

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Determination for the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Climate Change Action Plan

This statement sets out Scottish Natural Heritage's determination under Section 8(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 on whether or not a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required for the above Action Plan.

The SEA Screening process

SNH has consulted the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and Historic Scotland as to whether they regard a SNH Climate Change Action Plan as being likely to have significant environmental effects. With reference to their specific areas of interest, SEPA considered that there are likely to be significant strategic environmental effects, whilst Historic Scotland considered that it may have significant effects on the historic environment, including possible negative effects from particular actions such as woodland expansion. As the Responsible Authority, it is SNH's duty to determine, using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 of the Act, whether or not the policy is likely to have significant environmental effects.

The Determination

SNH has determined that its proposed Climate Change Action Plan is likely to have the potential to result in significant environmental effects, particularly positive environmental effects in guiding the activities of SNH and the allocation of resources in delivering the strategic priority in its new Corporate Strategy of 'Understanding the effects of climate change and helping to deliver the contribution that the natural heritage can make in limiting it and adapting to it'.

Following consultation on the scope and level of detail of the required environmental assessment, an Environmental Report will be prepared which will identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment arising from the Action Plan or its reasonable alternatives.

This determination has been sent to the Consultation Authorities, and notice of it has been made public by advertisement in the Scotsman newspaper. It is available for public inspection on SNH's website (www.snh.org.uk) at <http://www.snh.org.uk/strategy/pd00.asp> and at Battleby, Redgorton, Perth PH1 3EW.

SNH
May 2008