would encourage a landscape-scale approach to managing biodiversity across both WDC and EDC, the areas are distinct in character which could result in a number of challenges. This approach would present opportunities for larger levels of funding from external contributors, particularly for joint projects. However, WDC does not have the same resources as EDC in terms of a dedicated officer for biodiversity, which would increase a reliance on the EDC Biodiversity officer to co-ordinate and manage the development and implementation of the LBAP. Replacing and updating the existing LBAP will ensure that the current state of the environment and relevant biodiversity issues are accounted for.
STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2	
A stand-alone LBAP covering East Dunbartonshire Council only	This option would be focussed solely on East Dunbartonshire and would be primarily co-ordinated and managed by the EDC Biodiversity officer. Although limiting the LBAP to East Dunbartonshire can reduce the scope of the LBAP compared to the existing document, there is potential to work in partnership with neighbouring authorities, such as Stirling Council on the Campsie Fells and Mugdock Country Park, North Lanarkshire Council on the Forth and Clyde Canal and West Dunbartonshire Council on the Kilpatrick Hills. Through a partnership with other local authorities, environmental charities, community groups and other interested bodies, there is greater potential for funding opportunities. It would also encourage community grants for smaller, local-level projects.
STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3	
A LBAP prepared jointly with a different adjoining local authority	This option would result in similar positive and negative effects as option 1, but there would be differences depending on the local authority involved. This option would need to consider a number of factors including; the need for a LBAP in the adjoining authority, the resources available, interest in developing a joint LBAP and ease of management and deliverability.
STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4	
Retain the existing Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Action	This option would involve continuing with the exiting Plan for West Dunbartonshire and East Dunbartonshire, including the existing actions and

Alternative Approach	Outline and Implications of the Strategic Direction
Plan with no revision	monitoring. However, there would be limited scope for actions and projects to respond to current changes to the local environment.
STRATEGIC DIRECTION 5	
Address biodiversity issues in the emerging Green Network Strategy	This approach to managing biodiversity would involve addressing relevant biodiversity and habitat issues in the emerging Green Network Strategy for East Dunbartonshire. As the emerging Green Network Strategy will focus on the two main stands considered to be prevalent for a healthy and robust green network, biodiversity and access, a focus on local biodiversity issues might be conflicted against access priorities and extensive management and action plans for biodiversity will not have the opportunity to maximised.

Table 6: Full assessment of the strategic direction for the delivery of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

ASSESSMENT TABLE KEY			
+ +	Major Positive	✓	SEA Preferred Option
+	Minor Positive		
0	Neutral	✓	LBAP Preferred Alternative Option
X	No Significant Effect		
-	Minor Negative		
- -	Major Negative		
?	Uncertain		

Alternative	SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS									SEA Preferred Option
	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	
Strategic Direction 1	+ +	+/-	+ +	+ +	+ +	+ +	+ +	+ +	+ +	

Assessment Commentary:

This approach to delivering a Local Biodiversity Action Plan for East Dunbartonshire would address the management of biodiversity in both the West and East Dunbartonshire Council areas, and consequently would need to take into account the environmental assets of each area. This is the previous approach taken to delivering a LBAP for EDC so it is already determined that this approach would be welcomed by West Dunbartonshire.

It is anticipated that this approach would have significant positive impacts on all of the scoped in environmental factors except cultural heritage. It is also likely that, since the existing BAP would be updated, any actions and effects will be in response to the current environment. The positive effects expected for the factors include:

- **Population and Human Health** – Communities in both West and East Dunbartonshire are likely to benefit from enhanced biodiversity and habitats in terms of encouraging outdoor recreation, raising public awareness and understanding of the value of biodiversity and health benefits due to the role of biodiversity in improving the perceived and actual impression of the environment.
- **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** – The LBAP will directly influence the management, protection and enhancement of biodiversity in both Council areas. Consequently, there is a range of different species and habitats that will be

	significantly positively impacted as a result of the implementation of the BAP. However, consideration of the different variety of species and habitats present in both areas should be taken into account to avoid any conflicts. • **Soil and Geology** – It is likely that, through the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, soil degradation will be managed and potentially prevented due to the role of biodiversity in stabilising soil resources. Further potential positive impacts for soil include improvements to soil quality from the nutrients of biodiversity. • **Landscape** – Although the landscapes in East and West Dunbartonshire are distinctive to each other, they have similarities such as the Kilpatrick Hills and green belt land. This direction will involve landscape approach to the management of biodiversity. Consequently, it is likely that the BAP would enhance the role of biodiversity for landscape value and improving local distinctiveness. • **Water Quality** – Both Council areas have vital water resources; East Dunbartonshire has a series of rivers, canals and reservoirs including the Forth and Clyde Canal, and West Dunbartonshire has coastal water environments as well as river waterbodies. Enhancing biodiversity will demonstrate positive roles in enhancing water bodies in terms of their ecological quality. • **Air Quality and Climatic Factors** – The role of biodiversity in suppressing pollutants, flood risk management and for improving ecosystem services will be promoted through the BAP. It is anticipated that air quality will be enhanced, particularly in AQMAs and biodiversity will address the effects of climate change. • **Material Assets** – This approach is likely to significantly benefit an increase in the sustainable use of natural resources in both West and East Dunbartonshire as well as potential benefits to enhancing a range of networks particularly those that are cross-boundary and strategic. • The effects to **Cultural Heritage** are anticipated to be positive, with potential negative impacts. Many habitats will lie within historic designations, such as the Forth and Clyde Canal and the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site, so there is potential for enhancements to biodiversity to further enhance the setting of such sites. However, enhancing biodiversity is likely to encourage communities to access their local environment. This has the potential to negatively impact on cultural heritage without appropriate management.	
Strategic Direction 2 	**+ +** | **+/-** | **+ +** | **+ +** | **+ +** | **+ +** | **+ +** | **+ +** | **+ +** **Assessment Commentary:** This strategic direction for the delivery of a LBAP for East Dunbartonshire is likely to present significant positive impacts for population and human health, biodiversity, flora and fauna, soil and geology, landscape, water quality, air quality, climatic factors and material assets, as well as potential positive and negative impacts for cultural heritage for similar reasons as detailed in the assessment for Strategic Direction 1. However, the effects are more likely to be localised and focussed on East Dunbartonshire's environment with the intention to benefit local natural and built assets. It is likely that this approach to delivering a LBAP for East Dunbartonshire will present a larger scope for significant positive impacts to benefit East Dunbartonshire specifically.	

Strategic Direction 3	+ +	+/?	+ +/?	+ +/?	+ +/?	+ +/?	+ +/?	+ +/?	+ +/?	
	Assessment Commentary: This approach to delivering a LBAP for East Dunbartonshire is likely to result in similar potential significant positive impacts as Strategic Direction 1. However, it is anticipated that there will be a level of uncertainty regarding the potential impacts due to ambiguities in terms of the need for a LBAP in other neighbouring authorities such as Stirling, Glasgow and North Lanarkshire, differences in the state of the receiving environment and any environmental constraints. Whilst it is still likely to bring benefits to East Dunbartonshire, the chosen approach and delivery in coordination with another local authority will determine the significance, both positive and negative, of the effects.									
Strategic Direction 4	?/+/-	?/+/-	?/+/-	?/+/-	?/+/-	?/+/-	?/+/-	?/+/-	?/+/-	
	Assessment Commentary: This approach to delivering a LBAP would involve retaining the existing Plan including any actions and monitoring. It is anticipated that the effects of the Plan for the environment will, in general, be uncertain. This is primarily due to the reduced potential to widen the scope of the existing Plan and lost opportunities to update the actions within the Plan, where necessary, to respond to current issues and constraints within East Dunbartonshire including changes to the local historic, built and natural environment. However, this approach is likely to result in some positive impacts to all of the environmental factors where the actions are still relevant, but where actions are out of date and do not respond to current priorities the effects are likely to be negative without appropriate mitigation measures and monitoring systems.									
Strategic Direction 5	+ +	+/-	+ +/-	+ +/-	+ +	+ +/-	+ +	+ +	+ +/-	
	Assessment Commentary: The assessment of this strategic alternative is very similar to that of Strategic Direction 2 (above) for the production of a stand-alone Local Biodiversity Action Plan for East Dunbartonshire. Through this strategic direction it is also anticipated that the environmental factors likely to result in significant environmental effects are: • **Population and Human Health** • **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** • **Landscape** • **Water Quality** • **Air Quality** • **Climatic Factors** This strategic alternative will have a split focus between the identification, creation and protection of green network opportunities, which include access and biodiversity issues. Unfortunately, the two-stranded approach and priorities of the									

	Green Network Strategy has the potential to result in conflicting priorities between the two distinct strategy subject areas. Consequently, there is potential for a joint Strategy to limit the scope of each of the two aspects instead of complementing and integrating findings as is proposed within Strategic Direction 1 and 2. Any conflicts are anticipated to result in potential negative impacts to cultural heritage, biodiversity, flora and fauna, soil and geology, water quality and material assets due to reduced focus on addressing biodiversity or conflicts between improved access and the natural environment.	

3.5.2. The Strategic Direction, and any reasonable alternatives, for implementing a Local Biodiversity Action Plan for East Dunbartonshire have been considered through the SEA process. The outcome of the assessment is that Strategic Direction 2 for a stand-alone LBAP for East Dunbartonshire is both the SEA and LBAP Preferred Option. Although the SEA of this approach is identical to Strategic Direction 1 (delivering a LBAP for East Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire like the current Plan), a stand-alone Plan will consider benefits to biodiversity and habitats at a local level. The significant positive impacts on the relevant environmental factors are noted above but will mostly result in a complete focus on promoting, enhancing and protecting valued biodiversity throughout East Dunbartonshire taking into account local constraints and priorities. This approach is also preferred by the Biodiversity and Greenspace Officer due to the potential to work in partnership with neighbouring authorities, such as Stirling Council on the Campsie Fells and Mugdock Country Park, North Lanarkshire Council on the Forth and Clyde Canal and West Dunbartonshire Council on the Kilpatrick Hills. Through a partnership with other local authorities, environmental charities, community groups and other interested bodies, there is greater potential for funding opportunities. It would also encourage community grants for smaller, local-level projects. These justifications and the SEA findings have aided the final decision for the Strategic Direction for delivering a Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

3.6. Assessment: Ambition

3.6.1. The Ambition and 'reasonable alternatives' have been identified, described and assessed as part of the SEA process, and the full assessments are shown in **Appendix D**. **Tables 7** summarises the preferred option for the ambition of the LBAP and highlights the main differences between the preferred alternative and the other options.

Table 7: Summary assessment of the ambition for the delivery of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

ASSESSMENT TABLE KEY			
+ +	Major Positive	✓	SEA Preferred Option
+	Minor Positive		
0	Neutral	✓	LBAP Preferred Alternative Option
X	No Significant Effect		
-	Minor Negative		
- -	Major Negative		
?	Uncertain		

SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS								
Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets
+ +	+/-	+ +	+/-	+ +	+ +	+ +	+ +	+ +
SEA and LBAP Preferred Ambition: East Dunbartonshire has a fully functioning, connected network of robust habitats. Consequently the area will be richer in biodiversity, with healthy ecosystems delivering benefits to people and the environment. All residents, workers and visitors will have access to the natural environment and a better understanding of its importance.								
Assessment Commentary: The SEA and LBAP preferred option of the ambition of the Strategy is likely to present significant positive impacts to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets** due to the role of the LBAP for the protection of habitats and species, improved connectivity and reduced habitat fragmentation throughout East Dunbartonshire and the promotion of healthy ecosystem services including the preservation of natural resources such as peatland. There are minor positive impacts to **Cultural Heritage and Soil and Geology** due to the promotion of access to historical sites in East Dunbartonshire such as the Antonine Wall. However, there are potential negative conflicts as a result of access, which has the potential to deteriorate valued historic assets and result in disturbance to carbon rich soils such as peatland.								

The main difference between the assessment of the preferred alternative and the other option considered is the significance of positive impacts for **Population and Human Health.** Residents, visitors and workers alike will have enhanced opportunities to access the natural environment and receive a greater understanding of the importance of biodiversity.

3.6.2. The proposed ambition, and any reasonable alternatives, for the LBAP for East Dunbartonshire have been considered through the SEA process. The outcome of the assessment is that the revised alternative to the proposed ambition is both the SEA and LBAP Preferred Option. The outcome of the assessments indicated that both options had comparable significant positive environmental impacts for the majority of the environmental factors assessed; however, the revised alternative presented a larger scope for the benefits to be experienced by a wider range of people that would not be limited to residents only. These justifications and the SEA findings have aided the final decision for the ambition for delivering a Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

3.7. Assessment: Aims

3.7.1 An environmental assessment has been undertaken for the LBAP aims and the reasonable alternatives against the SEA objectives. The environmental assessments have been recorded in the form of a matrix identifying the environmental performance of the alternative aims. The full assessment tables including re-assessments incorporating SEA recommendations, reasonable alternatives and SEA assessment commentary are provided within **Appendix D**.

3.7.2 Recommendations have been made where necessary so that greater environmental considerations are incorporated into the LBAP. The assessment of the aims and reasonable alternatives identified the need to:

- Ensure not only conservation of habitats but seek to protect, restore and expand them where appropriate,
- Increase the health and population of vulnerable species by avoiding the loss of species entirely rather than minimising negative impacts to them,
- Involve local communities in biodiversity projects in order to increase an awareness and understanding of the local natural environment,
- Promote the need for the sustainable management of natural resources by ensuring that biodiversity conservation is integrated into all decision-making processes, and
- Collate and share the data collected about East Dunbartonshire's species to increase knowledge amongst practitioners.

3.7.3. **Table 8** summarise the assessment ratings of each of the aims including reasonable alternatives, highlighting the preferred options from a SEA and LBAP perspective.

Table 8: Summary assessment of the aims for Local Biodiversity Action Plan

ASSESSMENT TABLE KEY			
+ +	Major Positive	✓	SEA Preferred Option
+	Minor Positive		
0	Neutral	✓	LBAP Preferred Alternative Option
X	No Significant Effect		
-	Minor Negative		
- -	Major Negative		
?	Uncertain		

Alternative	SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS									SEA Preferred Option
	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	
Aim 1										
Alternative 1	+	X	+/+ +	+/+ +/-	+/+ +	+	+	+	+	
	Proposed aim: Conserve habitats in East Dunbartonshire that are considered vulnerable or threatened on a local or national basis, and in turn to contribute to the conservation of our global biodiversity.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: It is suggested that this aim broadens to the conservation of a range of different habitats, including vulnerable or threatened habitats, but not limited to this category. The aim should also seek to go beyond the 'conservation' to ensure that habitats are protected, restored and expanded, where possible. "Protect, restore and expand East Dunbartonshire's natural and semi-natural habitats to create a robust and connected natural environment".									
Alternative 2 ✓	+	X	+ +	+ +	+ +	+	+	+	+ +	✓
	Proposed aim: Protect, restore and expand East Dunbartonshire's natural and semi-natural habitats to create a robust and connected natural environment.									

Aim 2										
Alternative 1	X	X	+	X	X/+	X	X/+	X/+	X	
	Proposed aim: Minimise the likelihood of local extinction by increasing the range and population health of our most vulnerable species.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: It is suggested that this aim should be revised to increase the positive nature for each of the environmental factors. It would be beneficial to revise the wording of the aim from 'minimise the likelihood' to encapsulate the need to conserve species to prevent local extinctions as well as to meet biodiversity priorities for Scotland and globally.									
Alternative 2	+	X	+ +	+/+ +/-	+/-	+	+	+	X	
	Proposed aim: Conserve species in East Dunbartonshire that are considered vulnerable or threatened on a local or national basis, and in turn to contribute to the conservation of our global biodiversity.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: It is suggested that an alternative to this aim should make reference to native species as well as vulnerable/threatened species, as well as possible rewording to indicate that the LBAP will not only conserve existing species but avoid any future depletion to biodiversity population. This is likely to increase the scope for species management in East Dunbartonshire. "Avoid local extinctions by increasing the range and population health of our most vulnerable and native species".									
Alternative 3 ✓	+	X	+ +	+/+ +/-	+/-	+	+	+	+	✓
	Proposed aim: Avoid local extinctions by increasing the range and population health of our most vulnerable and native species.									
Aim 3										
Alternative 1	+	+/-	+ +	+/-	+	?/+	+	+	+/+ +	
	Proposed aim: Promote community engagement in, and ownership of, the practical conservation of our natural resources.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: In order to encourage communities to become involved in on-the-ground conservation projects, the LBAP should consider the need to increase an awareness of biodiversity and the natural environment. This is likely to result in greater benefits for local communities. It is also suggested that the term 'natural resources' be changed to 'biodiversity' to reflect the main focus of the LBAP. "Connect people to the natural environment, raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity and increase the involvement of local communities in conservation projects".									

Alternative 2 ✓	+ +	+/-	+ +	+/-	+	+	+	+	+ +	✓
	Proposed aim: Connect people to the natural environment, raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity and increase the involvement of local communities in conservation projects.									
Aim 4										
Alternative 1	?/+	?/+	+	?/+	?/+	?/+	?/+	+	+	
	Proposed aim: Promote sustainable and wise use of our natural resources.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: To refine this aim, it is suggested that consideration is given to the role of decision making within Council processes and in land management for the conservation of natural resources with particular reference to biodiversity in its own right. "Integrate the conservation of biodiversity into design making processes and all aspects of land management".									
Alternative 2 ✓	+	+	+ +	+	+	+	+	+	+	✓
	Proposed aim: Integrate the conservation of biodiversity into decision making processes and all aspects of land management.									
Aim 5										
Alternative 1	+	X/+	+/+ +	X/+	X/+	X/+	X/+	X/+	X/+	
	Proposed aim: Increase the knowledge of East Dunbartonshire's biodiversity through data collection.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: To ensure that this aim maximises the benefits from increased knowledge for biodiversity within East Dunbartonshire, the aim should encourage both an increase in knowledge and understanding. In order to increase the potential for secondary and/or long-term impacts, the wording of the aim should be altered to reflect an increase in understanding to including the need to be able to use and interpret the data effectively. "Increase the knowledge and understanding of East Dunbartonshire's biodiversity through data collection, collation and sharing".									
Alternative 2 ✓	+ +	X/+	+ +	X/+	X/+	X/+	X/+	X/+	X/+	✓
	Proposed aim: Increase the knowledge and understanding of East Dunbartonshire's biodiversity through data collection, collation and sharing.									

3.7.4. Taking into account each of the SEA recommendations and alternatives for the proposed LBAP aims, the conclusion of the assessment encourage each of the SEA Preferred Options in relation to each of the aims to be integrated into the LBAP as the LBAP Preferred Option. This highlights the influence and success of the SEA process through the integration of environmental considerations fully throughout its development.

3.8. Assessment: Priority Habitat Objectives

3.8.1. An environmental assessment has been undertaken for each of the proposed objectives for the priority habitat areas and the reasonable alternatives against the SEA objectives. The environmental assessments have been recorded in the form of a matrix identifying the environmental performance of the alternative aims. The full assessment tables including re-assessments incorporating SEA recommendations, reasonable alternatives and SEA assessment commentary are provided within **Appendix E**.

3.8.2. Recommendations have been made where necessary so that greater environmental considerations are incorporated into the LBAP. The assessment of the objectives and reasonable alternatives identified the need to:

- Consider incorporating existing biodiversity features into the design of new developments, as part of the Local Development Plan, in addition to new biodiversity enhancement measures;
- Encourage greater protection of woodland habitats in East Dunbartonshire by focussing on all woodland habitats rather than semi-natural resources and taking into account other woodland vegetation such as scrub in order to improve the overall functionality of the woodland for ecosystem services and long-term improvements of the ecological value; and,
- Ensuring that actions to improve one habitat type do not have a detrimental impact on other habitat types in the area.

3.8.3. In cases where the assessed SEA preferred option has not been carried forward into the LBAP as the preferred option the non-environmental reasoning and justification has been detailed in accordance with the Greenspace and Biodiversity Policy Officer.

- **Rural Objective 4 –** It was considered that there is currently no resource to promote the importance of blanket bog in East Dunbartonshire.
- **Freshwater Objective 5 –** It was determined that specific reference to green infrastructure in new developments is best suited to opportunities within the Green Network Strategy so this has been included in the emerging Green Network Strategy as local and strategic opportunities.

3.9. Assessment: Actions

3.9.1. As part of the Plan development process, a Steering Group was set up to discuss the intended outcomes and proposed delivery of the Plan. These discussions helped to develop the action plan for the LBAP. An environmental assessment was undertaken for each of the LBAP actions against the SEA objectives and criteria, based on their predicted impact on the current environmental baseline in the form of a matrix. Where necessary, recommendations have been made to ensure that the actions incorporate environmental considerations as much as possible. Recommendations include suggestions of modifications to the actions in order for any potential adverse effects to be avoided, become negligible or minor. Any actions

with suggested alterations have been reassessed and recorded within the assessment matrix. Other recommendations have been made to further enhance, protect or conserve the environment. Any mitigation has also been included where appropriate within the assessments, along with an assessment of the cumulative impact of each preferred action. The full assessment of actions can be found in **Appendix E.**

3.9.2. **Appendix E** details the full assessment of the proposed action programme for the LBAP. The SEA of actions aims to achieve greater environmental considerations where possible and any commentary regarding this is in the form of recommendations that will guide the development of the Plan. Overall, the majority of the actions presented positive impacts for habitats and species and the conservation of natural resources, as well as other frequently referenced positive impacts including increased knowledge, understanding and awareness of existing biodiversity features and value in East Dunbartonshire, an active approach to reducing habitat fragmentation throughout the wider environment and green belt landscape, greater opportunities for local communities to appreciate and connect with their surrounding natural environment with benefits towards reducing health and wellbeing inequalities, potential contributions to improved ecosystem services for air, water and soils in terms of water purification, regulation of negative climatic effects and enhancements to natural processes and greater consideration of the sustainable use of natural resources.

3.9.3. Whilst the assessments highlighted positive impacts, the main negative impacts identified were attributable to the impact of enhanced environmental assets on increased appreciation and use of the wider environment by local communities with potential negative impacts including disturbance to habitats and species and soil erosion, which in turn can lead to poor drainage and increased risk of flooding and surface water run-off. However, the environmental assessments of the actions have included mitigation measures (**Section 4**) or SEA Suggested Alterations to address the negative impacts and further enhance any of the positive impacts identified.

3.9.4. All of the SEA recommendations were discussed during the development process for the LBAP but not all of the SEA preferred actions were carried forward into the finalised document. The justification for this is highlighted in **Section 3.11** in this Environmental Report.

3.10. Cumulative Impacts

3.10.1. Following the assessment of each of the actions in the action programme for the LBAP, an assessment of the cumulative effects is carried out. Cumulative effects can arise from the combined effects of plans. They can also arise as a result of interaction between different components of a single plan. For example, where several developments each have insignificant effects but together have a significant effect, or where several individual effects of the PPS have a combined effect.

3.10.2. it should be noted that, with the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures suggested in each of the individual local opportunities assessments (**Appendix E**), the effects for each of the environmental factors are likely to be neutralised and other effects could potentially become more positive in nature.

3.10.3. The cumulative, secondary and synergistic effects of the whole Plan, taking into account each of the actions taken forward into the finalised Plan for the four priority habitats have been determined as detailed below:

3.10.4. The cumulative nature of the effects on **Population and Human Health** are anticipated to be major positive. The positive nature of the actions on this SEA criteria are due to a number of factors including:

- Enhanced recreational and cultural opportunities in terms of improved open space and local natural environment encouraging greater access and use amongst communities and associated health and wellbeing benefits;
- Greater understanding of the existing habitat and biodiversity value for the scientific community and the relevant stakeholders; and,
- Potential opportunities for local communities and individuals to become involved in biodiversity and conservation projects with opportunities for environmental education.

3.10.5. The cumulative nature of the effects on **Cultural Heritage** is likely to be insignificant overall. However Urban Actions 4, 5 and 12, Freshwater Action 20 and Woodland Action 3 identified positive impacts in terms of utilising the role of biodiversity for improving the setting of historical designations such as the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and Garden and Designed Landscapes. Conversely, Urban Action 1 indicated positive negative impacts in terms of the potential for deterioration and cultural sites due to increased public access. None the less, the effects on Cultural Heritage were identified as minor and overall they were unlikely to have any significant impacts on this environmental factor.

3.10.6. The Strategy is likely to have an overall significant positive cumulative impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** with direct actions for East Dunbartonshire-wide biodiversity gain**.** All of the actions for each of the priority habitats present benefits for this environmental factor including:

- The creation and enhancement of habitats including wetland, grassland and woodland throughout East Dunbartonshire;
- Protection of valuable natural designations such as Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) for biodiversity and geodiversity, Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) including a range of priority and native species to East Dunbartonshire;
- A better understanding of the species and habitats, including aquatic, riparian and terrestrial wildlife, in East Dunbartonshire in order to facilitate their long-term protection and enhancement, where appropriate;
- Improved management of woodland and forestry;
- Effective management of biodiversity for its role in ecosystem services; and,
- Overall promotion of the importance of biodiversity for the natural environment and contributions towards preventing long-term loss of wildlife.

Although the assessment of Rural Action 1, Urban Actions 1, 2, 5 and 15, and Woodland Action 3 highlighted the potential negative impacts to biodiversity and habitats associated with increased access and appreciation of the natural environment, the positive nature of the majority of the actions and implementation of proposed mitigation measures are likely to minimise the cumulative nature of the negative impacts for the area.

3.10.7. The overall cumulative environmental impact on **Soil and Geology** was seen to be not significant. Although some of the individual assessments have identified some minor positive (e.g. Rural Actions 3, 5 and 6, Urban Actions 3, 4, 5, 10, 12 and 15, and Freshwater 6 and 11) in terms of protecting important geodiversity sites and peatland/blanket bog, as well as minor negative impacts (e.g. Woodland Action 3 and Urban Actions 1 and 2) related to secondary impacts from increased footfall contributing to soil erosion, the impact of these for the whole of East Dunbartonshire are not deemed to be significant.

3.10.8. The overall cumulative impact on **Landscape** was seen to be minor positive in nature. Although several of the actions identified that there was no significant impact on this environmental factors, there were also a number of positive impacts highlighted. The positive nature of the actions on this SEA criteria are due to a number of factors including:

- Improving habitat links to and within green belt locations;
- Positive impacts on the setting and visual amenity of the wider landscape, including enhancing the setting of Local Landscape Areas; and,
- Improved habitat connectivity by decreasing fragmentation and contributing to restricting the urban – rural divide.

3.10.9. The assessments of actions in relation to **Water Quality and Climatic Factors** indicated that the overall cumulative environmental impact was minor positive in nature, with the potential for significant effects. the positive nature of the effects included:

- Utilising enhancements to biodiversity value, including woodland, can play a role in water management including water storage and the prevention of pollutant run-off; and,
- Maximising the benefits of biodiversity as a natural flood risk management and mitigation measure, carbon capture and improved ecosystem services.

3.10.10. The overall cumulative environmental impact on **Air Quality** was seen to be minor positive in nature, as identified in the assessment of Rural Actions 2, 4, 5 and 9, Urban Actions 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 12 and 15, Freshwater Action 6 and Woodland Actions 1 and 3. The positive nature of the actions on this SEA criteria are due to:

- The role of biodiversity in urban areas, primarily, for pollutant management and carbon sequestration where poor air quality can be exacerbated by greater volumes of traffic, but also in other priority habitat areas;
- Considering the role of woodland in improving air quality at a local level; and,
- Potential EDC-wide air quality improvements as biodiversity improvements throughout the area can ensure that ecosystem services are effective and enhanced as much as possible.

3.10.11. The overall cumulative impacts on **Material Assets** are seen to be significant positive. The positive nature of the actions on this SEA criteria are due to a number of factors including:

- The improvement and encouragement of safe use of existing core paths and active travel routes in East Dunbartonshire due to improved setting and visual amenity of the wider natural environment;

- Promoting positive changes to the current transport infrastructure to a more sustainable network that encourages active travel with links to the aims of the Green Network Strategy; and,
- Greater consideration of the protection and sustainable use of natural resources.

3.11. Influence of SEA on the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

3.11.1. Through each of the assessments for the Strategic Direction, Ambition, Aims, Priority Habitat Objectives and Actions of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) there have been notable examples of the positive influence of SEA on the development of the LBAP including consideration of the proposed mitigation measures to be integrated into the Plan and incorporation of the majority of SEA preferred options and SEA suggested alterations for example:

- **Strategic Direction and Ambition –** The SEA preferred option was taken forward as the approach for the delivery and the overall ambition of the LBAP.
- **Aims -** The SEA preferred option for each of the aims, including the SEA suggested alterations with regards to minor wording alterations, were taken forward as the finalised aims for the LBAP.
- **Actions –** A significant number of the SEA preferred options for the actions assessed were integrated into the LBAP, taking into account any wording changes and SEA suggested alterations. However, of the 53 actions that qualified for assessment 6 of the SEA preferred options were not carried forward into the LBAP for the following reasons (**Table 9**):

Table 9: Justification of not carrying forward SEA preferred options into the LBAP

Urban	
Action 3	It was considered that the proposed action without SEA suggestions would be less likely to limit the buy-in and deliverability of the action from the team responsible for it within East Dunbartonshire.
Action 11	The current situation with regard to the national surveys is that only certain areas are viable for surveys to be conducted and there is no scope as yet to change this, although it was recognised by the Greenspace and Biodiversity Policy Officer that this would be useful in the future. It was also considered that there was currently no capacity for the Rangers to undertake additional surveys to the national ones.
Freshwater	
Action 6	It was considered by the Greenspace and Biodiversity Officer as being restrictive in terms of delivering the action although presenting more benefits from a social and environmental point of view.
Action 14	There is likely to be limitations in terms of the capacity of the Biodiversity Partnership for delivering the SEA preferred option.
Action 15	There is likely to be limitations as to the availability of resources to do this currently and within the lifespan of the LBAP.

Action 17	As there are local and strategic opportunities in the emerging Green Network Strategy that relate to the River Kelvin, it was determined that the LBAP would seek to look at opportunities related to the Allander Water.

3.11.2. It should be noted that Rural Action 10 and Freshwater Actions 5, 7, 16 and 19 were not deemed appropriate for assessment at this stage and so there is not environmental rating for these actions. The full assessments in **Appendix F** give justification as to the reasons for not assessing them as part of the Environmental Report for the LBAP.

3.11.3. Mitigation measures have also been identified as part of the assessments and discussed with the Greenspace and Biodiversity Policy Officer in order to avoid adverse impacts, reduce the significance of the effects or enhance neutral or positive impacts. They have taken the form of suggested alterations to the wording of aims and actions and project level mitigation for the delivery of the actions.

Section 4: Mitigation Measures and Monitoring

4.1 Mitigation Measures

4.1.1. Schedule 3 paragraph 7 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 require that the Environmental Report includes the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

4.1.2. Mitigation measures have been proposed and incorporated into each of the assessments of the actions in order to avoid, reduce, mitigate or offset any potential adverse environmental impacts and enhance any neutral or positive environmental impacts identified. The mitigation measures incorporate all environmental factors and will be the responsibility of East Dunbartonshire Council to implement in conjunction with key agencies and stakeholders.

4.2 Monitoring

4.2.1 Through Section 19 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, East Dunbartonshire Council is required to monitor significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. The monitoring should be implemented to enable the identification of any unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage to allow the appropriate remedial action to be implemented.

4.2.2 The LBAP will also establish a monitoring and evaluation framework using the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS), in which the SEA monitoring framework will align to where reasonable.

4.2.3 The specific measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the LBAP will form part of the Post-Adoption Statement prepared as soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of the LBAP in accordance with Section 18 of the Act. It is envisaged that the following indicators will be included within the monitoring framework (Table 10).

Table 10: Proposed SEA monitoring framework for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

SEA Category	Indicators	Data Source
Population and Human Health	Changes in the deprivation levels in 15 – 20% SIMD areas	SCROL
	Improvements in local health and wellbeing	East Dunbartonshire Council (EDC) / NHS
	Number of community biodiversity projects	EDC
	Number of projects in the LBAP related to environmental education	EDC
	% increase in overall walking and cycling rates in East Dunbartonshire	EDC / Transport Scotland / SPT
	% uptake of outdoor pursuits	EDC
Cultural Heritage	Number of projects within or near the vicinity of cultural heritage assets in East Dunbartonshire	EDC

	Number of visitors accessing cultural heritage assets using active travel alternatives (in line with Active Travel Strategy and Green Network Strategy)	EDC / Historic Environment Scotland
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Ecosystem specific indicators, such as area of woodland, wetland and grassland improved/enhanced	EDC / SNH / FCS
	Ecosystem specific indicators, such as area of woodland, wetland and grassland created	
	Reported damage/loss of protected species	
	Reported damage/loss of priority habitats and species for East Dunbartonshire	
	Number of projects in the LBAP to reduce habitat fragmentation and improve connectivity	
	% increase in native planting and hedgerow protection	
	Number of new developments integrating with the local environment and incorporating native planting, woodland management and green infrastructure	
	% change in area of heath and grassland habitats	
	Number of Council owned LNCS in active management	
	Number of LNCS improvement projects	
	Number of new LNR designations	
Soil and Geology	% area of peatland/blanket bog improved or deteriorated	SEPA / James Hutton Institute
Landscape	Changes in extent and quality of green belt resource	EDC
Water Quality	Changes to the classification of water bodies in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive	SEPA
Air Quality	Emissions levels in East Dunbartonshire- % change (NO_2 and PM10 levels are measured continuously within East Dunbartonshire. There are 4 monitoring stations in Bishopbriggs, Kirkintilloch, Bearsden and Milngavie. There are also 43 sites with monitoring tubes for NO_2 around the EDC area)	EDC / SEPA
Climatic Factors	Number of rural habitats protected from afforestation	EDC / SEPA / FCS / James Hutton Institute
	Number of projects contributing to natural flood management and alleviation	
	Number of projects contributing to improvements to River Basin Management Planning status	
	Number of SuDS as part of new developments	
	% area of peatland/blanket bog improved or deteriorated for carbon capture/storage	
Material Assets	Access and use of public and active travel networks	EDC / Transport Scotland / SPT

Section 5: Statutory Consultation and SEA Timetable

5.1 Statutory Consultation

5.1.1. The statutory consultation for this SEA document and corresponding Local Biodiversity Action Plan is:

1st August 2016 – 12th September 2016

5.1.2. Responses should be submitted through email or post to the following addresses:

Email: sustainability@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

Post: Sustainability Policy
Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets
East Dunbartonshire Council
Southbank House
Strathkelvin Place
Kirkintilloch
G66 1XQ

5.2 SEA Timetable

5.2.1. The SEA activities to date and approximate timetable for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for further SEA stages are summarised below (Table 11). The SEA process has aligned with the development stages for the Plan itself.

5.2.2. Please note that the anticipated timescales for the completion of further SEA stages and the Plan may require to be extended if contributions from the Partnership for the preparation of the LBAP are delayed or are reallocated due to failure of Partners to deliver them.

Table 11: Consultation and SEA timetable

	Plan Preparation Stages	SEA Stages	Anticipated Timescale & Consultation Period
SEA ACTIVITES TO DATE	Preliminary assessment and survey/research work	Confirmation of requirement for a SEA to the EDC Biodiversity and Greenspace Policy Officer	February 2015
	Development of draft purpose and objectives for the LBAP	Scoping Report: • Collate and forecast baseline environmental information • Determine and adopt SEA environmental objectives and criteria	Submitted to the SEA Gateway and Consultation Authorities on 8th April 2015 for a 5 week consultation

		Review responses from the Scoping Report consultation period	13th May 2015 – 20th May 2015
PLANNED SEA STAGES	Prepare draft Plan • Produce 'ambition' and 'objectives' for the LBAP in cooperation with LBAP Steering Group • Establish an action programme	Draft Environmental Report: • Carry out environmental assessments – strategic direction, ambition, aims and action • Assess all reasonable alternatives to the Plan • Feed SEA findings into LBAP, where possible	• The draft Environmental Report will be prepared alongside the preparation of the LBAP • Responses from the Consultation Authorities will be taken into account at this stage • Drafting between June 2015 and May 2016
	Publish and consult on the draft LBAP	Publish and consult on the draft Environmental Report	Consultation with the public and Consultation Authorities (minimum of 6 weeks)
	Adopt Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Publish Post-Adoption Statement along with the adopted finalised LBAP	November 2016
	Monitor and review	Monitor and review	On-going/annual review

Section 6: Appendices and Supplementary Documents

Appendix A:

Relevant Policies, Plans, Programmes, Strategies, Legislation and Environmental Protection Objectives

Appendix B:

Recognised Protected, Priority, Lesser Priority and Invasive Non-Native Species in East Dunbartonshire

Appendix C:

Consultation Responses to the Scoping Report

Appendix D:

Full assessment of the ambition and aims for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Appendix E:

Full assessment of the habitat objectives for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Appendix F:

Full assessment of the actions for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Appendix G:

SEA objectives and criteria questions for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Appendix A: Relevant Policies, Plans, Programmes, Strategies, Legislation and Environmental Protection Objectives

Please note that this appendix lists key legislation, plans, programmes, policies and strategies that influence or are influenced by the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Their content, where appropriate, has been used to inform the environmental objectives for the SEA of the Plan.

Relevant PPS to the LBAP	Summary/Objectives or requirements	How objectives and requirements influence the LBAP
	INTERNATIONAL	
Rio Declaration (1992)	The Declaration sets out 27 principles to enable the global community to work towards international agreements that respect the interests of all and protect the integrity of the global environmental and developmental system. The Declaration highlighted the necessity to protect and enhance the environment, economics and social aspects in both developed and developing countries, which includes protecting our biodiversity and nature assets.	The outcomes proposed for the LBAP for East Dunbartonshire should be in line with a number of the principles set out in the Rio Declaration. The LBAP will contribute to the protection of biodiversity at a local level.
Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	The Convention on Biological Diversity responded to the increasing commitment worldwide for sustainable development. As part of the Convention, a number of objectives and outcomes were highlighted including: ➢ The conservation of biological diversity, ➢ The sustainable use of natural resources, and ➢ Fair and equitable use of biological and natural resources. The Convention encouraged the development of National Biodiversity Action Plans and, consequently, Local Biodiversity Action Plans.	The Convention is a key driver for the requirement of LBAPs. The Convention urged the need for Biodiversity Action Plans across participating countries, which was translated into the UK Biodiversity Action Plan in 1994. The LBAP should be aligned with the objectives and outcomes of the Convention, and the actions outlined in the LBAP will contribute to them at a local level.
Kyoto Protocol (1997)	The UK has committed itself to a 12.5% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2008-2012. It has also set its own domestic target of a 20% reduction in carbon dioxide by 2010.	The role of biodiversity in suppressing atmospheric emissions is likely to be promoted through the LBAP. As a result, the LBAP will contribute to the aims of the Kyoto Protocol and have an influence on reducing greenhouse emissions.

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020	This Plan provides an overarching framework on biodiversity for all of the United Nations involved in order to encourage the engagement of biodiversity management and policy development. This international framework was agreed by Parties to be translated through biodiversity action plans and Strategies. It also outlines the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (see below).	Like the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, the LBAP will also encourage biodiversity management and will contribute to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets therein. In particular, the LBAP will seek to reduce the rate of loss to natural habitats and encourage biodiversity projects for conservation and restoration.
Aichi Biodiversity Targets	The Aichi Biodiversity Targets are outlined within the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 and include 5 Strategic Goals, in which 20 different targets are set. The Strategic Goals include: ➢ Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society ➢ Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use ➢ Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity ➢ Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services ➢ Enhance implementation through participatory management and capacity building. The targets set are intended to be achieved or exceeded by 2020.	The LBAP will play a vital role in ensuring that the goals and targets set out in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are delivered, taking into account the needs and priorities at a level specific to East Dunbartonshire. In its duty to ensure the targets are met, East Dunbartonshire Council will also contribute to the wider issues at a regional, national and international level for biodiversity.

	EUROPEAN	
Directive 2009/147/EC pm the Conservation of Wild Birds (EU Birds Directive)	The Birds Directive protects all wild birds, their nests, eggs and habitats within the European Community. It gives EU member states the power and responsibility to classify Special Protection Areas (SPA's) to protect birds which are rare or vulnerable in Europe as well as all migratory birds which are regular visitors.	The EU Birds Directive outlines the requirement for the protection of specific species, as outlined in the Directive. These species are considered to be the highest priority for protection. The LBAP will adhere to these requirements and support the protection of these species and ensure there are no ross-boundary impacts on SPA designated sites within adjacent authorities.

Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EU Habitats Directive)	The Habitats Directive builds on the Birds Directive by protecting natural habitats and other species of wild plants and animals. Together with the Birds Directive, it underpins a European network of protected areas known as Natura 2000. This network includes SPA's classified under the Birds Directive and a new set of international nature conservation areas introduced by the Habitats Directive, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's).	Although there are currently no designated sites in East Dunbartonshire under the Directive, The EU Habitats Directive outlines the requirement for the protection of specific habitats, as outlined in the Directive. These habitats are considered to be the highest priority for protection. The LBAP will adhere to these requirements and support the protection of these habitats.
Directive 92/43/EEC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (The Water Framework Directive)	The Water Framework Directive aims to protect and improve the water environment in order to contribute to achieving sustainable development. It sets out specific objectives and targets for committed parties to work towards and achieve. The main objectives include: ➢ Achieving 'Good' status across all water bodies by 2015. ➢ The status achieved should not deteriorate ➢ Protected area requirements should be met through the achievement of standards and objectives ➢ Any identified increasing trends in pollutants in groundwater, specifically, should be remediated and reversed ➢ A continuous and progressive reduction of pollution (particularly priority substances) in order to phase out hazardous substances and ultimately prevent/reduce pollution of groundwater. The Directive also sets the requirements for Member States to develop River Basin Districts and River Basin Management Plans for them.	In order to protect and improve the water environment in East Dunbartonshire, the LBAP will outline the management of biodiversity in its role in protecting the local water environment. The LBAP should also comply with the requirements of the Directive by ensuring that projects do not increase the risk of flooding. It is likely that the Framework will contribute to the delivery of the outcomes through the Biodiversity Partnership. In particular, the roles of SNH and SEPA in this will guide the LBAP's consideration of water –related biodiversity issues.
EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy	The Strategy seeks to protect Europe's Biodiversity, and the ecosystem services it provides. The vision of the Strategy is '*By 2050, European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored for biodiversity's intrinsic value and for*	Through the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity at a local level, the LBAP for East Dunbartonshire should show the Council's commitment to the protection of biodiversity at a national and international level. The LBAP will be compliant with the framework for action as stated in the Strategy.

	their essential contribution to human wellbeing and economic prosperity, and so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided'. It establishes a framework for action which includes: ➢ Conserving and Restoring Nature ➢ Maintaining and Enhancing Ecosystems and their Services ➢ Ensuring the sustainability of agriculture, fisheries and forestry ➢ Combating invasive alien species ➢ Addressing the global biodiversity crisis	

National		
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	The Wildlife and Countryside Act is the primary legislation for the protection of animals, plants and certain habitats in the UK. It sets out the requirements of protection and associated fines where the Act is not adhered to in relation to the specific species/habitats identified in the legislation. It requires any land that is identified as being of special interest by reason of any of its flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features to be classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and afforded certain protection against damaging measures.	The objectives of the LBAP should be compliant with the Wildlife and Countryside Act as they will contribute to the requirements of the Act. The main purpose of the LBAP and the Act should be aligned.
The Protection of Badgers Act (1992)	This Act specifies the requirement for the protection of Badgers in the UK which includes any offences that would disrupt, endanger or kill a badger sett.	The protection of badgers, and their habitats, will need to be considered in the LBAP, and the actions included in the Plan should be considerate of the requirements of the Act. The LBAP has a key role in ensuring the protection of badgers in East Dunbartonshire.
The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 as amended	The Habitats Regulations require competent authorities to carry out appropriate assessments in certain circumstances where a plan or project affects a Natura (European) site. Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) refers to the whole process, including the appropriate assessment step.	In alignment with the biodiversity duty set by the Regulations, the LBAP will be the primary document in East Dunbartonshire that ensures the duty to protect and enhance biodiversity is complied with.

National Planning Framework 3	The National Planning Framework 3 is the Scottish Government's Strategy for the long term development of Scotland's towns, cities and the countryside. In the NPF3, the importance of biodiversity for Scotland is highlighted including the necessity to protect its value in both rural and urban locations. The NPF3 supports the 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity by promoting and enhancing nature and ensuring that communities are better connected to the natural environment. The NPF3 states that "*we will implement the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, including completing the suite of protected places and improving their connectivity through a national ecological network centred on these sites".*	The LBAP and the NPF 3 should be aligned in their commitment to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. The LBAP will represent opportunities in East Dunbartonshire to ensure the protection of biodiversity.
Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)	The consolidated SPP provides a shorter, clearer and more focused statement of national planning policy. The SPP and NPPG series has been replaced by a single SPP. As part of the commitment to proportionate and practical planning policies, the Scottish Government has rationalised national planning policy. The SPP sets out: ➢ the Scottish Government's view of the purpose of planning, ➢ the core principles for the operation of the system and the objectives for key parts of the system, ➢ statutory guidance on sustainable development and planning under Section 3E of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006, ➢ concise subject planning policies, including the implications for development planning and development management, and ➢ The Scottish Government's expectations of the intended outcomes of the planning system.	The LBAP will need to consider the requirements of SPP throughout its development, including the impact of development for biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire. The LBAP will contribute to a number of policies set out within the SPP in relation to biodiversity and the natural environment.

	Alongside policy on development plans, development management, community engagement, sustainable development, climate change and sustainable economic growth, the SPP sets out policies related to the delivery of low carbon communities and natural heritage.	
Planning Advice Note (PAN) 60	Planning Advice Note (PAN) 60 sets out advice on how development and planning can be used efficiently to ensure the conservation, enhancement, enjoyment and understanding of the natural environment in Scotland. It encourages positive and creative thinking to address such issues. PAN60 complements the SPP.	The LBAP will put into practice the requirements of PAN 60, and will be a proactive measure for the encouragement and understanding of the natural environment. The proposed outcomes of the LBAP are in line with the requirements of PAN 60.
Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	The Act places duties on public bodies in relation to the conservation of biodiversity, increases protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), amends legislation on Nature Conservation Orders, provides for Land Management Orders for SSSIs and associated land, strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and requires the preparation of a Scottish Fossil Code.	Through the production of the LBAP, East Dunbartonshire will contribute towards the requirements set out in the Act, which includes East Dunbartonshire showing its commitment to the duty as a public body.
Scottish Forestry Strategy (2006)	➢ Using forestry, and adapting forestry practices, to help reduce the impact of climate change and help Scotland adapt to its changing climate ➢ Getting the most from Scotland's increasing and sustainable timber resource ➢ Strengthening forestry through business development to underpin sustainable forest management and support economic growth and employment across Scotland ➢ Improving the quality of life and wellbeing of people by supporting community development across Scotland ➢ Making access to, and enjoyment of, woodlands easier for everyone – to help improve physical and mental health ➢ Protecting the environmental quality of our natural resources (water, soil, air) contributing to and improving our scenery, and helping to make the most of our unique historic environment	The Scottish Forestry Strategy will guide woodland and forestry related issues discussed in the LBAP, and sets out the requirements for woodland and forestry which will be adhered to in the Plan. The biodiversity themed aims of the Strategy will be delivered through the LBAP at a local level.

	➢ Helping to restore, maintain and enhance Scotland's biodiversity, and increasing awareness and enjoyment of it.	
A Five Year Species Action Framework: Making a difference for Scotland's species (2007)	The Species Action Framework identifies certain species where targeted management action in Scotland is required. It highlights requirements for the protection of Scotland's species in order to secure their future through effective management.	The Framework highlights the requirements for a focus effort to protect and manage certain species which will be translated through the LBAP to represent the species specific to East Dunbartonshire at a local level. The LBAP should contribute to the implementation of the Framework where possible.
Conserving Biodiversity – the UK Approach (2007)	This is a shared vision for the approach to conversing biodiversity in the UK. The shared priorities for action outlined in the Report include: ➢ protecting the best sites for wildlife; ➢ targeting action on priority species and habitats; ➢ embedding proper consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in all relevant sectors of policy and decision-making; ➢ engaging people, and encouraging behaviour change; ➢ developing and interpreting the evidence base; and ➢ Ensuring that the UK plays a proactive role in influencing the development of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and contributes fully to their domestic delivery.	The vision of Conserving Biodiversity- the UK Approach will be directly linked to the vision of the LBAP. The priorities for action expressed in the LBAP share similar outcomes.
Climate Change (Scotland) Act (2009)	The Climate Change (Scotland) Act commits the Scottish government to establishing a zero-carbon economy through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Within the Act, a number of targets were set: ➢ A 42% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 ➢ An 80% reduction in emissions by 2050 The Act intends Local Authorities to adhere to the requirements and targets set in order to contribute to Scotland's emission reduction progress as well as reductions locally.	The promotion and enhancement of ecosystem services will be expressed in the LBAP. This has the potential to have an influence over the effects of climate change. The LBAP will consider, and contribute to, the Climate Change Act.

'Climate Ready Scotland'- Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Programme	The Programme addresses the impacts identified for Scotland in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA). It sets out the Scottish Ministers' objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, and their proposals and policies for meeting those objectives. Aims include: ➢ Ensuring a productive, healthy and diverse natural environment which is able to adapt to change, including promotion of green infrastructure and development of the ecosystem approach; and implementation of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy ➢ Ensuring well-managed, resilient infrastructure and buildings providing access to the amenities and services we need; ➢ Ensuring strong, healthy, resilient communities which are well informed and prepared for a changing climate, including increased awareness of the importance of flood risk management	The LBAP will promote the role of biodiversity for climate change adaptation which is in line with this Programme. The Programme expresses the requirement for productive natural environments and an ecosystem approach to drive the implementation of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. The focus of the LBAP is linked to this.
Scottish Government National Outcomes (2007)	Fifteen National Outcomes were set for the Scottish Government, and were updated in 2011. These include: ➢ We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe. ➢ We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people. ➢ We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation. ➢ Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. ➢ Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed. ➢ We live longer, healthier lives. ➢ We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.	The LBAP should contribute towards each of the National Outcomes, where possible. The National Outcomes particularly relevant to the LBAP, although not limited to, include: ➢ Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens ➢ We live longer, healthier lives ➢ We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society ➢ We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need ➢ We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others ➢ We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations

	➢ We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk. ➢ We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger. ➢ We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need. ➢ We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others. ➢ We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations. ➢ We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity. ➢ We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production. ➢ Our people are able to maintain their independence as they get older and are able to access appropriate support when they need it. ➢ Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.	➢ We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity ➢ We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production
Low Carbon Scotland- Meeting the Emissions Reduction Targets 2010-2020	Low Carbon Scotland identifies policies that will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland. It was designed to address the duty placed on the Scottish Government by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to provide policies and measures for addressing the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In support of targets set to reduce emissions by 2020 compared to 1990 levels by 42%, Low Carbon Scotland focusses its vision on energy supply, homes and communities, business and the public sector, transport, rural land use and waste. Within the document, the benefits of a low carbon society are set out including the benefits to biodiversity. Biodiversity has been identified as vital to the restoration of peatland and wetland	The LBAP should contribute to Low Carbon Scotland, and the targets set therein, by highlighting the role of biodiversity in carbon capture and the importance of biodiversity as a natural resource. In doing so, it is likely that the LBAP will play a role in achieving the targets set at a local level. The LBAP should reflect the benefits of biodiversity for low carbon communities, as set out in the Low Carbon Scotland document.

	habitats, protection of woodlands and natural heritage, and improving the value of Scotland's environment.	
UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework	The UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework succeeds the UK Biodiversity Action Plan 1994 and was developed in response to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Framework details the requirements for the UK to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The requirements needed by each of the 4 UK countries are outlined in terms to the activities needed to contribute to international obligations. The Framework reflects a revised direction for nature conservation.	East Dunbartonshire's LBAP should be developed as a local response to the requirements of the Framework. By doing so, it will show its commitment to achieving the targets and highlight the preferred actions for East Dunbartonshire for nature conservation.
Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011	The Act amends existing legislation relating to the protection of certain birds, species, habitats and activities, aiming to make law on wildlife and the natural environment more effective and proportionate. Issues covered in the Act include: ➢ Deer management, ➢ Species licencing, ➢ Protected areas, ➢ Game species, ➢ Wildlife crime, and ➢ Invasive Non-Native species.	The Act highlights the requirements for a focus effort to protect and manage certain species which should be translated through the LBAP to represent the species specific to East Dunbartonshire at a local level.
Scottish Biodiversity Strategy 2004 (Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands) and The 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity (2013)	The Scottish Government's Strategy document, published in 2004: *'Scotland's Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands'* has an aim to *"conserve biodiversity for the health, enjoyment and wellbeing of the people of Scotland now and in the future."* The Strategy represented Scotland's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Scottish commitment to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. This Strategy was later augmented by *The 2020 Challenge* in 2013 in response to new international targets and builds upon the original Strategy. The Vision of the Strategy is to present Scotland as a recognised world leader in biodiversity conservation by 2030 by involving	The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy is key to the development of the LBAP. The LBAP will deliver the aims of the Strategy at a level that is specific to East Dunbartonshire and support the targets set within The 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity.

	everyone in order to appreciate the benefits and ensure that 'the nation is enriched'. The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy aims to: ➢ Protect and restore biodiversity on land and in our seas, and to support healthier ecosystems. ➢ Connect people with the natural world, for their health and wellbeing and to involve them more in decisions about their environment. ➢ Maximise the benefits for Scotland of a diverse natural environment and the services it provides, contributing a sustainable economic growth.	
Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009	The Act provides a more sustainable and modern approach to flood risk management, taking in to account the impact of climate change. The Act will also create a more joined up and coordinated process to manage flood risk at a national and local level. Specific measures within the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 include: ➢ A framework for coordination and cooperation between all organisations involved in flood risk management; ➢ Assessment of flood risk and preparation of flood risk management plans; ➢ New responsibilities for SEPA, Scottish Water and Local Authorities in relation to flood risk management; ➢ A revised, streamlined process for flood protection schemes; ➢ New methods to enable stakeholders and the public to contribute to managing flood risk, and; ➢ A single enforcement authority for the safe operation of Scotland's reservoirs.	The Act is likely to influence the LBAP in terms of the development of measures to mitigate the effects of flooding through the management of biodiversity. Biodiversity plays a significant role in the delivery of flood risk management. SEPA's involvement in the Biodiversity Partnership will be crucial for this aspect of the LBAP.

Scottish Biodiversity List	The Scottish Biodiversity List details the animals, plants and habitats determined to be of principle important for the conservation of biodiversity in Scotland. Its purpose is to guide public bodies in the protection of the species outlined in the List.	The LBAP plays a vital role in ensuring that East Dunbartonshire Council carries out their Biodiversity Duty and should consider the species in the List as well as showing its compliancy with the appropriate action needed to protect these species.
River Basin Management Plan for Scotland	Produced as a result of the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plan for Scotland sets out a Plan for integrating land and water management for effective protection and improvement to the water environment in Scotland. The Plan details the current condition of waterbodies and sets objectives to be achieved by 2015 and beyond to prevent deterioration.	The RBMP is vital in the development of the LBAP. The requirements of the RBMP should be taken into account in the LBAP and should express its commitment to meeting the targets for the waterbodies in East Dunbartonshire.

	REGIONAL	
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment (1999)	The GCV Landscape Assessment report undertook an assessment of landscape character in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley area including Glasgow, West Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire and Inverclyde. The purpose of the document is to: ➢ Provide a detailed description and analysis of the study area in written, diagrammatic and map form; ➢ Identify the extent to which each landscape character type is due to human influences or natural processes; ➢ Outline the physical and ecological as well as the cultural and human influences which have helped shape the landscape within the study area; ➢ Outline the key features of the landscape which contribute to their character, including a broad assessment of their contribution to that character; ➢ Identify and describe each distinct character area within the study area based on factors such as the shape, scale	The findings of the Landscape Assessment are a key consideration for the LBAP in terms of ensuring that the action plan that will developed as part of the LBAP makes note of the specific landscape typologies in East Dunbartonshire and to guarantee that the actions are sensitive to the landscape.

	and diversity of the landscape, including the visual experience of that landscape and its sensory qualities; ➢ Consider the historic landscape which should be integrated throughout the report, describing those historical features which are characteristic and make a contribution to the landscape character; ➢ Consider the likely and existing pressures and opportunities for landscape change, assess each character area's sensitivity and robustness to landscape change, and identify those elements of the landscape which are most prone to change; ➢ Identify the links between urban areas and their surroundings, both visually and in recreational terms and assess how the surrounding area acts as a setting for the urban area; ➢ Prepare management guidelines for each landscape character type during Phase 2 of the project.	
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan (SDP)	The Scottish Ministers approved, with modifications, the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan on 29.5.12. The SDP together with the LDP forms the Development Plan in city region areas. It is prepared under Scottish Parliamentary Law, the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 and the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. The key aim of the SDP is to set out a long term Spatial Vision and related spatial development strategy. This will determine the future geography of development in the city region to 2035, which will support economic competitiveness & social cohesion, set within a sustainable environmental approach. It is about creating quality of place by focusing on the continued regeneration and transformation of the city region's communities whilst securing	The SDP provides the overall geographical framework for development in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Region. The LBAP should consider its role in the delivery of the SDP and be compliant with its vision.

	positive action on its key asset, its natural environment. It seeks to minimise the development and carbon footprints of the city region, meet climate change emissions targets and above all, support a drive towards a sustainable low carbon economy.	
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Forestry and Woodland Strategy	The Strategy recognises the role of trees, woods and forests as essential to the environment, livelihood and culture. It also supports the delivery of woodland based opportunities as part of the wide green network in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley region and establishes a framework to guide local level interventions. It aims to '*increase the economic, social and environmental contribution that forests and woodlands make to Glasgow and the Clyde Valley. This requires us to make the most of both our existing woodlands and to created opportunities for new ones where they add most value to the environment, local communities and society as a whole'*. The Vision is intended to be delivered with a 25 year life span.	The LBAP should support the vision of the G&CV Forestry and Woodland Strategy by recognising the role of woodland in East Dunbartonshire in delivering a range of opportunities at a local level including ecosystem services and improvements to quality of life.
Clyde and Loch Lomond Flood Risk Management Plan (draft)	The draft Clyde and Loch Lomond Flood Risk Management Plan provides a short overview of the Local Plan District and the flood risk authorities involved (of which there are 16 local authorities that are completely within or overlapping the district boundary; Argyll and Bute Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, East Ayrshire Council, East Dunbartonshire Council, East Renfrewshire Council, Falkirk Council, Glasgow City Council, Inverclyde Council, North Ayrshire Council, North Lanarkshire Council, Renfrewshire Council, Scottish Borders Council, South Lanarkshire Council, Stirling Council, West Dunbartonshire Council and West Lothian Council). The Plan sets out actions for flood risk management within the Clyde and Loch Lomond District, which are summarised separately	Although the Clyde and Loch Lomond Flood Risk Management Plan (C&LLFRMP) is currently at a consultation stage, it will be an important consideration for the LBAP once it is fully implemented, particularly since East Dunbartonshire lies within or overlapping the district boundary of the C&LLFRMP. The LBAP should consider the impacts of the actions discussed in the C&LLFRMP, particularly those detailed as part of the area outlined in PVA 11/04 for biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire. The LBAP should also consider how its actions can have a positive influence to meet the objectives of the C&LLFRMP. Giving the wide-range of the Flood Risk District, the LBAP will also need to understand the impact of actions within neighbouring authorities for East Dunbartonshire.

	for each District. The overall objective of the Plan is to *reduce overall flood risk*. To achieve this general objective, a set of actions are outlined: ➢ Self-help – individuals have the responsibility for protecting themselves and their property from flooding ➢ Awareness raising – SEPA and the responsible authorities have a duty to raise public awareness of flood risk ➢ Flood forecasting ➢ Emergency planning and response ➢ Watercourse maintenance/clearance and repair ➢ Maintenance/asset management In addition to the general objective and actions for the management of floods in the Clyde and Loch Lomond district, Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVA) have been identified, each with a set of objectives and potential actions for the delivery of the Plan. PVA 11/04 Kilsyth to Bearsden – North of Glasgow City is relevant to the area of East Dunbartonshire.	
Antonine Wall Management Plan 2014-19	The Management Plan sets out the significance of the proposed Antonine Wall World Heritage Site, and provides a vision and a framework for an integrated and consensual approach to the management of the Site while ensuring outstanding universal values are conserved. The Plan's aims are: ➢ To review the importance of the Antonine Wall ➢ To review its state of survival ➢ To determine the requirements for its long-term protection and conservation ➢ To establish its management requirements and set out policies to fulfil them ➢ To review the requirements of a visitor strategy	The LBAP will need to consider the requirements set out in the Antonine Wall Management Plan to ensure the protection and conservation of the WHS within East Dunbartonshire. It should ensure that any actions proposed within the Plan are sensitive to the setting and value of the Antonine Wall.

	➢ To establish the importance of the Antonine Wall in modern Scotland ➢ To provide the basis for an integrated and consensual approach to all activities on the Antonine Wall.	
Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and Buffer Zone Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) 2011 - 2016	The area that is covered by the SPG includes Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, Glasgow City, West Dunbartonshire and East Dunbartonshire. The policy emphasis of the SPG is upon protection and conservation of the authenticity and integrity (and the Outstanding Universal Value underpinning its inscription) of the World Heritage Site.	As above.
Neighbouring Authority Strategic Actions	The neighbouring authorities to which this would relate include: ➢ West Dunbartonshire Council ➢ Stirling Council ➢ North Lanarkshire Council and ➢ Glasgow City Council This will include documents that could potentially impact on East Dunbartonshire, for example: ➢ Local Plan (Local Development Plans) ➢ Local Biodiversity Action Plans ➢ Local Transport Strategies	The LBAP will need to consider neighbouring authorities strategic plans in the development of East Dunbartonshire's LBAP.
Central Scotland Green Network	The vision of the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) was published in 2011 to reflect the position on green networks set out within the NPF3 to ensure that the environment in Central Scotland makes an important contribution to the lives of all. The CSGN is based on partnership working to deliver across Central Scotland a high-quality 'green network' that will meet a number of environmental, social and economic goals. The vision is supported by 5 themes:	The LBAP is likely to be linked to the Green Network Strategy, which is in development. As such, the vision and themes of the Central Scotland Green Network should be considered for their integration with the LBAP. The LBAP should demonstrate how its objectives can help achieve the outcomes of the CSGN.

	➢ Place for growth- creating an environment for sustainable economic growth ➢ A place in balance- creating an environment more in balance, one that will support Central Scotland to thrive in a changing climate ➢ A place to feel good- creating an environment which supports healthy lifestyles and good physical and mental well-being ➢ A place to belong- creating an environment that people can enjoy and where they choose to bring to live and bring up their families ➢ A place for nature- creating an environment where nature can flourish.	

	LOCAL (EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL)	
The Campsies: A Strategic Review and Action Plan (2011)	The Campsies Action Plan is a key document for a number of local authorities to which the Campsie Fells are a significant landscape feature; Stirling Council, East Dunbartonshire Council, North Lanarkshire Council and Falkirk Council. The purpose and vision of the Action Plan is: '*Contributing towards realising sustainable economic, social and ecological development in the Campsies through the delivery of strategically significant actions and initiatives. These should support communities living and working within the Campsies, promote responsible access for all, develop visitor interest, use and understanding of the mixed land use resource whilst conserving the area's landscape, biodiversity and geodiversity features'.* The Action Plan is focused around *access, tourism and recreation, marketing, economic development and business support,* and *biodiversity and geodiversity* as key themes to meet the objectives and vision of the Plan over a 10 year timescale.	The Campsie Fells is significant to the landscape of East Dunbartonshire. There is significant potential to integrate the actions of the LBAP with the actions set out in the Campsies Action Plan in terms of protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The LBAP should reflect East Dunbartonshire's commitment to protecting biodiversity assets that are linked to the Campsie Fells and improving biodiversity for benefits to ecosystem services. The LBAP should also encourage biodiversity as having an important role in benefiting the landscape.

EDC Community Planning Partnership - Single Outcome Agreement (2014-2017)	EDC Vision: ➢ Working together to achieve the best with the people of East Dunbartonshire Local Outcomes: ➢ East Dunbartonshire has an expanding economy with a competitive and diverse business and retail base ➢ Our people are equipped with knowledge, skills and training to enable them to progress to employment ➢ Our children and young people are safe, healthy and ready to learn ➢ East Dunbartonshire is a safe and sustainable environment in which to live, work and visit ➢ Our people and communities enjoy increased physical and mental wellbeing and health inequalities are reduced ➢ Our older population are supported to enjoy a high quality of life and our more vulnerable citizens, their families and carers benefit from effective care and support services.	The delivery of the LBAP will contribute to the SOA for East Dunbartonshire. In particular: ➢ East Dunbartonshire has an expanding economy with a competitive and diverse business and retail base ➢ Our people are equipped with knowledge, skills and training to enable them to progress to employment ➢ East Dunbartonshire is a safe and sustainable environment in which to live, work and visit ➢ Our people and communities enjoy increased physical and mental wellbeing and health inequalities are reduced
Local Plan 2 2011-2016	The Local Plan 2 is primarily concerned with the use and development of land in East Dunbartonshire. The Plan contributes towards sustainable development by providing clear guidance on what developments will be acceptable and where they will be permitted.	The LBAP will help to guide developments, as set out in the Local Plan 2, in order to reduce, prevent or offset the effects of development on biodiversity.
Local Development Plan (2015)	The emerging LDP for East Dunbartonshire sets the framework for the growth and development of East Dunbartonshire up to 2025 and beyond and establishes a presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development as defined in Scottish Planning Policy (2014).	As above- the emerging LDP is currently material consideration.
EDC Core Path Plan	The East Dunbartonshire Council Core Path Plan objectives are:	The Core Path Plan promotes the enhancement of the wider countryside in East Dunbartonshire, with a particular focus around the natural environment and the associated benefits of

	➢ To improve the health and wellbeing of our communities by delivering a path network that gives everyone opportunities for uncomplicated everyday physical exercise, ➢ To support the reduction of traffic congestion and pollution by providing everyone with opportunities to make journeys on foot and by bike, ➢ To support local business by bringing visitors to the area, using our key routes such as the West Highland Way, the Forth and Clyde Canal and the Campsie Hills as destinations, linked with encouraging walking and cycling, and ➢ To support good farming and land management and minimise irresponsible behaviour by proactively managing access to the countryside.	improvements to these assets. The LBAP is closely aligned to the objectives of the Core Path Plan.
Sustainable Development Strategy (2004)	➢ To promote a strong local economy ➢ To ensure the social wellbeing of everyone in the community ➢ To protect the natural environment The Sustainable Development Strategy for East Dunbartonshire will be replaced by the Sustainability and Climate Change Framework over the course of the preparation of the LBAP.	The LBAP will contribute, in parallel, to the aims of the Sustainable Development Strategy. In particular, the LBAP should show its commitment to the sustainable use of the natural environment to ensure that it is protected. The LBAP should also take into account the Sustainability and Climate Change Framework once it has been implemented.
EDC Open Space Strategy 2015 - 2020	The Open Space Strategy sets a framework for current and future open space provision in East Dunbartonshire, which includes an updated Audit. The OSS will contribute to SPP, NPF3 and the Central Scotland Green Network as a tool to: ➢ Improve the management structures and practices; ➢ Help ensure that the Council has a clear strategic direction to its open space investment and asset management; ➢ Establish requirements for new open space from development proposals together with the scale and nature of any planning obligations; and	The LBAP will contribute to the aims of the Open Space Strategy. Both are aligned in terms of expected outcomes to improve the open spaces in East Dunbartonshire and meeting the SOA targets. Improvements to the green network, as expressed in the OSS, are also key to the LBAP.

	➢ Contribute to meeting the objectives of the Single Outcome Agreement.	

Appendix B: Recognised Protected, Priority, Lesser Priority and Invasive Non-Native Species in East Dunbartonshire

FULL LIST OF EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL LBAP PROTECTED AND PRIORITY SPECIES					
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Scottish Biodiversity List**	**UK BAP**	**Legal Protection**	**Relevant Ecosystem Plan (LBAP)**
Mammals					
Badger	Meles meles			PBA 1992 WCA 1981 (Schedule 6)	Rural/ Woodland
Brown Long-eared Bat	*Plecotus auritus*	✓		HR 1994 (Schedule 2)	Rural/ Woodland
Common Pipistrelle Bat	*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	✓	✓	HR 1994 (Schedule 2)	Rural/ Woodland
Daubenton's Bat	*Myotis daubentonii*	✓		HR 1994 (Schedule 2)	Rural/ Woodland/Freshwater
Mountain Hare	*Lepus timudus*	✓		HR 1994 (Schedule 3)	Rural
Otter	*Lutra lutra*	✓	✓	HR 1994 (Schedule 2)	Freshwater
Pine Marten	*Martes martes*	✓	✓	HR 1994 (Schedule 3)	Woodland
Soprano Pipistrelle Bat	*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*	✓	✓	HR 1994 (Schedule 2)	Rural/ Woodland
Water Vole	*Arvicola amphibius*	✓	✓	WCA 1981 (Schedule 5)	Freshwater
Birds					
Black Grouse (Red Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Tetrae tetrix*	✓	✓		Woodland
House Sparrow (Red Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Passer domesticus*	✓	✓		Urban

FULL LIST OF EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL LBAP PROTECTED AND PRIORITY SPECIES					
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Scottish Biodiversity List**	**UK BAP**	**Legal Protection**	**Relevant Ecosystem Plan (LBAP)**
Kingfisher (Amber Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Alcedo atthis*	✓		WCA 1981 (Schedule 1 – Part 1)	Freshwater
Pink-footed Goose (Amber Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Anser brachyrhynchus*			WCA 1981 (Schedule 2)	Rural
Reed Bunting (Amber Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Emberiza schoeniclus*	✓	✓	WCA 1981 (Schedule 3 – Part 1)	Rural
Skylark (Red Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Alauda arvensis*	✓	✓		Rural
Swift (Amber Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Apus apus*	✓			Urban
Tree Sparrow (Red Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Passer montanus*	✓	✓		Rural
Amphibians					
Great Crested Newt	*Triturus cristatus*	✓	✓	HR 1994 (Schedule 2)	Freshwater
Fish					
Atlantic Salmon	*Salmo salar*	✓		HR 1994 (Schedule 3)	Freshwater
Brown Trout	*Salmo trutta*		✓		Freshwater
Invertebrates					
Azure Damselfly	*Coenagrion puella*				Freshwater
Black Darter dragonfly	*Sympetrum danae*				Freshwater

FULL LIST OF EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL LBAP PROTECTED AND PRIORITY SPECIES					
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Scottish Biodiversity List**	**UK BAP**	**Legal Protection**	**Relevant Ecosystem Plan (LBAP)**
Blue-tailed Damselfly	*Ischnura elegans*				Freshwater
Buff-Tailed Bumblebee	*Bombus terrestris*				Rural/ Urban
Common Carder Bumblebee	*Bombus pascuorum*				Rural/ Urban
Common Blue Damselfly	*Enallagma cyathigerum*				Freshwater
Common Darter dragonfly	*Sympetrum striolatum*				Freshwater
Common Hawker dragonfly	*Aeshna juncea*				Freshwater
Early Bumblebee	*Bombus pratorum*				Rural/ Urban
Emerald Damselfly	*Lestes sponsa*				Freshwater
Four-spotted Chaser dragonfly	*Libellula quadrimaculata*				Freshwater
Golden-ringed Dragonfly	*Cordulegaster boltonii*				Freshwater
Green Hairstreak butterfly	*Callophrys rubi*				Rural
Large Red Damselfly	*Pyrrhosoma nymphula*				Freshwater
Large Red Tailed Bumblebee	*Bombus lapidaries*				Rural/ Urban
Pond Mud Snail	*Omphiscola glabra*	✓			Freshwater
Small Garden Bumblebee	*Bombus hortorum*				Rural/ Urban

FULL LIST OF EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL LBAP PROTECTED AND PRIORITY SPECIES					
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Scottish Biodiversity List**	**UK BAP**	**Legal Protection**	**Relevant Ecosystem Plan (LBAP)**
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly	*Boloria selene*	✓	✓		Rural
White-Tailed Bumblebee	*Bombus lucorum*				Rural/ Urban
Plants					
Adder's Tongue Fern	*Ophioglossum vulgatum*				Rural
Bluebell	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	✓		WCA 1981 (Schedule 8)	Woodland
Bog-rosemary	*Andromeda polifolia*				Freshwater
Greater Butterfly Orchid	*Platanthera chlotantha*	✓			Rural
Round-leaved Sundew	*Drosera rotundifolia*				Freshwater
Tufted Loosestrife	*Lysimachia thyrsiflora*				Freshwater

ADDITIONAL LBAP SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN					
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Scottish Biodiversity List**	**UK BAP**	**Legal Protection**	**Relevant Ecosystem Plan (LBAP)**
Mammals					
Brown Hare	*Lepus europaeus*	✓	✓		Rural
Common Shrew	*Sorex araneus*			WCA (Schedule 6)	Rural
Hedgehog	*Erinaceus europaeu*	✓	✓	WCA (Schedule 6)	Urban
Water Shrew	*Neomys fodiens*			WCA (Schedule 6)	Rural/ Freshwater
Birds					
Barn Owl	*Tyto alba*	✓		WCA 1981 (Schedule 1 – Part 1 and Schedule 3 – Part 1)	Rural
Bullfinch (Amber Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*	✓	✓	WCA 1981 (Schedule 3 – Part 1)	Rural/ Woodland

ADDITIONAL LBAP SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN					
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Scottish Biodiversity List**	**UK BAP**	**Legal Protection**	**Relevant Ecosystem Plan (LBAP)**
Curlew (Red Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Numenius arquata*	✓			Rural
Dipper (Amber Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Cinclus cinclus*				Freshwater
Grasshopper Warbler (Red Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Locustella naevia*	✓	✓		Woodland
Great Spotted Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos major*				Woodland
Green Woodpecker	*Picus viridis*				Woodland
Grey partridge (Red Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Perdix perdix*	✓	✓		Rural
Greylag Goose (Amber Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Anser anser*			WCA 1981 (Schedule 2)	Rural
Hen Harrier (Red Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Circus cyaneus*	✓		WCA 1981 (Schedule 1 –Part 1 and Schedule 1A)	Rural
House Martin (Amber Bird of	*Delichon urbica*				Urban

ADDITIONAL LBAP SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN					
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Scottish Biodiversity List**	**UK BAP**	**Legal Protection**	**Relevant Ecosystem Plan (LBAP)**
Conservation Concern)					
Kestrel (Amber Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Falco tinnunculus*	✓			Rural
Lapwing (Red Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Vanellus vanellus*	✓			Rural
Lesser Redpoll (Red Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Carduelis cabaret*	✓	✓		Rural
Linnet (Red Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Carduelis cannabina*	✓	✓	WCA 1981 (Schedule 3 – Part 1)	Rural
Merlin (Red Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Falco columbarius*	✓		WCA 1981 (Schedule 1 – Part 1 and Schedule 4)	Rural
Peregrine	*Falco peregrinus*	✓		WCA 1981 (Schedule 1 – Part 1 and Schedule 4)	Rural
Short-eared Owl (Amber Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Asio flammeus*	✓			Rural
Snipe (Amber Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Gallinago gallinago*			WCA 1981 (Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 Part 3)	Rural

ADDITIONAL LBAP SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN					
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Scottish Biodiversity List**	**UK BAP**	**Legal Protection**	**Relevant Ecosystem Plan (LBAP)**
Song Thrush (Red Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Turdus philomelos*	✓		WCA 1981 (Schedule 3 – Part 1)	Urban
Spotted Flycatcher (Red Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Muscicapa striata*	✓	✓		Rural
Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*				Rural/ Urban
Tree Pipit (Red Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Anthus trivialis*		✓		Rural
Twite (Red Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Carduelis flavirostris*			WCA 1981 (Schedule 3 – Part 1)	Rural
Wigeon (Amber Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Anas penelope*			WCA 1981 (Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 Part 3)	Freshwater
Woodcock (Red Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Scolopax rusticola*	✓		WCA 1981 (Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 Part 3)	Rural/ Woodland
Yellowhammer (Red Bird of Conservation Concern)	*Emberiza citrinella*	✓	✓	WCA 1981 (Schedule 3 Part 1)	Rural
Amphibians					
Common Frog	*Rana temporaria*			WCA 1981 (Schedule 5)	Freshwater
Common Toad	*Bufo bufo*	✓		WCA 1981 (Schedule 5)	Freshwater

ADDITIONAL LBAP SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN					
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Scottish Biodiversity List**	**UK BAP**	**Legal Protection**	**Relevant Ecosystem Plan (LBAP)**
Palmate Newt	*Triturus helveticus*			WCA 1981 (Schedule 5)	Freshwater
Smooth Newt	*Triturus vlgaris*			WCA 1981 (Schedule 5)	Freshwater
Fish					
Brook Lamprey	*Lampetra planeri*	✓			Freshwater
Plants					
Globeflower	*Trollius europaeus*				Rural/ Woodland

East Dunbartonshire Council Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)

Appendix C: Consultation Authority Responses to the Scoping Report

HISTORIC SCOTLAND		
ISSUE	**COMMENT**	**HOW HAS THIS BEEN ADDRESSED IN THE ASSESSMENT?**
Scope of assessment and level of detail	Whilst we acknowledge that there is the potential for biodiversity conservation actions to impact locally on the historic environment, we have in most previous LBAP scoping consultations taken the view that, given the nature of the actions that are likely to come forward in an LBAP and the framework that exists for the protection and management of the historic environment, these effects are unlikely to be strategically significant.	Noted. However, the LBAP will be closely linked to East Dunbartonshire Council's Green Network Strategy (currently in the development stage) so the effects on historical assets in East Dunbartonshire have the potential to be significant in areas. In line with the comment below, we conclude that Cultural Heritage should be scoped into the assessment as a precautionary principle and to ensure the protection of the Antonine Wall and Forth and Clyde Canal.
	I note that the historic environment (under cultural heritage) has been scoped into the assessment. You have highlighted the potential for habitats considered as part of the LBAP to fall within larger heritage designations, specifically the Antonine Wall WHS and the Forth and Clyde Canal, and you consider there is a likelihood of significant effects as a result. In view of this, I am content for the historic environment to be scoped into the assessment, and am satisfied with the scope and level of detail proposed for the assessment.	Noted – see comments above.
Consultation period for the Environmental Report	*Section 4: Next Steps* indicates that there will be a consultation period of six to eight weeks for the draft Environmental Report, and I am content with this timescale.	Noted

SNH

ISSUE	COMMENT	HOW HAS THIS BEEN ADDRESSED IN THE ASSESSMENT?
Scope of assessment and level of detail	Subject to our specific comments set out in the Annex A to this letter, SNH is content with the SEA issues which have been scoped both in and out of this assessment and that we are broadly content with the level of detail proposed for the Environmental Report.	Noted
Consultation period for the Environmental Report	SNH notes that a period of five weeks is proposed for consultation on the Environmental Report and is content with this proposed period.	Noted
Baseline data	East Dunbartonshire's Local Landscape Areas could have usefully been listed specifically as part of the Baseline Environmental Data linked to the "Landscape" Receptor. (The latter are however referred to in the "Draft Questions for Assessmsent" of landscape impacts given in Table 5 of the report).	Reference to East Dunbartonshire's Local Landscapes has been made under the *Landscape* section of the Baseline Environmental Data table. A series of maps using GIS will be present in the Environmental Report to highlight the environmental constraints and designations.
	We are pleased to note that the broad Environmental Receptor headings against which alternatives are to be assessed have been broken down to include more specific receptors under the heading of the "Baseline Environmental Data" linked to each – such as protected species (particularly European Protected Species), and local natural heritage designations (Local Nature Conservation Areas) linked to "Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna".	Noted
List of other Plans, Programmes and Strategies	Given that the Landscape has been scoped in as a receptor against which the impacts of the new LBAP will be assessed, we would also suggest that the *Glasgow & the Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment* (Land	The Glasgow and Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment have been included in the list of regionally important relevant plans, programmes and strategies that the LBAP will need to integrate with.

	Use Consultants and Glasgow University, 1999) would be a relevant document to include in the list of other Plans, Programmes and Strategies that the new LBAP will need to integrate with.	
	Given that the scoping report identifies better linkages between East Dunbartonshire's green network as a likely outcome of the new LBAP, some specific reference should also be made to the relevance to the Plan of the Central Scotland Green Network.	Agree- reference to the Central Scotland Green Network has been made in the list of relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies and the implications of this for the LBAP are highlighted. Reference to the implications of the vision of the CSGN for the LBAP has also been made within the baseline information data table.
Appendix 2	An additional issue we would wish to draw your attention to relates to an apparent degree of confusion in the lists of "Protected", "Priority", "Lesser Priority" and "Invasive Non-Native" species that are given as the final Appendix 2 to the report. We would therefore strongly suggest that the first two columns simply be combined into one named "Protected & Priority Species" The remaining columns could then remain as currently.	Protected and Priority Species have been combined. The altered table will be present in the Environmental Report.
Alternatives	We are pleased to note the commitment to consider reasonable strategic alternatives to the introduction of a new LBAP.	Noted
	However a further useful addition under the Biodiversity Receptor could have been local habitats in East Dunbartonshire that have been prioritised under the previous iteration of the LBAP.	Priority habitats identified in the previous iteration of the LBAP include: • Urban • Rural • Woodland • Wetland (including coastal) These have been identified in the environmental baseline data table.
	Occasional reference is also made in the scoping report to	Noted. Some of the actions will be site-specific although some of

	the potential for specific biodiversity projects to be developed. However we assume that it is not the intention to set out a suite of site-specific projects in the new LBAP as this would necessitate a more detailed consideration of alternatives to these specific proposals as well and there is no mention of this approach under the consideration of alternatives in the report. At the strategic level proposed for the consideration of alternatives, it is our belief that the SEA should be used firstly as a means of identifying the optimal approach to the development of a new LBAP that will maximise environmental benefits while having fewest adverse impacts (if any). Where other considerations mean that aspects of the alternative approach assessed as being optimal cannot be adopted, the SEA can then be used as a means of identifying any appropriate mitigation measures which may be required as a result. This underlines the importance of ensuring that the alternatives considered in the first place are genuine solutions that could realistically be put in place.	the actions will be more general, area-wide actions. These will be discussed and assessed in the Environmental Report.
Mitigation and Monitoring	We are pleased to note the commitment to identifying mitigation measures where these are required.	Noted
	We also welcome the additional commitment to identifying a range of indicators against which the success of the new LBAP can be monitored.	Noted
	We will be happy to advise further about the proposed suite of indicators to be adopted as these are developed in more detail.	Noted

SEPA		
ISSUE	**COMMENT**	**HOW HAS THIS BEEN ADDRESSED IN THE ASSESSMENT?**
Environmental problems	We consider that the environmental problems described generally highlight the main issues of relevance for the SEA topics within our remit.	Noted
Alternatives	We are satisfied with the alternatives to the plan outlined. It is also noted that alternatives to the proposed objectives and options within the plan will also be discussed. These should be assessed as part of the SEA process and the findings of the assessment should inform the choice of the preferred option. This should be documented in the Environmental Report.	Noted
Scoping in/out of environmental topics	It is noted that all topics except material assets are to be scoped into the assessment.	Noted
Methodology for assessing environmental effects	We support the use of SEA objectives and questions as assessment tools as they allow a systematic, rigorous and consistent framework with which to assess environmental effects.	Noted
	It would however have been useful to have had an example of how the assessment results are to be presented. When it comes to setting out the results of the assessment in the Environmental Report please provide enough information to clearly justify the reasons for each of the assessments presented. It would also be helpful to set out mitigation/enhancement measures in the proposed assessment framework.	Noted. The full assessment process will be clearly presented in the Environmental Report. This will also highlight any appropriate mitigation/enhancement measures.
Mitigation and enhancement	We would encourage you to be very clear in the Environmental Report about mitigation measures which are proposed as a result of the assessment. It is	Noted

	noted that you intend to follow the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate).	
	One of the most important ways to mitigate significant environmental effects identified through the assessment is to make changes to the plan itself so that significant effects are avoided. The Environmental Report should therefore identify any changes made to the plan as a result of the SEA.	Where the assessment has encouraged changes to the plan, these will be noted in the Environmental Report.
Monitoring	Although not specifically required at this stage, monitoring is a requirement of the Act and early consideration should be given to a monitoring approach particularly in the choice of indicators. It would be helpful if the Environmental Report included a description of the measures envisaged to monitor the significant environmental effects of the plan.	Noted
Consultation period	We are satisfied with the proposal for a 6 – 8 week consultation period for the Environmental Report.	Noted
Outcomes of the Scoping exercise	We welcome proposals for the inclusion of a summary table (section 4.2) of how the comments provided by the Consultation Authorities at the Scoping stage have been taken into account in the preparation of the Environmental Report.	Noted

Appendix D: Full assessment of the ambition and aims for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Factor (Annex 1 of EC Directive)	**SEA Objectives**
Population and Human Health	To improve human health and community wellbeing.
Cultural Heritage	To protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	To protect, enhance, create and, where necessary, restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity.
Soil and Geology	To protect and, where appropriate, use high quality and sensitive soils in a sustainable manner and conserve recognised geodiversity assets
Landscape	To protect, enhance and, where appropriate, restore landscape character, local distinctiveness and scenic value
Water Quality	To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance the ecological status of water bodies
Air Quality	To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance air quality.
Climatic Factors	To contribute towards the reduction of Scottish greenhouse gas outputs in line with Government targets in order to reduce or prevent the overall effects of climate change including those related to flood risks.
Material Assets	To promote the sustainable use of community assets in East Dunbartonshire.

ASSESSMENT TABLE KEY			
+ +	Major Positive	✓	SEA Preferred Option
+	Minor Positive		
0	Neutral	✓	LBAP Preferred Alternative Option
X	No Significant Effect		
-	Minor Negative		
- -	Major Negative		
?	Uncertain		

Local Biodiversity Action Plan Ambition

Alternative	SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS									SEA Preferred Option
	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	
Ambition 1										
Alternative 1	+	+/-	+ +	+/-	+ +	+ +	+ +	+ +	+ +	
	Ambition: East Dunbartonshire has a fully functioning, connected network of robust habitats. Consequently the area will be richer in biodiversity, with healthy ecosystems delivering benefits to people. All residents will have access to the natural environment and understand its importance.									
	Assessment Commentary: The overall impact of this proposed ambition on the environment is likely to be positive in nature, with varying degree of significance. It's focus on 'fully functioning…robust habitats', 'richer biodiversity' and 'healthy ecosystems' is likely to present significant positive impacts to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** and to **Landscape**, ensuring that habitats are enhanced to reduce fragmentation and improve connectivity throughout East Dunbartonshire. This ambition will also present potential significant positive impacts for **Water Quality** in terms of protected wetland habitats and enhancing the role of biodiversity for maintaining good water quality, and for **Air Quality and Climatic Factors** in terms of the role of biodiversity for promoting healthy ecosystem services. This ambition also presents strong links to the emerging Green Network Strategy, with significantly positive impacts in terms of enhancing habitat connectivity which will contribute to the de-fragmentation of networks such as Core Paths in East Dunbartonshire and the potential preservation of natural resources. Although this ambition will have potential positive impacts to **Population and Human Health** regarding access to the environment, understanding the value of biodiversity and health and wellbeing benefits, the range of people benefiting is limited to residents only. The implementation of this ambition is likely to result in multiple benefits to the natural environment, which includes a range of different historical assets such as the Antonine Wall and the Forth and Clyde Canal, by promoting the need for people to access and utilise these assets. However, increasing access to the natural and historic environment, particularly in areas that are sensitive or designated, has the potential to negatively impact on **Culture Heritage** and **Soil and Geology**, resulting in potential degradation. It should be noted that for highly valued historic sites such as the World Heritage Site									

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>and Forth and Clyde Canal have management plans in coordination with Historic Scotland and the relevant local authorities. These are due to be updated as indicated in EDC's Local Development Plan.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>SEA Suggested Alteration:
Mitigation in the form of an alteration to the proposed ambition has the potential to benefit the overall ambition from an environmental perspective:

"East Dunbartonshire has a fully functioning, connected network of robust habitats. Consequently the area will be richer in biodiversity, with healthy ecosystems delivering benefits to people and the environment. All residents, workers and visitors will have access to the natural environment and a better understanding of its importance".</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Alternative 2
  </td><td>
<table>
<tr><td>+ +</td><td>+/-</td><td>+ +</td><td>+/-</td><td>+ +</td><td>+ +</td><td>+ +</td><td>+ +</td><td>+ +</td></tr>
</table>
</td><td rowspan="3"></td></tr>
<tr><td>Revised ambition: East Dunbartonshire has a fully functioning, connected network of robust habitats. Consequently the area will be richer in biodiversity, with healthy ecosystems delivering benefits to people and the environment. All residents, workers and visitors will have access to the natural environment and a better understanding of its importance.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Assessment Commentary:
The predicted impacts for the revised ambition is in line with the original assessment for Ambition 1 with similar significant positive environmental impacts for Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets. However, notable changes to the environmental effects are predicted for Population and Human Health. By detailing and extending the scope of people who will be benefited by the LBAP beyond residents, a greater number of people will be able to access the natural environment and have a greater understanding of the importance of biodiversity, altering the impacts from positive to significantly positive.</td></tr>
</table>

Local Biodiversity Action Plan Aims

Alternative	SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS									SEA Preferred Option
	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	
Aim 1										
Alternative 1	+	X	+/+ +	+/+ +/-	+/+ +	+	+	+	+	
	Proposed aim: Conserve habitats in East Dunbartonshire that are considered vulnerable or threatened on a local or national basis, and in turn to contribute to the conservation of our global biodiversity.									
	Assessment Commentary: It is anticipated that the overall effect of this aim would be positive, with some potential major positive impacts for a number of the environmental factors including: ➢ Positive, and potential significant positive, effects for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** due to a commitment to conserve vulnerable or threatened habitats that are recognised within East Dunbartonshire. East Dunbartonshire Council will be able to show their local commitment to habitat conservation which in turn will be beneficial to national and global biodiversity conservation. However, the effects are likely to be primarily minor as this aim is focused on vulnerable or threatened habitats, and as a result other habitats are less likely to be given the opportunity to flourish. ➢ It is likely that conserving selected habitats will have a positive impact on **Soil and Geology** in terms of the role of well-maintained and functioning habitats has for soil quality including preventing soil degradation such as ensuring that carbon rich soils such as peatland are not disturbed and soil exposure is prevented. The extent of the positive effects may be increased depending on the level of conservation of vulnerable and threatened habitats in East Dunbartonshire. However, it is thought that conserving habitats will encourage greater access to the wider natural environment which has the potential to result in soil erosion due to increased footfall, resulting in soil deterioration. ➢ Given that the **Landscape** in East Dunbartonshire is predominantly green belt, conserving vulnerable or threatened habitats will contribute to landscape character and help to retain the series of natural and semi-natural habitats that are present in East Dunbartonshire. There is the potential for the effects to landscape to be significantly positive if the various habitats are able to flourish in such a way that habitat fragmentation is reduced and connectivity is improved. This is also likely to be beneficial for connecting with other networks in East Dunbartonshire such as core paths. This will contribute to improvement to safe access of the natural environment, therefore presenting positive impacts for **Material Assets**.									

	➢ A potential positive impact to **Population and Human Health** as conserving habitats is likely to improve the environment visually, making it a more attractive place to visit. This has benefits in encouraging active lifestyles with additional benefits to health and wellbeing. ➢ Potential secondary positive impacts to **Water Quality, Air Quality and Climatic Factors** due to the role of protected habitats for managing the ecological quality of water which includes wetland habitats, ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and reducing air pollution, and for flood risk management. ➢ The predicted impacts to **Cultural Heritage** are likely to be insignificant. Whilst conserving vulnerable or threatened will contribute to improvements to the visual amenity of the surrounding natural environment and in turn has the potential to contribute to the setting of historical assets in East Dunbartonshire, the effects are not likely to be notable.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: It is suggested that this aim broadens to the conservation of a range of different habitats, including vulnerable or threatened habitats, but not limited to this category. The aim should also seek to go beyond the 'conservation' to ensure that habitats are protected, restored and expanded, where possible. "Protect, restore and expand East Dunbartonshire's natural and semi-natural habitats to create a robust and connected natural environment".	
Alternative 2 ✓	+ | ✗ | + + | + + | + + | + | + | + | + +	
	Proposed aim: Protect, restore and expand East Dunbartonshire's natural and semi-natural habitats to create a robust and connected natural environment.	
	Assessment Commentary: In general, this aim is likely to present positive impacts to each of the SEA environmental factors. It is likely that by developing a LBAP to protect, restore and expand the natural environment that there will be significant positive impacts to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna**, including any protected and vulnerable species, showing a focus on ensuring that loss of biodiversity is prevented and the current natural environment is improved where possible. There is also potential for significant positive impacts to **Soil and Geology** due to the role of a well-managed, enhanced natural environment for retaining soil quality and preventing its degradation (for example reducing soil exposure, erosion and disturbance to carbon rich soils including peatland). The **Landscape** in East Dunbartonshire is predominantly green belt and made up of a series of natural and semi-natural habitats. However, the habitats are fragmented in areas. It is anticipated that this aim will have a significantly positive impact on the landscape by enhancing the connectivity of habitats. Improving connectivity in East Dunbartonshire is also predicted to be significantly beneficial in improving networks such as green and blue networks and core paths, with additional benefits in providing safe and natural access to the environment, therefore presenting significant positive effects to **Material Assets**.	✓

	It is also predicted that, by enhancing East Dunbartonshire's natural environment, there will be potential positive impacts to **Population and Human Health** as this will encourage people to access their local environment, demonstrating benefits for health and wellbeing. Furthermore, there will be secondary positive impacts to **Water Quality, Air Quality and Climatic Factors** as a result of the role of biodiversity and habitats for the role of managing the ecological quality of water, including wetland habitats, ecosystem services and flood risk management. Although it is likely that this aim will present some positive impacts for **Cultural Heritage** assets by improving the surrounding area and making sites more attractive as tourist attractors, it is anticipated that the effects will not be notable. Overall, this aim shows a commitment to habitat conservation at a local level with benefits to East Dunbartonshire's natural environment and many positive impacts predicted for each of the environmental factors assessed, as described above. It is also clear that local action will contribute to habitat conservation in Scotland and globally, in line with national and international legislation and targets.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Aim 2		

Alternative 1	X	X	+	X	X/+	X	X/+	X/+	X	
	Proposed aim: Minimise the likelihood of local extinction by increasing the range and population health of our most vulnerable species.									
	Assessment Commentary: It is anticipated that this alternative for Aim 2 will present minor positive impacts to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna.** The possibility of extinction for recognised vulnerable species in East Dunbartonshire will be minimised, therefore it is likely that vulnerable species will be able to thrive and increase their population. There is also potential that this will contribute to improved ecosystems to a minor extent. Although it is likely that the effects to **Air Quality and Climatic Factors** will not be significant, it should be noted that minor ecosystem improvements as a result of increasing the range and population of vulnerable species has the potential to contribute to climate change mitigation and air quality improvements. Although there are some potential merits for **Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil and Geology, Landscape, Water Quality and Material Assets** including the potential to improve the natural environment making East Dunbartonshire a more attractive place for local communities to spend their leisure time and to attract visitors to local historic assets, maximising the role of biodiversity for ensuring good-high water quality and for soil protection as well as the role of biodiversity in improving habitat connectivity, the impacts are not likely to be significant.									

	SEA Suggested Alteration: It is suggested that this aim should be revised to increase the positive nature for each of the environmental factors. It would be beneficial to revise the wording of the aim from 'minimise the likelihood' to encapsulate the need to conserve species to prevent local extinctions as well as to meet biodiversity priorities for Scotland and globally.	
Alternative 2	+ | X | + + | +/+ +/- | +/- | + | + | + | X	
	Proposed aim: Conserve species in East Dunbartonshire that are considered vulnerable or threatened on a local or national basis, and in turn to contribute to the conservation of our global biodiversity.	
	Assessment Commentary: This alternative aim for the conservation of vulnerable or threatened species in particular is likely to, in general, have a positive impact on the environment. In particular, the following highlights the positive nature of the effects to each of the environmental factors: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** – Potential significant positive impacts, especially for vulnerable or threatened species at a local level. This aim will ensure that species have the opportunity to flourish and will contribute to the preservation of a range of species within East Dunbartonshire with the potential to reverse their vulnerability, including the protection and management of woodland and grasslands, where appropriate, and protection of sites such as SSSI, LNCS and LNR. Overall this is likely to promote the importance of biodiversity for the local natural environment. However, it is important to note that by focusing the Strategy on the conservation of vulnerable and threatened species, there is the chance that other species such as native species will not benefit from opportunities set in the Strategy for species conservation. In cases, this is likely to improve habitat connectivity which presents minor positive benefits to **Landscape** with potential benefits for improving East Dunbartonshire's setting. ➢ **Soil and Geology** – Potential minor and major positive impacts in terms of the role of biodiversity for retaining soil quality and prevent soil erosion and exposure, including reducing potential degradation of valued soil assets in East Dunbartonshire such as peatland or carbon rich soils. Conserving species in East Dunbartonshire will help reduce these potential adversities. However, there is also potential for negative impacts to soil and geology if conserving vulnerable or threatened species increases community enjoyment of the natural environment; increased footfall and access to the environment may cause soil erosion and degradation of assets as well as negative effects to **Water Quality** due to potential run-off pollution and drainage issues. ➢ Potential secondary positive impacts to **Water Quality, Air Quality and Climatic Factors** due to the role of protected habitats for managing the ecological quality of water which includes wetland habitats, ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and reducing air pollution, and for flood risk management. ➢ **Material Assets** – Although there is potential for the conservation of species in East Dunbartonshire will contribute to improved habitat networks, the impact to improving connectivity including improved connection to other	

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>networks such as core paths is unlikely to be significant. Similarly, it is unlikely that the effects to Cultural Heritage will be significant, despite minor benefits from biodiversity for improvements to cultural heritage settings in East Dunbartonshire.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>SEA Suggested Alteration:
It is suggested that an alternative to this aim should make reference to native species as well as vulnerable/threatened species, as well as possible rewording to indicate that the LBAP will not only conserve existing species but avoid any future depletion to biodiversity population. This is likely to increase the scope for species management in East Dunbartonshire.

“Avoid local extinctions by increasing the range and population health of our most vulnerable and native species”.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Alternative 3

✓</td><td>
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<tr><td>+</td><td>X</td><td>+ +</td><td>+/+ +/-</td><td>+/-</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td></tr>
</table>
</td><td rowspan="3">✓</td></tr>
<tr><td>Proposed aim: A local extinctions by increasing the range and population health of our most vulnerable and native species.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Assessment Commentary:
This option is likely to have a significant positive impact to Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, ensuring that the most vulnerable species as well as species native to East Dunbartonshire are protected and are able to grow as a population. By focusing on vulnerable and native species specifically, resources will be able to be focussed rather than addressing all species in East Dunbartonshire, potentially causing conflicts. This aim is also likely to help conserve valued biodiversity designations in East Dunbartonshire such as SSSI, LNCS and LNR. This is likely to further contribute to the Landscape setting across the Council wide area and will ensure that priority species that form part of Local Landscape Areas such as the Campsie Fells and the green belt will not be lost. Furthermore, conservation of these types of species is likely to contribute to the sustainable use and protection of natural resources and links to wider habitat networks throughout East Dunbartonshire, presenting potential minor positive impacts to Material Assets. It should be noted that the difference in rating between this option and Alternative 2 is due to the long-term benefits expressed through the conservation and avoidance of future extinction of species. There is also more likely to be positive long-term results for reducing habitat fragmentation.

Conservation of species to avoid future extinctions has the potential to present positive benefits to Population and Human Health. Increasing the range and population health of species is likely to improve the environment, encouraging local communities to use the natural environment for active travel and outdoor leisure activities, as well as contribute to a reduction in health-related illnesses.

In terms of Water Quality, there are potential positive impacts from increasing the population health on managing water quality in East Dunbartonshire’s water bodies. However, there is the potential that increasing the usability of the environment including increasing access will negatively impact on drainage and potential run-off pollution to waterbodies</td></tr>
</table>

	and ground water. Similarly, whilst there are potential positive impacts anticipated for **Soil and Geology** in terms of the role of biodiversity for retaining soil quality and prevent soil erosion and exposure, including reducing potential degradation of valued soil assets in East Dunbartonshire such as peatland or carbon rich soils. Conserving species in East Dunbartonshire will help reduce these potential adversities. However, there is also potential for negative impacts to soil and geology if the conservation of species increases community enjoyment of the natural environment; increased footfall and access to the environment may cause soil erosion and degradation of assets The role of biodiversity for ecosystem management and services is also likely to be maximised, presenting benefits for **Air Quality and Climatic Factors** by contributing to reducing air pollution and for mitigating the effects of climate change including flood risk management and carbon sequestration. Although biodiversity conservation has the potential to improve the setting of the historic environment in East Dunbartonshire, it is unlikely that the effects will be significant at a strategic level. The effects to **Cultural Heritage** at action level are likely to be more significant.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Aim 3		

Alternative 1	**+**	**+/-**	**+ +**	**+/-**	**+**	**?/+**	**+**	**+**	**+/+ +**
	Proposed aim: Promote community engagement in, and ownership of, the practical conservation of our natural resources.								
	Assessment Commentary: The overall impact predicted for this aim is positive. In particular, the positive nature of the effects to **Population and Human Health** are anticipated as the LBAP will seek to engage with the local community to promote practical conservation of our natural resources. This will encourage people to become involved in projects within their local community as well as promote the natural environment as an asset for leisure activities. By promoting community engagement and buy-in, it is likely that practical projects for the conservation of natural resources will have direct and secondary positive impacts on each of the other environmental factors, including: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** – It is likely that engagement in practical conservation of natural resources will have a direct significant positive impact for biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire as valued natural resources will receive opportunities to thrive and flourish. There is potential that biodiversity at a local community level will be particularly benefitted with the interest from local community groups. ➢ **Cultural Heritage and Soil and Geology** – As described above, this aim is likely to encourage greater involvement in on-the-ground biodiversity projects for conservation within local communities. As a result, this is likely to promote								

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>potential conservation of related cultural heritage sites within East Dunbartonshire including Gardens and Designed Landscapes and the setting of valued sites such as the UNESCO WHS Antonine Wall and the Forth and Clyde Canal, as well as maximising the role of East Dunbartonshire's natural resources for soil management and protection of carbon rich soils. Although there is a strong focus on 'conservation, there is the potential that there will be negative impacts as well as positive impacts in terms of potential deterioration from increased community involvement and access to the environment to sites of cultural interest and important soils.
➢ Landscape – Potential positive impacts due to the conservation of natural resources, resulting in potential protection and enhancement of the landscape including designated sites including the Campsie Fells, Kilpatrick Hills and the green belt which makes up the majority of the East Dunbartonshire Council area.
➢ Water Quality – At this stage the effects to water quality are uncertain, although there is the potential that opportunities to carry out conservation projects will enable the role of natural resources to help maintain high ecological status of waterbodies in East Dunbartonshire.
➢ Air Quality and Climatic Factors – Biodiversity has shown to help improve air quality, act as a carbon store and for flood management, demonstrating a critical role in climatic change mitigation. Through conservation projects, the role of biodiversity for realising these benefits will be promoted. This will be of particular significance in Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in Bearsden and Bishopbriggs and in SEPA flood risk areas.
➢ Material Assets – Potential positive effects in terms of opportunities to promote natural resources in East Dunbartonshire for the enhancement of networks such as core paths and the LBAP will contribute to targeted protection of natural resources.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>SEA Suggested Alteration:
In order to encourage communities to become involved in on-the-ground conservation projects, the LBAP should consider the need to increase an awareness of biodiversity and the natural environment. This is likely to result in greater benefits for local communities. It is also suggested that the term 'natural resources' be changed to 'biodiversity' to reflect the main focus of the LBAP.

"Connect people to the natural environment, raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity and increase the involvement of local communities in conservation projects".</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Alternative 2</td><td>
<table>
<tr><td>+ +</td><td>+/-</td><td>+ +</td><td>+/-</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+ +</td></tr>
</table>
Proposed aim:
Connect people to the natural environment, raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity and increase the involvement of local communities in conservation projects.
Assessment Commentary:</td><td>✓</td></tr>
</table>

✓	In comparison to alternative 1 for this aim, this alternative is likely to present greater benefits for **Population and Human Health.** This alternative is more likely to encourage people in East Dunbartonshire to gain knowledge, understanding and awareness of the importance of biodiversity, and will aid community use and enjoyment of the natural environment. Furthermore, it is likely that increasing an awareness of the role of biodiversity, communities will take ownership and result in significant positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna,** with secondary impacts for **Water Quality** and retaining **Landscape** distinctiveness, as well as potential positive impacts in terms of promoting a change in culture to understand the links between biodiversity and climate change mitigation with improvements to **Air Quality** and positive impacts for **Climatic Factors**. Although there are likely to be positive impacts to **Cultural Heritage** and **Soil and Geology** through conservation projects, there are potential negative impacts predicted due to the promotion of people being able to access the natural environment. In terms of **Material Assets,** potential significant positive impacts are predicted due to an emphasis on conservation of biodiversity. This will support the sustainable use and conservation of a range of natural resources in East Dunbartonshire including woodland, and this aim will also support habitat connectivity improvements, where possible. Raising an awareness of the natural environment is also likely to encourage safe use of networks within East Dunbartonshire, and outwith the Council boundary into nearby places such as Glasgow and Stirling. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	

Aim 4

Alternative 1	**?/+**	**?/+**	**+**	**?/+**	**?/+**	**?/+**	**?/+**	**+**	**+**

Proposed aim: Promote sustainable and wise use of our natural resources.

Assessment Commentary:

At this stage, the wording of the aim is broad and as a result the predicted impacts to **Population and Human Health, Soil and Geology, Landscape, Water Quality and Air Quality** are uncertain, with some potential positive impacts predicted including potential promotion of a natural environment that is sustainable and safe for use by communities in East Dunbartonshire, enhancements to natural historic heritage sites, protection and enhancement of soil assets, improvements to habitat connectivity and landscape setting, maintain the ecological status of waterbodies and for managing air pollution.

However, there are minor positive impacts anticipated for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets.** Achieving this aim is likely to seek to reduce any negative impacts to species in East Dunbartonshire including protected and non-protected species, by preventing loss of biodiversity through sustainable management and use of resources. There is also likely to be positive impacts to **Climatic Factors**, in particular through the potential protection and management of critical resources such as woodland for natural mitigation against the effects of climate change.

SEA Suggested Alteration:

	To refine this aim, it is suggested that consideration is given to the role of decision making within Council processes and in land management for the conservation of natural resources with particular reference to biodiversity in its own right. "Integrate the conservation of biodiversity into design making processes and all aspects of land management".	
Alternative 2 ✓	+ | + | + + | + | + | + | + | + | +	✓
	Proposed aim: Integrate the conservation of biodiversity into decision making processes and all aspects of land management.	
	Assessment Commentary: This aim will have an overall positive impact on the environment. In particular, it is predicted that there will be significant positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna.** By integrating conservation measures and principles into decision making processes, such as those related to planning and development, and land management, losses to biodiversity and habitats will be reduced or prevented and there will be opportunities to encourage the protection of existing biodiversity or planting/biodiversity enhancement/sustainable agriculture within processes. This will be particularly prevalent for designated and protected sites such as LNCS and SSSI. This is likely to benefit the **Landscape** by contributing to enhancements to the setting and visual amenity, as well as improving habitat connectivity throughout East Dunbartonshire. Furthermore, there are potential positive impacts to **Cultural Heritage** by improving or conserving the environmental setting of heritage sites. For **Soil and Geology**, it is anticipated that there are likely to be positive impacts as a result of appropriate land management and the consideration of biodiversity in decision making to ensure that land management and decision making processes in order to maximise, where appropriate, the role of biodiversity for maintaining soil quality and protecting areas of peatland. There are likely to be potential positive impacts to **Water Quality**. There is likely to be greater consideration of the role of biodiversity for ecosystem services which is likely to seek to contribute to enhancing the ecological status of waterbodies within East Dunbartonshire, where possible. There are also potential positive impacts for **Air Quality and Climatic Factors** as, by promoting biodiversity conservation, the role of biodiversity and habitats for mitigating the effects of climate change and managing areas of poor air quality will not be lost, and this will have secondary effects for future land management and planning processes. In general, the effects to **Population and Human Health** will benefit in terms of enhancing the natural environment and open spaces within East Dunbartonshire, and therefore will encourage people to access their local community. It is also anticipated that the LBAP, through this aim, will give practitioners the incentive to protect biodiversity and coordinate its management throughout Council processes. It should be noted that there meeting this aim within the LBAP will present possible opportunities to	

	support related industries such as forestry, woodland management and agriculture in terms of land management for conservation.								
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.								
Aim 5									
Alternative 1	**+**	X/+	**+/+ +**	X/+	X/+	X/+	X/+	X/+	X/+
	Proposed aim: Increase the knowledge of East Dunbartonshire's biodiversity through data collection.								
	Assessment Commentary: It is anticipated that the effects for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** as a result of this aim within the LBAP will be minor positive, with some potential significant positive impacts, and positive impacts for **Population and Human Health**. Increasing knowledge through data collection will enable a greater understanding of existing biodiversity within East Dunbartonshire. This is likely to enable and encourage proactive protection, enhancement and/or monitoring of species and habitats in East Dunbartonshire. In general, there is the potential that this will increase the local community recognition of biodiversity assets and encourage use of the natural environment. The effects at this stage for **Cultural Heritage, Soil and Geology, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets** are uncertain as the impact of increased knowledge for these factors is dependent on the level of engagement this encourages within local communities as well as within Council practices to maximise the full potential of biodiversity. However, there is potential for secondary and long-term impacts as a result of this aim for improving the setting of the area including historical sites, preventing soil erosion and protecting carbon rich soils, maintain high water quality, reducing air pollution and suppressing emissions, flood risk management and encouraging natural resource protection.								
	SEA Suggested Alteration: To ensure that this aim maximises the benefits from increased knowledge for biodiversity within East Dunbartonshire, the aim should encourage both an increase in knowledge and understanding. In order to increase the potential for secondary and/or long-term impacts, the wording of the aim should be altered to reflect an increase in understanding to including the need to be able to use and interpret the data effectively. "Increase the knowledge and understanding of East Dunbartonshire's biodiversity through data collection, collation and sharing".								
Alternative 2	**+ +**	X/+	**+ +**	X/+	X/+	X/+	X/+	X/+	X/+
	Proposed aim:								

✓	Increase the knowledge and understanding of East Dunbartonshire's biodiversity through data collection, collation and sharing.	✓
	Assessment Commentary: This aim is likely to improve an understanding of the local biodiversity as well as an awareness of current issues related to its value. Consequently, meeting this aim is likely to have a significant positive impact for **Population and Human Health**, and **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna**. By having a broader and better understanding of biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire appropriate measures will be able to be put in place for the protection, enhancement and monitoring of different species and habitats which will be vital for their protection long term. Meeting this aim is also likely to broaden an understanding of local biodiversity, including any concerns and vulnerable species. This is likely to improve community perception and appreciation of biodiversity, and the wider natural environment. Whilst at this stage the effects to **Cultural Heritage, Soil And Geology, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality and Climatic Factors** are unlikely to be significant. However, in the long-term this knowledge might be utilised in a positive way by practitioners to realise the benefits of biodiversity such as for maintaining ecological quality, reducing habitat fragmentation for network enhancements, clean air and fertile soil.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	

Appendix E: Full assessment of the objectives for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

ASSESSMENT TABLE KEY			
++	Major Positive	✓	SEA Preferred Option
+	Minor Positive		
0	Neutral	✓	LBAP Preferred Alternative Option
X	No Significant Effect		
-	Minor Negative		
- -	Major Negative		
?	Uncertain		

Ecosystem 1: Rural

Alternative	SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS									SEA Preferred Option
	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	
Objective 1										
Alternative 1	?/+	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Proposed Objective: Improve knowledge of species and habitats found within rural areas.									
	The anticipated environmental effects of this objective are unlikely to have a significant impact on **Cultural Heritage, Soil and Geology, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets.** However, as this objective will focus on all species and habitats within rural areas and not be limited to priority species and habitats, and will mean that existing limited resources will have a wider range of biodiversity to address. Therefore, it is likely that the impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** will be minor positive. At this stage, the impacts for **Population and Human Health** are unclear, but there is the potential that this objective will increase an awareness and greater knowledge of the species and habitats that can be found in rural areas. In particular, the Biodiversity Partnership will benefit from this but there is also scope for communities to also be impacted positively.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration:									

Alternative 2	**?/+**	X	**+**	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Proposed Objective: Improve knowledge of priority species found within rural areas.									
	Assessment Commentary: For benefits for the rural area, this objective is unlikely to have a significant environmental impact on **Cultural Heritage, Soil and Geology, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets.** However, there will be minor positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna.** Improving knowledge of the priority species that can be found in rural areas will seek to explore the range and type of species that the scientific/Biodiversity Partnership communities are currently unaware or lacking knowledge of what species are local to the area. In doing so, there is likely to be a reduction in negative impacts on such species and protection of biodiversity. However, the effects are likely to be limited to minor positive as this objective does not allow for opportunities to gain further knowledge of priority habitats. At this stage, the impacts for **Population and Human Health** are unclear, but there is the potential that this objective will increase an awareness and greater knowledge of priority species in rural areas. In particular, the Biodiversity Partnership will benefit from this but there is also scope for communities to also be impacted positively.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Alternative 3 ✓	**?/+**	X	**+/+ +**	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓
	Proposed Objective: Improve knowledge of priority species and habitats found within rural areas.									
	Assessment Commentary: Like Alternative 2, this objective is unlikely to have a significant impact on **Cultural Heritage, Soil and Geology, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets.** However, by focusing on improving knowledge of both priority habitats and habitat species is likely to have a positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna**, with the potential for significant effects. Increased knowledge for the scientific community and the Biodiversity Partnership, alike, is likely to contribute towards future protection and appropriate management of these species and habitats and in turn contribute towards efficient ecosystem services. As this objective focuses on the habitats and species that are a priority for East Dunbartonshire, this will ensure that the limited resources available to address such issues will not be wasted. At this stage, the impacts for **Population and Human Health** are unclear, but there is the potential that this objective will increase an awareness and greater knowledge of priority species in rural areas. In particular, the Biodiversity Partnership will benefit from this but there is also scope for communities to also be impacted positively.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									

Objective 2										
Alternative 1	✗	✗	+	+	✗	?/+	✗	?/+	?/+	
	Proposed Objective: Maintain the extent of species rich grassland habitat.									
	Assessment Commentary: It is anticipated that this objective will present minor positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology** as ensuring that the current level of species rich grassland habitat in East Dunbartonshire is maintained will result in contributions to the prevention of disturbance or loss to this habitat and species as well as contribute to improved ecosystems. Management of grasslands will also potentially have a positive impact on soils as biodiversity value is retained as much as possible contributing to a reduction is soil erosion. This will be particularly important if grassland encompasses areas where peatland or carbon rich soils have been identified. At this stage in the assessment, the environmental impact for **Water Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets** is unclear but there is potential for minor positive impacts in terms of the following effects: ➢ Maintenance of grassland can help to manage drainage and contribute to reductions in pollution-run off. ➢ Potential to result in the management of wetlands, where appropriate. This will play a role in the mitigation and adaptation of the effects of climate change. ➢ Contributions to carbon sequestration. ➢ Greater consideration for the protection of natural resources.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Alternative 2 ✓	✗	✗	+/+ +	+/-	+	?/+	✗	?/+	?/+	✓
	Proposed Objective: Maintain and, where possible, increase the quality and extent of grassland habitats.									
	Assessment Commentary: This alternative is likely to have similar environmental impacts as those outlined in the assessment for Alternative 1. However, there are additional impacts anticipated for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Landscape** due to a focus on increasing both the quality and quantity of grasslands in East Dunbartonshire where it is possible. Doing so has the potential to have a significant impact on protecting biodiversity value as well as address any existing issues for grassland that may have resulted in the loss of grassland habitats such as woodland planting. Whilst the maintenance and possible increase in quality and extent of grassland will result in potential benefits for the prevention of soil erosion, as described in the assessment for Alternative 1, consideration will need to be given to the potential impact of expanding grassland habitats in the rural environment of East Dunbartonshire as there is the potential that doing so can impact on valued soil and geological sites such as peatland.									

	In terms of **Landscape**, proper maintenance and potential improvements to grassland habitat including both quality and quantity can contribute to and enhance local distinctiveness and landscape setting within East Dunbartonshire. Whilst the effects for **Water Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets** are likely to be similar to those outlined in the above assessment, it should be noted that increasing the quality and extent of grasslands is likely to give greater opportunities for improved drainage, wetland management, carbon sequestration and the protection of natural resources.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Objective 3		

Alternative 1	+	X	+	X	+	X	?/+	?/+	+

Proposed Objective: Encourage biodiversity-friendly working practices on farmland.

Assessment Commentary:

This objective has the capacity to incorporate stepping stones or habitat corridors to allow species to be able to move throughout the landscape in East Dunbartonshire. This is particularly important as farmland currently fragments the rural landscape. This encouragement is likely to present minor positive impacts to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape and Material Assets**. The anticipated positive effects include:

- Encouragement of habitat connectivity by decreasing the number of fragmented habitat network across the rural landscape with a reduction in negative impacts for biodiversity.
- Improvements to landscape setting and visual amenity across the rural landscape.
- Sustainable consideration for the use of natural resources.
- Potential contribution to the management of woodland, hedgerows and native planting, where appropriate.

Given that there are currently rural subsidies being offered to land owners and farmers within East Dunbartonshire to make alterations to their farming practices to have a benefit for the environment, these financial incentives and encouragement of biodiversity-friendly working practices are likely to have secondary positive impacts on **Population and Human Health** as farmers and land owners, specifically, will be encouraged to become involved in biodiversity-related projects and there is also likely to be greater appreciation and benefits of a healthy environment for local rural communities. It should be noted that focusing on farmland practices specifically is more likely to receive input and buy-in due to the availability of incentives that are available.

	As at this stage it is uncertain as to the level of biodiversity-friendly practices and type of measures that will be used to achieve this objective. However, as there is the potential that this will ensure appropriate management of farmland practices to benefit biodiversity, there may be potential minor secondary positive impacts for **Air Quality and Climatic Factors** as there is likely to be opportunities for the suppression of emissions, flood-risk management and carbon capture.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Alternative 2 ✓	+ | X | + | + | + | + | + | + | + | +	✓
	Proposed Objective: Encourage sustainable management of rural land and promote biodiversity-working practices on farmland.	
	Assessment Commentary: It is anticipated that meeting this objective will have an overall positive environmental effect with minor positive impacts for **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets.** The following details the likely positive impacts: ➢ This objective will ensure that the LBAP considers the benefits of sustainable land management for the sustainable use and protection of natural resources. In doing so, there is likely to be greater protection and management of a wide range of biodiversity and will potentially help to prevent the loss of species and habitats, where possible. ➢ Sustainable management of rural land and biodiversity-friendly farmland practices has the potential to contribute towards supporting the ecological functionality of land resources including potentially improved ecosystem services. This can contribute towards appropriate management of flood risks, air pollutants, the ecological status of waterbodies and potential prevention of pollution run-off. ➢ Potential enhancements to habitat connectivity by decreasing the number of fragmented habitat network across the rural landscape with a reduction in negative impacts for biodiversity. ➢ Improvements to landscape setting and visual amenity across the rural landscape. ➢ Potential contribution to the management of woodland, hedgerows and native planting, where appropriate. ➢ Prevention of soil degradation, where appropriate, and potential opportunities to improve soil assets including peatland, carbon rich soils and contaminated land. It is likely that the impacts for **Population and Human Health** will be as described in the above assessment for Alternative 1. It should be noted that focusing on farmland practices specifically is more likely to receive input and buy- due to the incentives that are available.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	

Alternative 3	X	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
	Proposed Objective: Encourage sustainable management of rural land and promote biodiversity-friendly working practices.									
	Assessment Commentary: The predicted environmental impacts of this objective are likely to be the same as the effects outlined in the above assessment for Alternative 2. However unlike Alternative 2, this objective is unlikely to have any significant impacts on **Population and Human Health** specifically. Whilst there is the potential for improvements to landscape setting and the connectivity of networks the benefits will be more focused towards benefits for biodiversity. There is also likely to be less buy-in from land owners, for example, as farmland practices are not a focus of this objective and there is less likely to be incentive for other people to implement sustainable land management and biodiversity-friendly practices.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Objective 4										
Alternative 1	+	X	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	
	Proposed Objective: Protect areas of blanket bog.									
	Assessment Commentary: It is anticipated that this objective will have an overall positive environmental effect. Protecting areas of blanket bog is likely to have a positive impact on **Soil and Geology and Material Assets** as it will actively seek to protect areas of peatland and/or carbon rich soils within East Dunbartonshire. This is likely to ensure that high quality and valued peatland assets are protected and conserved in a sustainable manner. There are also likely to be secondary minor positive effects for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality, Air Quality and Climatic Factors.** Protecting peatland will help to retain a number of assets within East Dunbartonshire that are able to store carbon as well as play an important role in carbon sequestration and efficient ecosystem services which will help to mitigate related negative effects of climate change. Its role in carbon storage and sequestration has the potential to contribute towards improvements to air quality, particularly in areas such as Bearsden and Bishopbriggs where AQMA have been designated. There is also potential for blanket bogs to play a role in water storage, with other benefits including a reduction in water run-off downstream and risks of flooding. For biodiversity, protecting blanket bogs as a vital habitat will help to support a wide range of terrestrial and aquatic species. In terms of **Population and Human Health**, the secondary impacts associated with the protection of blanket bogs such as improvements to air quality and mitigation against the negative impacts of climate change can contribute to improvements towards a healthy environment with the potential to reduce associated health and wellbeing inequalities.									

	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Alternative 2	+	X	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	
	Proposed Objective: Protect and promote the importance of the blanket bog resource in East Dunbartonshire.									
	Assessment Commentary: The environmental impacts predicted as a result of this objective are likely to be comparable to those detailed in the assessment of Alternative 1. However, there is also the possibility that promoting the importance of blank bog for its role in improvements to air quality, climate change mitigation, protection of water resources, sustainable use of resources and as a habitat will result in greater appreciation of peatland as a vital resource and a healthy environment in East Dunbartonshire.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Alternative 3 ✓	+/+ +	X	+/+ +	+ +	X	+/+ +	+/+ +	+ +	+	
	Proposed Objective: Protect and, where possible, enhance areas of blanket bog.									
	Assessment Commentary: This objective will seek to actively protect existing areas of blanket bog peatland in East Dunbartonshire as well as determine potential opportunities to enhance these areas, which will show a commitment to reversing previous negative impacts on blanket bog. This will have a significant positive impact on **Soil and Geology** by protecting and improving, where possible, peatland resources. It is also anticipated that there will secondary positive, with the potential for significant positive, effects for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality, Air Quality and Population and Human Health.** The anticipated effects as described in the assessment for Alternative 1 are applicable for the assessment of this alternative, although it is also thought that any enhancement to blanket bog resources will increase the potential for carbon storage and sequestration, efficient ecosystem services, flood risk management, habitat protection and greater benefits in terms of health and wellbeing from air quality improvements and a healthy environment. For **Climatic Factors,** this objective is likely to play a significant role in the mitigation of the negative effects of climate change.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: As there are a range of positive impacts anticipated for both Alternative 2 and 3, it is suggested that the proposed objectives are combined in order to increase the overall positive nature of the effects. "Protect areas of blanket bog in East Dunbartonshire and, where possible, enhance the blanket bog resource and promote its importance".									
Alternative 3	+ +	X	+/+ +	+ +	X	+/+ +	+/+ +	+ +	+	

Revised	**Proposed Objective:** Protect areas of blanket bog in East Dunbartonshire and, where possible, enhance the blanket bog resource and promote its importance. **Assessment Commentary:** This revised objective is likely to have a combination of the effects detailed in the assessment for both Alternative 2 and 3. In particular, there is likely to be greater protection and potential enhancement of peatland resources with secondary effects such as those described in the assessment for Alternative 3. However, unlike Alternative 3, this revised option is more likely to have a significant positive impact on **Population and Human Health** as it is likely that this objective will create a healthier environment and communities are likely to have a better understanding and appreciation of the importance of blanket bogs. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	✓

Objective 5

Alternative 1	X	X	+	X	+	X	X	X	+	
	Proposed Objective: Increase extent of managed hedgerows.									
	Assessment Commentary: This objective is unlikely to have significant impacts for **Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil and Geology, Water Quality, Air Quality and Climatic Factors**. However, it is anticipated that meeting this objective is likely to have minor positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets.** Increasing the extent of managed hedgerows in East Dunbartonshire will help to prevent the loss of biodiversity and vital habitats as well as contribute towards the creation of new habitats within rural locations. This will also help to improve migratory routes and connected habitat networks. Managing hedgerows will also have potential positive impacts for **Landscape** as, as a natural asset, they can act as a natural boundary and help to protect existing settlement patterns. It should be noted that as this objective is limited to hedgerows, the extent to which they can contribute to landscape setting may be limited.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Alternative 2	X	X	+/+ +	X	+	X	X	X	+/+ +	
	Proposed Objective: Increase the extent of hedgerows and improve management for biodiversity.									
	Assessment Commentary: It is predicted that this objective will have similar environmental impacts as those detailed in the assessment for Alternative 1 although it is more likely that this option for this objective will have potential significant positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets.** Increasing the extent of hedgerows and improving its management to be pro-biodiversity will help to protect hedgerows as a vital habitat whilst helping to prevent any loss of biodiversity. It will help to manage the hedgerow population as much as possible. This will also aid habitat connectivity and promote the role of									

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>hedgerows for the enhancement of networks in East Dunbartonshire. There is also the potential for minor positive impacts to Landscape with the same impacts anticipated as those detailed in the assessment of Alternative 1.
SEA Suggested Alteration:
None at this stage.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Alternative 3</td><td>
<table>
<tr><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>+/+ +</td><td>X</td><td>+</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>+/+ +</td></tr>
</table>
Proposed Objective: Establish the quality and extent of hedgerows in the area, promote their positive management and the creation of new hedgerows.
Assessment Commentary:
Whilst it is anticipated that determining the existing quality and extent of hedgerows within East Dunbartonshire will result in a better understanding of the hedgerow population, promoting positive management of hedgerow resources with potential creation of new hedgerows will be dependent on available resources, funding and effectiveness of getting the appropriate bodies to implement this. Whilst there are potential benefits of doing so for Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape and Material Assets in terms of potential protection of habitats and species, contribution to a reduction in habitat fragmentation and a role in acting as a natural boundary for settlement patterns, any potential significant impacts are dependent on the afore mentioned reasons, and as such it is likely that the effects will be limited to minor positive. It should be noted that as this objective is limited to hedgerows, the extent to which they can contribute to landscape setting may be limited.
SEA Suggested Alteration:
None at this stage.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Alternative 4
✓</td><td>
<table>
<tr><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>+/+ +</td><td>X</td><td>+ +</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>+ +</td></tr>
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Proposed Objective: Retain and enhance boundary features to increase functional connectivity across the landscape.
Assessment Commentary:
Unlike the other proposed alternatives for this objective for the rural environment, this alternative considers a range of different boundary features that does not limit the LBAP to focus solely on hedgerows. In doing so, meeting this objective is likely to have a significant positive impact on Landscape and Material Assets as there will be opportunities to maintain existing landscape features, such as planting, hedgerows and trees, as well as possibilities to enhance boundary features. This will lead to improvements in habitat connectivity and the role of biodiversity for networks in East Dunbartonshire will be promoted. This has the potential to lead to positive benefits for Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna by helping to promote the importance of functioning biodiversity for the local environment and aiding species to migrate across a well-connected landscape. As this objective focuses on retaining and the enhancement of boundary features, there is also the potential that this will help to prevent the loss of biodiversity value and population in East Dunbartonshire, with potential significant positive effects.</td><td>✓</td></tr>
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	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	

Ecosystem 2: Urban

Alternative	SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS									SEA Preferred Option
	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	
Objective 1										
Alternative 1	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	
	Proposed Objective: Encourage the inclusion of biodiversity-friendly practices in the management of parks and other open spaces.									
	Assessment Commentary: This alternative objective for 'Urban' environments in East Dunbartonshire is predicted to be overall positive in nature in terms of the environmental impact. There are potential minor positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna.** The effects are likely to be limited to minor positive as the objective focuses solely on parks and open spaces and there may be important wildlife areas that would also benefit from biodiversity-friendly management. Nonetheless, encouraging management such as retaining existing woodland and hedgerows, maintaining meadows and planting of native species is likely to contribute towards reducing negative impacts on species and habitats, and can encourage native planting. This objective is likely to seek to encourage the management and protection of woodland, where appropriate, and if such practices are implemented, the role of biodiversity for improved ecosystems will be promoted. This could mean that there are secondary minor positive impacts for **Air Quality and Climatic Factors** as well-managed biodiversity can help to reduce poor air quality and play a role in filtering pollutants such as carbon. Helping to ensure that biodiversity is retained and managed well for species and habitats, as well as for their role for ecosystem services, is particularly important in urban areas where biodiversity is often overlooked for community facilities, developments etc. and where pollutant levels are generally higher. Furthermore, encouragement of biodiversity-friendly practices to manage open spaces and parks can have secondary localised minor positive impacts on **Soil and Geology, Landscape and Water Quality** as the management and retention of biodiversity can help to stabilise soils, intercept rainfall and pollutants, contribute to flood-risk management and play a part in utilising biodiversity to benefit the landscape setting and visual amenity in East Dunbartonshire. The impacts to landscape are likely to be dependent on whether the park or open space in question is within a high scenic value area.									

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>This objective is also likely to contribute towards a healthy environment and present minor positive impacts for Population and Human Health. Parks and open spaces are likely to be more usable and attractive, which will encourage greater use of sites for leisure and active travel with benefits to health and wellbeing. In general, there is likely to be a greater appreciation of the natural environment within urban areas and help reduce disconnections between the urban and rural environment in East Dunbartonshire. However, the impact is limited to minor positive as the objective focuses on encouraging management of parks and open spaces to be focused around biodiversity so there is the potential that issues such as accessibility and usability for people will not be addressed.

It should be noted that, although it is not anticipated that this objective will present any negative environmental impacts, the term ‘encourage’ limits the effectiveness of implementing biodiversity-friendly practices for management as it will not be seen as compulsory.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>SEA Suggested Alteration:
It would be beneficial to address the fact that the term ‘encourage’ is not prescriptive and allows for both interpretation and a lack of effective implementation by changing the wording to demonstrate that the Local Biodiversity Action Plan will actively include management practices that will be focused on biodiversity.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Alternative 2</td><td>
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<tr><td>+/-</td><td>X</td><td>+ +</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>X</td></tr>
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</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Proposed Objective: Manage parks and other open spaces for biodiversity.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Assessment Commentary:
This objective will focus on ensuring that parks and other open spaces in East Dunbartonshire are managed with biodiversity in mind to safeguard its value and habitats, and overall is seen to have a positive environmental impact. In particular, the management of parks and open spaces will present potential significant positive impacts for Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna with the following impacts predicted:
➢ Contributions to retaining species and habitats by managing them to avoid loss of their value within East Dunbartonshire’s urban environment.
➢ Potential to manage woodland within East Dunbartonshire and ensure that native species are retained and planted, where necessary, to maintain the level of native species and woodland stores in the local area.
➢ Contributions and improvements to localised urban ecosystem services.

It is also predicted that there will be secondary minor positive impacts for Soil and Geology, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality and Climatic Factors. The positive nature of the effects anticipated include:</td><td></td></tr>
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Planting and woodland has the ability to help stabilise soils and prevent soil erosion by intercepting rainfall and other external factors.
Potential role in flood-risk management as through the management of biodiversity in order to retain its value and population, this can help to intercept rainfall as well as pollutants. This has the potential to reduce pollution run-off into nearby waterbodies.
In urban areas, air pollution and the effects of climate change are generally greater than in rural environments. Consequently, managing biodiversity will benefit both air quality and the commitment towards mitigating the effects of climate change in their role in storing carbon and filtration of pollutants.
Potential to contribute towards landscape setting and visual amenity by creating an appealing, green and natural environment within the urban setting.

In terms of Population and Human Health, this objective has the potential to present minor positive impacts on local communities, particularly those in the urban area and for visitors to the towns in East Dunbartonshire. This objective will seek to ensure the management of open spaces and parks to retain/improve biodiversity value and ensure that species and habitats are considered as a key priority in normal maintenance regimes which is likely to promote a more attractive and usable environment for people to use for recreation, leisure and active travel. In general, there is likely to be a greater appreciation of the natural environment within urban areas and help reduce disconnections between the urban and rural environment in East Dunbartonshire. However, it should be noted that consideration should be given to making sure that this objective does not retract from the purpose of the park or open space for local communities, for example recreation and dog walking. This could present potential negative impacts for this environmental factor.

SEA Suggested Alteration:
None at this stage.
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<tr><td>Alternative 3
✓</td><td>
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<tr><td>+</td><td>X</td><td>+/+ +</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>X</td></tr>
</table>
Proposed Objective: Protect biodiversity features on designated sites and encourage the inclusion of biodiversity-friendly practices in the management of parks and other open spaces.

Assessment Commentary:
This alternative objective is likely to present similar positive environmental effects as those described in the assessment for Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, with an overall positive impact. Whilst the secondary impact described in the above assessments for Soil and Geology, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality and Climatic Factors are also likely to be applicable to this proposed objective, there are some different effects anticipated for Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna. The effects for Population and Human Health are likely to be comparable to those detailed in the assessment for Alternative 1.
</td><td>✓</td></tr>
</table>

	In terms of **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna**, active protection of biodiversity features on designated sites such as LNRs, LNCS and SSSI will be vital to ensure that species and habitats are not vulnerable to loss or disruption as well as ensuring that these sites are protected for their biodiversity value. However, whilst encouraging biodiversity-friendly management to be included at other open spaces such as parks in East Dunbartonshire has the potential to benefit local biodiversity as it is likely to contribute towards reducing negative impacts on species and habitats, and can encourage native planting, as well as seek to encourage the management and protection of woodland, where appropriate, the term 'encourage' is less likely to be allow this type of management to be enforced. Having said that, there is the potential for significant positive impacts for this environmental factor on an East Dunbartonshire wide level but it is likely to be dependent on how effective it is to ensure the inclusion of biodiversity-friendly management practices.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Objective 2										
Alternative 1	**+/+ +**	X	**+**	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Proposed Objective: Raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity through environmental education, events and training.									
	Assessment Commentary: This objective seeks to utilise environmental education, events and training opportunities to increase an awareness of the role of biodiversity. By doing so, it is expected that there will be minor positive impacts, with the potential for significant effects, for **Population and Human Health** as this will have a direct impact on increasing awareness of biodiversity and its role within the urban environment. This also has the potential to encourage local communities and volunteers to become involved in their natural environment including any future biodiversity-related projects. Greater awareness of the importance of biodiversity is also likely to benefit **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** as the importance of biodiversity for its role in functioning ecosystem services will be promoted. This can help to reduce potential loss of biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire as there is likely to be more appreciation of the natural environment. However, this objective is unlikely to have significant impact on the other environmental factors.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Alternative 2	**+ +**	X	**+**	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓
	Proposed Objective: Raise awareness and improve knowledge of biodiversity through environmental education, events, targeted surveys and training.									

✓	**Assessment Commentary:** It is anticipated that this alternative will present similar environmental effects as those detailed in the assessment for Alternative 1. However, there is more likely to be a significantly positive impact for **Population and Human Health** as this objective seeks to go beyond raising awareness to help improve knowledge of biodiversity issues. Furthermore, there is a bigger range of means to achieve greater awareness and knowledge, and the proposal of targeted surveys and training will help to reach out to a wider range of individuals and communities. **SEA Suggested Alteration:**	

Objective 3

Alternative 1	+	?/+	+	?/+	?/+	?/+	?/+	?/+	+

Proposed Objective: Promote the importance of biodiversity throughout Council Services to aid the delivery of the statutory Biodiversity Duty.

Assessment Commentary:

This objective will seek to actively encourage all Services within East Dunbartonshire Council to consider how they can integrate pro-biodiversity priorities in order to contribute to the Biodiversity Duty. As such, it is anticipated that this objective with have a positive impact on **Material Assets, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, and Population and Human Health** including:

- Steps towards integrating biodiversity into decision-making processes in the Council, such as within Planning, which is likely to promote sustainable use and thinking of biodiversity as an important natural resource for East Dunbartonshire, as well as nationally and globally.
- Overall, this objective is likely to contribute towards sustainable thinking as to the protection of species and habitats in East Dunbartonshire in order to prevent future loss of non-protected and protected species.
- With the potential inclusion of biodiversity-related issues throughout Council Services, there is the possibility that this will lead to more on-the-ground projects that will improve biodiversity value in East Dunbartonshire. This will contribute towards a richer natural environment, with the potential to encourage people to access their local area. This can also support improvements to health and wellbeing inequalities.

At this stage, the effects to **Cultural Heritage, Soil and Geology, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality and Climatic Factors** are uncertain as they will be dependent on how effective the inclusion of biodiversity in Council Services is. However, biodiversity can have a positive impact on each of these environmental factors including:

- Contributions to ecosystem services, including improving poor air quality and acting as mitigation to the effects of climate change,
- Flood-risk management,

<table>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="9">➢ Enhancements to natural heritage sites such as Gardens and Designed Landscapes, as well as improvements to the setting of cultural heritage sites, and
➢ Prevention of soil erosion and degradation as well as a role in preventing pollution run-off into waterbodies.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="9">SEA Suggested Alteration:
None at this stage.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Alternative 2</td><td>+</td><td>?/+</td><td>+/+ +</td><td>?/+</td><td>?/+</td><td>?/+</td><td>?/+</td><td>?/+</td><td>+</td><td rowspan="4"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Proposed Objective: Incorporate biodiversity projects into Council work programmes to aid the delivery of the statutory Biodiversity Duty.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Assessment Commentary:
The anticipated effects of this objective are likely to be similar to those outlined in the assessment for Alternative 1. However, there is likely to be the potential for more significant positive effects for Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna as there will be a stronger emphasis and requirement for work programmes within the Council to incorporate projects that lend themselves to benefits for biodiversity. This would mean that there will be more opportunities for biodiversity-projects to be implemented with a greater scope for benefits such as preventing the loss of species and habitats, contributions to improved ecosystems, more native planting and management of grasslands, woodlands and other habitats. For this urban environment, this will help to improve habitat connectivity and urban greening as well as improve the urban environment visually to be enjoyed by local communities.

It is anticipated that requiring all work streams within the Council to incorporate biodiversity projects, where possible, will have similar effects for each of the other environmental factors as those outlined in the assessment for Alternative 1.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">SEA Suggested Alteration:
Whilst this alternative is likely to have greater potential to put a requirement on all Council work programmes to incorporate biodiversity projects in order to contribute to the Council's statutory duty for biodiversity as well as to potentially increase the significance of positive environmental effects for species and habitats, it is suggested that a combination of Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 would be a more robust option as it will seek to ensure that the importance of biodiversity is promoted and understood throughout the Council which is likely to aid successful incorporation of biodiversity projects in to work programmes.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Alternative 3</td><td>+</td><td>?/+</td><td>+/+ +</td><td>?/+</td><td>?/+</td><td>?/+</td><td>?/+</td><td>?/+</td><td>+</td><td rowspan="3">✓</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Proposed Objective: Promote the importance of biodiversity throughout Council Services and incorporate biodiversity projects into work programmes to aid the delivery of the statutory biodiversity duty.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Assessment Commentary:
It is predicted that this alternative will present positive impacts for Population and Human Health, Material Assets and Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, which there may also be significant positive impacts to, with similar environmental effects</td></tr>
</table>

✓	predicted as those outlined in the assessments for both Alternative 1 and Alternative 2. Similarly, whilst at this stage the impact of this objective for **Cultural Heritage, Soil and Geology, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality and Climatic Factors** are uncertain, there is the potential for positive impacts as detailed in the assessment for Alternative 1. However, this alternative is likely to increase both an understanding of the role of biodiversity, particularly for urban environments, and ensure that work programmes within the Council will incorporate biodiversity-related projects where appropriate. Consequently, this objective is likely to achieve benefits for biodiversity.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Objective 4		
Alternative 1	+ | X | + | X | + | X | ?/+ | ?/+ | X	
	Proposed Objective: Encourage biodiversity to be considered and incorporated into the design of new developments.	
	Assessment Commentary: This objective is likely to have minor positive impacts for **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Landscape** in terms of the following effects: ➢ Considering the species and habitats at potential new developments and incorporating them into the design of the development itself will have a bigger influence on helping to reduce any negative impact on biodiversity, prevent any loss and contribute towards a healthier environment. ➢ Encouraging biodiversity to be incorporated into new developments, such as for landscape features and open spaces, is likely to create a more attractive environment which can lead to benefits for human health and wellbeing as people are more likely to enjoy their surroundings and potentially make use of this outdoor space. ➢ There may also be potential benefits for landscape setting and this may also help to prevent loss to habitat connectivity within the local area. Whilst at this stage in the assessment, the environmental impacts for **Air Quality and Climatic Factors** are uncertain, and the nature of the effects are likely to be dependent on a commitment to ensure that biodiversity is considered and incorporated into the design of developments from a developers point of view. However, there are potential benefits of biodiversity for improving local air quality and local benefits as mitigation for the negative effects of climate change.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: It is suggested that the wording be altered to "Encourage existing biodiversity to be considered and incorporated into the design of new developments, and explore possibilities for biodiversity enhancements". These changes will refine the objective to improve its understanding that any existing biodiversity at potential development should be considered for	

<table>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="9">potential safekeeping and determining the potential for new biodiversity enhancements is likely to increase the positive of nature of the effects, particularly for biodiversity.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Alternative 1 Revised</td><td>+</td><td>X</td><td>+/+ +</td><td>X</td><td>+/+ +</td><td>X</td><td>?/+</td><td>?/+</td><td>X</td><td rowspan="4"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Proposed Objective: Encourage existing biodiversity to be considered and incorporated into the design of new developments, and explore possibilities for biodiversity enhancements.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Assessment Commentary:
Like the above assessment, meeting this alternative is likely to result in positive impacts for Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Landscape with similar effects as detailed in the previous assessment. However, refining the wording of the objective to indicate that any existing biodiversity, for example open space or planting, will be encouraged to be considered for its value and incorporated as part of the design of any new developments. Doing so will mean that the development itself will not progress at the expense of already established local species and habitats. This is likely to have a potential significant positive impact on Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Landscape as there will be greater consideration of the value of biodiversity as well as additional opportunities to improve habitat connectivity.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">SEA Suggested Commentary:
None at this stage.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Alternative 2</td><td>+</td><td>X</td><td>+</td><td>X</td><td>+</td><td>X</td><td>?/+</td><td>?/+</td><td>X</td><td rowspan="4"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Proposed Objective: Ensure good design and placemaking including biodiversity enhancements within new developments.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Assessment Commentary:
This objective is likely to have positive impacts for Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Landscape, especially since it is likely to be further promoted by the influence of the emerging Design and Placemaking Supplementary Guidance. Implementing good design and placemaking ideals that will incorporate biodiversity-related enhancements within new developments will give greater consideration to the role of biodiversity for improving the visual amenity within development sites and will contribute towards increasing the range and population of species and habitats at a local level. For local communities, this will seek benefits in terms of a healthier environment for health and wellbeing by contributing towards an attractive, well designed place to live. There is also likely to be potential opportunities to ensure that such biodiversity enhancements seek to improve habitat connectivity locally.

Whilst at this stage in the assessment, the environmental impacts for Air Quality and Climatic Factors are uncertain, biodiversity enhancements have the potential to benefit local air quality through carbon storage and sequestration and contribute towards the mitigation of the negative effects of climate change.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">SEA Suggested Alteration:
None at this stage.</td></tr>
</table>

Alternative 3	+/+ +	X	+/+ +	X	+	X	+	+	X	
	Proposed Objective: Ensure good design and placemaking within new developments and encourage the inclusion of biodiversity enhancements in open space provision and within the built environment.									
✓	**Assessment Commentary:** It is anticipated that meeting this objective will have an overall positive environmental impact, particularly for **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape, Air Quality and Climatic Factors.** Implementing good design and placemaking, which is soon to further promoted through the emerging Design and Placemaking Supplementary Guidance, within new developments will help to have a positive impact on local communities by creating a more attractive and healthy environment and will help to promote a more attractive open space and built environment to be used by local communities as well as visitors from outwith the East Dunbartonshire Council area. In terms of biodiversity, this objective will have an active approach towards the integration of appropriate design practices to create a positive sense of place which is likely to include the integration of biodiversity enhancements. Furthermore, there will be greater consideration to retain an existing biodiversity at new developments, open spaces and within the built environment. There is the potential that this will result in significant positive effects particularly where this will benefit important wildlife areas such as LNRs, LNCS and important habitats. Likewise, such biodiversity enhancements and the use of biodiversity for good design and placemaking, such as Green Infrastructure, is likely to have a positive impact on soil as it can play a role in stabilising soil. Similarly, the role of biodiversity and the implementation of good design and placemaking measures will contribute towards positive impacts in terms of helping to store pollution, carbon sequestration and flood risk management.									✓
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Objective 5										
Alternative 1	+	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Proposed Objective: Maintain levels of participation in environmental community projects and volunteering activities.									
	Assessment Commentary: Whilst this objective will ensure that existing levels of community participation in environmental projects and volunteering will be kept at the same levels, meaning that there is likely to be positive impacts for **Population and Human Health and Biodiversity**, the effects are likely to be minor rather than significant as this objective does not allow for new opportunities in terms of projects and volunteering to benefit local biodiversity.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: It is suggested that the LBAP consider scope for new volunteering and community projects.									

Alternative 2	+ +	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	+	
	Proposed Objective: Increase participation in environmental community projects and volunteering activities including citizen science.									
✓	**Assessment Commentary:** This objective is likely to have a significant positive impact on **Population and Human Health** as it will actively seek to increase levels of participation within local communities to take part in projects and volunteering opportunities with biodiversity and the environment in mind. This is likely to increase awareness and understanding of environmental-related issues as well as enable people to gain access to the wider natural environment which has been shown to have benefits in reducing health and wellbeing inequalities. People will be able to partake in projects that will give them greater sense of ownership of their local environment. Furthermore, citizen science will be promoted which will contribute to current plans to engage school aged people in environmental topics, as supported by the Scottish Government. This will enable better long-term awareness and understanding of our environment. Conversely, these opportunities will have direct positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets** as these projects will contribute to the protection of natural resources and help to reduce the loss or disturbance to biodiversity.									✓
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									

Ecosystem 3: Freshwater

Alternative	SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS									SEA Preferred Option
	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	
Objective 1										
Alternative 1	X	X	+/0	+/+ +	X	+	+	+/+ +	+	
	Proposed Objective: Restore peatland condition and function by a minimum of 3 hectares.									
	Assessment Commentary: By determining actions to restore the condition and function of all peatland by a minimum of at least 3 hectares will primarily have a minor positive impact on **Soil and Geology,** with the potential for significant effects. This objective will seek to directly improve and protect all areas of peatland within East Dunbartonshire to ensure that they are able to perform at a level that increases their functionality. However, as this objective addresses all peatland in East									

	Dunbartonshire the LBAP will need to consider the most sustainable approach to achieve this with the resources that are available. Achieving this objective is also likely to have minor positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality and Material Assets.** The LBAP will show a direct commitment to the protection and sustainable use of peatland as a natural asset and improvements to peatland condition and function will contribute towards improved ecosystems. For the species that have adapted to peatland as their habitat this will contribute towards a healthier environment and help to prevent any loss. There will also be benefits to water quality in that meeting this objective will seek to enhance the ecological quality of water, including enhancements to drainage on peatland sites. It should be noted that there is the potential for neutral effects for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna.** Restoring the condition and function of peatland may result in the removal of trees, which are a main contributor towards negative impacts of peatland. Whilst this will be negative for tree population, as well as the role they have in carbon capture, the benefits for other species through peatland restoration will neutralise this impact. Meeting this objective is also likely to have a secondary impact on **Air Quality and Climatic Factors.** Peatland that functions properly has the ability to store carbon which will contribute towards the mitigation of the negative effects of climate change by preventing further release of carbon due to disturbance to peatland as well as preventing further air pollution with potential improvements to air quality, particularly in urban areas where the negative impacts of pollution are more often experienced. Furthermore, there is the potential that the long-term effects of this will result in significant positive effects for **Climatic Factors** as not only will this help to prevent further release of carbon but as the condition and functionality of peatland is restored peatland resources will be able to contribute towards carbon sequestration. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	
Alternative 2 ✓	X | X | +/0 | + + | X | + | + | +/+ + | + **Proposed Objective:** Restore lowland raised bog condition and function on a further 5 hectares. **Assessment Commentary:** The environmental impacts of this objective are anticipated to be the same as those detailed in the above assessment for Alternative 1. However, it is likely that there will be a greater area of peatland restored as it aims to restore a minimum of 5 hectares compared to 3 hectares as stated in the previous proposed objective with significant positive impacts predicted for **Soil and Geology.** **SEA Suggested Alteration:**	✓

	None at this stage.									
Objective 2										
Alternative 1	X	X	+	+/-	X	+	X	X	X	
	Proposed Objective: Encourage conservation management of the aquatic and terrestrial habitats along watercourses.									
	Assessment Commentary: This objective is likely to have a positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** as it aims to encourage management that enables the conservation of both aquatic and terrestrial habitats which will contribute towards preventing the loss of biodiversity. Seeking to conserve habitats will help reduce negative impacts on species including those that are non-protected and protected and encourage habitats to be as connected as possible along watercourses. In particular, focusing on those habitats near watercourses in East Dunbartonshire will enable biodiversity to continue to play a role in regulating the ecological status of water which is likely to have a positive effect on **Water Quality.** There are also likely to be secondary minor positive impacts for **Soil and Geology** as there is the potential that the conservation of habitats will contribute to the control of soil erosion and soil stabilisation, especially on steep topographies. However, there is also the potential for negative impacts on soil depending on the method of conservation management that is encouraged. There is the potential for erosion or damage to the soil as well as soil compaction, for example from the impact of machinery. In order to prevent these negative effects, any actions related to this objective should ensure that best-practice guidelines for soil erosion prevention is followed, and that for any large scale conservation management projects that are intended as an outcome to the LBAP should include surveys prior to any work being carried out.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Alternative 2 ✓	+	X	+	X	X	+	X	+	+	✓
	Proposed Objective: Contribute to the delivery of the River Basin Management Plan ecological water quality objectives.									
	Assessment Commentary: This objective will actively seek to deliver on actions related to improving the ecological status of water as set out in the River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for Scotland which is likely to have a direct minor positive effect on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality and Material Assets.** It is likely that meeting this objective will improve the biodiversity of the water environment and associated habitats, such as wetlands, and there is the potential that this will encourage better habitat connectivity of waterbodies and wider East Dunbartonshire networks. This will contribute to the restoration and conservation of species and habitats which will help to prevent future loss of biodiversity population and value. The role of biodiversity for improving water quality will be explored, including its ability to reduce diffuse pollution from									

	activities such as farming, construction and transportation by acting as a barrier to intercept pollution. In general, meeting this objective will work towards the promotion of East Dunbartonshire's natural water resource as a sustainable community and environmental asset. In line with the intended outcomes of the ecological water quality objectives set out in the RBMP this objective will also contribute to climate change adaption and mitigation at a local level by promoting biodiversity as a measure to absorb carbon, which is likely to have a positive impact on **Climatic Factors.** It is likely that this will help to make the water environment more resilient to the effects of flooding. In terms of **Population and Human Health,** people are more likely to be able to access and utilise the water environment for activities such as recreation presenting positive impacts for this environmental factor. The positive impacts in terms of reducing the risk of flooding and climate change adaptation, as mentioned above, will also benefit local communities by contributing to creating a healthier environment with health and wellbeing benefits.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Alternative 3	+ | X | + | X | X | +/++ | X | X | +	
	Proposed Objective: Adopt and support a catchment-wide approach to the management of the water environment with a focus on the improvement of waterbodies to good ecological status as defined in the River Basin Management Plan for Scotland.	
	Assessment Commentary: This objective will seek to manage the water environment in East Dunbartonshire to help improve its quality and ecological status and as such is likely to have a positive impact on **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality and Material Assets.** Improvements to the ecological status of water bodies will enhance the quality of waterbodies within East Dunbartonshire as well as contribute to a water environment that can be usable to local communities in terms of recreation and support local businesses/industries such as agriculture/aquaculture. This objective will also give greater consideration to the role of the water environment for supporting biodiversity and contributing to the prevention of species and habitat loss, where possible and promote its sustainable use as a vital natural asset within East Dunbartonshire. Overall, this objective is likely to result in a wider-range of opportunities for the management of the water environment in order to meet and support the objectives set in the RBMP for Scotland.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Objective 3		

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Alternative 1

✓</td><td>✗</td><td>✗</td><td>+</td><td>✗</td><td>+</td><td>✗</td><td>✗</td><td>✗</td><td>+</td><td rowspan="4">✓</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Proposed Objective: Improve the function of river valleys as wildlife corridors.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Assessment Commentary:
This objective will improve the functionality and usability of river valleys to aid the migration of wildlife in East Dunbartonshire. Given that East Dunbartonshire is host to a number of river valleys, there is scope for this to benefit large populations of wildlife.

It is likely to have a direct minor positive impact on Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape and Material Assets as it is likely to actively improve habitat connectivity and reduce fragmentation. This is likely to be a safer option for species to migrate around East Dunbartonshire. The population of species will be given a greater opportunity to grow and in turn contribute towards safeguarding local biodiversity value for the future. There is also the possibility that improvements to habitat connectivity will contribute to enhancements to the setting of East Dunbartonshire.

However, the impacts for these three environmental factors is likely to limited to minor positive effects due to the specifics of using the river valleys which limits the scope of benefits.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">SEA Suggested Alteration:
None at this stage.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Alternative 2</td><td>✗</td><td>✗</td><td>+</td><td>✗</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>✗</td><td>✗</td><td>+</td><td rowspan="4"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Proposed Objective: Improve the function of watercourses as wildlife corridors.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Assessment Commentary:
This objective will actively seek to have a positive impact on Water Quality as improving the function of watercourses in East Dunbartonshire, such as the Forth and Clyde Canal and the various rivers that run through the Council area, will contribute towards enhancing the ecological quality of water. This is likely to have a positive impact on Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape and Material Assets, in particular for aquatic species and invertebrates, as improved water quality will help to prevent the loss of species and improve watercourses as important wildlife courses. This will give biodiversity the opportunity to flourish. This will help to improve habitat connectivity as watercourses are likely to be able to function well as a wildlife corridor.

Overall, it is considered that meeting this objective will have the potential for cross-boundary impacts as the functionality of watercourses is likely to be improved.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">SEA Suggested Alteration:
None at this stage.</td></tr>
</table>

Objective 4									
Alternative 1	+	X	+	X	X	+	X	+	X
	Proposed Objective: Improve the quality and extent of the existing pond resources.								
	Assessment Commentary: This objective is likely to present positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Population and Human Health, Water Quality and Climatic Factors.** As this objective will focus on improvements in terms of both *quality* and *quantity* of existing pond resources within East Dunbartonshire, it is likely that there will be a wider scope for benefits. The following impacts are predicted: ➢ Opportunities to enhance the quality and ecological status of pond resources in East Dunbartonshire which can lead to benefits for other waterbodies in the local area if these waterbodies are connected, as well as help to reduce causes of poor water quality such as eutrophication that can result in algae blooms. There is also likely to be opportunities to improve or create wetland features. ➢ Pond resources in East Dunbartonshire are host to a number of different species such as aquatic and amphibian species, including those that are protected, so improvements to their quality will help to contribute to the management of biodiversity by improving ponds as a vital habitat. For example, actions to meet this objective have the potential to seek opportunities for the removal or reduction of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS). There is also the potential that there will be improvements to ecosystem services at a local level. ➢ There is also the potential that improvements to the existing extent of pond resources will present opportunities for natural flood management; where possible there is the chance to utilise ponds for sustainable drainage systems and flood attenuation in order to mitigate and adapt to the localised effects of climate change. ➢ In East Dunbartonshire, much of the pond resources are man-made, mainly for drinking water, but also play a part in recreational opportunities for local communities. As such, this objective has the potential to create an environment that is both aesthetically appealing to people and encouraging for people to access their natural environment. This has the potential to lead to benefits in terms of health and wellbeing.								
	SEA Suggested Alteration: Whilst this objective has merit in presenting potential positive impacts for biodiversity, water quality and the effects of climate change, it is limited in that it is fairly ambiguous as to whether new opportunities will be sought or whether improvements to the extent are focused on existing pond resources only. Therefore, it is suggested that the objective is refined. "Improve the quality of the existing pond resource and explore opportunities for new pond resources to be introduced in East Dunbartonshire".								

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Alternative 1 Revised</td><td>+</td><td>X</td><td>+/+ +</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>+/+ +</td><td>X</td><td>+/+ +</td><td>X</td><td rowspan="3"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Proposed Objective: Improve the quality of the existing pond resource and explore opportunities for new pond resources to be introduced in East Dunbartonshire.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Assessment Commentary:
It is likely that this revised objective will present similar environmental impacts as those outlined in the assessment of Alternative 1. However, refining the wording of the objective to specifically indicate that the LBAP will not only improve existing pond resources but the Strategy will also explore the possibility for opportunities to improve and expand pond resources by developing new ones, where possible. Doing so has the potential to increase the significance of the positive nature of the effects for Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality and Climatic Factors.

SEA Suggested Alteration:</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Alternative 2</td><td>+/+ +</td><td>X</td><td>+</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>+</td><td>X</td><td>+</td><td>X</td><td rowspan="3"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Proposed Objective: Improve the quality of existing pond resources and knowledge of associated protected species.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Assessment Commentary:
This objective has the potential to have a minor positive impact on Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality and Climatic Factors, as well as potential significant positive impacts for Population and Human Health.

In particular, the minor positive impacts associated with improving the quality of existing pond resources include:
➢ Improvements to water quality as well as enhancements to the ecological status of the water. Pond resources are, therefore, more likely to be able to support a range of different ecosystems and habitats.
➢ Potential prevention of the loss of species and habitats due to improved water quality, especially for aquatic and amphibian species. Actions to meet this objective may also have the potential to seek opportunities for the removal or reduction of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) as well as improvements to ecosystem services at a local level. Focusing on protected species is important as they are legally required to be protected.
➢ Opportunities for natural flood management; where possible there is the chance to utilise ponds for sustainable drainage systems and flood attenuation in order to mitigate and adapt to the localised effects of climate change.

However specifically improving knowledge of protected species, whilst this is likely to result in greater protection of these species, the priority species within East Dunbartonshire are not limited to those that are protected, and there may be the potential that important species are neglected in terms of receiving the benefits mentioned.

In terms of Population and Human Health, there is likely to be positive effects as well as potential significant positive impacts. As mentioned in the assessment for Alternative 1, much of the pond resources in East Dunbartonshire are man-</td></tr>
</table>

	made and used primarily for drinking water, but also play a part in recreational opportunities for local communities. Subsequently, there is the potential to create an environment that is both aesthetically appealing to people and encouraging for people to access their natural environment. This has the potential to lead to benefits in terms of health and wellbeing. In addition, improving knowledge of associated protected species will increase an awareness of biodiversity amongst communities and potentially result in greater protection and management of these protected species.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: As with Alternative 1, this alternative should consider including both improvements to the quality of existing ponds and the extent of overall pond resources in East Dunbartonshire. It is limited in that it is fairly ambiguous as to whether new opportunities will be sought or whether improvements to the extent are focused on existing pond resources only. Therefore, it is suggested that the objective is refined. "Improve the quality of the existing pond resource and knowledge of associated protected species, and explore opportunities for new pond resources to be introduced in East Dunbartonshire".	
Alternative 2 Revised	+/+ + | X | +/+ + | X | X | +/+ + | X | +/+ + | X	
	Proposed Objective: Improve the quality of the existing pond resource and knowledge of associated protected species, and explore opportunities for new pond resources to be introduced in East Dunbartonshire.	
	Assessment Commentary: The impacts of this objective on the environment are likely to be the same as those in the above assessment for Alternative 2. However, this objective also gives opportunities to increase the number of ponds, presenting a greater scope for benefits to local water quality and the protection and management of species and habitats. Furthermore, there is also likely to be the potential for significant positive effects to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality and Climatic Factors** as it will seek to determine whether there are opportunities to create new ponds in East Dunbartonshire which will help to manage water quality, provide vital habitats and potential mitigation for flooding.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Alternative 3 ✓	+/+ + | X | +/+ + | X | X | + | X | + | X	
	Proposed Objective: Improve quality and extent of the existing pond resource and knowledge of associated priority species.	✓
	Assessment Commentary: The anticipated effects of this objective are likely to be as described in the assessment of Alternative 2. However, rather than focussing on protected species this objective will focus on priority species for East Dunbartonshire. This is likely to have both minor and potential significant positive effects on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** as it will be able to improve	

	knowledge of priority species for East Dunbartonshire specifically without potentially misusing resources to focus on protected species that might not be a priority.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Objective 5		
Alternative 1	+ | X | + | X | X | + | X | + | X	
	Proposed Objective: Encourage sustainable management of the water environment.	
✓	**Assessment Commentary:** It is anticipated that this objective will have a minor positive impact on **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality and Climatic Factors**, although it is unlikely that there will be any notable impacts on the other environmental factors. Encouraging sustainable management of the water environment is likely to seek to improve the ecological status of all of the different waterbodies in East Dunbartonshire which is likely to benefit species by providing them with a sustainable and good quality environment for them to breed, nest and use for food/water. There is also likely to be positive impacts to species and habitats as managing the water environment will contribute towards improved ecosystems as well as support reductions in the loss of vulnerable species and habitats. In addition, there may be the potential for sustainable management to have an influence on managing flooding in the local area in response to the need to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. In terms of benefits for local communities, the water environment forms a large part of recreational opportunities within East Dunbartonshire, such as boating along the Forth and Clyde Canal and walks along the river valleys, as well as for drinking water (especially the man-made water features). Management of the water environment is likely to contribute towards creating an environment that is attractive for recreational use and protect drinking water sources. This is likely to result in overall benefits for health and wellbeing.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Alternative 2	+ | X | +/+ + | ?/+ | ?/+ | +/+ + | + | + | +	
	Proposed Objective: Encourage sustainable management of the water environment and the introduction of green infrastructure to new developments.	✓
	Assessment Commentary:	

	This objective is likely to seek to encourage opportunities for the management of the water environment in East Dunbartonshire in a sustainable manner, and with the right actions to achieve this there is likely to be potential positive impact for **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality and Material Assets** with similar positive impacts predicted for these environmental factors as outlined in the assessment for Alternative 1. However, this objective also seeks to encourage developers of new sites to introduce green infrastructure. Doing so would have potential significant positive impacts to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Water Quality,** as well as potential minor positive impacts for both **Air Quality and Climatic Factors** with the following effects anticipated: ➢ Green Infrastructure can play a role in managing flood risk management. Primarily, the planting of trees and other plants can help to intercept rainfall and other methods of green infrastructure such as SUDs, green roofs and general 'greening' of an area can store and manage surface water in order to reduce the risk of flooding and pollution run-off. This can help to protect the water environment by reducing the negative impacts for waterbodies as a result of flooding and contribute to mitigating the effects of climate change. ➢ Areas of poor air quality are also likely to be benefited as, aside from water management, Green Infrastructure can help to suppress pollutants in the atmosphere and contribute towards carbon sequestration. ➢ Not only will this objective, depending on the level of uptake to introduce GI, utilise GI as a sustainable measure for the management of the water environment but in doing so, there is the potential that new or enhanced habitats which will contribute to improved ecosystems as well as reduce the negative impact on biodiversity value. In general, this objective will be more aligned with one of the objectives in the Green Network Strategy although successful delivery of this objective will be dependent on how involved developers are in terms of introducing GI at new developments. However, the requirements set within the emerging Design and Placemaking Supplementary Guidance and the Green Infrastructure and Green Network Supplementary Guidance will make sure that these issues are pushed.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	

Ecosystem 4: Woodland

Alternative	SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS									SEA Preferred Option
	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	
Objective 1										
Alternative 1	X	X	+	X	+	X	X	+	+	

	Proposed Objective: Maintain the extent of ancient woodland.								
	Assessment Commentary: This objective will ensure that the existing extent of ancient woodland is maintained in East Dunbartonshire. Doing so is likely to have minor positive impacts on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets** as ancient woodland is a significantly valuable habitat for species in East Dunbartonshire so maintaining the woodland resource will contribute towards a reduction in the loss of valued biodiversity and natural resources. It is also anticipated that this objective will result in secondary minor positive impacts for **Landscape and Climatic Factors.** Maintaining the extent of ancient woodland will help to demonstrate the use of biodiversity for positive benefits to landscape setting and visual amenity. The objective will also help to contribute towards using woodland for carbon storage and will demonstrate a local commitment to the mitigation of the effects of climate change.								
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.								
Alternative 2	X	X	+/+ +	X	+	X	X	+	+
	Proposed Objective: Maintain the extent and improve the condition of ancient woodland by implementing appropriate management practices.								
	Assessment Commentary: This alternative objective is more robust than Alternative 1 as it will ensure that the LBAP will realise opportunities for the maintenance of ancient woodland as well as opportunities to improve woodland condition through appropriate management. This is likely to lead to more positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna**, with the potential for significant impacts as it is likely that an improved condition will provide a healthier environment for species and a more robust habitat. For **Landscape, Climatic Factors and Material Assets** the effects are likely to be the same as those detailed in the assessment for Alternative 1.								
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.								
Alternative 3 ✓	X	X	+/+ +	X	+/+ +	X	X	+	+ +
	Proposed Objective: Protect and prevent the loss of ancient and long-established woodland.								
	Assessment Commentary: This objective will show an active commitment to the protection of natural resources in East Dunbartonshire, namely ancient and long-established woodland which is likely to have significant positive impacts in terms of **Material Assets** and it is also likely that protecting these woodland resources will contribute positively to carbon storage and sequestration, with positive impacts to **Climatic Factors.**								✓

	Meeting this objective is also likely to have a direct minor positive impact, with potential significant effects, for both **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Landscape** as not only will there be opportunities to ensure that the role of ancient and long-established woodland for improving landscape setting and visual amenity and as a natural boundary will continue to be beneficial in East Dunbartonshire but there is also likely to be greater long-term benefits as a vital habitat for species and a healthy environment. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	
Objective 2		
Alternative 1	X X + + X X X X X **Proposed Objective:** Improve the ecological value of semi-natural woodland and UK priority woodland habitat types. **Assessment Commentary:** This objective will primarily have a minor positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** as it will seek to contribute towards enhancing the ecological value of these woodland types. In doing so, the role of semi-natural and priority woodland as a valuable habitat will be improved which will be beneficial to species and for effective ecosystem services. However, the impacts will be limited to semi-natural and priority woodland. It is also predicted that improving the ecological value of these mentioned habitat types will result in minor secondary positive impacts for **Soil and Geology**. It is likely that healthier woodland assets will contribute to improved, healthier soil value, where appropriate. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** It is suggested that to sustain such improvements to semi-natural and priority woodland habitats that appropriate management will be required. "Improve and manage the ecological value of semi-natural woodland and UK priority woodland habitat types".	
Alternative 1 Revised	X X + + X X X X X **Proposed Objective:** **Assessment Commentary:** This revised alternative is likely to have the same environmental impacts as those detailed in the original assessment for Alternative 1 but there will be greater opportunities for the benefits to be felt long-term. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Alternative 2</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>+/+ +</td><td>+</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td rowspan="3"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Proposed Objective: Improve the ecological value of all types of woodland, where possible.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Assessment Commentary:
Similarly to Alternative 1, this objective is likely to have present minor positive impacts for Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna as predicted above, as well as similar secondary impacts for Soil and Geology in terms of potential improvements to soil value. However, this objective focuses on all types of woodland, including ancient and priority habitat types, and so there is the potential that there will be a more significant positive effect for biodiversity as a wider range of woodland types will be given opportunities for their ecological value to improve.

SEA Suggested Alteration:
None at this stage.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Alternative 3</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>+</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td rowspan="3"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Proposed Objective: Ensure sensitive management of the semi-natural woodland resource.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Assessment Commentary:
It is anticipated that this objective will not have a significant impact on the majority of the environmental factors although there are likely to be minor positive environmental impacts for Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna. Sensitive management of semi-natural woodland resource will help to manage this resource as an important habitat for species within East Dunbartonshire, as well as seek to reduce the negative impact on any relevant valued biodiversity including non-protected and protected species. It should be noted that the effects for biodiversity are likely to be minor positive rather than significantly positive due to the fact that this objective is limited to semi-natural woodland only, although meeting this objective will contribute towards management of woodland as an important natural resource for East Dunbartonshire.

SEA Suggested Alteration:
The positive nature of the effects for biodiversity are limited as this objective focuses only on semi-natural woodland and in order to have long-term benefits for woodland resources in East Dunbartonshire there is scope to alter the wording of the objective to ensure that the LBAP contributes to improvements to the ecological value as well as sensitive management.

“Encourage the sensitive management of woodland resource, including scrub, to improve the long-term ecological value of all woodland habitats”.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Alternative 3 Revised</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>+ +</td><td>+</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>+</td><td rowspan="2">✓</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Proposed Objective: Encourage the sensitive management of woodland resource, including scrub, to improve the long-term ecological value of all woodland habitats.</td></tr>
</table>

✓	**Assessment Commentary:** The revisions to this alternative are more likely to result in significant positive effects for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna.** Not only will meeting this objective give the LBAP the opportunity to improve ecological value of all woodland habitat types in East Dunbartonshire, giving species a healthier environment to mate, nest and feed, there is also the potential that sensitive management of woodland in East Dunbartonshire will help to prevent loss of an important habitat in the local area as well as species. There is also likely to be secondary minor positive impacts for **Soil and Geology and Material Assets** as the LBAP will show a commitment to the protection of woodland as a natural resource and there are likely to be benefits in terms of improve soil value from improved woodland value. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	

Objective 3

Alternative 1	+	X	?/-	?/-	X	X	X	X	?/-

Proposed Objective: Promote the socio-economic and public amenity benefits of woodland.

Assessment Commentary:

This objective seeks to promote woodland in East Dunbartonshire as an asset that will present socio-economic and amenity benefits for local communities. As such, meeting this objective through the LBAP has the potential to result in minor positive benefits for **Population and Human Health** as it is likely to present and promote opportunities for people within East Dunbartonshire, as well as those who travel to the area for work and recreation, to enjoy woodland for leisure, active travel and contribute towards a reduction in health and wellbeing inequalities. There is also the possibility that related industries will benefit economically from any improvements or promotion of woodland in East Dunbartonshire.

Whilst at this stage the impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Material Assets** is unclear as the effects are likely to be dependent on how well meeting this objective is promoted and received there are potential minor negative impacts predicted associated with potential increases in access to woodland, and general wider environment in East Dunbartonshire. There is the potential that this will result in the loss of species and habitats and disturbance to habitats and soil, as well as a less sustainable use of this natural resource. It will be important that any actions to meet this objective reduce any negative impact on soil, biodiversity and the woodland natural resource.

SEA Suggested Alteration:

It is suggested that the benefits of woodland are as sustainable as possible as this is likely to contribute towards reducing negative impacts.

"Promote sustainable socio-economic and public amenity benefits of woodland".

Alternative 1 Revised	+	X	?/-	?/-	X	X	X	X	?/-	
	Proposed Objective: Promote sustainable socio-economic and public amenity benefits of woodland.									
	Assessment Commentary: Although the predicted environmental impacts of this revised alternative are likely to be the same as those detailed in the original assessment for Alternative 1, ensuring that the sustainable benefits of woodland are promoted will help to reduce any of the negative impacts and ensure that the LBAP commits to a sustainable approach to managing biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Alternative 2	+	X	?/-	?/-	X	X	X	X	X	
	Proposed Objective: Increase the numbers of people visiting woodlands in the area.									
	Assessment Commentary: This objective will contribute towards minor positive impacts for **Population and Human Health.** Increasing the number of visitors to woodlands in East Dunbartonshire will promote woodlands as a recreational asset and, as such, people are likely to be encouraged to access their local woodland for active travel, sport and leisure which will help to reduce health inequalities and contribute to improvements to community wellbeing. Furthermore it is likely, due to the wording of the objective, that both people dwelling in rural and urban locations will be benefited. However, there are potential negative impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology** associated with access to the environment. If more people are encouraged to access local woodlands, there is the potential that increased footfall can disrupt habitats and species as well as contribute to soil erosion and degradation. The full nature of the effects will, however, be dependent on the nature of the natural assets such as soil and species found in woodlands. In order to minimise or prevent any negative environmental impacts, the LBAP should determine the types of species within woodland and limit areas if necessary to ensure that access to woodland does not disrupt species and habitats. Furthermore, it is important that the LBAP consider the need to implement soil erosion prevention measures as outlined in good practice guidance.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Alternative 3	+/+ +	X	?/0/-	?/0/-	X	X	X	X	X	✓
	Proposed Objective: Ensure woodlands, especially those close to urban areas, are accessible and promote an awareness of their value to local communities.									

✓	**Assessment Commentary:** This objective is likely to present minor positive impacts, with potential significant effects, for **Population and Human Health** as not only will this help to give people in East Dunbartonshire, as well as visitors to the area, opportunities to access woodlands for recreational purposes, sport, leisure and active travel but they are also likely to gain a greater understanding and awareness of the value of woodlands for communities, including their role for biodiversity, socio-economic benefits, a healthy environment and recreation. Furthermore, meeting this objective will benefit those in particular who live in urban areas as access to woodland and other open spaces for urban dwellers is often reduced than for rural communities. Nonetheless, there will also be benefits for rural communities. As with the assessment for Alternative 2, ensuring more access to woodlands has the potential to present minor negative impacts to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology** in terms of potential erosion of soil and disruption to habitats and species. However, there is the potential that promoting the value of woodlands to local communities will help to reduce or offset these negative impacts, resulting in neutral effects. However, at this stage in the assessment the overall nature of these effects is unclear and further assessment of individual actions will be needed to determine the full effects. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	
Objective 4		
Alternative 1	+ | X | + | X | X | X | + | + | + **Proposed Objective:** Increase the extent of all types of woodland habitat. **Assessment Commentary:** Primarily, meeting this objective to ensure that the extent of all types of woodland habitat are increased will present a minor positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** as it will be an active contribution to the management of woodland in East Dunbartonshire as a valuable habitat for a wide range of species, including both protected and non-protected. Whilst there will be merit from meeting this objective, the effects for this environmental factor are likely to be limited to minor positive as all woodland habitats will focused on and there is the potential that, in doing so, priority woodland habitats will not receive priority for such opportunities, especially since resources are currently limited. It is also anticipated that there be potential secondary impacts for **Air Quality, Climatic Factors, Material Assets and Population and Human Health** as a result of increased woodland habitat population and area in terms of the following effects: ➢ Potential greater contributions to carbon storage, carbon sequestration and subsequent improvements to air quality as there will be a larger woodland resource to carry out this role.	

	➢ Considerations for the protection of the natural woodland resource in East Dunbartonshire. ➢ Potential to contribute towards the mitigation of the negative effects of climate change such as flood risk management. ➢ Potential benefits for health and wellbeing from the above mentioned impacts for air quality and climate change, as well as opportunities for local communities to have a greater availability of woodland resources for recreation.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Alternative 2	+	X	+/+ +	X	X	X	+	+	+	
	Proposed Objective: Increase the extent of priority woodland habitats ensuring there is no conflict with other habitat types.									
	Assessment Commentary: Unlike Alternative 1, this objective will focus on increase the extent of priority woodland habitats, specifically, and as a result there are likely to be minor positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** in terms of contributing towards the management of priority woodland habitats in East Dunbartonshire as a valuable habitat for a wide range of species. In addition, ensuring that any conflicts with other habitats in the local area are prevented will give greater protection and awareness of biodiversity for the many roles it plays, for example for ecosystem services and species management. This has the potential to result in significant positive impacts. Impacts may also be significant due to the face that the objective will focus resources on priority habitats in order to achieve greater opportunities. It is anticipated that the secondary effects for **Population and Human Health, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets** will be similar to those detailed in the assessment for Alternative 1.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Alternative 3	+	X	+/+ +	X	X	X	+	+	+ +	
	Proposed Objective: Encourage natural regeneration, new natural colonisation and native tree planting at new sites to increase the extent of priority woodland habitat.									
	Assessment Commentary: In comparison to Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, the wording of this objective is more robust and, as a consequence, demonstrates a more sustainable approach to the management of priority woodland habitats with positive effects towards **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna,** and potentially significant impacts. Natural regeneration, colonisation and native tree planting will not only contribute towards increasing the population and priority woodland habitats but there will also be benefits for a wide range of species who rely on this habitat which will show the LBAP's commitment to reducing the loss									

	of species. It is also predicted that meeting this objective will have a significant positive impacts on **Material Assets** by seeking to ensure a sustainable approach and use of priority woodland as an important natural resource for East Dunbartonshire. It is anticipated that the secondary effects for **Population and Human Health, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets** will be similar to those detailed in the assessment for Alternative 1.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: The assessment of Alternative 2 highlighted that the inclusion of wording to ensure that there is no conflict with other habitat types is beneficial for reducing any conflict and increasing the positive nature of the environmental effects, particularly for biodiversity. As such, it is suggested that the wording from Alternative 2 combine with the wording of Alternative 3. "Encourage natural regeneration, new natural colonisation and native tree planting at new sites to increase the extent of priority woodland habitat, ensuring there is no conflict with other priority habitat types".	
Alternative 3 Revised ✓	+ | X | + + | X | X | X | + | + | + +	✓
	Proposed Objective: Encourage natural regeneration, new natural colonisation and native tree planting at new sites to increase the extent of priority woodland habitat, ensuring there is no conflict with other priority habitat types.	
	Assessment Commentary: The anticipated nature of the environmental effects is likely to be as described in the original assessment for Alternative 3. However, the impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** are more likely to be significantly positive as not only is this a robust, sustainable and biodiversity-friendly approach to the management of priority woodland habitats but meeting this objective will also ensure that actions proposed in the LBAP will not achieve an increase in the extent of this habitat type at the extent of other vital habitats in East Dunbartonshire.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	

Appendix F: Full assessment of the actions for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

ASSESSMENT TABLE KEY			
+ +	Major Positive	✓	SEA Preferred Option
+	Minor Positive		
0	Neutral	✓	LBAP Preferred Alternative Option
X	No Significant Effect		
-	Minor Negative		
- -	Major Negative		
?	Uncertain		

Ecosystem 1: Rural

Alternative	SEA ENVIRONMETNAL FACTORS									SEA Preferred Option
	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	
Action 1										
Action 1	+	X	?/+	X	?/+	X	X	X	?/+	
	Proposed Action: Carry out an audit of boundary features quality and map locations to establish improvements needed (including changes to management regimes) to existing features where connectivity could be improved by creating new features.									
	Assessment Commentary: Carrying out an audit of the existing boundary features in rural locations in East Dunbartonshire and mapping the locations and findings of the audit will primarily benefit **Population and Human Health** in terms of increasing the knowledge of rural boundary features in the local area in order to determine the level of management needed to maintain the existing features, as well as to determine the level of resources needed to improve connectivity and create new features. Whilst at this stage the impacts of this action on the other environmental factors are uncertain or likely to be insignificant, there is the potential that improvements to the management regimes for boundary features in East Dunbartonshire and improvements to boundaries in terms of improved connectivity or the creation of new features will result in positive impacts									

	for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape and Material Assets**, although it is likely that, for the other environmental factors, the effects will be insignificant. In particular, there is likely that this action will result in improvements and enhancements to the landscape setting as well as improvements to habitat connectivity. Improving the existing features or creating new ones will help to enhance the landscape by making it visually appealing as well as providing a boundary for wildlife, primarily, from roads and developments for example. For species and habitats, boundary features such as walls, hedgerows and ditches can offer shelter for species and host a number of different species as a valuable habitat. Furthermore, boundary features are often used as feeding corridors or migratory routes between fragmented habitat networks. Managing the existing features appropriately will ensure that the value of boundary features for connectivity and as a feeding corridor will be maintained as much as possible, and any improvements will potentially enhance habitat connectivity throughout the landscape for use by species.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: The wording of the Action could be more fluid; it is suggested that the wording of the Action change to "Carry out an audit and map the locations and quality of existing boundary features where connectivity can be enhanced by creating new features and enhancing management regimes". Whilst it is anticipated that this will have similar environmental impacts as the original proposed action alterations to the wording will aid the understanding of the action and enabling it to be delivered effectively.	
Action 1 Revised ✓	+ | X | ?/+ | X | ?/+ | X | X | X | ?/+	✓
	Proposed Action: Carry out an audit and map the locations and quality of existing boundary features where connectivity can be enhanced by creating new features and enhancing management regimes.	
	Assessment Commentary: As above.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Action 2		
Action 2	+ | X | +/+ + | X | + + | X | + | + | +	
	Proposed Action: Ensure new developments on the edge of urban areas effectively integrate with the rural landscape.	
	Assessment Commentary: It is anticipated that ensuring that when new developments are constructed at the edge of urban settlements where they meet the rural fringe integrates well into the surrounding environment is likely to have a positive impact on **Population and Human Health and Material Assets**, positive effects, with the possibility of significant effects, for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** and significant positive impacts for **Landscape**. There are also potential secondary impacts for **Air Quality and Climatic Factors**.	

	Primarily, the effects on the **Landscape** are likely to be significantly positive as this action will contribute to ensuring that the rural and urban confluence is not skewed by development, and there is potential that a greater number of biodiversity features on and around developments on the urban edge can be maximised to improve the setting and visual amenity of the area. Where the developments are located within Local Landscape Areas, this action will be particularly beneficial for enhancing its landscape value. In doing so, there is also potential that there will be significant improvements to habitat connectivity by reducing the urban-rural divide. For **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets**, there is scope to effectively integrate urban developments with the surrounding rural landscape by improving and enhancing biodiversity value and population. Not only does this have the potential to compensate for any loss of biodiversity due to development but this will also contribute to improved ecosystem services and encourage habitat connectivity. Improving the natural environment with improved biodiversity value within urban development areas has the potential for secondary impacts in terms of improving air quality as the role of biodiversity for the suppression of emissions, particularly in urban areas, and for water/flood management at the development site. This action also has the potential to contribute towards reductions in social and environmental deprivation; for **Population and Human Health** integrating urban development sites with the surrounding rural environment will give communities better opportunities to connect with their surrounding natural environment as well as enjoy the benefits of a healthy urban environment.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: To make the wording of this action more robust it would be beneficial to alter the wording to make it clear that all any projects that stem from this action will need to ensure that developments in urban areas not only effectively integrate with the rural landscape but that this is done in a sensitive manner taking into account the nature of the surrounding environment. "Ensure new developments on the edge of urban areas effectively and sensitively integrate with the rural landscape".	
Action 2 Revised ✓	+ | X | +/+ + | X | + + | X | + | + | +	
	Proposed Action: Ensure new developments on the edge of urban areas effectively and sensitively integrate with the rural landscape.	
	Assessment Commentary: Whilst it is anticipated that the overall environmental effects of this action are likely to be the same as those described in the above assessment, the change to the wording to ensure both effective and sensitive urban-rural integration for new developments is more robust and will give developers better direction.	✓
	SEA Suggested Alteration:	

	None at this stage.	
Action 3		
Action 3 ✓	✗ | ✗ | + | + | + | + | ✗ | + | +	✓
	Proposed Action: Ensure areas of important open rural habitat e.g. semi-natural grassland, floodplain and grazing marsh, is protected from afforestation.	
	Assessment Commentary: This action aims to ensure that the existing rural habitats such as semi-natural grasslands, marsh and the floodplain are protected from afforestation and, by doing so, will demonstrate East Dunbartonshire Council's commitment through the LBAP for habitat and species conservation. Afforestation is likely to reduce the quantity and quality of rural habitats or even remove them entirely. Consequently, protected rural habitats will have a direct positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape and Material Assets**, as well as potential secondary effects for **Soil and Geology, Water Quality and Climatic Factors**.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Action 4		
Action 4 ✓	+ | ✗ | ++ | ✗ | + | + | + | + | +	✓
	Proposed Action: Complete designation of Site of Special Scientific Interest at Bargeny Hill.	
	Assessment Commentary: SNH, in partnership with East Dunbartonshire Council, have started the process of designating Bargeny Hill as a SSSI recognising its flora value. Completing this designation is likely to present significant positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** as well as positive impacts for **Population and Human Health, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets.** In particular, the designation of this site as a SSSI has a number of benefits including: ➢ Greater conservation of biodiversity value including valuable species, particularly the flora that the site is being designated for. This will aid the protection of species in the long-term whilst preventing further habitat loss. ➢ Greater protection of this area of green belt in East Dunbartonshire, giving it a better standing against future development proposals and other external pressures resulting in the removal of natural environment assets. ➢ Potential cultural and recreational opportunities for local communities, such as those living in nearby Balmore, as the designation of a SSSI will help to create an environment that is aesthetically pleasing and will encourage people to enjoy the natural environment. There may also be opportunities to utilise the site as a resource for scientific study or education. ➢ Potential contributions to improved ecosystem services for air, water and soils in terms of water purification, regulation of negative climatic effects and enhancements to natural processes. The designation of SSSI can also help to improve	

	the site condition over time giving the site the chance to also store carbon, where appropriate, and regulate water flows. Overall the site may change to a more favourable condition.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Action 5		

Action 5 ✓	+	X	+/+ +	+/+ +	+	+	+	+	+
	Proposed Action: Conduct habitat surveys on the Campsie Fells to establish the extent and quality of grassland and blanket bog habitats including recommendations for improvements and enhancements.								
	Assessment Commentary: This action intends to carry out habitat surveys on the Campsie Fells in East Dunbartonshire to assess the extent and quality of grassland and blanket bogs which will have a positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology,** as well as positive impacts to **Material Assets** as it will present the Council will adequate information to determine the scope for improvements and enhancements. There is the potential that the outcome of this action will directly contribute towards addressing poorer quality grasslands and bog habitats which is likely to result in improved ecosystem services and encourage reduced fragmentation of habitat connections across the Campsies into the wider EDC area and beyond in other Local Authority areas. A LNCS for biodiversity is located around the plain of the Finglen Burn, Kirk Burn and Almeel Burn, and a LNCS for biodiversity on Campsie Glen Golf Course that merges with the Campsie Fells. There is also a LNCS for Geodiversity around Kirk Burn and SSSI at Scullion gour Limestone Quarry. Any recommendations for improvements and enhancements based on these habitat surveys have the potential to ensure greater protection, and possible enhancements, to these designations. There is the potential that this action can result in significant positive effects for both of these environmental factors depending on the outcome of the surveys. This action is also anticipated to present positive impacts for **Water Quality** as there is potential that improvements to peatland will address any drainage issues in terms of enhancing peatland for drainage and may help to alleviate flood risks from Finglen Burn and Kirk Burn. In terms of **Landscape,** the area around and encompassing the Campsie Fells are designated as a Local Landscape Area (LLA), and as such there is the potential for positive impacts to this environmental factor as this action can help to add to the value of the Campsies' setting and further enhance this area in East Dunbartonshire as an important natural designation.								✓

	From a **Population and Human Health** perspective, this action is likely to present benefits to the scientific community, providing the Council and relevant bodies with valuable information to ensure improvements are made. This can lead to future projects to be implemented and can enable better monitoring of these priority habitats. It is also anticipated that this action will result in positive impacts to both **Air Quality and Climatic Factors**, as any improvements or recommendations that stem from the habitat survey works for grasslands and blanket bog habitats on the Campsies are likely to give both of these habitat types the opportunity to be enhanced; this could include their role in suppressing atmospheric pollutants, more efficient ecosystem services and natural drainage solutions to alleviate potential risks to flooding, particularly as the role from blanket bogs for drainage is likely to be protected as an important habitat and habitat feature.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Action 6		
Action 6 ✓	X | X | + + | + | X | X | X | + | +	
	Proposed Action: Increase area of heath and grassland at Mugdock Wood SSSI through the control of bracken and removal of birch trees.	
	Assessment Commentary: As the action indicates, Mugdock Wood is designated as a SSSI and as such it is anticipated that controlling bracken and removal birch trees to increase the population of both heath and grassland will have a significant positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** and positive impacts to **Material Assets**. Not only is this action likely to contribute towards improved ecosystems as the removal of birch trees will reduce the possibility of competition between species and allow others to be able to flourish but it will directly address the adverse impacts to grassland as a result of woodland planting and the impact of other species, like bracken. This will result in benefits for a range of different species that use Mugdock Wood as a habitat and will also help to protect the value of the Wood as a SSSI, recognised for its importance for beetle assemblage, lowland wet and dry heath, mesotrophic loch, upload oak woodland and wet woodland. It is also anticipated that this could lead to secondary positive impacts for **Soil and Geology** in terms of preventing soil degradation and improving soil value. Increasing the area of heath and grassland at Mugdock Wood SSSI also has the potential to present secondary positive impacts to **Climatic Factors** as this action will encourage these species to flourish which in turn will maximise the role of biodiversity as a means of mitigating potential flood risks, especially as the SEPA flood risk map has identified a medium probability of flooding in the area from the Milngavie Reservoirs and Mugdock Loch.	✓
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	

Action 7										
Action 7	X	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	+	
	Proposed Action: Bring Council owned rural LNCS into active management prioritising those within moderate to poor quality categories.									
	Assessment Commentary: Like the similar action for the Urban environment, it is anticipated that this action will give the Council the opportunity to focus on Council-owned LNCS recognised for their biodiversity value in rural areas specifically by ensuring that they are actively managed. As such, it is likely that this action will have a direct positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets**. In particular, active management of Council-Owned LNCS in rural areas well contribute towards the conservation of valuable habitats and species and help to prevent loss of biodiversity in the future. This action will also ensure that the LBAP encourages the sustainable use and protection of natural resources in East Dunbartonshire and result in potential long-term management of biodiversity populations.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: As with the similar LNCS action for the Urban environment (see above assessments), there is the possibility for volunteering opportunities in relation to the management of LNCS; it would be beneficial to determine whether there are any possible volunteering opportunities associated with the action. "Bring Council owned rural LNCS into active management prioritising those within moderate to poor quality categories. Determine opportunities to encourage volunteering".									
Action 7 Revised ✓	+	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	+	✓
	Proposed Action: Bring Council owned rural LNCS into active management prioritising those within moderate to poor quality categories. Determine opportunities to encourage volunteering.									
	Assessment Commentary: Although the effects outlined in the above assessment for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** are likely to be similar for this revised action, there are additional positive impacts predicted for **Population and Human Health** due to changes to the action to determine any potential volunteering opportunities. Where there are potential volunteering opportunities related to the management of rural LNCS identified, this will give local communities the chance to engage in volunteering and become involved in biodiversity projects.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Action 8										

Action 8 ✓	+	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	+	✓
	Proposed Action: Work with landowners of rural Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) within moderate to poor quality categories to improve habitat.									
	Assessment Commentary: It is anticipated that there will be no significant impacts for the majority of the environmental factors as a result of this action, with the exception of **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets** where the impacts are predicted to be positive. Similar to the impacts outlined in the above assessment for Rural Action 9. However, the effects differ as it focusses on the LNCS that aren't Council owned. By working with the landowners of these sites, there is the potential that improving moderate or poor quality sites will contribute towards enhancing the value of LNCS as a habitat and the sustainable use of resources. As the action aims to work with land owners to enable any improvements to rural LNCS habitats, there is likely to be greater engagement and participation with the local communities in order to facilitate improvements on privately owned land.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Action 9										
Action 9 ✓	X	X	+/-	X	+	X	+	+/-	+	✓
	Proposed Action: Ensure biodiversity potential is maximised in development or upgrade of rural paths and tracks.									
	Assessment Commentary: Ensuring that the potential for biodiversity enhancements is maximised in the development or upgrade of rural paths and tracks within East Dunbartonshire is likely to present positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets**. In particular, this action will help to maintain existing biodiversity populations within the rural landscape and will help to replace any biodiversity lost in the development or upgrade of rural paths and tracks. This will help to repair lost habitats and improve habitat connectivity where rural paths and tracks have potentially fragmented habitats. The role of biodiversity may also be utilised to improve air quality alongside these routes as well as act as a natural means to mitigate any potential flood risks. However, it is also predicted that there could be potential negative impacts to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Climatic Factors** as the development or upgrade of rural paths and tracks could result in increased access within the rural area. This could degrade biodiversity value as well as increase the risk of poor drainage and flooding.									
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Climatic Factors:**									

	○ Depending on the sensitivity of the site, it is important that measures are put in place in order to prevent, offset or reduce any negative impacts to these environmental factors due to potential increased access to the site as a local public amenity site. For example, it might be appropriate to divert people away from specific sites, such as with fencing or sign-posts. ○ Best practice guidance should be applied. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	
Action 10		
Action 10	**Proposed Action:** Investigate opportunities for contributions to be made to the Pollinator Way through East Dunbartonshire. **Assessment Commentary:** This project is co-funded by SNH and Central Scotland Green Network and is already committed to. As such, it has been determined by the SEA Officer and the Biodiversity and Greenspace Officer that this action will not be need to assessed as part of the Environmental Report for the LBAP as the SEA will not be able to influence the final action carried forward into the LBAP.	
Action 11		
Action 11 ✓	++ | X | + | X | X | X | X | X | X **Proposed Action:** Conduct meadow creation and pollinator awareness raising and training sessions with local school children and with the general public. **Assessment Commentary:** This action is likely to have a direct significant positive impact on **Population and Human Health** as it will facilitate greater engagement with both local communities and schools within East Dunbartonshire and encourage them to become more involved in any future related biodiversity projects in relation to meadow creation and pollination. This will contribute towards a better demonstration of the benefits of a healthy natural environmental for local communities and individuals. There are also likely to be secondary positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** as this action has the potential to enable related projects, contributing to improved ecosystems and aiding the conservation of biodiversity. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	✓
Action 12		
Action 12 ✓	+ | X | +/++ | X | X | X | X | X | X **Proposed Action:** Carry out Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary surveys at Drumclog Moor and Lennox Forest. **Assessment Commentary:** Primarily, this action intends to carry out Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary surveys at 2 different sites in East Dunbartonshire – Drumclog Moor and Lennox Forest – in order to establish the quality and population of this type of butterfly. This will enable	✓

	better understanding of the population of Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary in these locations which will be beneficial to the Council and other relevant bodies for monitoring their presence with potential positive impacts to **Population and Human Heath.** As a priority species on the Scottish Biodiversity List, this could lead to positive impacts to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** in terms of greater conservation and management. Depending on the outcome of the surveys, the effects to Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary could be significant.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	

Ecosystem 2: Urban

Alternative	SEA ENVIRONMETNAL FACTORS									SEA Preferred Option
	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	
Action 1										
Action 1	**+/+ +**	**?/-**	**+/-**	**-**	**+**	**-**	**?/-**	**?/-**	**+**	✓
	Proposed Action: Investigate the designation of at least one Local Nature Reserve per settlement area.									
✓	**Assessment Commentary:** By ensuring that a minimum of one Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is designated at each settlement area in East Dunbartonshire will give people greater opportunities to be able to access their local environment and associated nature locally. This has benefits in terms of encouraging people to make the most of their local environment with added health and wellbeing benefits. As the designation of an LNR will require local communities to become involved and possibly receive environmental education, therefore there is likely to positive impacts to **Population and Human Health,** with the potential for significant effects. There is also likely to be positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets**. As LNRs will be managed by East Dunbartonshire Council, there will be opportunities to consider this natural resource sustainability and manage it for biodiversity. This will promote the importance of biodiversity for the natural environment and contribute towards the prevention of biodiversity loss, where possible. LNR can be a valuable contributor to enhancing local landscape character and can help to improve an areas 'sense of place'. Consequently, there is the potential for minor positive impacts on **Landscape** and as such, consideration to how this designation can help to safeguard and enhance the local landscape should be given.									

However, increased access to LNRs has the potential to impact negatively **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Water Quality.** Access to a site has the potential to result in soil erosion and disturbance to valued soil and geodiversity assets. This can lead to the deterioration of habitats, soil value and increase the risk of pollutants being washed into nearby water sources, causing pollution and a reduction in water quality. As it is possible that LNRs will also be designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or has another designation, it is imperative that consideration is given to these designations in terms of allowing public access in order to prevent negative impacts to such sites.

The environmental impact on **Cultural Heritage** are uncertain at this stage as the location for designating a LNR will need to be determined but there is the potential to negatively impact on sites of cultural and historical interest in terms of potential increased footfall to sites. The impact on historical assets such as the Antonine Wall WHS, the Forth and Clyde Canal and Gardens and Designed Landscapes, for example, will to be considered and avoided if possible.

At this stage, the anticipated impact on **Air Quality and Climatic Factors** is unclear although there is the potential for negative impacts. Improving sites as a LNR for public access may require people to travel to the sites using unsustainable means of travel as well as parking. This can release greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere which will increase air pollution and the negative effects of climate change.

It should be noted that, whilst there are positive impacts predicted as a result of this action, some of the effects will be dependent on the geography of the site and at this stage the specific sites proposed for designation as a LNR at each settlement area is to be determined through community involvement.

Proposed Mitigation Measures:

- **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Water Quality and Cultural Heritage:**
  - Depending on the sensitivity of the site, it is important that measures are put in place in order to prevent, offset or reduce any negative impacts to these environmental factors due to potential increased access to LNR as a local public amenity site. For example, it might be appropriate to divert people away from specific sites, such as with fencing or sign-posts. It may also be reasonable to implement appropriate pathways or educational signage highlighting key information about the natural heritage or geodiversity interests on the site.
  - Best practice guidance should be applied.
- **Air Quality and Climatic Factors:**
  - Encourage sustainable transport modes and consider the need to improve sustainable transport infrastructure in each local area.

SEA Suggested Alteration:

None at this stage.

Action 2										
Action 2 ✓	+/+ +	X	+/-	-	+	-	?/-	?/-	+	

Proposed Action: Progress with the designation of West Balgrochan Marsh and Millersneuk Wetland as Local Nature Reserves.

Assessment Commentary:

Both West Balgrochan Marsh and Millersneuk Wetland have been identified as suitable sites for designation as a LNR. Designating these two sites is likely to present a number of minor positive environmental impacts, in particular for **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape and Material Assets** but there is also the potential for negative impacts for **Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Water Quality.** The following details the anticipated environmental effects:

- **Population and Human Health** – West Balgrochan Marsh is situated on the edge of Torrance and Millersneuk Wetland is located at the edge of Lenzie before it meets the boundary for Auchinloch in North Lanarkshire, both of which are situated within close proximity to residential areas. Designating both of these sites as a LNR will give individuals and communities, particularly those that live in the local area, greater opportunities to be able to access their local environment and associated nature locally. This has benefits in terms of encouraging people to make the most of their local environment with added health and wellbeing benefits. As the designation of an LNR will require local communities to become involved and possibly receive environmental education, therefore there is the potential for significant effects. It is also likely that Millersneuk, in particular, will be enjoyed for recreation by people out with the EDC boundary
- **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** – In general, this action will ensure that these sites as LNR will be managed by East Dunbartonshire Council, there will be opportunities to consider this natural resource sustainability and manage it for biodiversity. This will promote the importance of biodiversity for the natural environment and contribute towards the prevention of biodiversity loss, where possible. Specifically, this action will ensure that the marshy grassland and swamp species found at Millersneuk Wetland will be reserved, and the rush communities that are home to snipe breeding will be protected. It is also likely that the marshy grasslands, hedges and scrubland that have been identified on the site of West Balgrochan Marsh will managed appropriately. Any related species at both sites will benefit from this action. However, there is the potential that increasing public access to these sites can lead to the deterioration of habitats and potentially disturb habitats and species, as well as disrupt breeding, nesting etc.
- **Landscape and Material Assets** – Both sites are situated within the green belt in East Dunbartonshire and are located on the edge of settlements; West Balgrochan Marsh is located on the edge of Torrance and Millersneuk is located to the South of Lenzie as it meets Auchinloch and the boundary of North Lanarkshire. Designating these sites as a LNR will help to protect this area of green belt land from external factors such as development in the future and can be a valuable contributor to enhancing local landscape character as well as help to improve an areas 'sense of place'. Consequently, there is the potential for minor positive impacts. It is also possible that this will align the LBAP with the

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GNS in terms of helping to connect greenspaces, green network links and stepping stones and habitat corridors to the wider green network in East Dunbartonshire and to nearby local authority areas.

However, access to these sites can present potential minor negative impacts for **Soil and Geology and Water Quality.** Access to a site has the potential to result in soil erosion and disturbance to valued soil and geodiversity assets. This can lead to the deterioration of habitats, soil value and increase the risk of pollutants being washed into nearby water sources, causing pollution and a reduction in water quality.

Whilst at this stage the effects on **Air Quality and Climatic Factors** are less likely to predict, there is the potential for an increase in air pollution from transport to Millersneuk Wetland along the A806 and nearby residential areas. This site is also more accessible to the wider community due to its position on the boundary of North Lanarkshire. Balgrochan Marsh is less accessible to the wider community but will be accessed by those that live in Torrance and nearby settlements. There is the possibility that access to the site as a public recreational asset will be done through car travel which will require some form of parking facilities. This may lead to a deterioration of air quality and contribute towards the negative impacts of climate change.

Proposed Mitigation:

- **Soil and Geology and Water Quality:**
  - Depending on the sensitivity of the site, it is important that measures are put in place in order to prevent, offset or reduce any negative impacts to these environmental factors due to potential increased access to the site as a local public amenity site. For example, it might be appropriate to divert people away from specific sites, such as with fencing or sign-posts. It may also be reasonable to implement appropriate pathways or educational signage highlighting key information about the natural heritage or geodiversity interests on the site.
  - Best practice guidance should be applied.

SEA Suggested Alteration:
None at this stage.

Action 3

Action 3 ✓

?/+	✗	**?/+/+ +**	**?/+**	**?/+**	**?/+**	**?/+**	**?/+**	**?/+**

Proposed Action: Produce at least one park management plan per year with a biodiversity focus.

Assessment Commentary:
As there are currently no management plans for parks, this action would be a step forward in ensuring that parks within East Dunbartonshire are subject to a more coordinated approach of management, and integrating biodiversity from the outset will give greater long-term management of biodiversity for the area. However, at this stage, the effects for all of the environmental factors, except for **Cultural Heritage**, are unclear at this stage as the action does not specify which parks at this stage will be

selected for a park management plan. However, there are potential positive effects that could arise from this action. In particular, focusing on the management of biodiversity will have a positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna,** with the potential for significant positive impacts depending on types and value of species and habitats found within selected parks, as it is likely to seek to reduce any negative impacts to biodiversity and habitats from external factors such as increased access to parks as well as contribute towards improved ecosystems and connectivity. In general, managing open/recreation spaces with a particular interest in retaining or improving existing levels of biodiversity will help to promote its role in the enhancement and promotion of network connectivity, demonstrating minor positive impacts for **Material Assets** and links to the Green Network Strategy.

In terms of **Population and Human Health and Landscape**, it is anticipated that this action would have a minor positive impact. Devising at least one biodiversity-focussed park management plan would help to improve the setting of the park within the wider landscape which will also improve the attractiveness as a usable open space. This will demonstrate benefits for local communities in terms of having a healthy environment that can be accessed and used for recreation, sport and leisure purposes, with benefits to health and wellbeing. As it has also been determined that, through the LBAP, any park management plans would be subject to public consultation which would increase an awareness of biodiversity and help to engage people with their local environment.

It is anticipated that there are potential minor positive secondary impacts from the management of biodiversity in parks for **Soil and Geology, Water Quality, Air Quality and Climatic Factors**, as well-managed biodiversity has the potential to offer the following roles:

- Soil stabilisation which can help to prevent soil erosion and reduce degradation to soil value in East Dunbartonshire.
- Protection and possible enhancements of water quality and ecological status including abilities to intercept rainfall, reducing the potential of pollution run-off, especially where there will be an impact on nearby waterbodies.
- Potential suppression of emissions and storage of carbon which will have a particular positive impact on air quality and reducing the related negative impacts of climate change in urban areas where poor air quality and climate change effects are more experienced.
- Improved ecosystem services.

It should be noted that, whilst there is likely to be an overall positive impact through this action on the environment, the impacts are likely to be dependent on factors such as the choice of parks requiring a management plan, the level of existing biodiversity and which parks have the most potential for biodiversity improvements.

SEA Suggested Alteration:

	Currently the action does not specify which parks will be subject to the development of a park management plan which means that the action is limited and less robust. It would be more beneficial to focus the action on managing the larger regional or neighbourhood parks in East Dunbartonshire as there is likely to be greater potential for communities as well as for biodiversity improvements. "Produce at least one park management plan for the larger regional and neighbourhood parks in East Dunbartonshire per year with a biodiversity focus and assess the feasibility of introducing park management plans for smaller local parks."	
Action 3 Revised	**+/+ +** | **X** | **+/+ +/?** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** **Proposed Action:** Produce at least one park management plan for the larger regional and neighbourhood parks in East Dunbartonshire per year with a biodiversity focus and assess the feasibility of introducing park management plans for smaller local parks. **Assessment Commentary:** Unlike the original proposed Action 3, this revised action sets out more specific detail as to the parks that will be considered for the implementation of park management plans and also aims to look at whether other parks in East Dunbartonshire that are deemed to be more local assets will be targeted in the future. It is anticipated that similar effects to those detailed in the assessment for the original proposed action, with likely positive environmental impacts for **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets.** However, the uncertainties expressed previously are not expected for this revised option as the action has been refined. It is also likely to have potential significant positive impacts for **Population and Human Health** as implementing a park management plan for larger parks in East Dunbartonshire, including parks considered to be important at a regional level, will benefit a larger number of individuals and communities. There is also the potential that people from outwith the EDC boundary area will visit. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	✓
Action 4		
Action 4 ✓	**+** | **+** | **+ +** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** | **+** **Proposed Action:** Deliver the biodiversity actions of the Open Space Strategy *(See Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2016 – 2021 for full list of open space sites and proposed projects).* **Assessment Commentary:** As part of the Open Space Strategy (OSS) 2015 – 2020 for East Dunbartonshire, a number of biodiversity-focussed opportunities were identified for a number of open space sites. The LBAP has committed to delivering these biodiversity actions, and as a	✓

result, it is anticipated that the environmental impacts of this action are likely to be positive for **Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil and Geology, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets** including significant positive effects for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna.** In general, delivering these actions is likely to improve the functionality of each of the open spaces as a community amenity site which will encourage local communities to utilise the open spaces for recreation and leisure with benefits to health and wellbeing, result in greater consideration and protection of natural resources, contribute towards the promotion of biodiversity as a means for carbon suppression and improvements to air quality, particularly in relation to those open spaces in urban areas where the effects of poor air quality are more likely to be experienced, as well as positive effects to improving the setting of the open spaces within their surrounding environment – this will be particularly beneficial in areas such as Milton of Campsie and Lennoxtown where the open spaces are located within or near to the Campsie Fells Local Landscape Area.

The following details the individual impacts of the specific biodiversity actions for each of the open spaces with a particular focus on the impacts to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Cultural Heritage and Climatic Factors:**

- King George V Park & Cluny Park (Bearsden) – both of these parks are an area of open space and have been audited as an 'Excellent' (King George V) and 'Good' (Cluny Park) standard of open space in Bearsden. The OSS identifies the need for wildflower meadow creation at each of these sites. This will provide a new and enhanced diverse habitat for a range of species whilst bringing colour to the open space. This will further enhance the 'Excellent' status of the King George V Park and improve the 'Good' status of the Cluny Park to improve its quality and usability as an open space and complement the Garden and Designed Landscape designation on this site.
- Allander Park (Milngavie) – this park has 'Very good' standard rating as defined by the OSS and there are opportunities for meadow and wetland creation. Doing so will provide a diverse habitat for a range of species through the planting of wildflower meadows and will create a valuable wetland habitat. These projects are likely to improve habitat connectivity between the park and the Milngavie Reservoirs nearby and Mugdock Country Park. There is also potential for this to add to the value of the LNCS for biodiversity on the site and contribute towards enhancing the value of Mugdock Wood SSSI which is located next to the park. It has also been identified that the site is at risk of flooding from the Allander Water; these actions can act as a means to mitigate potential flooding as a natural flood management measure.
- Templehill Wood & Cairnhill Wood (Bearsden) – both of these sites have been identified as having potential for woodland management and wetland creation which will contribute towards creating a diverse habitat in Bearsden. In particular, woodland management and wetland creation at Templehill Wood is likely to provide greater protection to the TPOs designated on site and contribute to enhancing the value of the site as a LNCS for biodiversity. It has also been identified that the east and south of the site are at risk of flooding from the River Kelvin; both of these opportunities will help to promote the role of biodiversity as a means to mitigate flooding. At Cairnhill Wood, these opportunities will improve the site as a valuable habitat amongst the residential area it is situated within.

	➢ Mains Park (Milngavie) – this park was audited as having 'Good' standard as part of the OSS with opportunities for meadow creation and woodland management. This would improve the setting of the open space in this residential area as well as help to create and manage the site as a valuable habitat for species. ➢ St Germain's Loch (Bearsden), Park Burn Open Space (Lenzie), Gartshore Public Park and Shirva Glen (Twechar – each of these open spaces have been identified as having opportunities to realise biodiversity improvements through both wetland and broadleaved woodland creation. At St Germain's Loch, the creation of woodland features will contribute towards enhancing the TPO designation on site and provide an additional habitat as part of the LNCS for biodiversity found here. Both Park Burn Open Space and Shiva Glen are at risk of flooding with medium probability from Park Burn and Board Burn, respectively, and these opportunities have the potential to intercept rainfall as well utilise these habitat and biodiversity features as a natural means to mitigate flooding on site. In general, implanting these opportunities at each of these four open spaces will present positive benefits to species as valuable habitats, improved drainage and natural flood risk management whilst contributing to the level of biodiversity within East Dunbartonshire. ➢ Westermains scrub and grass (Kirkintilloch) & Christine's Way (Lenzie) – these sites were audited through the OSS and determined that there are opportunities for wetland creation and woodland expansion. Achieving these at Westermains Open Space has the potential to add to the setting of the cultural heritage value associated with the World Heritage Site Antonine Wall, of which the buffer zone is located nearby. There is also likely to be improvements to the aesthetics and enjoyment of the open space within its residential setting. At Christine's Way, these opportunities will contrite towards improving habitat connectivity and contributing towards bridging the rural/urban divide in Lenzie. Both of these open space sites are at risk of flooding from Park Burn at Christine's Way and the Forth and Clyde Canal and Westermains scrub and grass; both wetland creation and woodland expansion will contribute towards natural flood risk management as well as provide valuable habitats. ➢ Twechar Public Park (Twechar) – there is potential opportunities for woodland and wetland expansion at Twechar Public Park. This open space is located within the Antonine Wall Buffer Zone and is next to the LNCS for biodiversity at Barhill. Implementing these biodiversity improvements will enhance the existing wetland and woodland habitats found on the site, further promoting the role of biodiversity enhancements for improved ecosystems and for protection species population, particularly those related to the nearby LNCS. ➢ Redmoss Grassland (Milton of Campsie) – there is opportunities for grassland habitat management and woodland expansion at this open space site. This has the potential to contribute towards improved ecosystems at a local level and would provide enhanced habitats for species. This will contribute towards protecting the site which is designated as a LNCS for biodiversity throughout the entire site. As there is a risk of flooding in the north east of the site from the Glazert Water, these enhancements would also contribute towards promoting the role of biodiversity as a means to mitigate potential flood risks. Furthermore, the site is located within the Campsie Fells Local Landscape Area so any	

habitat enhancements will promote the use of biodiversity for positive benefits to landscape setting and enhance the landscape designation.

- High Park (Lennoxtown) – the Open Space Strategy identifies High Park as being suitable for pond habitat enhancement alongside general biodiversity improvements. Primarily, these opportunities will have a positive impact on species by enhancing a valuable wetland habitat within this green belt location.
- Station Road Playing Fields (Lennoxtown), Luggie Park, Waterside Park & Langmuir Park (Kirkintilloch) – there are proposals for woodland creation opportunities at each of these open spaces. In general, implementing these biodiversity improvements through the LBAP will be beneficial for species due to the creation of a new habitat within each of these open spaces. In particular, both Station Road Playing Fields and Luggie Park are at risk from flooding from the Glazert Water and Luggie Water, respectively; these opportunities will enhance the role of biodiversity as a means to mitigate potential risks of flooding. Furthermore, there are potential positive impacts to the protection of the LNCS for biodiversity at Glazert Wood near to Station Road Playing Fields.
- Redhills View Grassland (Lennoxtown) – the OSS outlines opportunities for grassland habitat enhancement at this site. This would enhance the existing grassland features and increase its functionality as a valuable habitat in this rural location.
- Balgrochan Marsh (Lennoxtown) - this site is designated as a LNCS for biodiversity which is likely to benefit from the proposed opportunity for habitat restoration. This will improve conditions of this designation as a valuable habitat for a range of species and will improving its quality as a valuable open space in Lennoxtown.
- Meadowburn Park (Bishopbriggs) – there is opportunities for general biodiversity improvements at this open space site. This will have positive impacts for species by improving its functionality as a habitat whilst improving the space aesthetically as an open space within a residential setting.

SEA Suggested Alteration:
None at this stage.

Action 5

Action 5	+	+	+ +/-	+/-	+	+	+	+	+

Proposed Action: Improve biodiversity on Fields in Trust designated sites.

✓

Assessment Commentary:
There are currently 8 Fields in Trust (FIT) sites in East Dunbartonshire; Bishopbriggs Public Park, Braemar Crescent in Bearsden, Barloch Moor in Milngavie, Peel Park in Kirkintilloch, Thorn Park in Bearsden, King George V Park in Bearsden, Colquhoun Park in Bearsden and High Park in Lennoxtown. Whilst there are a range of different environmental features and constraints at each of the parks, there are a number of similarities and it is anticipated that, overall, this action will have a predominantly positive environmental impact.

✓

	In particular, this action is likely to have a significant positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** and minor positive impacts for **Material Assets** as it will directly see to improve biodiversity value at each park, contributing to the management of habitats such as woodland and help to prevent future loss of species. The LBAP will have greater consideration the use of natural resources, creating a more sustainable environment than can be used to enhance other networks in East Dunbartonshire. There is also the potential that this action will add value to a number of the parks in terms of contributing to the value of the LNCS and TPOs on site, such as at Bishopbriggs Public Park, Braemar Crescent and Barloch Moor. The impact of this action on Barloch Moor, in particular, will contribute to improved woodland management and benefit species at the LNCS on site and the nearby LNCS at Tannoch Loch. In addition, improving biodiversity at these sites will further enhance their appeal as an area of open space for local communities with positive effects for **Population and Human Health** as the parks will be seen as more attractive for leisure and recreation. In terms of **Cultural Heritage**, a number of the parks have a Garden and Designed Landscape designated on part or the entire site such as Bishopbriggs Public Park, Peel Park and Barloch Moor. Furthermore, Peel Park has both the Auld Kirk and Bandstand which are listed buildings on site, and the route of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and Scheduled Monument runs through the site. Improving biodiversity can add value to these cultural heritage sites by improving the setting and enhancing natural assets. It is important that improvements on sites where there are cultural heritage assets are kept sensitive to the surroundings. It is also likely that there will be positive effects for **Landscape** as biodiversity improvements will add to the setting of the parks, some of which are in the green belt, and will also help to improve the visual amenity of these open spaces. For Colquhoun Park, in particular, this action will help to improve the aesthetics and visual setting of a park that is North-West of a Townscape Protection area in Bearsden. It has been identified that there is the potential for medium probability flooding at the site of Bishopbriggs Public Park, Peel Park and Barloch Moor. Improvements to biodiversity at these sites, and the others that aren't subject to medium probability flooding, can help to offset flood risks by intercepting rain water and acting as natural flood management. This can help to reduce the potential for run-off and help to maintain or improve where appropriate the ecological status of water, thus positive impacts for **Water Quality**. Improved biodiversity at each park also has the potential to present minor positive impacts for **Air Quality and Climatic Factors** as, not only is there benefits in terms of reducing the flooding, biodiversity offers benefits in terms of managing ecosystem services such as carbon capture to reduce atmospheric pollutant. This will be particularly beneficial in urban areas where the effects of climate change and poor air quality are more likely to be experienced at a higher level.	

	Whilst this action is predominantly positive, there is the chance of potential negative impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology.** This is likely to be due to potential impacts from the accessibility of the site which can deteriorate and erode soil and disrupt species and habitats. **Proposed Mitigation:** ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology** ○ Depending on the sensitivity of the site, it is important that measures are put in place in order to prevent, offset or reduce any negative impacts to these environmental factors due to potential increased access to the site as a local public amenity site. For example, it might be appropriate to divert people away from specific sites, such as with fencing or sign-posts. It may also be reasonable to implement appropriate pathways or educational signage highlighting key information about the natural heritage or geodiversity interests on the site. ○ Best practice guidance should be applied. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	
Action 6		

Action 6	X	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓
	Proposed Action: Ensure swifts and bats are incorporated into plans for new development and building renovations.									
✓	**Assessment Commentary:** This action will have a direct minor positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** with specific benefits for swifts and bats. As factors such as development and construction have resulted in the decline of habitats and the population of these species, ensuring that the inclusion of swift and bat habitats are incorporated into the plans of any new development and renovations will ensure that the need to manage these species is addressed. For swifts in particular, driving this action is important as they are now extremely reliant on man-made structures for breeding. Overall, this action will contribute towards preventing the loss of swifts and bats.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Action 7										
Action 7	X	X	+	X	+	X	+	+	+	✓
	Proposed Action: Investigate biodiversity improvements to road verges (hedgerows and meadows).									
✓	**Assessment Commentary:** Whilst the wording of this action is limited to 'investigate' indicating that further information is required as to where biodiversity improvements are required as well as availability of resources to deliver this action, there are potential minor positive impacts									

	predicted for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets**. There is the potential that improving road verges with hedgerows and/or meadows will help to reduce habitat and landscape fragmentation caused by the implementation of roads. This will benefit habitat connectivity and improve routes for migration and commuting for a range of species. Furthermore, hedgerows and meadows will provide habitats as well as help to increase resilience in terms of flood-risk management and a reduction in air pollution by supressing emissions, and act as an adaptive measure in light of the negative effects of climate change. The role of biodiversity for reducing air pollution will be particularly important in urban areas and along road-sides where factors such as more car travel and vehicular pollution are more prevalent.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Action 8		
Action 8	X X + X X X X X +	
	Proposed Action: Bring all Council owned urban Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) into active management.	
	Assessment Commentary: It is anticipated that this action will give greater focus for the management of Council-owned LNCS recognised for their biodiversity value in urban areas within East Dunbartonshire which will have a direct positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets**. This action will help to conserve valued habitats and species and contribute towards preventing any future loss of valued biodiversity. There will also be greater protection of natural resources. By managing urban LNCS, this will ensure that sites remain available for wildlife, and will help to protect and potentially increase urban biodiversity populations.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: Although by the nature of the LBAP it is implied that management of biodiversity will be done in a sustainable manner, it is suggested that the wording of the action be altered to be more explicit about this. Furthermore, there can be a lot of potential for volunteering opportunities in relation to the management of LNCS; it would be beneficial to determine whether there are any possible volunteering opportunities associated with the action. "Bring all Council owned urban Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) into active sustainable management and determine opportunities to encourage volunteering".	
Action 8 Revised	+ X + X X X X X ++	
	Proposed Action: Bring all Council owned urban Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) into active sustainable management and determine opportunities to encourage volunteering.	✓
	Assessment Commentary:	

✓	Changing the proposed action to ensure that sustainable management practices are carried out will give greater opportunities to ensure the sustainable consideration of natural resources, and as such is likely to present significant positive impacts for **Material Assets** in addition to the effects mentioned in the assessment above. Although there is likely to be similar effects to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** as those predicted above, determining whether it would be possible to develop opportunities for volunteering in terms of carrying out management practices on Council owned LNCS sites is likely to have a minor positive impact on **Population and Human Health** as this could potentially provide opportunities for local communities to engage in volunteering and become involved in biodiversity projects. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	

Action 9

Action 9	+	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	+	
✓	**Proposed Action:** Work with land owners of urban Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) within moderate to poor quality to improve habitat value. **Assessment Commentary:** The prospective environmental impacts of this action are likely to be insignificant for **Cultural Heritage, Soil and Geology, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality and Climatic Factors**. However, it is anticipated that this action will present similar minor positive impacts to those outlined in the assessment for Action 6. In particular, there is likely to be minor positive effects for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets** as it will ensure that urban LNCS that are considered to be of moderate or poor quality will be a focus for the Council to manage and protect in order to improve their value as a habitat. As the action aims to work with land owners to enable any improvements to urban LNCS habitats, there is likely to be greater engagement and participation with the local communities in order to facilitate improvements on privately owned land. This will present positive impacts for **Population and Human Health.** **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.									✓

Action 10

Action 10	?/+	X	+	+	X	X	+	+	+	
	Proposed Action: Investigate biodiversity improvements to Vacant and Derelict Land (VDL) and aim to improve/maintain at least 3 sites. **Assessment Commentary:** This action will seek to determine whether the VDL sites in East Dunbartonshire are suitable for biodiversity improvements, including whether any VDL sites will be suitable to support early successional habitats which would be well suited to urban environments where there is evidence of past disturbance to land. Whilst it has already been determined that further ecological									

	surveys of VDL will be needed as well as a commitment from land owners if land is not owned by the Council, there are minor positive impacts anticipated for **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets** due to the improvement of 3 VDL sites. Primarily, the benefits for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material** include the potential to create usable habitats that are managed naturally, where possible, in order to support a range of species within the urban environment. Doing so will help to increase the overall population and value of species in the area. There is also likely to be improvements in terms of connectivity with wider green networks in East Dunbartonshire. Any improvements to VDL will also benefit **Soil and Geology** as this action will actively seek to upgrade VDL which will also help to improve possible areas of contaminated land. Furthermore, biodiversity can play a role in preventing soil erosion and for stabilising soils. It will be important though to conduct surveys to determine whether VDL is contaminated or not, and if so to what level. This may determine whether or not biodiversity improvements to particular sites will be feasible. As some of the effects of climate change are often exacerbated in urban areas such a flood risks due to paved surfaces and urban heating, as well as poor air quality, biodiversity improvements will contribute towards reducing flood risks and the filtering of pollutants to improve air quality. This could result in secondary positive impacts for **Air Quality and Climatic Factors**. Whilst the overall level of effects would be dependent on engagement with land owners and other relevant bodies would need to be established to determine whether these improvements would be able to be put in place, biodiversity improvements to VDL would result in minor positive benefits for **Population and Human Health.** Biodiversity improvements to upgrade VDL may create usable areas of open space for local communities to take advantage of, contributing to reductions in health inequalities. There may also be opportunities to engage local communities to become involved in biodiversity projects.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: It is suggested that the wording be altered slightly from "Investigate biodiversity improvements…" to "Determine the feasibility of biodiversity improvements…" in order to refine the action. Furthermore, it would be more beneficial to focus on improving VDL across the wider urban settlements in East Dunbartonshire. The proposed action has the potential to result in improvements to VDL but the improvements might be limited to one urban area, for example; therefore changing the action to aim towards improvements of at least 1 site in all of the urban areas in the EDC area where it is determined to be feasible. "Determine the feasibility of biodiversity improvements to Vacant and Derelict Land (VDL) and aim improve at least 1 vacant site in each urban area, where appropriate".									
Action 10	**?/+**	X	**+**	**+/+ +**	X	X	**+**	**+**	**+/+ +**	

Revised ✓	**Proposed Action:** Determine the feasibility for biodiversity improvements to Vacant and Derelict Land (VDL) and improve at least 1 vacant site in each urban area. **Assessment Commentary:** The environmental impacts of this revised action will be comparable to those detailed in the above assessment. However, aiming to improve at least 1 VDL in each urban area in East Dunbartonshire is likely to increase the significance of the positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets** in terms of providing opportunities for urban biodiversity to flourish, and better habitat connectivity and a reduction in fragmentation between urban settlements; this will have better links with the intended outcomes of the emerging Green Network Strategy for East Dunbartonshire. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	✓

Action 11

Action 11 ✓	+	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Proposed Action: Conduct bat transect surveys in Kirkintilloch and Milngavie.								
	Assessment Commentary: At the moment, bat transect surveys are carried out in both Kirkintilloch and Milngavie by the local park rangers as part of the wider national survey requirements. Keeping up these effects through this action is likely to have minor positive impacts for **Population and Human Health** in terms of enabling better understanding and an increased knowledge of the types of bat species, population numbers and location of bat habitats within these two town centres. This knowledge will also be able to feed into national bat survey data collection and research. It is also anticipated that this action will help to ensure the protection of bats themselves and their habitats, which will have a minor positive impact for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna.** There may also be opportunities to improve bat provision where appropriate. However, it should be noted that the positive nature of the effects are likely to be limited to minor as the action only aims to conduct bat transect surveys in Kirkintilloch and Milngavie only, missing opportunities in the other town centres in East Dunbartonshire.								
	SEA Suggested Alteration: It is suggested that the wording of the action be altered to highlight that bat transect surveys are already carried out in both Kirkintilloch and Milngavie as part of national survey requirements. Furthermore, it would be beneficial to determine the feasibility of conducting additional bat transect surveys in other urban settlements in the area. "Continue to conduct bat transect surveys in Kirkintilloch and Milngavie, and review the feasibility to conduct bat surveys in other urban town centres in East Dunbartonshire".								

Action 11 Revised	+	X	+/+ +	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Proposed Action: Continue to conduct bat transect surveys in Kirkintilloch and Milngavie, and review the feasibility to conduct bat surveys in other urban centres in East Dunbartonshire.									
	Assessment Commentary: The anticipated environmental impacts for this revised Action are likely to be similar to those outlined above. However, there will be the potential to develop opportunities in the future for bat transects surveys to be carried out in other urban areas in East Dunbartonshire such as Bearsden and Bishopbriggs. This would greatly increase knowledge of bat species in the local area and contribute towards potential significant positive impacts on bat population and value.									✓
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Action 12										
Action 12 ✓	+	+	+/+ +	+	+	+	+	+	+	
	Proposed Action: Develop a framework to guide the implementation and monitoring of the statutory biodiversity duty across East Dunbartonshire Council.									
	Assessment Commentary: As the statutory biodiversity duty is aimed at connecting people and their environment, it is predicted that this action would present opportunities to have a positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna**, with the potential for significant positive effects depending on the level of engagement and resulting projects from cross-Council services, as well as positive impacts for **Population and Human Health.** This action is likely to result in better long-term management of biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire whilst contributing to the national statutory biodiversity duty. In addition, this framework will help to encourage more involvement within communities to engage with their local natural environment and benefit from improvements to their surroundings visually as a more attractive place with well-managed and flourishing nature to live, work and visit. There is also health and wellbeing benefits associated with biodiversity in terms of encouraging outdoor leisure activities. There may also be secondary minor positive impact for **Cultural Heritage, Soil and Geology, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets**. Well-managed biodiversity, in addition to the role has for health and wellbeing and community involvement, can help to stabilise soils, contribute to improvements to landscape and cultural heritage character, improvements to habitat connectivity locally and Council-wide, links to other networks in East Dunbartonshire such as core paths and the wider green network, as well as potential improvements to the ecological quality of water, ecosystem services, suppression and capture of pollutants and flood-risk management. The overall nature of the effects will be determined, however, on the specific local environment that will be the focus of work programmes within the Council.									✓

	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Action 13		
Action 13 ✓	+ | X | + | X | + | X | + | + | +	
	Proposed Action: Hold a series of biodiversity training workshops and talks for planners on protected species and incorporating biodiversity into development with reference to British Standard for Biodiversity.	
	Assessment Commentary: This action will engage planners at East Dunbartonshire Council, and influence developers to an extent, to integrate biodiversity management measures as part of developments within the area. It is likely that this will result in greater understanding of the importance of biodiversity-friendly measures within development proposals as well as more awareness of important and protected species within East Dunbartonshire, with minor positive impacts for **Population and Human Health.** It is also likely that this will lead to positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** as it is likely to promote the importance of biodiversity for the local environmental and raise the profile of incorporating biodiversity measures into developments in line with the practices set out in the British Standard for Biodiversity giving greater management and long-term protection of species and habitats. As developments in urban areas can contribute towards air pollution and the associated negative effects of climate change due to the physical building works as well as related increase in traffic levels, this action has the potential to encourage biodiversity to be integrated as part of development plans in order to have a positive impact on both **Air Quality and Climatic Factors** but helping to capture pollutants and offsetting flood risks; their role in expressing the benefits of green infrastructure will be able to encouraged. In terms of **Material Assets and Landscape,** having a better understanding and awareness of the role of biodiversity as part of developments will also result in a better appreciation of the role of biodiversity for enhancing and connecting each development to the wider networks within East Dunbartonshire as well as the potential to contribute towards enhancements of landscape character and settlement pattern/distinctiveness.	✓
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Action 14		
Action 14	+ | X | + | X | X | X | X | X | X	✓
	Proposed Action: Ensure environmental education is provided to all nursery, primary and secondary schools which request it.	
	Assessment Commentary:	

✓	Providing environmental education at interested nurseries, primary and secondary schools will have a minor positive impact on **Population and Human Health** as it will give pupils the opportunity to gain better awareness and an understanding of the natural environment, in particular the local environment in East Dunbartonshire, by demonstrating the benefits of a healthy environment for people to enjoy and potentially improve their health and wellbeing. This is likely to lead to secondary positive impacts on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** as the importance of its role for the environment and efficient ecosystem services. There is likely to be a better understanding of the local environment thus potentially greater appreciation and protection of local species and habitats. However, the impacts are likely to be limited as this is not a compulsory action, and there is no guarantee that nursery, primary and secondary schools will require this resource.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Action 15		

Action 15	**+ +**	X	**+/-**	**+/-**	**+**	**+/-**	**+**	**+**	**+**

✓	**Proposed Action:** Work with local communities and volunteer groups to deliver practical conservation tasks at Local Nature Reserves.
	Assessment Commentary: Working with local communities and volunteer groups to deliver practical conservation projects at Local Nature Reserves in East Dunbartonshire will engage people to become involved in local environmental conservation and, in turn, this will increase an awareness of local recreation opportunities and natural environment. This promotion of the natural environment can contribute towards reducing health and wellbeing inequalities as the benefits of a healthy environment for **Population and Human Health** are promoted, presenting significant positive impacts for this environmental factor. It is also anticipated that practical conservation at LNRs will have secondary minor positive impacts on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets**, with the following effects predicted: ➢ Effective management of the natural environment, which can include a range of different species and habitats, woodland and native planting, ➢ A contribution towards restoring/improving ecosystem services, ➢ Promotion of the importance of biodiversity for the natural environment and contribute towards the prevention of biodiversity loss, where possible, ➢ Protection and/or improvements to soil assets. This may include peatland depending on the site of the LNR,
	✓

	➢ Improved connectivity between open spaces and wider networks in East Dunbartonshire whilst improving LNRs as an area of usable, safe and accessible open space, ➢ Potential enhancement of water quality, particularly if the LNR is located near watersources such as canal or burn, ➢ Greater protection and sustainable use of natural resources, ➢ The impact of potential reductions in biodiversity loss can help to filtrate pollutants and contribute towards flood risk management. It should also be noted that whilst this action focuses on the conservation of LNRs such projects are likely to increase public access to the site. This has the potential negatively impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Water Quality** specifically as increased access to LNRs can disturb habitats, result in soil degradation and erosion and increase the risk of flooding as soil is impacted. However, there is the possibility that this action will result in multiple or long-term conservation projects which would reduce these negative impacts.	
	Proposed Mitigation: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Water Quality:** ○ Depending on the sensitivity of the site, it is important that measures are put in place in order to prevent, offset or reduce any negative impacts to these environmental factors due to potential increased access to the site as a local public amenity site. For example, it might be appropriate to divert people away from specific sites, such as with fencing or sign-posts. It may also be reasonable to implement appropriate pathways or educational signage highlighting key information about the natural heritage or geodiversity interests on the site. ○ Best practice guidance should be applied.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Action 16		

Action 16 ✓	+	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Proposed Action: Continue to run the Junior Nature Club at Mugdock Country Park and support local Friends Of groups across the area.								
	Assessment Commentary: The Junior Nature Club at Mugdock Country Park is aimed at improving an awareness and appreciation of the outdoors and the natural environment. Supporting its continuation through the LBAP, as well as supporting any local Friends Of groups in the area, will have a positive impact on **Population and Human Health and Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** as it will engage young people to become involved in their local environment which will contribute to increasing an awareness of biodiversity and the need for its protection. This has associated benefits for improving health and wellbeing as young people will be participating in								✓

	outdoor activities. Friends Of groups are also likely to have a positive influence for biodiversity due to potential related biodiversity projects.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Action 17		

Action 17										
✓	+	?	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	✓
	Proposed Action: Deliver the Mugdock Park environmental events programme.									
	Assessment Commentary: Delivering the environmental events programme for Mugdock Country Park is likely to result in positive impacts for **Population and Human Health and Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** as it will present opportunities to engage people in environment-related projects, including those related to biodiversity, which will help to increase an awareness of the local natural environment and allow better understanding for the protection of environmental assets. At this stage, the effects for the other environmental factors are uncertain as they are dependent on the specific events that take place. However, as they are focused at Mugdock Country Park specifically, any impacts are likely to be minimal. Nonetheless, consideration should be given to reducing any negative impacts to the Park.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									

Ecosystem 3: Freshwater

Alternative	SEA ENVIRONMETNAL FACTORS									SEA Preferred Option
	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	
Action 1										
Action 1	+	X	+ +	X	X	+ +	X	+ +	X	✓
✓	**Proposed Action:** Create 2 new ponds at Merkland Local Nature Reserve.									
	Assessment Commentary: There are existing ponds at Merkland Local Nature Reserve (LNR) capable of providing opportunities to enhance the quality and ecological status of these resources with benefits for species as a valuable habitat, natural flood management and as a natural asset to be enjoyed by local communities. However, it is anticipated that creating 2 new ponds at this LNR will provide additional benefits to the local environment, with positive impacts predicted for **Population and Human Health** and significant impacts									

	expected for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality and Climatic Factors**. In particular, this action will provide ponds to support the life of a range of different species, including both the Common Frog and Common Toad which are priority species that have been identified at Merkland LNR, by giving them the opportunity to enhance their population as a valuable resource and ecosystem. As this LNR is also a Local Nature Conservation Site for biodiversity this action will help to ensure that the value of this site as an LNCS is retained and enhanced, where possible. Furthermore, these additional ponds will be a valuable resource for providing natural flood management; the ponds can act as a silo for water storage or even be developed as SuDS. At a local level, this will help to reduce potential flood risks to the surrounding residential areas in Kirkintilloch and contribute to climate change adaptation. It is also likely that enhancements to the LNR for benefits for species and water management will improve the role of the LNR as a community asset to be enjoyed by local residents. This will have benefits for health and well-being.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Action 2		

Action 2 ✓	+	X	++	X	+	X	X	+	+	

	Proposed Action: Assess the status of existing pond resources with the view to improve existing habitat and create new ponds to improve connectivity.
	Assessment Commentary: This action is likely to present a range of different positive environmental effects. In particular, there is likely to be significant positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna**, as well as positive impacts to **Landscape and Material Assets** as this action will help develop opportunities to improve pond resources, where appropriate, in response to the assessment which will help to improve biodiversity value in terms of enhanced habitats. This will help to prevent further loss of pond species and habitats. The creation of new ponds will also help to increase the number of valuable habitats in the local area with benefits for species, especially native and protection species, and improved habitat connectivity across the landscape in East Dunbartonshire. There will also demonstrate a commitment from the Council to consider the sustainable use and protection of natural resources. Understanding the status of existing pond resources in East Dunbartonshire through a series of assessments will have secondary positive impacts for **Population and Human Health** by improving knowledge of pond resources in East Dunbartonshire from a scientific point of view in order to guide improvements. Furthermore, there is likely to be secondary positive impacts for **Climatic Factors**; improving existing pond resources for their habitat value as well as creating new ones can improve the role of ponds for water and flood-risk management by acting as a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS). This action will also support more efficient ecosystem services.
✓	**SEA Suggested Alteration:**

	None at this stage.									
	Proposed Mitigation Measres:									
Action 3										
Action 3	X	X	+/+ +	X	X	+/+ +	X	+	+	
	Proposed Action: Create 2 new ponds per year of different shape and size to previous within Mugdock Park pondscape.									
	Assessment Commentary: By creating 2 new ponds per year to add to the existing pondscape within Mugdock Country Park, there is the potential for positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna**, with possible significant impacts, as well as minor positive impacts for **Water Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets.** Ensuring that the new ponds are a different shape and size to the existing pondscape features will be beneficial for creating a unique habitat for a range of different species to be able to flourish which in turn can result in improved ecosystem services at a local level. Whilst this action gives scope to allow the ponds to remain as wetland features which is likely to contribute to enhancing the ecological status of water bodies in the local area and wider EDC area as well as help regulate wetlands for their role as a valuable habitat, there is also scope for the ponds to be taken over by biodiversity which will help to increase species population and improve the overall value, as well as contribute to creating a landscape of different habitats that are unique to this area. In general, it is anticipated that this action will add to the enhancement of East Dunbartonshire's biodiversity networks and ensure considerate and sustainable use of natural resources. There is also the potential that these ponds will also be an important feature within the landscape of Mugdock Park as they have the potential to act as an adaptive measure for the effects of climate change, namely flooding, and help to manage the onset effects of flood risks in the local area.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: At this stage, the proposed action can be refined to make readers more awareness of the purpose for creating new ponds within the existing pondscape in Mugdock Park. Therefore, it is suggested that the wording of the action change to: "Create 2 new ponds per year of different shapes and sizes to create a mosaic of niche habitats within the Mugdock Country Park pondscape".									
Action 3	X	X	+/+ +	X	X	+/+ +	X	+	+	

Revised ✓	**Proposed Action:** Create 2 new ponds per year of different shapes and sizes to create a mosaic of niche habitats within the Mugdock Country Park pondscape. **Assessment Commentary:** It is anticipated that the impacts of this revised action will be the same as the effects identified in the above assessment; however this slight alteration to the wording is more refined and focuses the action to ensure that a mosaic of niche habitats is the resulting outcome of works carried out. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	✓
Action 4		
Action 4 ✓	+ | X | + | X | X | X | X | X | X **Proposed Action:** Carry out Great Crested Newt surveys where new potential sites are identified. **Assessment Commentary:** As a priority species for East Dunbartonshire and a protected species under the Habitats Regulations, surveying the presence of Great Crested Newts (GCN) on additional sites to those that SNH and East Dunbartonshire Council are aware of is likely to have a minor positive impact on **Population and Human Health and Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna.** Specifically, this action will give the relevant bodies greater knowledge and understanding of the GCN population in East Dunbartonshire in order to facilitate their protection. This will directly impact the GCN population by preventing future loss of this species and complying with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations at a local level. The information provided from the outcome of the surveys can be used as a guide for developments in East Dunbartonshire **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	✓
Action 5		
Action 5	**Proposed Action:** Continue Lenzie Moss restoration (dam installation, birch removal and boardwalk upgrades). **Assessment Commentary:** This action is supported by funding from the Scottish Government in relation to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. Consequently it is considered to be an operational action that is governed by a higher-level Strategy requirement. As such, it has been determined that it is not necessary to assess it as part of the LBAP Environmental Report.	
Action 6		
Action 6	+ | X | + + | + | X | + | + | + | + **Proposed Action:** Create glade areas at High Moss through sensitive removal of trees. **Assessment Commentary:**	

✓	Primarily it is anticipated that sensitive removal of trees at the High Moss raised bog site in order to create a series of glade areas in the landscape is likely to have a significant positive impact for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** with minor positive impacts also predicted for **Population and Human Health, Water Quality, Soil and Geology, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets**. The removal of trees in a sensitive manner will help to create glade areas within High Moss that will act as areas of open space within the landscape of High Moss; whilst this can be created naturally it is intended that this action will involve voluntarily systematically clearing appropriate areas of trees on the site in order to create space for light which will benefits a host of species and habitats by giving them the resources and space to flourish. This may also contribute to better habitat connectivity throughout Bishopbriggs and the wider East Dunbartonshire area. In addition, the removal of trees is beneficial at bog sites as it will contribute towards improving drainage on the site, restoring the sites ability for carbon sequestration and enhancing the functionality of this peatland resource. This will not only contribute towards the mitigation and adaptation of the negative effects of climate change, including flood-risk management but it will also contribute towards the regulation of poor air quality and protect the value of the soil as a peatland asset. As High Moss is located south-east of the A803 in Bishopbriggs and north of a railway line there is the possibility of increased air quality from traffic-related emissions along this main route in East Dunbartonshire and from passing trains. There are also benefits to the local community as the site is often used for leisure such as walk and dog walking. By clearing areas to create open spaces and allowing biodiversity to flourish and the role of bogs for ecosystem services to improve will help to create a more attractive environment to be enjoyed with benefits to health and wellbeing by encouraging outdoor leisure. Furthermore, it is intended that volunteers will help to clear sites so this has the potential to increase an awareness of biodiversity and engage local communities to become involved in biodiversity conservation projects. It has been identified that there are TPOs designated on the site. As a protected designation, it is important that this action ensures that these assets are protected and not put under threat.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: The removal of trees shall not include the TPOs on the site.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: At this stage the action doesn't make it clear that the sensitive removal of trees at High Moss will be employed in a systematic process with the help of volunteers so it would be beneficial to change the wording to indicate this. Not only will this meet the Freshwater Objective 1 but it will also have wider social benefits for local communities. "Sensitive removal of trees at High Moss to create glade areas with the help of local volunteer groups".	

Action 6 Revised	+	X	+ +	+	X	+	+	+	+	✓
	Proposed Action: Sensitive removal of trees of High Moss to create glade areas with the help of local volunteer groups.									
	Assessment Commentary: Whilst it is anticipated that this revision of the action will result in the same environmental effects as those described in the above assessment, changes to the wording of the action make it clearer that it will be carried out with the help of volunteer groups in the local area.									
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: As above.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Action 7										
Action 7	**Proposed Action:** Continue to monitor previous raised bog restoration work at Low Moss and Lenzie Moss sites including the removal of tree seedlings, maintenance of damns and monitoring of water levels.									
	Assessment Commentary: The monitoring of this action will be carried out as best practice by East Dunbartonshire Council and so it is regarded as an operational action. The level of monitoring will also be dependent on funding received from external sources so it has been determined that it does not require an assessment as part of the LBAP Environmental Report.									
Action 8										
Action 8 ✓	+	X	+/+ +	X	X	X	X	X	+	✓
	Proposed Action: Conduct flora surveys of at least 3 raised bog sites for rare plant species (such as Bog-rosemary, Cranberry, Round-leaved Sundew and Blaeberry). Investigate the feasibility of a transplantation programme.									
	Assessment Commentary: This action is predicted to have a direct positive impact on **Material Assets and Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna**, with the potential for significant positive impacts for species depending on the outcome of the possible transplantation programme. In addition, there is likely to be positive impacts for **Population and Human Health**. Flora surveys on at least 3 of the raised bog sites in East Dunbartonshire will not only direct resources and identify potential opportunities for the transplantation of such rare species to progress forward, depending on the outcome of the surveys to highlight the population of these species, but this will also give the scientific community and the relevant officers at the Council greater knowledge and understanding of the rare species at these raised bog sites. The surveys and the potential transplantation programme will also contribute towards better sustainable use and management of resources in East Dunbartonshire.									

	It should be noted that there are currently 3 raised bog sites either owned by the council or ones we have existing permission to work on from the owners (Lenzie Moss, High Moss and Low Moss). At this stage, these sites represent the most feasible options for action to make a positive change to. These sites have also undergone restoration work or there is restoration work planned. However, the action leaves scope for the other 2 raised bog sites in East Dunbartonshire (Badenheath and Gartshore) to also undergo flora surveys and potential transplantation programmes.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Action 9		

Action 9 ✓	+	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Proposed Action: Erect and monitor at least one barn owl box at both Low Moss and High Moss.								
	Assessment Commentary: This action will have a direct positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** and in particular barn owls which are a rare species. The implementation of barn owl boxes at both Low and High Moss will help to manage barn owl population on these two specific sites as there is currently nowhere for barn owls to nest. This would also help to manage any potential negative impacts that may affect barn owl population such as urbanisation and habitat destruction. From an educational point of view as this action will monitor the boxes this will contribute towards improved knowledge of barn owls in the local area and help to monitor their population. This is a positive effect for **Population and Human Health**.								✓
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.								

Action 10									
Action 10 ✓	?/+	X	?/+	?/+	?/+	?/+	?/+	?/+	?/+
	Proposed Action: Undertake feasibility for restoration work at a further 2 raised bog sites.								
	Assessment Commentary: Undertaking feasibility assessments of 2 raised bog sites will being with Gartshore and Badenheath and will determine the viability for restoration works is likely to have an overall positive environmental impact in terms of the potential effects that the realisation of restoration works can have, although at this stage the effects will be uncertain until the feasibility of such works has been determined. The anticipated potential impacts associated with the restoration of raised bog sites can result in potential positive effects for **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets**, including:								✓

	➢ Potential opportunities to reverse damage felt by disturbance to raised bog sites such as soil erosion and peatland removal which has resulted in the release of carbon or the reduction in its capacity to store additional carbon and increases in pollutant run-off into watercourses. This can act as natural management for the negative effects of climate change and also help to contribute towards improvements in areas of poor air quality. ➢ Restoration to drainage on site to reverse the drying out of soils and improve water quality. This can also lead to more effective flood management. ➢ Improvements to water quality and the value of raised bogs to support a range of adapted species, such as Heather, and can support vegetation growth. This can also lead to an enhanced and improved habitat. ➢ The restoration of raised bog sites is likely to restrict access to the site to some extent. However, there is the potential that measures such as boardwalks and signage can be implemented to aid appropriate visitation and use of the site for local communities. This will enable the sites to be recognised as a valuable recreational open space with benefits to health and wellbeing and is likely to add to landscape value and improve how well both these sites connect with other open spaces and networks in East Dunbartonshire. ➢ In general, this action has the potential to improve each site's ability to offer efficient ecosystem services and benefits in terms of a healthier environment to be enjoyed by people and wildlife.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Action 11		

Action 11 ✓	+	X	+/+ +	+	X	+	X	+	X
	Proposed Action: Design and install signage to discourage inappropriate access to raised bog sites during the bird nesting season.								
	Assessment Commentary: Primarily, this action will have a minor positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna,** with the potential for significant positive impacts, as the introduction of signage will contribute towards reducing the impact of increased access and footfall to raised bog sites on bird species and nesting seasons, and will help to ensure that bird nesting is not impacted negatively as this will affect long-term management and protection of species and population growth. As raised bogs host peatland and carbon rich soils, there is potential that this action will help to restrict access to such sites presenting minor positive impacts for **Soil and Geology** by helping to protect East Dunbartonshire's peatland resources and managing soil assets. This may present secondary minor positive impacts for **Climatic Factors** as a reduction in access to raised bog sites will help to prevent the release of greenhouse gas emissions, contributing towards reducing the negative impacts of climate change at a local level.								✓

	In terms of **Population and Human Health**, it is considered that signage will increase awareness within the local community about the importance of raised bogs and of various bird species and their nesting seasons. This will help to contribute towards the promotion of a sustainable environment. This action will also help to reduce the impact of access to lowland raised bogs, reducing potential drainage issues and helping to maintain an appropriate ecological water quality to support species growth, presenting potential local level secondary minor positive impacts for **Water Quality**.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration:	
Action 12		
Action 12 ✓	+ | X | + | X | X | X | X | X | X	
	Proposed Action: Develop a map using existing data outlining the Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) present and their spread along major water courses throughout the area as the first step towards an eradication programme.	
	Assessment Commentary: This action will have a minor positive impact on **Population and Human Health** as it will inform the Biodiversity Officer and related Services of where INNS are located and where resources should be targeted into to progress with an eradication programme to remove INNS colonies along riverbanks and water courses in East Dunbartonshire. This will have secondary minor positive impacts on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** as it will lead to opportunities to improve diversity, reduce competition and restore the natural balance of native species.	✓
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Action 13		
Action 13 ✓	X | X | + | X | X | + | X | + | X	
	Proposed Action: Identify sites where biodiversity gains can be met through surface water drainage plans.	
	Assessment Commentary: The prospective environmental impacts of achieving this action are likely to be positive for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality and Climatic Factors**. In particular, surface water drainage plans will help to manage surface water flood risks by managing downstream flooding. However, as the level of flood risks vary across East Dunbartonshire bespoke drainage plans will need to be put into place to manage flooding appropriately. Furthermore, there is the potential that this action will help to reduce negative impacts in terms of the water quality of rivers and lochs in East Dunbartonshire, particularly by contributing to a reduction in pollution run-off, especially in urban areas where pollution is often experienced at a higher level, and improvements towards natural filtration of water. This will help to reduce the associated negative effects of climate change.	✓

	A reduction in flood-risks and improved water quality can also benefit species and habitats as the introduction of surface water drainage plans for biodiversity gains will help to create an attractive sustainable environment that can be enjoyed by wildlife and create habitats for a range of species. There is the potential that this action will result in the creation of ponds, wetlands and green roofs, for example, which will help to support wildlife and encourage biodiversity to flourish.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Action 14		

Action 14 ✓									
+	X	+/+ +	X	X	+	X	+	+	
Proposed Action: Ensure biodiversity is incorporated into the design of sustainable drainage systems for new developments.									
Assessment Commentary: Taking a proactive approach to incorporate biodiversity related improvements into the design of SuDS for new developments in East Dunbartonshire is likely to result in positive effects for **Population and Human Health** to some extent, as well as for **Water Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets**. It is also anticipated that there will be positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** with the potential for significant effects. The following outlines the predicted impacts of this action: ➢ For biodiversity, this action will help to create new habitats in terms of ponds, swales and green roofs, for example, and potentially contribute towards enhancing existing habitats. Whilst SuDS can help to enhance existing ecological value, habitats and biodiversity features found on a development site, they can also compensate for any loss of species and habitats as a result of the development. ➢ This action will also show a commitment to the sustainable use of natural resources for wider environmental benefit and will also integrate the importance of biodiversity in planning processes within the Council. ➢ SuDS can reduce the volume of water and flow of water on a site. This is particularly important on the site of a new development as urbanised areas can increase the volume of water and result in increasingly slow-moving water due to impermeable services. Therefore, SuDS will provide a more natural approach to run-off and flood risk management, helping to prevent future flooding and water pollution. In order to increase the benefits for biodiversity whilst focussing on the role of SuDS for biodiversity consideration should be given to the best possible design that improves its viability as a habitat for wildlife e.g. installing reed beds. Not only does this present benefits for water quality but this action will also contribute towards climate change mitigation. ➢ For local communities, the creation of SuDS at new developments, especially with a biodiversity focus, will contribute towards open space on site to be enjoyed by locals. Furthermore, it will improve the aesthetics of the site increasing its attraction to live here. There may also be opportunities for education in addition to its role as an amenity site giving people the chance to become more aware of their local environment.									

	Proposed Mitigation Measures: Detailed surveys and impact assessments should be carried out to determine whether the site supports species, habitats and other biodiversity value or where ecological enhancements can be made.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: It is suggested that the wording of the action be revised to reflect the need for biodiversity-sensitive design. This action also relates solely to new developments in the area; there is also potential to develop SuDS at appropriate existing housing developments. "Ensure biodiversity-sensitive design is incorporated into sustainable drainage systems for new developments and investigate the feasibility for retrofitting SuDS in existing housing developments".	
Action 14 Revised	+/+ + | X | +/+ + | X | X | +/+ + | X | +/+ + | +/+ +	
	Proposed Action: Ensure biodiversity-sensitive design is incorporated into sustainable drainage systems for new developments and investigate the feasibility for retrofitting SuDS in existing housing developments.	
	Assessment Commentary: The effects outlined above in the assessment for the original proposed Action 14 are also predicted for this revised action. However, there is the possibility that that positive nature will be more significant for **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets** particularly where any feasible options for retrofitting SuDS into existing housing developments in East Dunbartonshire. This would give rise to a greater number of opportunities for the management of biodiversity, water and resources as well as provide a greater number of benefits for local communities throughout the area, as described in the above assessment. It should be noted that the level of significance in terms of the positive impacts predicted will be dependent on the outcome of the feasibility investigation. Nonetheless the revision of this action to focus on sensitive design with a biodiversity focus to be incorporated into SuDS will improve the delivery of this action.	✓
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: As above.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Action 15		
Action 15	+ | X | + | X | X | X | X | X | X	
	Proposed Action: Conduct annual bat surveys on Allander Water as part of national surveys.	
	Assessment Commentary:	

✓	Annual bat surveys are currently carried out as part of the national survey effort in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust. It is for this reason that action commits the action programme for the LBAP to continue these surveys at the Allander Water. Primarily, this action will present positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Population and Human Health** as not only will this action add to existing bat knowledge along the Allander, specifically for the scientific community, but this will also have a secondary impact on managing bats and allowing opportunities to be developed for their management and protection. It should be noted, however, that this action limits the LBAP to focus on the Allander Water only.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: Given that this action is limited to the Allander Water, this action could be expanded to investigate future opportunities on other main waterbodies in East Dunbartonshire, in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust, such as Kilmardinny Loch and the Glazert for example. "Conduct annual bat surveys on Allander Water and investigate opportunities to utilise resources to carry out additional bat surveys on other waterbodies in East Dunbartonshire".	
Action 15 Revised	+/+ + | X | + | X | X | X | X | X | X	
	Proposed Action: Conduct annual bat surveys on Allander Water and investigate opportunities to utilise resources to carry out additional bat surveys on other waterbodies in East Dunbartonshire.	
	Assessment Commentary: It is anticipated that the effects described in the above assessment will be similar for this revised action. However, its revision to include the investigation of additional opportunities if resources are available to carry out bat surveys on other waterbodies has the potential to result in significant positive impacts for **Population and Human Health** in terms of increased knowledge of bat populations in the area. It is clear however that the impacts will be dependent on feasibility and the availability of resources to deliver this.	✓
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Action 16		
Action 16	**Proposed Action:** Continue to seek funds to deliver River Basin Management Planning improvements on the Glazert Water including re-meandering at Birdston.	
	Assessment Commentary: The re-meandering of the Glazert Water at Birdston is a project stemming from a pilot project from SEPA –'EcoCo LIFE' – which overall aims to ensure ecological coherence. The project is co-funded by SEPA and, as such, it has been determined by the SEA Officer and the Biodiversity and Greenspace Officer that this action will not be need to assessed as part of the Environmental Report for the LBAP.	

Action 17										
Action 17 ✓	?/+	X	?/+	X	X	?/+	?/+	?/+	?/+	
	Proposed Action: Investigate the feasibility of projects on the Allander Water to improve River Basin Management Planning (RBMP) status.									
	Assessment Commentary: At this stage, the full nature of the effects due to the impacts of this action on the environment are uncertain as the feasibility and types of projects and measures that may or will be implemented along the Allander Water to improve RBMP status are unknown at this stage. However, there are a number of positive impacts predicted for **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets** which will be detailed below. The significance of the effects will depend on the outcome of the feasibility investigation though. The Allander Water currently has an overall moderate RBMP status. In general, this action has the potential to have a direct influence on the water quality status and any projects that may be carried forward will contribute towards improvements. The current status of the Allander's water quality is good so this action will enhance already good quality waters. Enhancing the water quality status can have secondary impacts in terms of helping to regulate the quality of air and the climate, and for improving the health of aquatic wildlife and plants, including those that are priority species. Another benefit of improved RBMP status included improved morphology of the river, and there may also be scope to reduce any potential diffuse emissions or pollution from sources such as agriculture. Whilst there is currently a good status in relation to freedom from Invasive Non-Native Species (INSS), improving the RBMP through projects has the potential to reduce further spread of INNS. There is also likely to benefits in terms of improved water flows, improving the currently status from moderate to good. Whilst it has been determined that the current status for access for fish migration, there is potential for projects on the Allander to contribute towards maintaining this status. Furthermore, as the Allander Water is within the catchment area of the River Kelvin, any improvements to the status of this river will have a secondary impact on the River Kelvin and the Kelvin Valley, of which is a priority for the related Green Network Strategy. There may also be benefits in terms of improving the quality of wetlands and enhancing their role for climate change mitigation and as a valuable habitat should the Allander supply water to wetlands in the area. There may also be secondary impacts for the local community and economy as improving the RBMP for the Allander Water from moderate to good or high, where possible, can help to improve the value of the Allander for enjoyment by people as an important natural asset for East Dunbartonshire and there will be reduce costs involved in terms of any remediation measures that may be required where there was the need to alleviate poor quality.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration:									

<table>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="9">There are other waterbodies in East Dunbartonshire with a lower status of overall quality or similar status such as the Glazert Water/Finglen Burn, Kirk Burn and the River Kelvin with poor quality. Focusing actions through the LBAP on the waterbodies with lower water quality status can have a more beneficial positive impact on the environmental factors outlined in the above assessment with greater improvements for biodiversity specifically. In particular, the emerging Green Network Strategy which has strong links to the LBAP focuses on improving the green network in the Kelvin Valley. Therefore there is scope to alter the action entirely to consider improvements projects on the East Dunbartonshire stretch of the River Kelvin where there is potential to improve the RBMP status considerably.

“Investigate the feasibility of projects on the River Kelvin to improve RBMP status and investigate future opportunities to improve the water quality status of other waterbodies in East Dunbartonshire”.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Action 17 Revised</td><td>?/+</td><td>X</td><td>?/+</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>?/+</td><td>?/+</td><td>?/+</td><td>?/+</td><td rowspan="4">✓</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Proposed Action: Investigate the feasibility of projects on the River Kelvin to improve RBMP status.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Assessment Commentary:
This revised action is anticipated to have similar environmental impacts to those detailed in the above assessment. However, given that the overall RBMP status of the River Kelvin is poorer than that of the Allander Water which means that this action is likely to have greater potential for positive impacts for Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets in particular. Improving the River Kelvin’s RBMP status will also have secondary positive impacts for the whole River Kelvin Valley area and the enhancements experienced in the East Dunbartonshire stretch of the River will have a positive effect elsewhere.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">SEA Suggested Alteration:
None at this stage.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="11">Action 18</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Action 18
✓</td><td>+</td><td>X</td><td>+/+ +</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td rowspan="3">✓</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Proposed Action: Increase the populations of the pond mud snail Omphiscola glabr by:
1. Seeking funding,
2. Creating new habitat,
3. Releasing captivity bred individuals from Kinkell Farm,
4. Monitoring released populations, and
5. Involving local communities and schools.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Assessment Commentary:
Although it is clear that the deliverability of this action is dependent on the availability of funding, this action has the potential to lead to positive environmental impacts for Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna with a focus on pond mud snail (Omphisocola glabr)</td></tr>
</table>

	populations specifically, and depending on the level of funding received there is the potential that the effects may be significant. It is likely that the creation of new habitats for mud snails as well as the release of captivity bred snails that have been identified at Kinkell Farm will ensure greater protection of this priority species for East Dunbartonshire and give them the opportunity to increase their population as well as allowing them to become healthier. It is also likely that the monitoring of these species after they are released will contribute to ensuring long-term protection and population control of mud snails. This action also has the potential to encourage local communities, volunteers and schools to become involved in related projects that will help to increase the mud snail population, such as helping to create new habitats, which will have a positive impact on **Population and Human Health**. Not only will this be beneficial for preserving mud snails but will also give individuals and schools the opportunity to increase their knowledge of mud snails and the natural environment in general whilst also encouraging people to become better connected to their local environment. There is likely to be positive impacts to health and wellbeing, also, as a result.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Action 19		
Action 19	**Proposed Action:** Seek to ensure sources of diffuse pollution are dealt with through the Water Framework Directive.	
	Assessment Commentary: This action has been carried over from the previous East Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan. As it is governed by the requirements set out by the Water Framework Directive it has been determined that this action is procedural to ensure that East Dunbartonshire complies with the Directive.	
Action 20		
Action 20 ✓	X | + | + + | X | X | + | X | X | +	
	Proposed Action: Seek to ensure that the protection of habitats and species of value in the canal corridor is considered as part of all development on the waterway.	
	Assessment Commentary: Ensuring that habitats and species that are found within the Forth and Clyde Canal Corridor are protected in the whole process when new developments, such as housing developments, moorings etc. are proposed by this waterway will, in general, have a positive environmental impact. In particular, there is likely to be a direct significant positive impact for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** and positive impacts for **Material Assets** as it seeks to ensure that the rise of various different developments within the canal corridor does not have a negative impact on valued habitats and species that are native to the corridor but also migratory species that use the corridor	✓

	to travel throughout East Dunbartonshire and into neighbouring local authorities. This may help to preserve species population, maintain the role of biodiversity for ecosystem services and contribute to the management and improvements to habitat connectivity. Overall, this will be an important action as there are a number of important biodiversity assets in the canal corridor such as Local Nature Conservation Sites for geodiversity and biodiversity including Barhill LNCS, Twechar Marshes LNCS and Broomhill Ox-Bow Lake and Marshes LNCS, as well as various Gardens and Designed Landscapes and TPOs along the canal or in the corridor. This action is also likely to have a positive impact on **Water Quality** as it is likely that the protection of habitats and species value can help to maintain or enhance, where possible, the quality of the water on the Forth and Clyde Canal and for nearby waterbodies such as wetlands. This will have secondary impacts for biodiversity, particularly aquatic species, as good ecological water status will benefit biodiversity by helping them to flourish. Whilst it has been determined that the impacts to **Cultural Heritage** are likely to be minor, protecting the habitats and species found within the Forth and Clyde Canal corridor will contribute towards improvements to the setting of this Scheduled Monument, as well as the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site which runs near to the canal, and add to the visual amenity as an important cultural asset for East Dunbartonshire. There is also the potential that protecting biodiversity will improve the setting of the developments in the canal corridor in order to not detract from the value of the canal itself. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	

Action 21										
Action 21 ✓	✗	✗	?/+	✗	✗	?/+	✗	✗	?/+	✓
	Proposed Action: Identify opportunities for habitat enhancement in the existing canal corridor.									
	Assessment Commentary: Although the publication of canal network-wide biodiversity plan will be the responsibility of Scottish Canals, the outcome of this plan has the potential to present positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality and Material Assets,** although at this stage there is a level of uncertainty as to the opportunities for enhancing wildlife habitats and protected species in the existing canal corridor that will be determined. Identifying opportunities for habitat enhancements along the Forth and Clyde Canal corridor will guide potential future projects that will be beneficial for species by encouraging more attractive and functional habitats along the corridor as well as aiding better migratory routes and habitat connectivity. This will include terrestrial and aquatic species and ensure greater protection of natural resources along the Canal corridor and for the rest of East Dunbartonshire. Furthermore, habitat enhancement has the potential to contribute towards enhancing the ecologic status									

	of the Canal as the role of biodiversity for water quality maintenance will be utilised. This may also include positive impacts to wetland areas as a valuable habitat.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Action 22		

Action 22 ✓	X	X	+/+ +	X	X	+/+ +	X	+/+ +	+/+ +	

Proposed Action: Improve biodiversity features for fish and invertebrate species at the Allander Water and River Kelvin confluence including planting of native bankside vegetation.

Assessment Commentary:

Improving biodiversity features, such as habitats for fish, bankside planting for shade and appropriate vegetation for invertebrates to make use of the Allander Water and River Kelvin, at the Allander and Kelvin confluence has been evaluated and it is predicted that this action will present positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets,** with the potential for significant positive impacts to each of these factors. The effects are as follows:

- The SEPA Flood Risk Management Map has identified that where the two waterbodies meet there is evidence of medium probability for flooding especially to the North and East of the site. Enhancing biodiversity features here can help to alleviate flood risks naturally, thus contributing towards improvements to both water quality and mitigation of the negative effects of climate change.
- Improving biodiversity in this area is likely to enhance existing biodiversity features as well as encourage species to the area due to potentially new habitats. There is also likely to be positive impacts to the LNCS for Biodiversity designated to the North of River Kelvin and East of the Allander where the two waterbodies meet due to general biodiversity improvements and protection of this environmental designation.
- Such improvements also have the potential to benefit both terrestrial and aquatic species, including fish, by contributing to the creation of a better environment for breeding , feeding and migration. Invertebrates can also be encouraged to populate this area.
- It is intended that improvements will encourage native planting; this will help to provide the appropriate levels of shading which will be beneficial for species.
- The action, overall, is likely to impact on the wider Kelvin Valley in a positive way, helping to improve conditions throughout the entire corridor as well as impacts in different locations along the Allander.

It should be noted that the significant nature of the effects will depend on the type of improvement measures that will be carried out.

✓

	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Action 23		

Action 23 ✓	X	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	+	✓
	Proposed Action: Monitor for presence of the Invasive Non-Native Species and Signal Crayfish, within watercourses.									
	Assessment Commentary: This action aims to monitor the presence of both Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) and Signal Crayfish in all main watercourses in East Dunbartonshire, including the River Kelvin, Allander Water and Forth and Clyde Canal. Doing so is likely to contribute towards the management of INNS and Signal Crayfish and will help to restrict population growth as well as prevent these species out-competing other native species. This will ensure that natural resources are protected as much as possible, with a focus on native species. Consequently, it is anticipated that this aim will impact positively on Biodiversity, **Flora and Fauna, and Material Assets.**									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									

Ecosystem 4: Woodland

Alternative	SEA ENVIRONMETNAL FACTORS									SEA Preferred Option
	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	
Action 1										

Action 1 ✓	+ +	X	+ +	X	+	X	+	+	+	✓
	Proposed Action: Bring 6 woodlands into active management by: 1. Developing management plans, 2. Implementing initial enhancement works, 3. Improving access, 4. Working with local communities.									
	Assessment Commentary: This action refers to the current Woods In and Around Towns (WIAT) initiative projects in East Dunbartonshire which are Southfield, Redhills, Luggie Park, Cairnhill, Tintock and Boghead. The individual actions proposed to meet this action as part of									

	the LBAP is anticipated to have significant positive impacts for **Population and Human Health and Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** as well as minor positive impacts for **Landscape, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets.** Bringing these woodlands into active management including management plans and enhancement works will contribute towards preventing the loss of biodiversity at each of these woodlands sites and further enhance and protect natural designations. This will encourage species to flourish and populations to be maintained or improved, and will contribute towards collective enhancement of habitats in the local areas including decreased habitat fragmentation. This can lead to secondary positive impacts in relation to the role that woodlands play in regulating air and pollutants, intercepting rainfall, natural flood risk management, improved ecosystem services, enhanced landscape setting and visual appeal, carbon capture and consideration for sustainable management of natural resources. Aiming to improve access to woodland sites and engaging with local communities on these WIAT projects will not only give local communities a better opportunity to be able to utilise these woodlands as a recreational asset which will contribute towards health and wellbeing improvements but this will also present the change for local communities and volunteers to become involved in related biodiversity projects, increasing an awareness of biodiversity and the local natural environment. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	
Action 2		

Action 2 ✓	**?/+/+ +**	**?**	**?/+**	**?**	**?**	**?**	**?**	**?**	**?/+**	✓
	Proposed Action: Investigate the delivery of forest schools at Mugdock Country Park.									
	Assessment Commentary: At this stage the nature of the environmental effects of this action are uncertain as it is reliant on the outcome of the investigation to determine whether this is a feasible opportunity. However, there is the potential for positive impacts to **Population and Human Health** as the forest schools education initiative can help to encourage a better understanding and awareness of biodiversity, particularly in relation to Mugdock Country Park, and supplement any other environmental education schemes in East Dunbartonshire. Increased awareness can lead to positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets** in terms of greater consideration of natural resources and protection of habitats and species.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Action 3										
Action 3	**+/+ +**	**+/-**	**+ +/-**	**-**	**+**	X	**+**	**+**	**+ +**	✓
	Proposed Action: Create new 100ha community woodland including access at Balcorrach Wood (formerly Hole Farm).									

✓	**Assessment Commentary:** It is anticipated that the creation of new community woodland of this size at Balcorrach Wood will have significant positive effects for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets** as well as minor positive impacts for **Population and Human Health, Landscape, Air Quality and Climatic Factors.** The following details the predicted effects: ➢ Creation of a valuable habitat within Lennoxtown and will help to further enhance the valued natural designations found locally such as Glazert Wood LNCS. This woodland would also link to other natural sites such as Lennox Forest. ➢ Enhancements to the area as an important habitat link within this green belt landscape whilst having a positive impact on the setting of this Local Landscape Area within the Campsies. ➢ Woodlands have a role in improving ecosystem services including air quality management in terms of pollutant suppression and carbon capture. ➢ As an extensive woodland opportunity, there is also the possibility that this creation will play a role in water management with a specific role in water storage. As the SEPA Flood Risk Map has highlighted there is a medium probability of flooding from the Glazert Water in the local vicinity; the woodland can help to alleviate flooding and act as a natural flood risk management measure. It would also be able to intercept rainfall, acting as a surface-water flood risk management measure. ➢ The woodland would be a valuable community asset to be enjoyed by local communities from within East Dunbartonshire but there is also the chance that people from outwith the Council boundary will use this woodland for leisure and sport, including potential off road cycle tracks. As the action aims to also include access at Balcorrach Wood which would improve recreational opportunities in the area and encourage better participation in outdoor activities. This can contribute towards a reduction in social and environmental deprivation at a local level and help to reduce health and wellbeing-related illnesses. ➢ Secondary impacts leading to greater appreciation of the natural environment and consideration of woodland as an important natural asset and resource. This is likely to ensure the sustainable use of the site. ➢ Encouragement of visitors to the area, not only as a Local Landscape Area and for recreational use within the woodland but also attracting people to cultural heritage sites such as the various Gardens and Designed Landscapes nearby. Whilst there are a number of positive impacts associated with this action, there may also be negative impacts to **Cultural Heritage, Soil and Geology and Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna.** Increased access to the site, whilst encouraged, can impact negatively on habitats and important cultural sites as increased footfall and use of the woodland, for example for off-road cycling, can contribute towards disturbing species, deterioration/erosion of soil and a reduction in the value of heritage assets.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Cultural Heritage:**	

	○ As a site with a number of important and potentially sensitive environmental and natural assets, it is important that measures are put in place in order to prevent, offset or reduce any negative impacts to these environmental factors due to potential increased access to the woodland as a local public amenity site. For example, it might be appropriate to divert people away from specific sites, such as with fencing or sign-posts. It may also be reasonable to implement appropriate pathways or educational signage highlighting key information about the natural heritage or biodiversity interests on the site. ○ Best practice guidance should be applied. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	
Action 4		

Action 4 ✓	✗	✗	+ +	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	+	✓
	Proposed Action: Control *Rhodedendron ponticum* and remove regenerating sycamore and beech at Mugdock Wood SSSI.									
	Assessment Commentary: As an Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) *Rhodedendron ponticum* (Rhodedendron) can often have a negative impact on other biodiversity within the area including reducing the number of earthworms and regenerative capacity of species. It can also limit the growth of ground cover plants and alter the natural regeneration and growing process of trees by out-competing native species for food, light, space and shade. Consequently, controlling the growth and presence of Rhodedendron at Mugdock Wood SSSI will help to ensure that native species are given the opportunity to grow and regenerate effectively and help to protect the site as an important local and cross-boundary woodland asset. Similarly, regenerating sycamore and beech can self-seed liberally with the potential to out-compete other native tree and plant species. Removing them will help to ensure that native and younger tree species can grow properly without competition. Overall both the control of Rhodedendron and removal of sycamore and beech at Mugdock Wood SSSI will have a significant positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** including improved ecosystem services and positive impacts for **Material Assets** as it will result in sustainable use and management of natural resources in East Dunbartonshire.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Action 5										

Action 5	✗	✗	+ +	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	+ +	✓
	Proposed Action: Develop a local woodland and forestry strategy to guide woodland expansion and protect existing sites.									
	Assessment Commentary:									

✓	This action is likely to present significant positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Asset.** Notably, preparing this guide will ensure that woodland expansion is pro-biodiversity and is likely to have a positive impact on habitats and species. There will be greater protection of woodland assets in East Dunbartonshire as a natural resource and the guide will also help to ensure that biodiversity and woodland considerations are integrated into decision making processes. Overall, this guide will have significant positive long-term area wide effects.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	

Action 6

Action 6 Alternative 1	X	X	+ +	X	X	X	X	X	+	
	Proposed Action: Ensure woodland creation proposals are on appropriate sites and result in a net gain for biodiversity.									
	Assessment Commentary: Primarily, the effects of this action are likely to be significantly positive for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** and minor positive for **Material Assets** in terms of ensuring that the sustainable use and protection of natural resources is delivered throughout East Dunbartonshire. The action will ensure that appropriate siting for new woodlands can enhance the existing biodiversity populations in the local area and is also likely to present a proactive means for reducing habitat fragmentation and improving connectivity throughout. It will also encourage proposals to be sited in locations that will not remove, deplete or deteriorate existing assets.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: In line with the above woodland action, it is suggested that this action be altered to take into account the guidelines developed for the local woodland and forestry strategy, as proposed in the LBAP. "Ensure woodland creation proposals are on appropriate sites and result in a net gain for biodiversity in line with the local woodland and forestry strategy".									
Action 6 Alternative 1 Revised	X	X	+ +	X	X	X	X	X	+ +	
	Proposed Action: Ensure woodland creation proposals are on appropriate sites and result in a net gain for biodiversity in line with the local woodland and forestry strategy.									
	Assessment Commentary: The changes to this action will ensure that any proposals for woodland creation are not only on appropriate sites and designed to maximise benefits for biodiversity, but it will also guide the consideration of woodland proposals to be integrated into decision-making processes for positive long-term area wide effects.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Action 6 Alternative 2

✓</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>+ +</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>+ +</td><td>+ +</td><td rowspan="4">✓</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Proposed Action: Work with Forestry Commission Scotland to support new woodland creation on appropriate sites, to help reach Scottish Government climate change targets and ecosystem restoration goals within the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Assessment Commentary:
It is anticipated that this action will present similar significant positive impacts to Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets as detailed in the assessment for Action 6 Alternative 1. However, working alongside Forestry Commission Scotland to not only create new woodland sites in East Dunbartonshire but to meet climate change targets and ecosystem restoration goals, as set by the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, will have a significant impact on Climatic Factors as a direct contribution to local and national climate change and biodiversity targets.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">SEA Suggested Alteration:
None at this stage.</td></tr>
</table>

Appendix G: SEA objectives and criteria questions for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Environmental Factor and SEA Objective	SEA Criteria – Will the proposal…
Population and Human Health To improve human health and community wellbeing	Demonstrate the benefits of a healthy environment on the health and wellbeing of communities?
	Promote an environment that is both sustainable and safe?
	Contribute to reducing social, economic and environmental deprivation in East Dunbartonshire?
	Reduce health-related illnesses?
	Encourage active travel and outdoor leisure?
	Encourage local communities/volunteers to become involved in biodiversity projects?
	Increase awareness of biodiversity?
	Support related industries?
Cultural Heritage To protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment	Encourage visitors to cultural heritage assets in East Dunbartonshire?
	Enhance natural heritage sites such as Gardens and Designed Landscapes?
	Encourage improvements to the setting and value of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site?
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna To protect, enhance, create and, where necessary, restore biodiversity and encourage habitat connectivity	Promote the importance of biodiversity for the local environment in East Dunbartonshire?
	Seek to reduce the negative impact on valued biodiversity including non-protected and protected species?
	Prevent the loss of biodiversity, flora and fauna?
	Contribute to improved ecosystems?
	Encourage habitat connectivity by decreasing the number of fragmented habitat networks?
	Encourage native planting, including hedgerows?
	Seek to contribute to the management of woodland in East Dunbartonshire?
	Address the impacts on grassland (and other habitats/protected species) as a result of woodland planting?
Soil and Geology To protect and, where appropriate, use high quality and sensitive soils in a sustainable manner and conserve recognised geodiversity assets	Protect and improve areas of peatland?
	Seek to prevent and improve soil degradation?
	Protect habitats and species that have Protected Species status, including Invasive Non-Native Species?
	Result in improvements to areas of contaminated land?
	Protect and enhance sites of geodiversity importance?

Landscape To protect and, where appropriate, restore landscape character, local distinctiveness and scenic value	Utilise biodiversity for positive benefits to landscape setting and visual amenity?
	Contribute to and enhance local distinctiveness in East Dunbartonshire?
	Protect and enhance landscape designation (e.g. the Campsie Fells, green belt)?
	Seek to improve habitat connectivity?
Water Quality To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance the ecological status of water bodies	Promote the importance of biodiversity for the quality of water?
	Seek to contribute to enhancing the ecological status of water bodies in East Dunbartonshire?
Air Quality To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance air quality	Promote the role of biodiversity for the suppression of emissions in the air?
	Seek to manage air quality for benefits to ecosystem services?
	Seek to improve woodland assets in East Dunbartonshire for carbon capture?
	Contribute to the management and improvements of ecosystem services?
Climatic Factors To contribute towards the reduction of Scottish greenhouse gas outputs in line with Government targets in order to reduce or prevent the overall effects of climate change including those related to flood risks	Promote a change in culture and behaviour to ensure that the local community are aware of the effects of climate change?
	Promote biodiversity as a means to mitigate potential risks to flooding?
	Include adaptation measures in light of a changing climate and local environment?
	Seek to protect, create or enhance natural resources such as trees?
Material Assets To promote the sustainable use of community assets and natural resources in East Dunbartonshire	Encourage and improve the safe use of Core Path Networks, Rights of Way and heritage paths?
	Consider the sustainable use and protection of natural resources?
	Promote the role of biodiversity in the enhancement of East Dunbartonshire's networks?
	Integrate biodiversity into planning decision making processes?