STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

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Non-Technical Summary

Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Green Network Strategy

As part of the preparation of the Green Network Strategy (GNS), 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 Strategy. It aims to:

- Integrate environmental factors into the Strategy preparation and decision-making
- Improve the Strategy 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 Green Network Strategy (GNS) 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 documents the environmental assessment of the GNS. The assessments of the relevant components (e.g. ambition, aims, objectives and actions) were carried out in parallel to the development of the Strategy. 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.

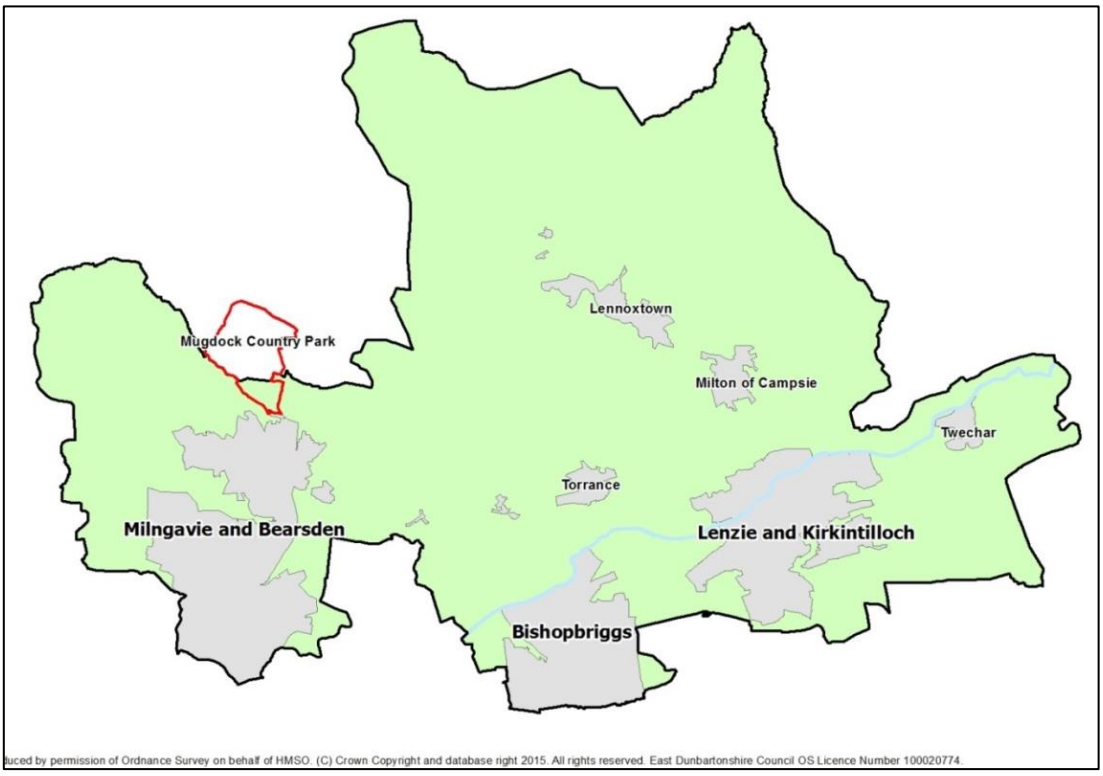
Post-Adoption Statement: The Post-Adoption Statement will demonstrate how the findings of the SEA have been taken into account in the adopted Strategy. In accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Post-Adoption Statement will highlight:

- How the environmental considerations have been incorporated into the GNS;
- 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 GNS as adopted in light of other reasonable alternatives; and,
- The measures to be taken to monitor the significant effects of the implementation of the Strategy.

The purpose of SEA is to inform the development process of the GNS. The assessment identified, described and evaluated the likely significant negative and positive environmental effects of the GNS, 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 GNS. It also 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 Green Network Strategy

Responsible Authority:	East Dunbartonshire Council
Title of PPS:	Green Network Strategy
What prompted the GNS?	Ensuring support for and contribution to Central Scotland Green Network National Development (National Planning Framework 3), Central Scotland Green Network Vision and Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan (Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network.
Subject:	Green networks – biodiversity and access.
Period covered:	2016 - 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).



Purpose of the GNS:	The purpose of the Green Network Strategy for East Dunbartonshire is to define and, as far as possible, map the existing green network in East Dunbartonshire and to propose improvements necessary to enhance the network over the next five years to 2021 and beyond. It is hoped the Strategy provides a platform for which aspirations and priorities for improving the quality and the connectivity of the green network can be taken forward both on a strategic East Dunbartonshire-wide level and on an individual settlement scale.
Strategy Aims and Objectives:	**Aims:** • To contribute to the delivery of the vision and outcomes of the Central Scotland Green Network and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership. • To identify, protect, enhance and expand the existing green network to realise a range of benefits including improved habitat connectivity,

enhanced biodiversity value, improved access to the outdoors and provision for walking and cycling, enhanced health and wellbeing, and adaptation to the effects of climate change.

- A functioning, productive and well-connected green network is seen as vital to society and the environment, and measures to achieve this are incorporated into Council policies and strategic. The value of the green network is considered in all decision-making.

Objectives:

Safeguarding Biodiversity

- Improve the quality and quantity of habitat connections and prevent further fragmentation
- Support the delivery of the East Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan and take into account the priorities and actions within neighbouring Local Biodiversity Action Plans, where appropriate
- Promote sustainable land and natural resource management practices that support and enhance biodiversity
- Promote an understanding of the importance of biodiversity for ecosystem services and to society's health and wellbeing through improved communication and education, and champion it to be accounted for at all levels of Council decision-making processes

Mitigating and Adapting to a Changing Climate

- Protect, enhance, create and, where necessary, restore our natural environment to store carbon
- Support measures within the East Dunbartonshire Active Travel Strategy and emerging Sustainability and Climate Change Framework, and devise new measures, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Ensure new developments enhance the existing green network and promote the introduction of green infrastructure
- Realise opportunities for natural flood management to adapt to the effects of climate change

Supporting Sustainable Communities

- Improve safe access to high quality open space and the wider countryside by delivering a more connected network of maintained routes and infrastructure
- Support development of Long Distance Routes and access to them to help connect East Dunbartonshire to the wider Glasgow and Clyde Valley and Central Scotland Green Network area and to provide connections between communities
- Support mental and physical health agendas and reduce health inequalities by encouraging outdoor exercise and developing positive associations with nature
- Build community capacity and an appreciation of the green network by supporting opportunities for participation through volunteering, environmental education, training and skills development

Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth

- Provide attractive surroundings for business, including exploring the potential for green infrastructure and biodiversity-friendly management of open spaces, for businesses in order to stimulate economic growth, inward investment and jobs
- Promote an image of East Dunbartonshire as a place with excellent

green assets that together represent a unique destination for tourism and recreational day trips
- Support the development of local businesses and social enterprise to diversify the economy in line with the forthcoming Economic Development Strategy

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Context of the Green Network Strategy

In order to guide both the development of the Strategy 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, access and open spaces including:

- 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)
- Planning Advice Notes(PAN) 65: Planning and Open Space
- 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 Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- East Dunbartonshire Council Active Travel Strategy 2015 – 2020

Section 1.2 of the main report contains a more comprehensive list of relevant actions that will directly influence or be influenced by the Green Network Strategy. **Appendix A** also contains a detailed overview of the relevant environmental objectives of these legislative documents as well as others that are relevant to green networks.

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 Green Network Strategy. The likely nature of the environment without a Strategy to address local green network improvements 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 Strategy so it is essential that their management and protection is maintained throughout the life of the Strategy.

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 Strategy'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 Strategy components, all of which have been integrated as the Strategy preferred option into the main Strategy document. In addition, the local and strategic opportunities were assessed. A summary of the findings are detailed below:

SEA Factors	Environmental Impacts of the Strategy
Population and Human Health	The overall effects of the Green Network Strategy (GNS) were considered to be primarily major positive due to a number of factors: • Opportunities to upgrade existing core paths networks in order to

	link primary assets to the wider green network; • Enhanced accessibility and usability to the Campsie Fells, John Muir Way and Glazert Valley for recreation and improved connectivity between settlements, particularly in Milton of Campsie and Lennoxtown; • Opportunities to improve connectivity to and from East Dunbartonshire with neighbouring local authorities such as Glasgow, West Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and Stirling, particularly with a focus on green network enhancements to cross-boundary assets such as the River Kelvin Corridor, Campsie Fells and Forth and Clyde Canal; and, • Possibilities for environmental education, economic growth and volunteering for local communities.
Cultural Heritage	The overall effects of the GNS were considered to be not significant. Although many of the local and strategic opportunities are located within a close proximity to cultural heritage assets such as the Antonine Wall UNESCO World Heritage Site and Forth and Clyde Canal Scheduled Monument, the majority of individual assets highlighted there would be no or minimal impact on these sites as result of actions in the Strategy.
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 Strategy was seen to have a direct impact through opportunities to achieve biodiversity gain. The positive nature of the effects is due to a number of factors: • Consideration of how the Strategy can incorporate green infrastructure measures to enhance species population; • Improvements to woodland, wetland and grassland habitats to improve their role for ecosystem services and overall functionality for species; • Greater enhancements of core paths and wider network routes throughout the East Dunbartonshire urban and rural environment; • Opportunities for natural resource management and protection; and, • Opportunities to protect, enhance and manage valued local environmental designations such as Local Nature Reserves, Local Nature Conservation Sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.
Soil and Geology	The overall impacts for this environmental factor were considered to be minor negative with the potential for significant negative effects without appropriate mitigation or sensitive design and intervention measures. The negative nature of the effects were primarily due to the impacts of path upgrades and increased access, thus footfall, to the green network which has the potential to effect valued soil assets such as LNCS for geodiversity and carbon rich soils, as well as exacerbate the risk of soil erosion.
Landscape	The overall effects of the SCCF are considered to be minor positive in nature due to the protection of landscape character of the districts settlements and surrounding areas as well as improved habitat links for people and wildlife including cross-boundary links.

Water Quality	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, particularly in relation to the River Kelvin, Glazert Water, Allander Water and Forth and Clyde Canal.
Air Quality	The overall effects of the GNS were considered to be minor positive in nature due to the following factors: • Alignment with the aims and actions of East Dunbartonshire Council's Active Travel Strategy, in particular increased walking and cycling provision, and access to the wider environment; and, • 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.
Climatic Factors	The overall effects of the GNS on this environmental factor were deemed to be significantly positive due to: • Opportunities to promote the role of biodiversity and subsequent enhancements to the green network for natural flood management; • Greater possibilities for water storage and surface water run-off prevention; and, • Local contributions to national climate change and carbon emissions reductions targets.

Sections 3.5 and 3.6 , and Appendices C, D, E and F provide full details of the assessments for the Strategy's direction, ambition, aims, objectives, local opportunities and strategic opportunities, respectively.

Mitigation and Monitoring

Mitigation measures have been proposed through the environmental assessments and incorporated into the Strategy 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 C, D, E and F.**

The mitigation measures will form part of the Post-Adoption Statement for the Green Network Strategy, prepared as soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of the Strategy, 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 Strategy on the local environment.

Section 1: Policy Context

1.1. Key Facts

1.1.1. The purpose of the Green Network Strategy (GNS) is to define the existing strategic green network in East Dunbartonshire using GIS mapping analysis to identify opportunities for the enhancement of the existing green network in both urban and rural locations. The opportunities mapping methodology will guide the identification of areas that are eligible for the expansion and/or enhancement of the green network in order to improve habitat connectivity, increase active travel provision and enhance access to open spaces, as well as health and wellbeing benefits and opportunities for adaptation to the effects of climate change.

1.1.2. The Strategy will present local, EDC-wide and regional opportunities which include the enhancement of the green network between neighbouring authorities. In doing so, the Green Network Strategy will help to inform the emerging Local Development Plan Green Infrastructure and Green Network Supplementary Guidance and related planning obligations, as well as demonstrate synergies between both biodiversity and access. It will also define open space provision in East Dunbartonshire as an update to the Open Space Strategy 2015 – 2020, although the Open Space Strategy will continue to set open space requirements and the Green Network Strategy should complement existing open space actions. The Green Network Strategy should also help to raise awareness and an understanding of East Dunbartonshire's green network for local communities and demonstrate how the green network can be of benefit in terms of education.

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 Green Network Strategy (GNS) 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
Regional:	Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan 2012
	Emerging Clydeplan (Proposed Plan)
	Antonine Wall Management Plan 2014 - 2019
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

1.2.2. Cross-boundary effects with neighbouring authorities will be considered through the integration of the GNS 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. It may also be necessary to work with other neighbouring local authorities in the development of actions that result in strategic, regional and local impacts with potential cross-boundary effects. However, it is not expected that the GNS will require consideration of transboundary effects with neighbouring EU Member States.

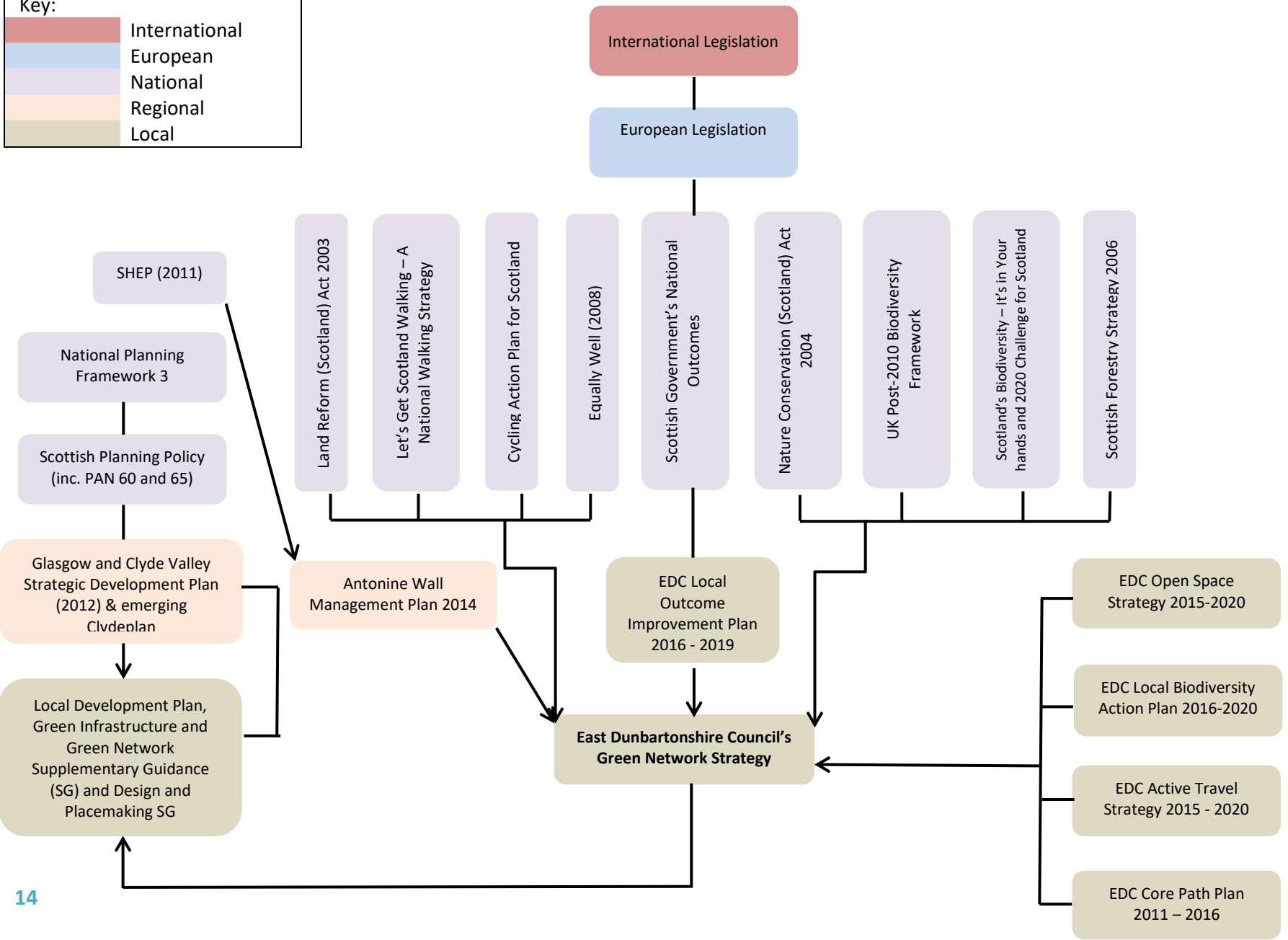
1.2.3. **Appendix A** lists key legislation, plans, programmes, policies and strategies that influence or are influenced by the GNS. This list includes documents that refer to international, European Community, and national environmental objectives; regional and local objectives. Their content, where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

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 Green Network Strategy, will be taken into account when preparing the strategic action. These are set out in **Appendix A**.

Figure 1: Interrelationship of the Green Network Strategy 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 GNS. The table also contains the SEA objectives used to assess the GNS 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 protect human health and community wellbeing		
Summary of baseline environmental data	**Environmental implications for the Green Network Strategy**	**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. Areas of Hillhead and Lennoxtown are within the top 15% most deprived SIMD data zones in Scotland.	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. The GNS will present opportunities for communities in East Dunbartonshire to become involved in projects related to the green network. This can result in improved quality of environment and will have a potentially positive impact on their wellbeing. By raising awareness of the green network, the GNS will present opportunities for education for local schools and the communities. Health and wellbeing is likely to be improved through opportunities that are presented in the GNS including upgrades to vacant and derelict land and underperforming green/open spaces and access to them.	General Register Office for Scotland Census 2001 – for health data Census 2011 data National Records of Scotland, October 2014 Scottish Government Scottish Government SIMD data for East Dunbartonshire Council Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics NOMIS (Economically active population & Average weekly wage) Scottish Household Survey (walking/ cycling to work) 2012/13

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.	There is scope to improve the number of people partaking in walking and cycling through active encouragement of the natural environment and outdoor activities. This includes potential improvements to access both within the EDC boundary and to other neighbouring authorities. Enhancements to biodiversity and habitats are likely to promote cycling and core path routes in East Dunbartonshire. This will potentially lead to supplementary positive outcomes in reducing car travel. The associated conflicts between the rights for public access to the environment as part of improvements to the green network 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 and issues related to accessibility as well as the livelihoods of those who are involved in this industry is vital. Enhancing green networks will improve connectivity for those residing in urban and rural areas.	Glasgow Centre for Population Health 2011. (Briefing Paper 28)
CULTURAL HERITAGE		
SEA OBJECTIVE: To protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment		
Summary of baseline environmental data	**Environmental implications for the Green Network Strategy**	**Source of baseline data**

East Dunbartonshire has: - ➢ 1 UNESCO World Heritage Site; Antonine Wall. A buffer zone has been identified 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 Monuments. In particular the Forth & Clyde Canal is made up of a series of Scheduled 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	Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas contribute to the character of the streets in East Dunbartonshire. Through appropriate management and enhancement, where 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 GNS. The GNS should consider the role and importance of biodiversity to the setting and value of the Antonine Wall as well as consider how improved access to the green network will impact on its value. The requirements to protect Forth and Clyde Canal, as a main water body, a Scheduled Ancient Monument and a route corridor, will be influential to the GNS. The GNS should consider how it can integrate the different historical and natural environment as part of the wider green network in East Dunbartonshire.	Historic Scotland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) East Dunbartonshire Council United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation – World Heritage Site Designation Scottish Natural Heritage Scottish Canals Heritage Strategy 2013-38

Bishopbriggs • Cawder House Stables • Huntershill House **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 Green Network Strategy**	**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. ➢ 485 Tree Preservation Orders + 1 pending at Camstradden Drive East, Bearsden ➢ 3 Local Nature Reserves (LNR) which include Merkland LNR, Lenzie Moss LNR and Kilmardinny Loch.	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna are important considerations for the GNS. The implementation of the GNS will have a direct influence on protecting and enhancing the species in East Dunbartonshire through improvements in habitat connectivity. This will be particularly significant to those the species and habitats that are priorities, vulnerable and/or protected. 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 to deliver Integrated Habitat Networks.	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

There are a number of protected, priority and Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) in East Dunbartonshire, such as Japanese Knotweed, badgers (protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (as amended)), and water voles (protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). A full list of species can be found in East Dunbartonshire Council's Local Biodiversity Action Plan and related Environmental Report. 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%).	The different needs for green hubs, green corridors, green links or green stepping stones should be evaluated and addressed through the GNS. Native species should be considered in order to enhance natural resources that are specific to the local area. The impact of enhanced green networks throughout East Dunbartonshire will need to consider the presence of Protected Species and INNS to ensure their protection. 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 integrated with opportunities in the GNS to enhance the green network. It is important that native woodland is managed and protected. The environmental implications related to the vision of the Central Scotland Green Network are an important consideration in the development of the GNS.	
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 Green**	**Source of baseline data**

	Network Strategy	
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 59.98 hectares. The split of land type classification is: ➢ Urban Vacant land – 11 sites (18.1 ha) ➢ Urban Derelict land – 9 sites (22.5 ha) ➢ Urban Vacant and Derelict land – 20 sites (40.6 ha) ➢ Rural derelict land – 5 sites (19.3 ha) 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	Enhanced biodiversity and habitats, factors that will be integral to the GNS, will present potential positive impacts to soil quality and soil functions as well as limiting erosion and potential soil acidification. The quality and level of soil in East Dunbartonshire will need to be considered as part of the GNS to ensure that opportunities to increase active travel and access to the natural environment does not result in soil exposure to elements, causing erosion and potential soil acidification. Development on Vacant and Derelict land has the potential to result in the removal of habitat networks. There is potential to upgrade vacant and derelict sites, which may include those that are contaminated, through opportunities to enhance existing networks in East Dunbartonshire. There is potential to create functional greenspaces in the process of upgrading VDL. Disturbance to peatland can result in the release of carbon into the atmosphere. Enhancements to the green network should consider the location of peatland in order to reduce this risk.	East Dunbartonshire Council EDC Local Plan 2 EDC Local Development Plan Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Register 2014 James Hutton Institute Scottish Natural Heritage British Geological Survey UKRIGS (Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site) SNH Information Notice No.38 – Identification of carbon-rich soil mapping units (2012) – Scotland's Soils

have been identified as having varying levels of soil carbon richness and peatland including the Campsie Fells and the Kilpatrick Hills.		
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 Green Network Strategy**	**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 two of the Local Landscape Areas; the Campsie Fells and the Kilpatrick Hills to the North and West of the district respectively. 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 defined in the Development Plan and covers the entire area of East Dunbartonshire, with the exception of the upland and urban areas; its objectives include maintaining the character and distinctiveness of the area's settlements. There is a number of 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 GNS will consider possibilities that will improve habitat connectivity in East Dunbartonshire, resulting in potential positive effects to landscape setting and visual amenity. Any significant actions discussed to deliver the GNS will need to consider any natural and historical designations within East Dunbartonshire in order to prevent negative effects to the landscape. There is scope to integrate opportunities with opportunities related to the Campsie Fells and the Kilpatrick Hills. Habitat connectivity within East Dunbartonshire will be promoted in the GNS. This will reduce fragmentation across the various landscapes. East Dunbartonshire has a strong local distinctiveness and genetic diversity that has the potential to be lost without the interventions of the GNS. Although a green network will improve community accessibility to the natural environment, it should consider the effect of this on the green belt through appropriate mitigation and management.	EDC Local Plan 2 British Geological Survey UKRIGS (Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site) Glasgow & Clyde Valley Landscape Character Assessment, 1999

the Environmental Report.	There is potential for the GNS to connect local, East Dunbartonshire Council wide and regional networks across the landscape of East Dunbartonshire. The scale of each of these should be considered. The different landscape typologies, including LLA designations, will need to be considered as part of the opportunity mapping exercise.	
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 Green Network Strategy**	**Sources 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	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 GNS. The impact of increased footfall across various different networks should be considered in order to prevent a decline in water quality. This is particularly vital to main waterbodies in East Dunbartonshire such as the Forth and Clyde Canal and the River Kelvin. Enhancements to green networks in close proximity to river networks have the potential to deliver improvements to water quality and morphology, with added benefits of creating new or improved habitats. The requirements of the Water Framework Directive should be taken into account.	SEPA – RBMP Data East Dunbartonshire Council Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Action Plan

➢ 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*	In terms of biodiversity, the GNS should consider impacts to wetland quality.	
AIR QUALITY		
SEA OBJECTIVE: To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance air quality		
Summary of baseline environmental data	**Environmental implications for the Green Network Strategy**	**Sources 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	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. The GNS has the opportunity to increase active travel in East Dunbartonshire. This will help to reduce traffic emissions, which will be particularly important in AQMAs. 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 GNS. In areas of particularly poor air quality, emissions in the atmosphere as well as potential acid rain can adversely alter and affect biodiversity with additional impacts to habitats and the natural environment. Ecosystem services are also likely to be changed as a result.	East Dunbartonshire Council National Air Emissions Inventory Scottish Government DEFRA Scottish Transport Bus and Coach Statistics No. 32, 2013 Local Transport Strategy 2013 – 2017 Scottish Census 2011 Department for Transport- Traffic Counts

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, 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.	The role of biodiversity and habitats in improving air quality through the removal of pollutants in the soil and in the air should be considered. The GNS will demonstrate capabilities for linking active travel routes within the Council boundary and between East Dunbartonshire and other local authorities which can encourage cycling and walking to work or their place of study.	

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 Green Network Strategy**	**Sources 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	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 as	Scottish Government SEPA East Dunbartonshire Council

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 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	well as an impact on leisure and recreational activities. Enhancing the green network may be achieved through improved planting and protection of existing habitats. This can be beneficial in terms of adaptation to flooding. Enhancing the green network, including benefits to biodiversity value, has the potential to improve ecosystem services within East Dunbartonshire's natural environment. This will result in effective climate regulation. Climate change is contributing to flash flooding events in Scotland. The GNS should present opportunities for the adaptation to the effects of climate change including ensuring that biodiversity is able to adapt to a changing environment and circumstances. Increased active travel and accessibility of networks in East Dunbartonshire will encourage people to travel sustainability and cut down on vehicle usage and related emissions. In developing opportunities for the enhancement of the green network, areas of flooding particularly along rivers, will need to be considered for mitigation, management and viability.	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) 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

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 number of people who travel by car or van to access their place of work or study. 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 no longer has any landfill sites accepting waste. Inchbelle Farm Landfill and Mavis Valley Landfill have seized operation (although still due to agree a formalised Close, Restoration and Aftercare Plan). 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 Green Network Strategy	Sources 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. 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	The GNS will explicitly encourage the enhancement or creation of core paths with connections to the wider green network in East Dunbartonshire. Where the green network encourages more access to the wider environment, either by Core Path Networks, Rights of Way or cycleways, consideration should be given to the effects on agricultural land and agriculture as an industry. Natural resources in East Dunbartonshire should be used sustainability and at a limited rate to reduce pressures on biodiversity and resources. 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 local open spaces identified in the Open Space Strategy will need to be taken into account. The GNS will demonstrate links with the Green Network and Green Infrastructure Supplementary Guidance for the Local Development Plan. Each should be considered in the production of the other. Issues related to biodiversity and access should be an integral consideration of the planning process. With the emerging Local Development Plan for East Dunbartonshire being implemented, there is likely to be an increase in developments	Scottish Government East Dunbartonshire Council Transport Scotland SPT Local Development Plan for large scale development proposals. Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society East Dunbartonshire Council Transport and Access Officer Sustrans

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 provide links to Loch Lomond, Glasgow, Stirling and Edinburgh. Recycling/composting rates of household waste in East Dunbartonshire (2013 report) was 44.9%. Although this is above the total recycling rate for the whole of Scotland taking into account of 32 local authorities, it is not meeting the Zero Waste targets of recycling 50% of household waste by 2020.	(economic and housing over the life of the Plan. The impact of this for biodiversity, access and the green network should be taken into account as well as guide developments.	

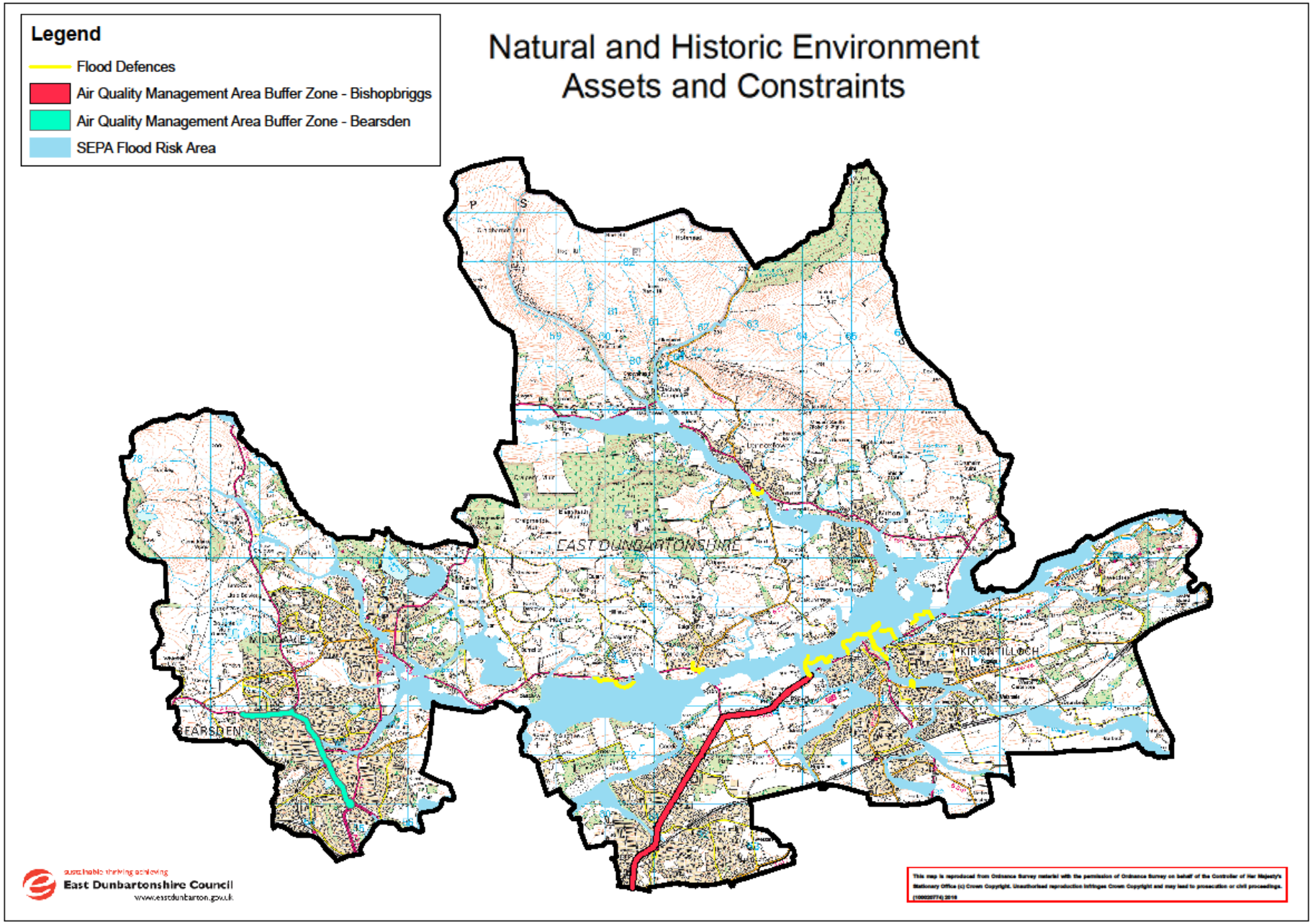


Figure 2: Flood Defences, Air Quality Management Areas and SEPA Flood Risk Areas (March 2015)

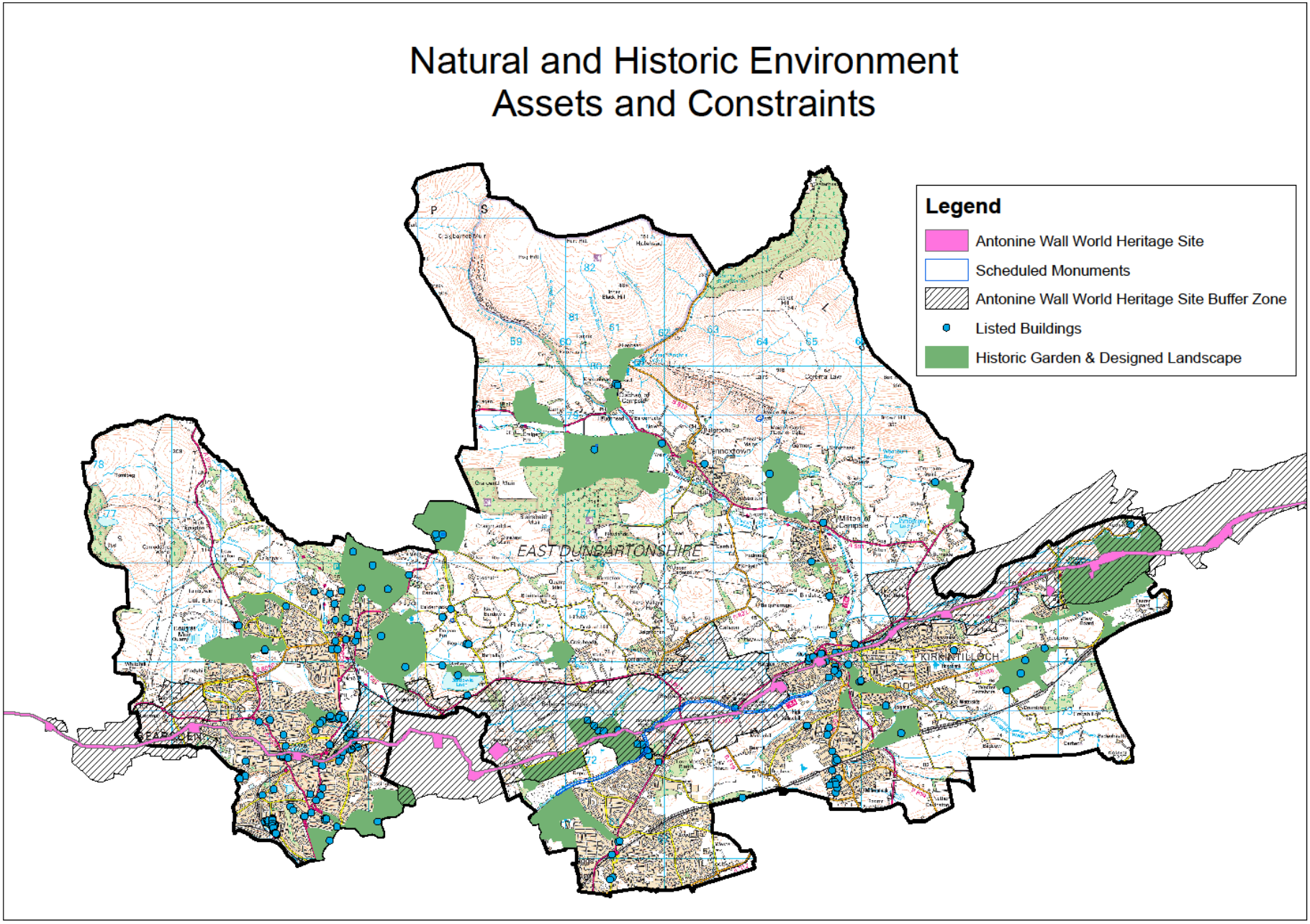


 Figure 3: Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and Buffer Zone, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Listed Buildings

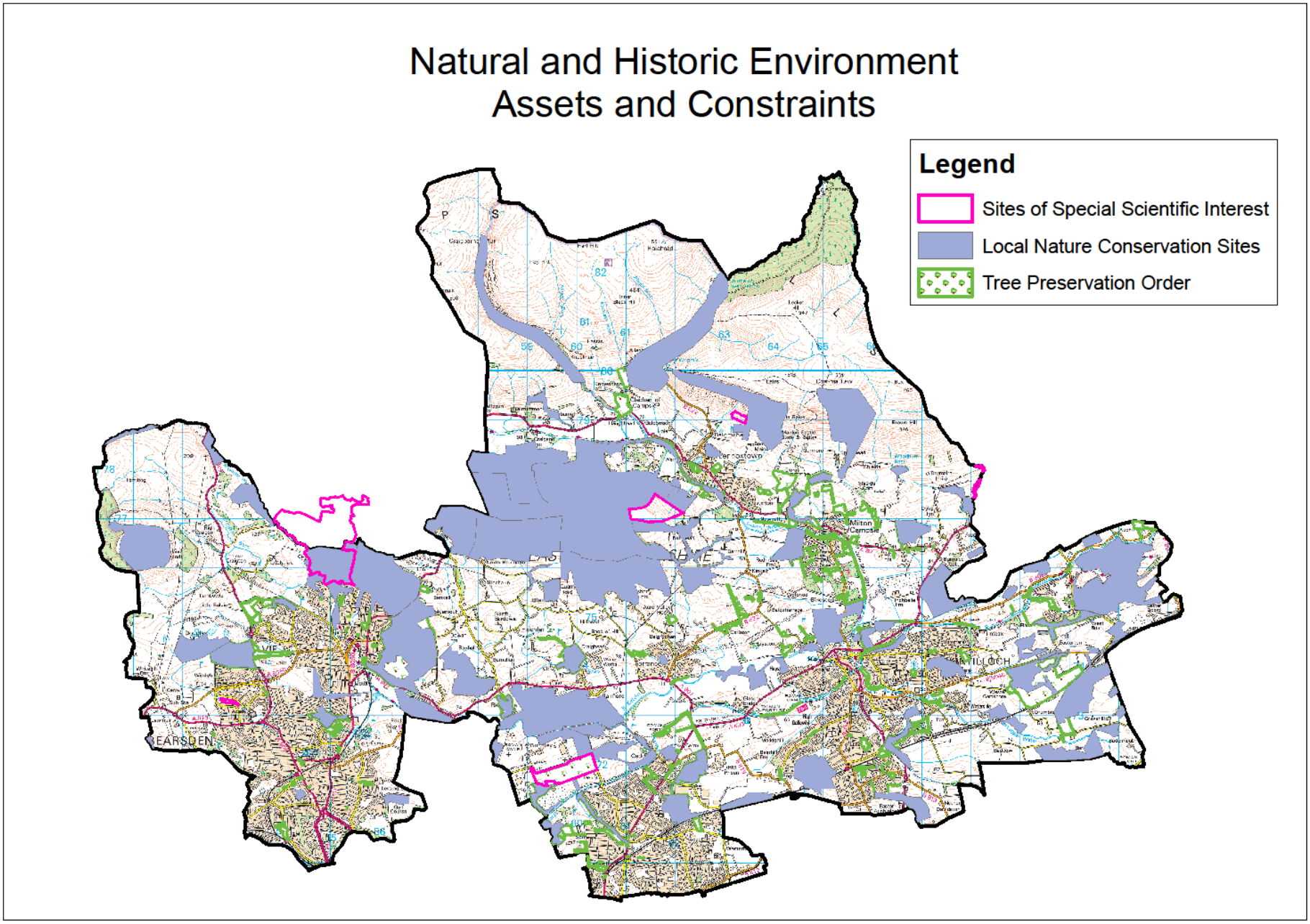


Figure 4: Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Nature Conservation Sites and Tree Preservation Orders

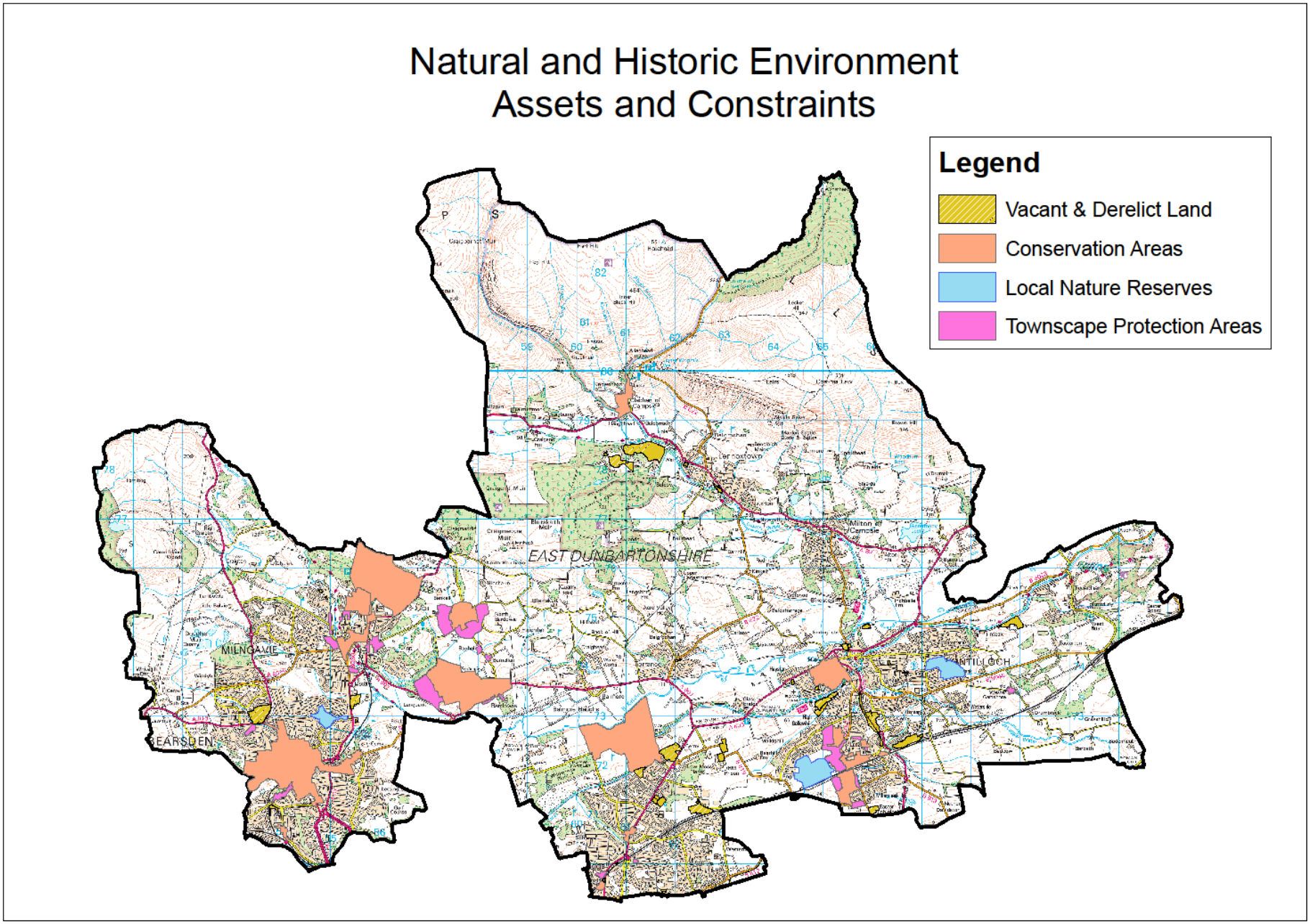


Figure 5: Vacant and Derelict Land, Conservation Areas, Local Nature Reserves and Townscape Protection Areas

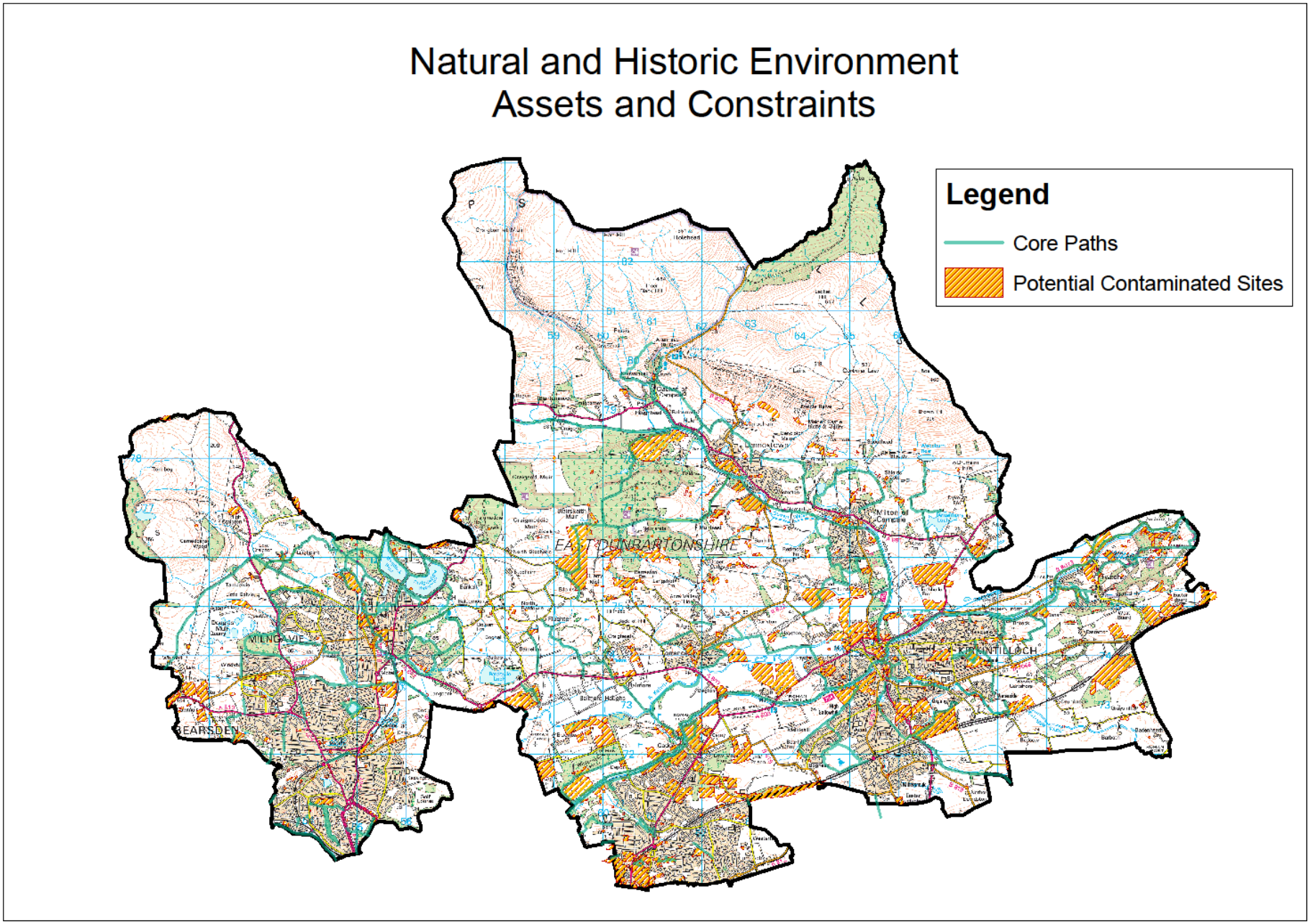


Figure 6: Core Paths and Potential Contaminated Sites

2.2 Environmental Issues[1] for the Green Network Strategy

2.2.1 The purpose of this section is to explain how existing environmental issues will affect or be affected by the GNS 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 Green Network Strategy

	Relevant Environmental Issues
Population and Human Health	Eight datazones within East Dunbartonshire fall into the top 25% most deprived areas in Scotland; these are located in Hillhead, Lennoxtown, Auchinairn and Milngavie. In particular, some areas in Hillhead remain within the 5% most deprived areas in Scotland according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.
	With areas of deprivation in East Dunbartonshire and an increasingly ageing population, there is a significant reliance on public transport and access to primary facilities such as town centres, retail parks, healthcare and leisure. To reduce this need and pressure, there is significant evidence that green networks can be integrated with interventions that will encourage and promote active travel. This will provide further health benefits to deprived or vulnerable members of the community.
	Conflicts may arise between increasing public access within East Dunbartonshire and the need to conserve the natural environment. This will be a vital consideration for the GNS to address and prevent such conflicts.
	Current use and awareness of East Dunbartonshire's green network has scope to be improved. Increasing the awareness and understanding of the role of green networks amongst the population of East Dunbartonshire, as well as how local communities can gain benefits from accessing local and regional green networks alongside the upgrade of the network should be factor for consideration in the GNS. This should include the promotion of the green network for educational purposes in partnership with local schools.
	Encouraging the involvement of the community in projects linked to the enhancement of East Dunbartonshire's green network has the potential to benefit health and wellbeing. This is likely to improve the appreciation of the environment as well as achieve the renewal of run down areas, particularly those in urban contexts, and increase economic value and investment to the area. There is scope for this to be promoted through the GNS.
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.
	East Dunbartonshire has a varied and valued natural and historic cultural heritage. In the development of the GNS, the opportunities that will be identified should address how they can contribute to enhancing and protecting the historic environment.
	East Dunbartonshire is host to tourist attractors across the whole of the council-wide area such as the Antonine Wall Heritage Site, the Campsie Fells, West Highland Way and Mugdock Country Park. The GNS is likely to improve access to these assets. However, increased footfall to the main attractors can result in both positive impacts, such as stimulating the local economy, and negative impacts, such as path erosion and the degradation of sites/buildings.

[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
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). The management and protection of these assets is essential through the GNS.
	Invasive Non-Native Species in East Dunbartonshire have been identified in East Dunbartonshire. Their location and management should be recognised within the Strategy.
	There are a number of protected species and habitats within East Dunbartonshire which will need to be considered as part of the GNS. The GNS offers the scope to ensure that benefits for biodiversity is considered as a vital part of the wider green network in East Dunbartonshire and will play a contributing role for continued enhancement and protection of such species to avoid any loss. These concerns should be considered alongside the LBAP.
	Habitat connectivity within East Dunbartonshire is fragmented. In particularly, river and canal corridors are, to varying extents, below their potential in terms of habitat connectivity as a result of confinement and the presence of Non-Native Invasive Species. There is scope to reduce habitat fragmentation through the role of biodiversity in the Strategy, with additional benefits to improving access routes across the council area.
Soil and Geology	Many sites within East Dunbartonshire are underperforming in terms of their environmental quality and potential for a range of uses. This includes 25 sites classified as Vacant and Derelict Land (VDL) and 626 potentially contaminated sites. The Strategy should consider opportunities to enhance, remediate and upgrade these sites where appropriate.
	There are several sites in East Dunbartonshire that have been identified as peatland. Any action as part of the Strategy that may result in the disturbance of such sites for the release of carbon should be avoided. This includes conflicts between access to the green network and peatland protection.
	There is scope within the GNS to consider the role of enhanced 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 Sites (LGS). The area also hosts 1 RIGS (Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site) and 1 SSSI of geological importance. The GNS should consider these designations in the development of the opportunities in the Strategy to ensure their protection and enhancement.
Landscape	East Dunbartonshire has varying degree of landscapes including the green belt, the Campsie Fells/Kilpatrick Hills and agricultural land. Ensuring that the landscapes are well-connected throughout East Dunbartonshire is a vital consideration for the GNS.
	East Dunbartonshire has a number of Local Landscape Areas with high/moderate scenic value as well as varied landscape character and setting across the Council area, including the Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills. The GNS should take into account the specific landscape features to ensure that biodiversity and access issues do not conflict with, and are sensitive to, the local landscape and retain East Dunbartonshire's local distinctiveness.
	The cumulative effects of projects that will enhance or extend the green network that may be established through the Strategy should be accounted for at a local, EDC-wide and regional level.
Water Quality	There are a number of good/moderate quality watercourses in East Dunbartonshire including the Forth and Clyde Canal which is also a Scheduled Monument. These assets require protection to which the GNS can contribute to in order to reduce, prevent or offset any adverse impacts to water quality.
	There are a number of sites within East Dunbartonshire's landscape which are classified as wetland. Wetlands provide vital habitats for a number of species and ecosystem services but their quality is under pressure from external influences such as flooding, developments and

	Relevant Environmental Issues
	access. The Strategy should account for this priority habitat in the development of its action plan as well as consider its role in reducing pressures on this resource to maintain a high level of 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, the requirements of which should be taken into account in the GNS.
	Changes to air quality can have a significant impact on ecosystem services, which can affect biodiversity value and environmental assets.
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, the actions proposed as part of the GNS should consider its role in mitigating or adapting to the effects of climate change.
	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 habitats and the value of East Dunbartonshire's environment.
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. New developments are likely to require infrastructure improvements which have the potential to result in further fragmentation of habitats and requirements for access routes which should be accounted for.
	It is important that natural resources in East Dunbartonshire are managed sustainably.
	There are currently a series of Core Path Networks, Rights of Way and open spaces in East Dunbartonshire which create recreational opportunities, promote active travel and provide a sense of community. The opportunities that will be identified through the Strategy should consider its role in enhancing existing networks as well as integrating new green networks across the EDC-wide area. The sites identified in the Open Space Strategy should also be accounted for.

2.3 Evolution of the Environmental Baseline in the Absence of the Green Network Strategy

2.3.1 The SEA process is also required to assess the likely impact on the environment if the GNS was not implemented. As this is the first Green Network Strategy for East Dunbartonshire it is important that it is implemented with the purpose of taking into account the role of biodiversity and accessibility in the management and enhancement of the green network. The methodology and outcome of the opportunity mapping exercise will be crucial to the development of future Green Network Strategies, by EDC and other local authorities, as well as for the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership.

2.3.2 Without a GNS covering East Dunbartonshire, it is likely that the existing green network will become underutilised, with current green hubs, links, corridors and stepping stones likely to become underperforming spaces. There would be no direct influence on improving connectivity between the different networks for use by the community for leisure activities and travel, and reducing fragmentation across habitats. East Dunbartonshire Council would miss an opportunity to develop a Strategy that takes advantage of identifying opportunities to enhance the green network and actions that provide a strategic approach to connectivity

throughout the Council-wide area and into cross-boundary authorities. In terms of the SEA topics, the evolution of the environment without the influence of the Strategy include:

2.3.2.1 **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna**: It is likely that a proactive approach to enhancing habitat connectivity will be missed. Whilst the development of the emerging Local Biodiversity Action Plan will present an opportunity for East Dunbartonshire Council to address the management and protection of species and habitats in East Dunbartonshire, the Green Network Strategy will inform a coordinated approach to the enhancement of habitats and offsetting the impacts to biodiversity as a result other local PPS such as the Local Development Plan and the emerging Active Travel Strategy. It is also likely that the management of the impact of access to biodiversity will be less comprehensive without the influence of the GNS if these issues were addressed solely in the Active Travel Strategy and LBAP.

2.3.2.2 **Population and Human Health**: The development and implementation of a GNS would offer several benefits for local communities in East Dunbartonshire, particularly those that are deemed to be vulnerable or deprived, as well as other members of the population visiting East Dunbartonshire. It is likely that an awareness of the role of the green network will be lower without the influence of the GNS and so the benefits for human health and wellbeing as well as the role our communities can play in protecting and utilising the green network will not be encouraged. In addition, the GNS will encourage leisure activities and active travel, aside from active travel for commuting purposes, which will serve as a beneficial additional to the emerging Active Travel Strategy.

2.3.2.3 **Cultural Heritage**: East Dunbartonshire hosts a rich and varied range of cultural heritage assets including the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and other key natural and historical attractors for tourism such as the Campsie Fells and the Forth and Clyde Canal. As such it is vital that the GNS considers actions that will protect, manage and, where appropriate, enhance East Dunbartonshire's cultural heritage. Without the development of the GNS, it is less likely that improving access to the environment and the promotion of such assets will be taken advantage of. Furthermore, the opportunities associated with biodiversity for enhancing the visual setting of cultural assets and key attractors, including wider benefits for tourism and the local economy, will not be actively promoted.

2.3.2.4 **Soil and Geology**: Without the implementation of the GNS, there is less likely to be actions developed in terms of protecting and enhancing soil quality and geodiversity sites (regional and local) in East Dunbartonshire to address impacts from improved access to the green network. Whilst the LBAP will promote the role of biodiversity for soil management, the GNS will demonstrate further commitments to this environmental asset that would potentially be promoted to a lesser extent otherwise. Furthermore, opportunities for the upgrade of underperforming spaces such as Vacant and Derelict Land for the integration with the green network would be missed.

2.3.2.5 **Landscape**: A primary benefit as a result of the GNS is the promotion of habitat connectivity in East Dunbartonshire. Without its influence, a network of fragmented habitats has the potential to become more prevalent in East Dunbartonshire and opportunities to enhance them would not be carried forward. Consequently, this would detract from the setting and visual impact to the landscape, including designated Local Landscape Areas.

2.3.2.6 **Water Quality**: In the absence of the GNS, it is unlikely that actions will be developed to protect important waterbodies and wetland habitats in East Dunbartonshire. Despite the

existence of River Basin Management Plans, there would be an increased risk of deterioration in the ecological quality of water courses as a result of increased footfall and access along river and canal corridors. This is likely to be managed through a series of interventions in the GNS. Additionally, the impact to wetland habitats in terms of the impact from accessibility and reductions in biodiversity value would be managed to a certain extent through the emerging Active Travel Strategy and the LBAP, but the improvements are less likely to be coordinated without the GNS. .

2.3.2.7 **Air Quality and Climatic Factors**: Enhancing the green network in terms of improvements to biodiversity value and habitats, and promoting active travel will play a vital role in reducing the impacts of air quality and for the effects of climate change. If the GNS was not developed, opportunities and actions that maximise the role of biodiversity in carbon sequestration and for suppressing pollutants is less likely to be promoted. Furthermore, there would be reduced opportunities to maximise the role of the green network in support of active travel and reducing vehicular travel.

2.3.2.8 **Material Assets**: The GNS would present, and have a direct influence, on opportunities to further promote the sustainable use of materials and contribute to improvements to the varying path networks in East Dunbartonshire, including improvements to habitat networks and connectivity, and infrastructure changes where appropriate. Without the influence of the GNS, these opportunities are less likely to be identified and the benefits to the relevant material assets will be minimal.

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 GNS. Each of the stages will require a tailored assessment method as detailed in **Table 3.** The assessment focuses on the ambition and objectives Strategy in order for issues related to green networks to be addressed and improved in East Dunbartonshire. The actions/interventions 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. In addition to this, the assessment evaluates the Strategy as a whole in terms of the potential cumulative effects (direct, indirect, secondary and synergistic) associated with the implementation of the Strategy.

3.1.2. Please note that East Dunbartonshire Council are in the process of developing an Active Travel Strategy. Many of the issues related to access routes in East Dunbartonshire will be assessed as part of the SEA for the Active Travel Strategy before the Environmental Report for the GNS commences. Consequently, any environmental issues and actions from the Active Travel Strategy that are relevant to and carried through to the GNS will be reviewed as part of the GNS SEA process and determined whether a further assessment will be required. This will reduce duplication of assessments and help maintain proportionality.

Table 3: Assessment framework

Assessment Stage	Assessment Method
Strategic Approach and Ambition	The SEA assessment questions and indicators have been used to establish whether the strategic approach in order to the deliver the Green Network Strategy is compliant with the proposed SEA objectives. Overall, the preferred strategic approach to deliver the GNS is justified. The ambition of the Strategy has also been tested for compliance with the SEA objectives.
Aims	The aims of the Strategy, and alternatives to them, have been tested against the proposed SEA objectives for alignment and compliance. The outcomes of this assessment guided the refinement of the Strategy aims throughout their development.
Objectives	The objectives of the Strategy have been divided by themes, and the actions and projects that form part of the Green Network Strategy will need to integrate the objective across all themes. The objectives of the Strategy, and alternatives to them, have been tested against the proposed SEA objectives for alignment and compliance. The outcome of this assessment had guided the refinement of the GNS objectives throughout its development.
Opportunities	The GNS explored the findings of the Opportunities Mapping to highlight local and strategic opportunities for the enhancement of the green network in East Dunbartonshire. The opportunities, and any reasonable alternative interventions, have been assessed against the SEA assessment questions.
Cumulative effects	Using the assessments of opportunities outlined in the GNS and with the use of GIS mapping, where appropriate, the cumulative effects of the Strategy have been tested. Any impacts for neighbouring authorities have also been considered as part of the assessment.

3.2 Assessment Methodology

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

3.2.2 The SEA Directive 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 all of the environmental issues would be significantly affected or affect the GNS and therefore, all of the environmental factors have been scoped into 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.

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 Strategy.

Table 4: SEA objectives

Environmental 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 in East Dunbartonshire.

3.3 Alternatives

3.3.1 Through the development of East Dunbartonshire's Green Network Strategy there may be alternatives as to how the Strategy is delivered or implemented. Improving green networks across Central Scotland is recognised as an integral development in the National Planning Framework 3 with recognised benefits to health and wellbeing and addressing environmental inequalities. Consequently, it is appropriate to only assess any reasonable alternatives to the Strategy.

3.3.2 Each of the alternative strategic options or the delivery of the Strategy has been assessed to ensure that they are in alignment with the SEA objectives. The alternative approaches are intended to be realistic, deliverable and consistent with other PPS. The assessment of the alternatives will highlight the SEA preferred option and will guide the final approach to the delivery of the GNS. The reasonable alternatives to the GNS which have been assessed include:

i. A stand-alone Green Network Strategy for East Dunbartonshire
ii. Integrate the Green Network Strategy with the emerging Active Travel Strategy
iii. Integrate the Green Network Strategy with the emerging Local Biodiversity Action Plan

3.3.3. The environmental assessment will also, where appropriate, propose further alternatives to the proposed aims and objectives as well as opportunities, where appropriate, that will form part of the GNS. 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 strategic direction, ambition, aims, objectives and opportunities, and all reasonable alternatives, and has 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 of the components of the Strategy, as mentioned in the above paragraph. 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 objectives, local opportunities and strategic opportunities 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 GNS process. The assessments also seek to enhance the environmental benefits of the GNS and suggest recommendations to further enhance or protect the environment.

3.4.4 In cases where the assessed SEA Preferred Option has not been carried forward into the Strategy 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 'reasonable alternatives' to the Strategy 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 Green Network Strategy

Alternative Approach	Implications of the Strategic Direction
STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1	
A stand-alone Strategy for East Dunbartonshire focussing on green network opportunities in the urban and rural environment.	This alternative requires East Dunbartonshire Council and partners to develop a Strategy solely focussed on the enhancement of the green network across the whole of the East Dunbartonshire Council area, including notable assets such as Mugdock Country Park and links with neighbouring authorities such as Stirling, North Lanarkshire, Glasgow and West Dunbartonshire. This approach to the Strategy will present opportunities using the Opportunities Mapping methodology for both rural and urban contexts to focus on both of the main components of the green network; biodiversity and access. This will give a more extensive scope to the development of a Green Network Strategy and potentially wider benefits across the whole of the Council-wide area.
STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2	
Integrate green network priorities with the emerging Active Travel Strategy.	This approach to delivering a Green Network Strategy for East Dunbartonshire would result in a wide-ranging Strategy that would combine the priorities in enhancing the green network as well as the priorities for improving active travel and access to travel connections and trip attractors across the Council-wide area with potential opportunities to link with neighbouring authorities such as Stirling, North Lanarkshire, Glasgow and West Dunbartonshire. It is likely that integrating the two strategies, which share commonalities in terms of access, it is possible that the scope will be wider with greater benefits throughout the whole of the East Dunbartonshire Council area.
STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3	
Integrate green network priorities with the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.	Biodiversity has been identified as the other main component, in addition to active travel, that will contribute to the enhancements of the wider green network within East Dunbartonshire. A Local Biodiversity Action Plan for East Dunbartonshire are currently in the development stage, and as such, there is scope to include issues related to the improvement of East Dunbartonshire's green network within this document. However, this approach to enhancing the green network will limit the scope for integration between the two factors of biodiversity and access, although there is potential to improve the green network to some extent.

Table 6: Full assessment of the strategic direction for the delivery of the Green Network Strategy

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

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

Assessment Commentary:

This approach to delivering a Strategy for the enhancement of the green network is likely to present positive impacts to **Population and Human Health**. This will predominantly be due to the promotion of the green network for use in terms of active travel which will ensure the promotion of networks locally and regionally in both urban and rural communities. In turn this will result in benefits to human health and wellbeing of residents, workers and visitors to East Dunbartonshire.

It is also predicted that there will be significant positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** as a result of a number of elements in the Strategy, including:

- Addressing gaps within the current green network and utilise the opportunities mapping to enhance biodiversity, flora and fauna, including a series of priority habitats such as wetlands.
- Encouraging connectivity between valued natural assets in East Dunbartonshire, including Mugdock Country Park which crosses into the Stirling Council area.

However, some negative impacts may arise due to conflicts between improved access throughout East Dunbartonshire and the need to protect and enhance biodiversity value.

The effects to **Climatic Factors** and **Air Quality** are likely to be significantly positive. Enhancing the role of biodiversity for

	well-connected green networks will demonstrate significant positive benefits for offsetting the effects of increased temperatures, particularly in urban areas where the urban heat island effect is more likely to be experienced. There is also scope for the Strategy to have notable positive effects for surface-waste and flood risk management, as encouraged by the role of biodiversity. This is particularly beneficial in urban areas where flooding can be exacerbated due to hard surfaces. Furthermore, this approach is likely to encourage participation in active travel which is likely to influence non-vehicular travel. This effect will be particularly significant in the two AQMAs in East Dunbartonshire in Bearsden and Bishopbriggs. Enhancement to biodiversity will also offer positive benefits to filtrating pollutants and maintaining vital ecosystem services. Conversely, minor negative impacts may result due to an increase in car journeys to access the countryside, especially where parking facilities are available; this has the potential to lead to an increase in local CO_2 emissions. Positive effects to East Dunbartonshire's **Landscape** are predicted due to opportunities to enhance the green network in terms of encouraging habitat connectivity and reducing fragmentation between different habitats and existing green routes. However large scale improvements to connectivity can be negative to East Dunbartonshire's local distinctiveness, especially to Local Landscape Areas such as the Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills. Although there are likely to be positive impacts to **Cultural Heritage** due to improved access to the environment and valued historical assets such as the Antonine Wall as well as positive effects to the local economy and tourism, the impact of improved access for erosion and the deterioration of valued sites may conflict with the protection of the historic environment and result in negative impacts. The Strategy is likely to have a predominantly negative effect on **Water Quality**, with effects including: • Diffuse pollution to vital water bodies and risks of poor drainage has the potential to result due to improved access to the environment. • Disturbance and deterioration to wetland habitats may also be negative for water quality. However, this approach to delivering the Strategy will encourage enhancements to biodiversity with potential opportunities to maximise the role of biodiversity for ecosystem services and maintaining high water qualities. The impacts to **Soil and Geology** are uncertain as the impacts will be dependent on where opportunities highlighted in the mapping exercise result in the upgrade of Vacant and Derelict Land. The Strategy may also, however, encourage potentially negative impacts to soil and geological assets in terms of potential soil erosion due to increased footfall as well as possible disturbance to peatland/carbon rich soils. For example, Low and High Moss near Bishopbriggs have the potential to fall within an opportunity area to enhance the green network between Bishopbriggs and Lenzie. This may result in the release of carbon and devalue peatland sites in their role towards climate change mitigation and for biodiversity. The impact of	

	this locally and regionally for sites of geodiversity value will need to be managed. This approach to delivering the Strategy will present significant positive impacts to **Material Assets**. In particular, the Strategy will ensure greater connectivity and the enhancement of path and cycle networks in East Dunbartonshire, with potential wider benefits in neighbouring authorities, including Glasgow. The sustainable use of materials is also likely to be promoted through the Strategy, therefore having a positive impact on natural resources.									
Alternative	**Population and Human Health**	**Cultural Heritage**	**Biodiversity Flora and Fauna**	**Soil and Geology**	**Landscape**	**Water Quality**	**Air Quality**	**Climatic Factors**	**Material Assets**	**SEA Preferred Option**
Strategic Direction 2	**++**	**+/-**	**+**	**?/-**	**+/-**	**?/-**	**++/-**	**++**	**++**	
	Assessment Commentary: The assessment of this strategic alternative is comparable to that of Strategic Direction 1. Consequently, the environmental factors that are anticipated to result in significant and minor positive environmental effects are: • **Population and Human Health** • **Cultural Heritage** • **Landscape** • **Air Quality** • **Climatic Factors** • **Material Assets** • **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** Whilst this approach would still present potential positive effects to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** the significance is more likely to be minor due to a stronger focus on promoting active travel in East Dunbartonshire and potential conflicts between the two factors. By integrating green network priorities as part of the Active Travel Strategy, the priorities may conflict and the aims of the Green Network Strategy are less likely to be integrated as effectively as Strategic Direction 1. Impacts to **Soil and Geology, and Water Quality** are uncertain at this stage. However, there is potential for adverse impacts on soil quality, in terms of loss to peatland areas, and drainage and pollutants entering the water system due to potential construction and integration of new or updated active travel routes throughout East Dunbartonshire. This will be a primary focus within the Active Travel Strategy and may conflict with ambitions for a Green Network Strategy.									

Alternative	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	SEA Preferred Option
Strategic Direction 3	+	+/?	+	?/+	?/+	?/+	+	+	?/+	
	Assessment Commentary: Focussing on the one of the main threads of a green network, biodiversity, this approach to delivering East Dunbartonshire Council's green network priorities would involve integrating green network priorities in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan as it is developed. Whilst this approach will present positive impacts for **Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Air Quality** and **Climatic Factors**, the impacts are likely to be reduced. It is unlikely that integrating green network priorities in to the LBAP will result in a less focussed and coordinated approach to enhancing East Dunbartonshire's green network. It is also likely that conflicts between the intended outcomes for the green network and the priorities of the policy which has the potential to reduce the significance of the impact. Impacts to **Landscape, Soil and Geology, Water Quality** and **Material Assets** are generally uncertain. The effects to these environmental assets will be dependent on scale of projects that will be carried forward through the policy. However, there is potential for minor positive impacts which may be contributable to potential opportunities to upgrade Vacant and Derelict Land, habitat connectivity, protection of peatland and carbon rich soils, utilising biodiversity for protecting water quality and enhancing networks such as Core Paths.									

3.5.2. Strategic Direction 1 for implementing a stand-alone Green Network Strategy was considered to be both the SEA and Strategy Preferred Option due to the significant positive impacts on the relevant environmental factors noted above and a complete focus of this Strategy on promoting and enhancing the green network throughout East Dunbartonshire. This approach to delivering the Green Network Strategy will also facilitate the integration of actions and priorities from both the emerging Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Active Travel Strategy.

3.6. Assessment: Ambition

3.6.1. The Ambition and 'reasonable alternatives' have been identified, described and assessed as part of the SEA process. **Table 7** details the full assessment of all options considered for the ambition of the GNS and highlight both the SEA and GNS preferred option.

Table 7: Full assessment of the ambition for the delivery of the Green Network Strategy

ASSESSMENT TABLE KEY

+ +	Major Positive	✓	SEA Preferred Option
+	Minor Positive		
0	Neutral	✓	GNS 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	
Proposed Ambition	+ +	?/+/-	+	?	+	?	X	X	?	

Proposed Ambition:
East Dunbartonshire is an attractive place to live, work and visit. The area's environment improves the quality of lives, supports wellbeing, enables sustainable economic growth and allows biodiversity to flourish.

Assessment Commentary:
This ambition sets a broad vision for East Dunbartonshire with an environment which contributes to improvements socially, economically and environmentally. However, it fails to recognise the full range of benefits of green networks including its role in promoting leisure and active travel and its contribution to the existing path network in East Dunbartonshire.

There are, however, potential positive effects in relation to **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Landscape.** The identified positive effects are related to:

- Impacts to human health and wellbeing due to an improved quality of environment to live and work in, and visit as well as notable positive impacts for the local economy as a place that is attractive for leisure pursuits and businesses.
- The potential to enhance the scenic value and attractiveness of the landscape in East Dunbartonshire which includes Local Landscape Areas such as the Campsie Fells and green belt land by improving East Dunbartonshire's

visual amenity.

- The potential to protect and manage a range of natural assets in the wider environment including the protection of vulnerable species and habitats as part of the green network, allowing biodiversity to flourish and improving biodiversity value.

The effects on the remaining environmental factors are uncertain at this stage due a lack of detail noted within the ambition to highlight the potential role of the green network, limiting the assessment and identification of effects. However, as it has been noted that there are potential positive benefits to the local economy, there are also potential positive impacts to cultural heritage in terms of encouraging tourism in the area, as East Dunbartonshire is seen as an attractive place for all to spend time. An enhanced green network will also enable improved access to cultural sites; however there are conflicts between increased active travel, therefore increased access to the wider environment, and protection of valuable sites which has the potential to negatively impact on cultural assets.

SEA Suggested Alteration:

It is suggested that some alterations to the ambition be made in order to reflect the wide ranging benefits of a green network for East Dunbartonshire and to take account of the wording of the vision for a green network set by the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN).

"East Dunbartonshire is an attractive place to live, work and visit. It's built and natural environment improves the quality of lives, supports wellbeing and safe active travel, enables sustainable economic growth, improves connectivity and allows nature to flourish."

Alternative	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	SEA Preferred Option
Proposed Ambition (revised) ✓	+ +	?/+/-	+ +	?	+ +	?	+ +	+ +	+ +	✓

Revised Ambition:

East Dunbartonshire is an attractive place to live, work and visit. It's built and natural environment improves the quality of lives, supports wellbeing and safe active travel, enables sustainable economic growth, improves connectivity and allows nature to flourish.

Assessment Commentary:

The revised ambition encapsulates the varied range of benefits of an established green network, and as such recognises a number of significant positive impacts for **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets.** The identified positive effects are related to:

- Impacts to human health and wellbeing due to an improved quality of environment to live and work in, and visit as

	well as notable positive impacts for the local economy as a place that is attractive for leisure pursuits and businesses. Furthermore, by improving the green network to facilitate safe walking and cycling, this will help to reduce health inequalities associated with a lack of physical activity. ➢ The potential to enhance the scenic value and attractiveness of the landscape in East Dunbartonshire which includes Local Landscape Areas such as the Campsie Fells and green belt land by improving East Dunbartonshire's visual amenity. The revised ambition will also contribute to improving connectivity across the Council wide area, reducing fragmentation and enhancing habitat connectivity and corridors throughout both the built and natural environment. ➢ The potential to protect and manage a range of natural assets in the wider environment including the protection of vulnerable species and habitats as part of the green network, allowing biodiversity to flourish and improving biodiversity value. The revised ambition changes the term 'biodiversity' to 'nature'- this will ensure that East Dunbartonshire Council's Green Network Strategy is aligned with the vision set by CSGN. ➢ Through increased provision of the active travel network this ambition could also have a significant positive impact in terms of air quality and climatic factors through modal shift towards active travel alternatives, resulting in reduced road congestion levels, carbon emissions reduction and divert East Dunbartonshire's reliance on private car use and the road based network. ➢ The potential to provide an enhanced network for of a reasonable and attractive alternative to private car use. This could lead to improvements in the wider network infrastructure, such as Core Paths, and links with public transport network to enable convenient and viable journeys for leisure and commuting. The environmental effects for **Soil and Geology and Water Quality** are not fully certain at this stage and will be scrutinised in more detail within the assessment of the GNS Action Plan where more site specific information, constraints and opportunities are known. In terms of **Cultural Heritage**, the effects are uncertain at this stage without specific details. However, there is potential for positive impacts related to sustainable economic growth and increased tourism locally as well as potential negative due to improved access to cultural sites. This may result in conflicts between increased access and protection of valuable sites which has the potential to negatively impact on cultural assets.	

3.6.2. The SEA and GNS preferred option (revised proposed ambition), illustrated above in the assessment commentary, was considered to be overall significantly positive in nature in comparison to the proposed ambition. Through this ambition the Strategy will seek to ensure that East Dunbartonshire is an attractive place for all to live, work and visit with an environment that allows for benefits in terms of health, wellbeing, active travel, sustainability, economic growth with a focus on allowing nature to flourish.

3.7. Assessment: Aims

3.7.1. As part of the Green Network Strategy a set of aims have been derived and have been subject to an environmental assessment. The aims, and any reasonable alternatives, have been tested against the SEA objectives. The full assessment table including revised assessments incorporating SEA recommendations, reasonable alternatives and SEA commentary are provided within **Appendix C**.

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

- Ensure greater alignment with both the Central Scotland Green Network and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership in order to deliver the strategic priorities for Central Scotland at a local level.
- Consider any opportunities to expand the existing green network as well as protect and enhance it in order to achieve the delivery of a wide range of benefits that functioning green networks offers.
- Deliver green network priorities and measures to create a functioning and well-connected network in as many decision-making streams as possible.

3.7.3. A summary of the assessments for each of the aims are illustrated below (**Table 8**) along with its assessment rating regarding the scoped environmental factors and alternatives considered. Each of the SEA Preferred Options in relation to the Strategy aims have been integrated into the GNS as the GNS Preferred Option which highlights the influence and success of the SEA process, ensuring that environmental considerations are fully integrated into the Strategy throughout its development.

Table 8: Summary assessment of aims for the Green Network Strategy

ASSESSMENT TABLE KEY			
+ +	Major Positive	✓	SEA Preferred Option
+	Minor Positive		
0	Neutral	✓	GNS 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	+ +	+	+ +	+ +	+ +	+	+ +	+ +	+ +	
	Proposed Aim: To contribute to the delivery of the vision and outcomes of the Central Scotland Green Network.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: "To contribute to the delivery of the vision and outcomes of the Central Scotland Green Network and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership".									
Alternative	**Population and Human Health**	**Cultural Heritage**	**Biodiversity Flora and Fauna**	**Soil and Geology**	**Landscape**	**Water Quality**	**Air Quality**	**Climatic Factors**	**Material Assets**	**SEA Preferred Option**
Alternative 2 ✓	+ +	+	+ +	+ +	+ +	+	+ +	+ +	+ +	✓
	Revised Aim: To contribute to the delivery of the vision and outcomes of the Central Scotland Green Network and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership.									
Justification for preferred option	Alternative 2 was selected as both the SEA and Green Network Strategy preferred option as, although both options for this aim had the same environmental assessment rating for each of the environmental factors, meeting this aim would ensure that the Green Network Strategy was more aligned with both the CSGN and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership.									
Alternative	**Population**	**Cultural**	**Biodiversity**	**Soil and**	**Landscape**	**Water**	**Air Quality**	**Climatic**	**Material**	**SEA**

	and Human Health	Heritage	Flora and Fauna	Geology		Quality		Factors	Assets	Preferred Option
Aim 2										
Alternative 1	+ +/+	?/-/+	+/0	?/-	+ +/+	?/-	+/+ +	+/+ +	+	
	Proposed Aim: To protect and enhance the existing green network to realise a range of benefits including improved habitat connectivity, increased active travel, improved access to greenspace, enhanced health and wellbeing, and adaptation to the effects of climate change.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: "To protect, enhance and expand the existing green network to realise a range of benefits including improved habitat connectivity, increased active travel, improved access to greenspace, enhanced health and wellbeing, and adaptation to the effects of climate change".									
Alternative	**Population and Human Health**	**Cultural Heritage**	**Biodiversity Flora and Fauna**	**Soil and Geology**	**Landscape**	**Water Quality**	**Air Quality**	**Climatic Factors**	**Material Assets**	**SEA Preferred Option**
Alternative 2	+ +	?/-/+	+	?/-	+ +	?/-	+ +/-	+ +/-	+ +	
	Proposed Aim: To protect, enhance and expand the existing green network to realise a range of benefits including improved habitat connectivity, increased active travel, improved access to greenspace, enhanced health and wellbeing and adaptation to the effects of climate change.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: "To protect, enhance and expand the existing green network to realise a range of benefits including improved habitat connectivity, enhanced biodiversity value, improved access to greenspace and provision for active travel, enhanced health and wellbeing and adaptation to the effects of climate change."									
Alternative	**Population and Human Health**	**Cultural Heritage**	**Biodiversity Flora and Fauna**	**Soil and Geology**	**Landscape**	**Water Quality**	**Air Quality**	**Climatic Factors**	**Material Assets**	**SEA Preferred Option**
Alternative 3 ✓	+ +	?/-/+	+ +	?/-	+ +	?/-	+ +/-	+ +/-	+ +	✓
	Proposed Aim: To protect, enhance and expand the existing green network to realise a range of benefits including improved habitat connectivity, enhanced biodiversity value, improved access to greenspace and provision for active travel, enhanced health and wellbeing, and adaptation to the effects of climate change.									
Justification for preferred option	Alternative 3 was selected as both the SEA and the GNS preferred option for this aim as it was considered to ensure that more significant positive impacts for biodiversity value, habitat connectivity, community benefits, air quality improvements and climate change mitigation than Alternative 1 and 2 due to potential improvements including protection, enhancement and expansion of the green network.									

Alternative	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	SEA Preferred Option
Aim 3										
Alternative 1	?/+	?/+	?/+	?/+	?/+	?/+	?/+	?/+	?/+	
	Proposed Aim: Measures to achieve a green network are incorporated into Council policies and strategies.									
	SEA Suggested Alternation: Given the broad nature of this proposed aim, it is suggested that the wording of the aim is elaborated to highlight who will benefit from the green network and to indicate the purpose of incorporating measures to achieve these benefits through the integration of measures in Council policies and strategies. "A functioning, productive and well-connected green network is seen as vital to society and the environment, and measures to achieve this are incorporated into Council policies and strategies."									
Alternative	**Population and Human Health**	**Cultural Heritage**	**Biodiversity Flora and Fauna**	**Soil and Geology**	**Landscape**	**Water Quality**	**Air Quality**	**Climatic Factors**	**Material Assets**	**SEA Preferred Option**
Alternative 2	+/+ +	?/-	+/+ +	?/-	+/+ +	?/-	+/+ +	+/+ +	+ +	
	Proposed Aim: A functioning, productive and well-connected green network is seen as vital to society and the environment, and measures to achieve this are incorporated into Council policies and strategies.									
	SEA Suggested Alternation: "A functioning, productive and well-connected green network is seen as vital to society and the environment, and measures to achieve this are incorporated into Council policies and strategies. The value of the green network is considered in all decision making".									
Alternative	**Population and Human Health**	**Cultural Heritage**	**Biodiversity Flora and Fauna**	**Soil and Geology**	**Landscape**	**Water Quality**	**Air Quality**	**Climatic Factors**	**Material Assets**	**SEA Preferred Option**
Alternative 3 ✓	+ +	?/+/-	+ +	?/-	+ +	?/-	+ +	+ +	+ +	✓
	Proposed Aim: A functioning, productive and well-connected green network is seen as vital to society and the environment, and measures to achieve this are incorporated into Council policies and strategies. The value of the green network is considered in all decision making.									
Justification for preferred	It was determined that Alternative 3 was both the SEA and GNS preferred option as, in comparison Alternative 2 and 3, meeting this aim would ensure that measures to achieve a range of benefits for society and the environment are incorporated into as many streams as									

option	possible for effectiveness and comprehensiveness throughout Council operations.

3.8. Assessment: Objectives

3.8.1. An environmental assessment has been undertaken for the proposed objectives for each of the themes in the GNS and any reasonable alternatives against the SEA objectives. The environmental assessment has been recorded in the form of a matrix identifying the environmental performance for each option. The full assessment table including re-assessments incorporating SEA recommendations, reasonable alternatives and SEA commentary are provided within **Appendix D**.

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

- Improve both the quality and quantity of habitat networks throughout East Dunbartonshire;
- Consider the wider impact of biodiversity enhancements at a local level on neighbouring authorities such as Stirling, which has cross-boundary features such as Mugdock Country Park and the Campsie Fells to consider, North Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and Glasgow, and vice versa;
- Ensure management of green network opportunities that support biodiversity enhancements are done so in a sustainable manner;
- Communicate the importance of the green network through education and better liaison with local communities;
- Align with the agree SEA objectives for each of the environmental factors and the aims of the emerging Sustainability and Climate Change Framework for East Dunbartonshire Council as well as with the Active Travel Strategy and Local Biodiversity Action Plan; and,
- Consider the role of green infrastructure for water quality, biodiversity and climatic factors as part of wider green network improvements.

3.9. Assessment: Local Opportunities

3.9.1. As part of the Strategy development process, a Steering Group was set up to discuss the intended outcomes and proposed delivery of the Strategy. Development of the Green Network Strategy has been done in partnership with the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership (GCVGNP) by using the established methodology for identifying opportunities for the expansion and enhancement of the green network. It was expected that this Opportunities Mapping approach would form an important basis for the preparation of this strategy. However, the data used in the original methodology was intended to identify urban green network opportunities only. Given the geographical context of East Dunbartonshire it was important that the mapping methodology be altered to capture the opportunities for green network improvements within urban areas but to also be able to capitalise on the potential of the rural environment to deliver green network benefits. The Opportunities Mapping approach used available data to determine both local level and strategic green network opportunities.

3.9.2. An environmental assessment was undertaken for each of the **local opportunities**, of which have been identified for each settlement area within East Dunbartonshire, against the SEA objectives and criteria, bases 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.

3.9.3. It is important to note that the local opportunities were derived from the Opportunities Mapping exercise, along with existing actions in East Dunbartonshire Council's Active Travel Strategy. This exercise has acted as a screening process for reasonable alternatives and so has informed twehe SEA process of the reasonable alternatives to be assessed. It is for this reason that not all local opportunities have alternatives as all opportunities address the gaps highlighted as part of this methodology.

3.9.4. **Appendix E** details the full assessment of the proposed local opportunities for the GNS, along with any reasonable alternatives. Environmentally assessing the opportunities 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 Strategy.

3.9.5. Whilst the assessments highlighted positive impacts, the main negative impacts identified were attributable to the secondary impacts of increased use and access of the wider green network for recreation and leisure which can lead to the disturbance of habitats and species and soil erosion and exacerbate the risk of 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.

3.9.6. All of the SEA recommendations were discussed during the development process for the GNS but not all of the SEA preferred actions were carried forward into the finalised document. The justification for this is highlighted in **Section 3.12** in this Environmental Report.

3.10. Assessment: Strategic Opportunities

3.10.1. Similar to the methodology applied to determine the local opportunities strategic opportunities have also been identified through the Opportunities Mapping approach. These represent the areas where large scale intervention would deliver on all objectives of the green network (biodiversity, access, climate change and sustainable economic development). The projects and ideas described in this section are long term aspirations.

3.10.2. Through the development and refinement of the strategic opportunities, it was determined that there is a need to carry out feasibility studies for the proposals in these areas before more detailed projects can be developed and taken forward before on-the-ground actions can be determined.

3.10.3. Whilst there were a number of different strategic opportunity areas identified as part of the mapping exercise, which can be seen in the Strategy, five Strategic Action Areas were taken forward for inclusion in the Strategy; the Campsie Fells, Glazert Valley, River Kelvin, the Forth and Clyde Canal and Mugdock Country Park (**Figure 7**). It should be noted that the other strategic areas considered to have potential for green network enhancements, as highlighted in the Rural Opportunities Mapping, were not taken forward into the Strategy as reasonable alternatives due to local authority boundaries and the related conflicts between

buy-in, Council political views and the feasibility of available funding and resources. In addition, the nature of the Rural Opportunities Mapping highlighted where environmental constraints existed within East Dunbartonshire which meant that some of the other options were then considered to not be feasible for delivery.

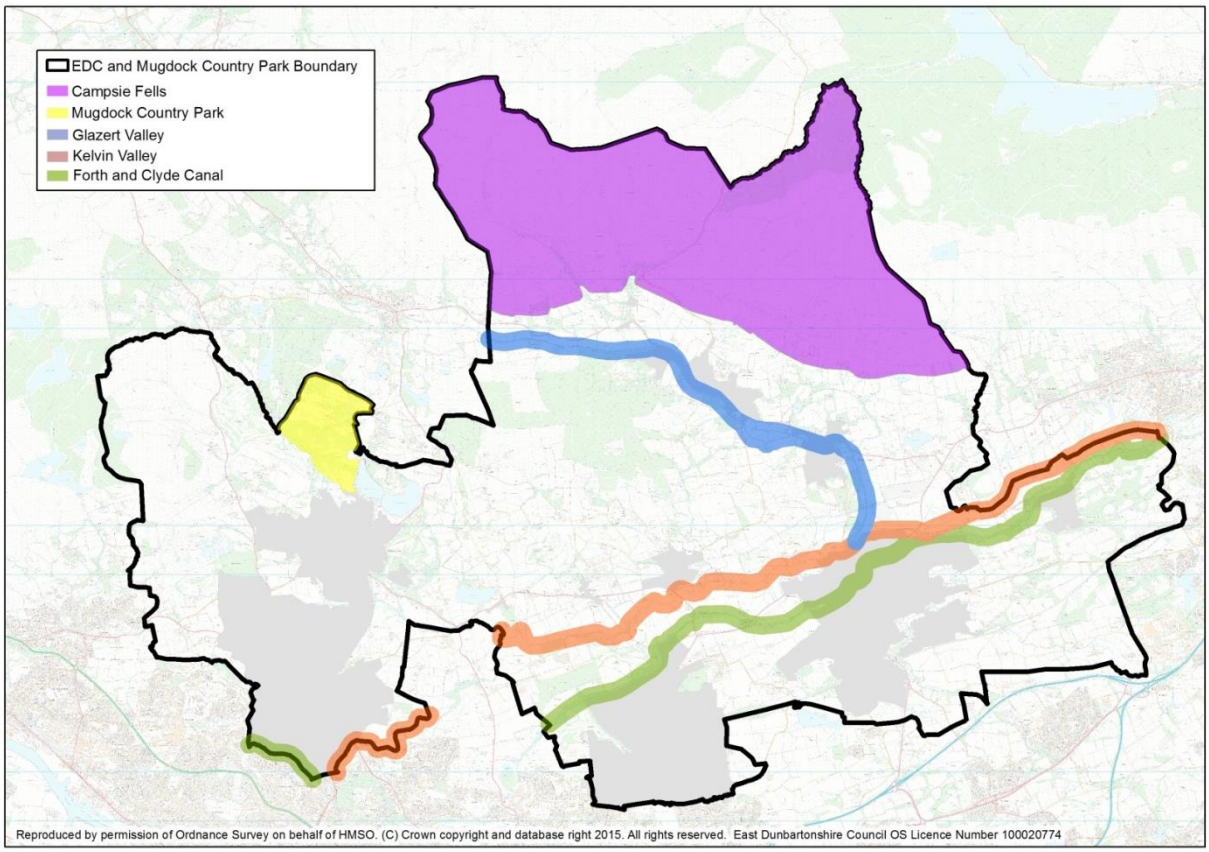


Figure 7: Strategic Green Network Areas

3.10.4. Given that it has been determined that further studies will be needed within each of the strategic areas before determining an action plan to deliver feasible green network projects, a set of expected achievements for each of the strategic areas has been outlined, in which all strategic projects stemming from the Green Network Strategy will need to adhere to in addition to the overall vision, aims and objectives of the Strategy. Each of these expected achievements, and any reasonable alternatives, have been assessed against the SEA criteria with any recommendations made to guide the development of the Strategy. The full assessment for the strategic opportunities can be found in **Appendix F**.

3.10.5. Each of the SEA Preferred Options in relation to the strategic opportunities have been integrated into the GNS as the GNS Preferred Option which highlights the influence and success of the SEA process, ensuring that environmental considerations are fully integrated into the Strategy throughout its development.

3.11. Cumulative Impacts

3.11.1. Following the assessment of each of local opportunities proposed for each of the settlement areas in East Dunbartonshire for the GNS and taking into account the intended achievements for each of the strategic opportunity areas, the assessment of the cumulative impacts 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.

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

3.11.3. The cumulative, secondary and synergistic effects of the whole Strategy, taking into account each of the local opportunities for the main settlement areas and the strategic areas that relate to these settlements that have been taken forward into the finalised Strategy have been determined as detailed below. In addition, hotspot areas of the effects for selected environmental factors have been highlighted which are shown in **Figure 8**.

3.11.4. The overall cumulative impact on **Population and Human Health** are anticipated to be major positive. In particular, the positive nature of the effects are due to a range of opportunities that will result in upgrades to core path networks and links to local natural assets including woodlands (Actions BM4, BM6, KLT9, KLT12 and LMC1 for example), LNCS, SSSI and LNR (Actions BM7, BT2, BT4, BT6, BM9 and KLT11 for example) and the wider green network. In addition to these local opportunities the proposed strategic opportunities to enhance the accessibility and usability of the Campsie Fells for recreation, access of the John Muir Way into neighbouring villages as part of the Glazert Valley green network, connecting communities within Glasgow through Bishopbriggs and to North Lanarkshire via both the Forth and Clyde Canal and River Kelvin corridors as a cross-boundary link and the promotion of Mugdock Country Park as a an easily accessed asset for recreation, environmental education and for sustainable economic growth will promote the wider green network for recreational and cultural opportunities with the potential for local communities to become more involved in projects in their local vicinity.

3.11.5. The cumulative nature of the effects on **Cultural Heritage** was seen to be overall not significant taking into account the effects East Dunbartonshire-wide. The assessments of the majority of opportunities, both local and strategic, indicated that there would be no or minimal environmental impacts on this SEA criteria. However, it is important to note that there is likely to be hotspots of localised positive and negative impacts. These include:

- **Lennoxtown, Milton of Campsie, Haughhead, Clachan of Campsie and the Campsie Fells** – although mostly insignificant effects there are likely to be potential positive impacts in terms of increased access to the Campsies from these settlements on cultural assets such as the various Gardens and Designed Landscapes in the Campsie Fells.
- **River Kelvin** – potential positive impacts related to the role of biodiversity and habitat enhancements to improve the setting of the nearby cultural assets as part of the River Kelvin corridor as well as adverse impacts related to increased access and use of the Kelvin as a strategic green network route.
- **Bishopbriggs, Torrance, Balmore and Bardowie; Kirkintilloch, Lenzie and Twechar; and the Forth and Clyde Canal** – whilst the majority of local and strategic opportunities were determined to have an insignificant environmental impact, there were potential positive effects identified in terms of utilising biodiversity and habitat improvements to enhance the setting of the Forth and Clyde Canal as a Scheduled Monument and the Antoine Wall World Heritage Site particularly due to the local opportunities at Broomhill Hospital, Glen Shirva Road and Cleddens Playing Field.

Conversely, it was also identified that there could be localised impacts due to increased access of the environment on the Antonine Wall at Cawder Golf Course and Twechar.

- **Mugdock Country Park, and Bearsden and Milngavie** – potential positive impacts in terms of utilising the Park for economic growth and tourism opportunities but associated negative impacts of increased access to cultural assets and sites such as Craigend Castle, Mugdock Castle and the Conservation Area near Bearsden Golf Course housing development site.

3.11.6. The Strategy is likely to have an overall significant positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets** with a range of direct opportunities to achieve biodiversity gain and improvements of the overall core path networks across the whole of East Dunbartonshire. The positive nature of the effects on this SEA criteria include:

- Enhancements to species' populations, including terrestrial, riparian and aquatic wildlife, due to the role of potential green infrastructure options at housing and economic development sites;
- Active improvements to woodland, wetland and grassland habitats to improve their functionality of important habitats and ecosystem services;
- Improvements and encouraged use of existing core paths due to upgrades and enhancements to ensure that they are of a quality and standard that facilitates use and promotes the role of the green network for recreation and active travel;
- Active protection and consideration for the sustainable use of natural resources area wide;
- Greater consideration of the role biodiversity can play in maintaining, enhancing and protecting natural designations such as Local Nature Reserves, SSSI and LNCS with a focus on ensuring priority habitats and species are given due focus for long-term protection; and,
- Potential hotspots areas for biodiversity around Mugdock Country Park, Broomhill Hospital development site, Lennoxtown and Milton of Campsie at the foot of the Campsie Fells as part of the Glazert Valley, Bardowie Loch and Dougalston Estate and Loch, the proposed Westerhill site (BM4) and areas in Twechar and west of Kirkintilloch such as Easterton Woods and Barhill.

Although several of the local and strategic opportunities, including BM1, BM4, BM5, BM6, BM7, BM8, BT1, BT3 - 7, KLT1 – 5, KLT7, KLT9, KLT10, KLT12, LMC1, LMC2, and LMC4 – 6, as well as the Glazert Valley Opportunity 3, River Kelvin Opportunity 1, Forth and Clyde Canal Opportunities 1 and 2, and Mugdock Country Park Opportunity 2, highlighted the potential for negative impacts to this factors mostly due to the secondary impacts associated with increased footfall and access to natural assets, the positive nature of the majority of opportunities and the implementation of proposed mitigation measures are likely to minimise the cumulative nature of the negative impacts for East Dunbartonshire.

3.11.7. The overall cumulative environmental impact on **Soil and Geology** was seen to be minor negative with the potential for significant negative effects without appropriate mitigation or sensitive design and interventions. The negative nature of the effects to this SEA criteria are primarily related to the impact of path upgrades and increased access to the green network, open space sites and the wider environment on important geodiversity, peatland and/or blanket bog sites, such as each of the River Kelvin strategic opportunities, Forth and Clyde Canal strategic opportunity 1 and Mugdock Country Park strategic opportunity 2, as well as local opportunities such as KLT5, LMC2, LMC4 and LMC6. As such, the hotspot areas where these impacts are most likely to be experienced are along the River Kelvin, areas of

Lennoxtown and Milton of Campsie by the Campsie Fells and parts of Mugdock Country Park (**Figure 8**).

3.11.8. In terms of **Landscape**, the individual assessments indicate that there is likely to be an overall minor positive cumulative impact. The positive nature of the local and strategic opportunities on this SEA criteria are due to the following factors:

- Improved habitat links throughout the whole of East Dunbartonshire with potential cross-boundary green network enhancements for both wildlife and people such as from the River Kelvin strategic opportunity 1;
- Contributions to improved landscape setting and visual amenity, including a positive role in protecting the value of Local Landscape Areas, such as that within the Campsie Fells and around the area of Badenheath Business and Employment Development Site;
- Decreased fragmentation of habitats throughout the whole area due to biodiversity and habitat enhancements; and,
- Potential hotspots areas for positive impacts on Landscape around opportunities in Lennoxtown and the Campsie Fells, Badenheath, the River Kelvin and Forth and Clyde Canal.

3.11.9. The overall cumulative environmental impact on **Water Quality** was seen to be minor positive, primarily due to opportunities that maximise the role of biodiversity through enhancement measures as natural flood risk management measures, such as for the Allander Water (BM3) and due to potential green infrastructure options as part of all new development sites in East Dunbartonshire as a means to promote the role of biodiversity for surface water run-off. However, it should be noted that there were a number of secondary negative impacts associated primarily with increased access and increased risk of pollution run-off from impacts to soil. As with the cumulative impacts for biodiversity, the positive nature of the opportunities and the implementation of proposed mitigation measures are likely to minimise the cumulative nature of these negative impacts on the whole.

3.11.10. In terms of **Air Quality,** the cumulative environmental impact of all of the opportunities was anticipated to be minor positive, as identified in the assessment of local opportunities BM1, BM3, BT1, BT2, BT4, KLT2 and KLT11, and strategic opportunities 1 for each of the River Kelvin, Forth and Clyde Canal and Mugdock Country Park. The positive nature of the effects on this SEA criteria is due to the following factors:

- Greater alignment with East Dunbartonshire Council's Active Travel Strategy, taking into account the access components in relation to promoting active travel;
- Promotion of the role of biodiversity for functioning ecosystem services; and,
- Utilising biodiversity enhancement, including the creation or enhancement of woodland, grassland and wetland habitats, for pollutant management and carbon sequestration, particularly in AQMAs.

In terms of hotspot locations for potential positive air quality improvements the assessments have identified BM4 around the Westerhill area of Bishopbriggs and KLT11 at Badenheath as key areas due to the AQMA status in Bishopbriggs and potential increased traffic at Badenheath.

3.11.11. The cumulative nature of the impacts on **Climatic Factors** were considered to be significant positive due to:

- Secondary impacts of biodiversity and habitat enhancements as a means of natural flood risk management, particularly in relation to opportunities located within or

near to a flood risk area such as BM2, BM3, BM5, BM7, and all Kirkintilloch, Lenzie and Twechar, and Lennoxtown, Milton of Campsie, Haughhead and Clachan of Campsie opportunities as well as strategic opportunities related to the Glazert Valley, River Kelvin and the Forth and Clyde Canal. These are likely to be hotspots for effects;

- The role of enhancements to biodiversity as part of green network opportunities for water storage and the prevention of surface water run-off; and,
- Improved ecosystem services which will play a local and strategic part in meeting national climate change targets.

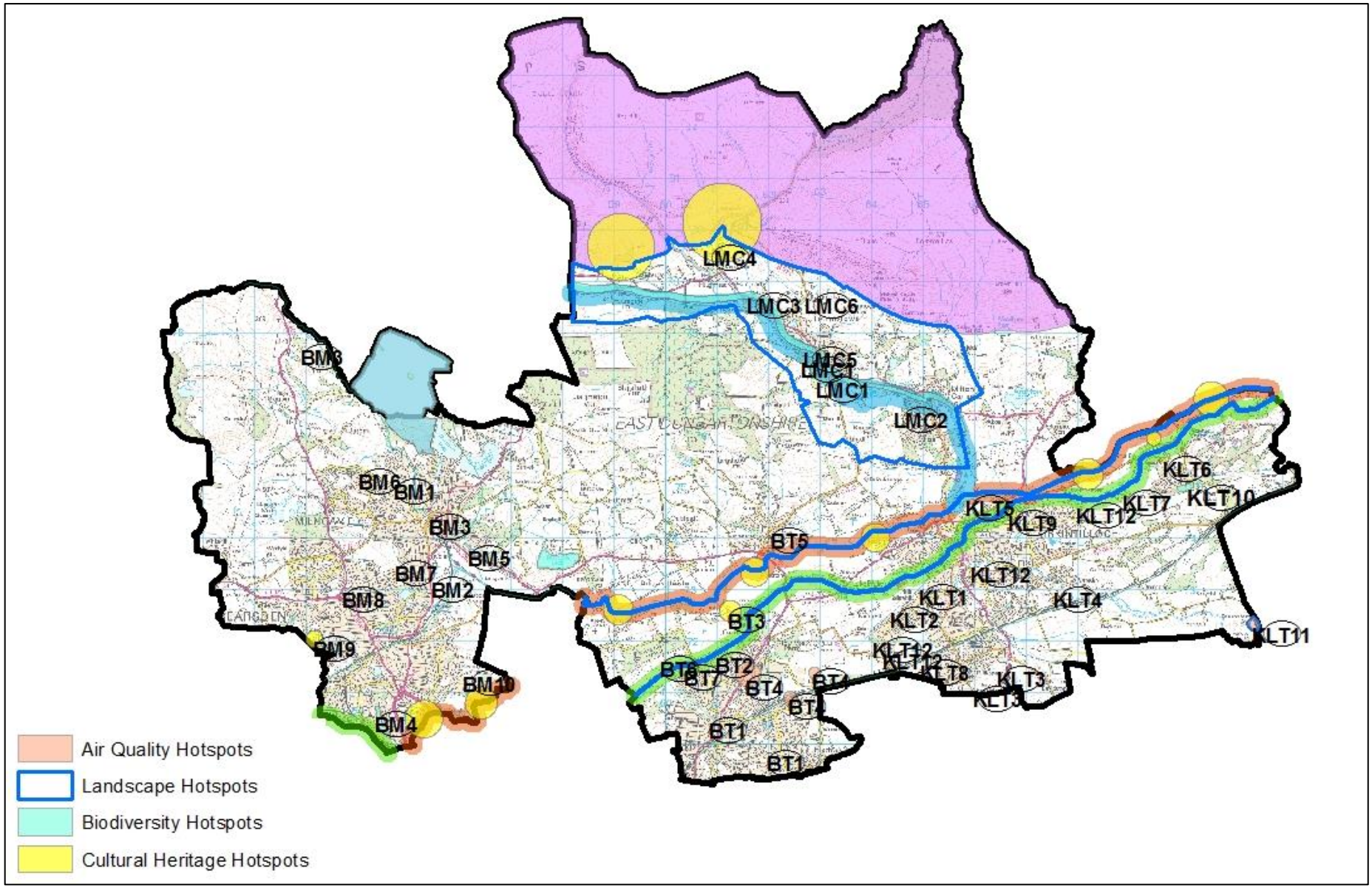


Figure 8: Cumulative Environmental Hotspots

3.12. Influence of SEA on the Green Network Strategy

3.12.1. Through each of the assessments for the Strategic Direct, Ambition, Aims, Local and Strategic Opportunities for the Green Network Strategy (GNS) there have been notable examples of the positive influence of SEA on the development of the GNS including consideration of the proposed mitigation measures to be integrated into the Strategy 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 GNS.
- **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 GNS.
- **Local and Strategic Opportunities –** All of the SEA preferred options for the local and strategic opportunities assessed were integrated into the LBAP, taking into account any wording changes and SEA suggested alterations.

3.12.2. It should be noted that there were elements of the local opportunities in relation to the key requirements of the Local Development Plan (BM1, BM7, BM9, BM10, KLT3, KLT4, KLT11 and LMC3) were not deemed appropriate for assessment at this stage and so there is not environmental rating for these actions. The full assessments in **Appendix E** give justification as to the reasons for not assessing them as part of the Environmental Report for the GNS.

3.12.3. 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 Green Network Strategy.

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 Green Network Strategy. 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. Where possible, the SEA monitoring framework will align with the monitoring of the Strategy. However, it is not intended that a separate monitoring framework will be developed for the Green Network Strategy; any monitoring will be done taking into the individual monitoring frameworks for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Active Travel Strategy, as well as other relevant Council documents such as the Sustainability and Climate Change Framework and Local Development Plan.

4.2.2 The specific measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of GNS will form part of the Post-Adoption Statement prepared as soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of the GNS in accordance with Section 18 of the Act. It is envisaged that the following indicators will be included within the monitoring framework (Table 9).

Table 9: Proposed SEA monitoring framework for the Green Network Strategy

SEA Category	Indicators	Data Source
Population and Human Health	% increase in overall walking and cycling rates in East Dunbartonshire	East Dunbartonshire Council (EDC)
	Changes in the deprivation levels in 15 – 20 % SIMD areas	SCROL
	Improvements in local health and wellbeing	EDC / NHS
	Number of projects in the GNS related to environmental education and increased awareness	EDC
	% uptake of outdoor pursuits	EDC
	Number of urban connectivity opportunities and access route improvements to access rural environment	EDC
Cultural Heritage	Number of cultural heritage assets in or near the vicinity of opportunities or projects in the GNS	EDC / Historic Environment

SEA Category	Indicators	Data Source
	Number of heritage sites such as Gardens and Designed Landscapes with enhancement measures	Scotland
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Number of housing and business/employment development sites with improved provision and incorporation of green network opportunities	EDC / SNH
	Ecosystem specific indicators, such as area of woodland, wetland and grassland improved/enhanced	
	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	
Soil and Geology	% of peatland/blanket bog sites improved or lost through green network improvements	SNH / EDC / SEPA / James Hutton Institute
	Number of local and strategic opportunities in close proximity to Local Nature Conservation Sites for Geodiversity	
Landscape	Number of habitat networks improved in terms of connectivity and reduced fragmentation as a result of the GNS	EDC
	Number of green network opportunities at a cross-boundary level	
	Number of green network opportunities undertaken in Local Landscape Areas	
	Number of projects integrating green network routes and connectivity through the district with neighbouring authorities and wider regional green network	EDC / neighbouring local authorities / CSGNP / CSGN
Water Quality	Changes to the classification of water bodies in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive	SEPA
	Changes to drainage and capacity levels in relation to green network improvements and enhancements	EDC / 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	Changes in the extent to flooding, particularly in relation to the local and strategic green network opportunities (SEPA Flood Mapping)	SEPA / EDC
	Number of projects contributing to natural flood management and alleviation	
	% area of woodland habitat enhancement or creation for carbon capture/storage	
Material Assets	% change of population utilising core path networks in East Dunbartonshire	EDC / Transport Scotland / SPT
	% change in population utilising strategic green network routes (Strathkelvin Way, John Muir Way, Glazert Valley, River Kelvin and Forth and Clyde Canal)	

Section 5: Statutory Consultation and SEA Timetable

5.1. Statutory Consultation

5.1.1. The statutory consultation for this SEA document and corresponding Green Network Strategy was:

1st August 2016 – 12th September 2016

5.2. SEA Timetable

5.2.1. The SEA activities to date and approximate timetable for the Green Network Strategy for further SEA stages are summarised below (Table 10). The SEA process has aligned with the development stages for the Strategy itself.

Table 10: Consultation and SEA timetable

	Strategy 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	April – May 2015
	Development of draft purpose for the GNS	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 25th May 2015 for a 5 week consultation
		Review responses from the Scoping Report consultation period	16th June 2015 – 23rd June 2015
PLANNED SEA STAGES	Prepare draft Plan • Produce 'ambition' and 'objectives' for the GNS • Establish an action programme	Draft Environmental Report: • Carry out environmental assessments – strategic direction, ambition, objectives and action • Assess all reasonable alternatives to the Strategy • Feed SEA findings into LBAP, where possible	• The draft Environmental Report will be prepared alongside the preparation of the GNS • Responses from the Consultation Authorities will be taken into account at this stage • Drafting between June 2015 and October 2015 • Finalise Environmental Report in December 2015
	Publish and consult on the draft GNS	Publish and consult on the draft Environmental Report	Consultation with the public and Consultation Authorities (minimum of 6 weeks)
	Adopt Green Network Strategy	Publish Post-Adoption Statement along with the adopted finalised GNS	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:

Consultation Authority Responses to the Scoping Report

Appendix C:

Full assessment of the ambition and aims for the Green Network Strategy

Appendix D:

Full assessment of the objectives for the Green Network Strategy

Appendix E:

Full assessment of the local opportunities for the Green Network Strategy

Appendix F:

Full assessment of the strategic opportunities for the Green Network Strategy

Appendix G:

SEA objectives and criteria questions for the Green Network Strategy

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 Green Network Strategy. Their content, where appropriate, has been used to inform the environmental objectives for the SEA of the Strategy.

Relevant PPS to the Green Network Strategy	Summary / Objectives or requirements	How objectives and requirements influence the Green Network Strategy
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 and ensuring that our communities are able to live in harmony with the natural environment.	The outcomes proposed for the Green Network Strategy should be in line with a number of the principles set out in the Rio Declaration. In particular, the GNS will highlight opportunities to improve the green network in East Dunbartonshire in terms of improved access and enhancement to biodiversity value. In doing so, EDC will show its commitment to sustainable development; in particular protecting and enhancing the natural environment.
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 GNS will be developed in parallel to the development of EDC's Local Biodiversity Action Plan. In line with the purpose of the GNS, the outcomes of the Convention will be reflected and the GNS will show its duty for the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources where possible.
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 GNS will seek to identify potential areas within the green network in East Dunbartonshire that will offer a range of benefits, including adaptation to climate change. This aspect of the GNS will contribute to the targets in greenhouse gas emission reductions as set originally by the Kyoto Protocol and demonstrate the Council's duty to reducing 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.	The GNS will support the framework set by the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity by identifying priority areas that will support habitat connectivity within East Dunbartonshire.

Relevant PPS to the Green Network Strategy	Summary / Objectives or requirements	How objectives and requirements influence the Green Network Strategy
	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).	
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 GNS should consider its role in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by taking account of the needs and priorities at a local level. The Strategy will identify the role of East Dunbartonshire's green network for biodiversity which has the potential to contribute to the target.
	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 GNS will adhere to these requirements to support the protection of these species and ensure there are no cross-boundary impacts on SPA designated sites within adjacent local authority boundaries.
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 GNS should adhere to these requirements. The GNS proposes to enhance priority habitats as part of the green network in East Dunbartonshire and so will support the protection of these

Relevant PPS to the Green Network Strategy	Summary / Objectives or requirements	How objectives and requirements influence the Green Network Strategy
		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.	The GNS should ensure that it complies with the requirements of the Directive by ensuring that projects do not increase the risk of flooding. In particular, the GNS should be mindful of protecting waterbodies such as the Forth and Clyde Canal to ensure that opportunities to enhance these networks do not result in the decline of water quality.
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 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	The GNS will play a vital role in connecting habitats and biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire, and will help to contribute to the EU Biodiversity Strategy by showing its commitment to *managing and enhancing ecosystems and their services, and conserving and restoring nature.* Consideration of biodiversity as part of the GNS will provide further benefits to human wellbeing. The objectives of the GNS should consider, where possible, how it will adhere to the framework of action set in the Biodiversity Strategy.

Relevant PPS to the Green Network Strategy	Summary / Objectives or requirements	How objectives and requirements influence the Green Network Strategy
	➢ Addressing the global biodiversity crisis	
EU Common Agriculture Policy	The EU's Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) was originally implemented in 1962 but reformed and refined in 2013. Its main aims from the original Policy included: ➢ to improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; ➢ to ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living; The Policy, as it has been refined, addresses the fat that the EU has to account for more challenges including: ➢ food security — at the global level, food production will have to double in order to feed a world population of 9 billion people in 2050; ➢ climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; and ➢ Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive. The CAP primarily focuses on protecting agriculture in terms of farming as an industry and food production, but also recognises the requirements for EU member states to protect the countryside as a natural resource and the wider environment for the benefits it has for habitats, biodiversity, flora and fauna as well as protection of the landscape and the management of the effects of climate change.	The CAP sets aims and highlights the assets that should be valued in terms of agriculture including the countryside as a natural resource and the environment for the variety of benefits it offers. The GNS should consider how, following the identification of opportunities to enhance the green network in East Dunbartonshire, it will help to protect these assets and enhance the natural environment, where appropriate. It should ensure that its own objectives are considerate of the aims of the CAP.
	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	The objectives of the GNS should be compliant with the Wildlife and Countryside Act as they will contribute to the requirements of the Act.

Relevant PPS to the Green Network Strategy	Summary / Objectives or requirements	How objectives and requirements influence the Green Network Strategy
	afforded certain protection against damaging measures.	
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 GNS and the actions included in the Strategy should be considerate of the requirements of the Act. The
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 GNS should ensure that the duty is considered for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity as part of the wider green network.
Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003	The Land Reform (Scotland) Act establishes the statutory rights related to access to land in Scotland for recreational, commercial and educational purposes. It also sets the provisions for Right of Way and Core Path Plans. The requirements for a Scottish Outdoor Code to be produced and implemented by SNH and local authorities.	The GNS will need to adhere to the requirements of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act. The requirements related to Rights of Way, Core Path Plans and access rights will be of particular importance for the GNS.
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 four main themes: *A successful, sustainable place; a low carbon place; a natural, resilient place; and a connect place.* The NPF3 recognises that "*Integral to the delivery of [transforming the quality of the environment] will be the Central Scotland Green Network- improving quality of place, addressing environmental inequalities and enhancing health and well-being".* The CSGN is considered to be a national development for Scotland. It also identifies the importance of addressing issues related to vacant and derelict land, particularly in the West of Scotland. The NPF3 also supports the 2020 Biodiversity Challenge.	The GNS should recognise the requirements of the NPF3 through its commitment to improving East Dunbartonshire's green network. The GNS will show a commitment to the four main aims of the NPF3, particularly a natural, resilient place and a connected place. Developing green networks in Scotland is recommended as part of NPF3. The GNS for East Dunbartonshire should also support the 2020 Biodiversity Challenge to some extent.
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	The GNS will need to consider the requirements of SPP throughout its development, including the impact of development for biodiversity, habitats and path networks within East Dunbartonshire. The GNS will contribute to a number of policies set out within the SPP in relation to the natural environment and the development of green networks.

Relevant PPS to the Green Network Strategy	Summary / Objectives or requirements	How objectives and requirements influence the Green Network Strategy
	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. ➢ Principal policies (sustainability and placemaking) ➢ A commitment to the four themes set out in the NPF3. 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. It also supports the development of green networks for the protection or enhancement of connectivity and habitats.	
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 identifies the importance of a relationship between people and natural heritage. It encourages positive and creative thinking to address such issues. PAN60 complements the SPP. ➢ Maintaining and enhancing landscape character; ➢ Providing for a diversity of wildlife habitats; ➢ Making provision for a wide range of out-door recreational activities; and ➢ Fostering opportunities for learning about the environment.	The GNS 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 objectives set in PAN 60 are relevant to the GNS and, consequently, the GNS will be aligned through its own objectives.

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Planning Advice Note (PAN) 65	PAN 65- Planning and Open Space identifies the importance of open spaces as a valuable asset for quality of life, and the benefits of connecting them as part of a green network for benefits to people, the environment and biodiversity. It supports SPP11: Open Space and Physical Activity. PAN 65 sets out the range of values related to quality open spaces and a requirement for local authorities to develop an Open Space Strategy. In particular, the two key functions for the planning system for open spaces include: ➢ Protecting areas that are vulnerable and valued; and ➢ Ensuring provision of appropriate quality in, or within easy reach of, new development.	PAN 65 and the proposed GNS are aligned in their recognition of the benefits of open space for people, the environment and biodiversity. The GNS should consider the requirements of PAN 65, although it is evident by the purpose of the GNS that the Strategy will be in aligned with the two key functions of planning for open space identified in the PAN.
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 GNS, 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. The GNS should demonstrate how it intends to ensure the protection of the sites set out in the Act through its action plan programme.
Scottish Forestry Strategy (2006)	There are 7 key themes to achieve the vision of the Scottish Forestry Strategy- "*By the second half of this century, people are benefiting widely from Scotland's trees, woodlands and forests, actively engaging with and looking after them for the use and enjoyment of generations to come. The forestry resource has become a central part of our culture, economy and environment"*-which include: ➢ 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	The GNS has a role to play in terms of improving the natural environment and in turn increasing the attractiveness of woodland as part of the wider green network in East Dunbartonshire. The objectives of the GNS should consider the role of forestry and woodland in East Dunbartonshire as a benefit to the green network and in doing so align with the outcomes of the Scottish Forestry Strategy. The action plan set out in the GNS should demonstrate how the Strategy will ensure the protection, enhancement and management of existing forestry assets in East Dunbartonshire.

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	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 ➢ Helping to restore, maintain and enhance Scotland's biodiversity, and increasing awareness and enjoyment of it. The outcomes of the Strategy include: 1. Improved health and well-being of people and their communities 2. Competitive and innovative businesses contributing to the growth of the Scottish economy 3. High quality, robust and adaptable environment.	
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 GNS would need to ensure that its objectives are sensitive to the requirements of the Framework to ensure that any actions and projects to improve the green network in East Dunbartonshire are mindful to protect and enhance, where possible, biodiversity.
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 linked to the vision of the GNS. Many of the priorities for action expressed in the GNS 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	The proposed GNS aims to identify opportunities to maximise the benefits of a green network for adaption to climate change. In doing

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	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.	so, it is likely that the Strategy will include actions and future opportunities that will contribute to the targets in reducing greenhouse gas emissions at a local level.
'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 GNS should consider its role in contributing to achieving the aims set out by Climate Ready Scotland. In particular, the GNS will help achieve the aims related to a 'productive, health and diverse natural environment' and 'ensuring strong, healthy, resilient communities'.
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.	The GNS should contribute towards each of the National Outcomes, where possible. The National Outcomes particularly relevant to the GNS, 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

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	➢ We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society. ➢ 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 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
Low Carbon Scotland- Meeting our Emissions Reduction Targets 2013-2027	'Low Carbon Scotland – Meeting our Emissions Reduction Targets 2013-27' is the second report on policies and proposals ('RPP2') 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 42% by 2020 and by 80% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels, 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.	The GNS should contribute to Low Carbon Scotland, and the targets set therein, by highlighting the role of the green network, and components that form the green network including promoting active travel and enhancing biodiversity, for carbon capture and the importance of the green network as a natural resource. The objectives of the Strategy should demonstrate the role of the green network in achieving the targets set at a local level in line with this national legislation.
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	The GNS should consider how its objectives will be compliant with the objectives and requirements of the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework in order to show its commitment to achieving the targets

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	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.	and highlight the preferred actions which will contribute towards nature conservation in East Dunbartonshire.
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 GNS to ensure that its actions ensure the protection of 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 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	The objectives set out within the GNS should consider its role in supporting the targets set within The 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity.

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	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 GNS in terms of promoting the need for actions set out within the Strategy to mitigate the effects of flooding through appropriate management. Green networks within East Dunbartonshire by their nature can offset the risks of flooding. As such, the GNS will play a role in adhering to the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act. SEPA's involvement in the steering group will be significant in the development of the GNS.
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 GNS will play a vital role in enhancing the green network in East Dunbartonshire with benefits to biodiversity and habitats. East Dunbartonshire Council will show its commitment to the Biodiversity Duty. It is also important that the GNS considers 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 consideration in the development of the GNS. The requirements of the RBMP should be taken into account in the GNS and should express its commitment to meeting the targets for the waterbodies in East Dunbartonshire.

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Cycling Action Plan for Scotland (2013)	The Cycling Action Plan for Scotland sets out 19 actions to achieve the vision set by the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland that "*by 2020, 10% of everyday journeys taken in Scotland will be by bike".* The 19 actions are: ➢ Establish an annual national cycling summit involving the Minister for Scotland and local authority Heads of Transportation and relevant Committee Convenors, to lead delivery and gauge progress. ➢ Develop for each local area the strategic approach to supporting functional cycling (and active travel more broadly), mapping the appropriate infrastructure improvements required along with supporting promotional work to achieve tangible changes in travel choices. ➢ Continue to promote a national training programme on cycling-integration design and best practice to planners, designers and engineers, through the delivery of accredited modules such as Making Cycling Mainstream, and promote the use of planning policy - Designing Streets, Cycling by Design cycle guidance and Smarter Choices, Smarter Places good practice. ➢ Continue to develop and maintain community links – i.e., high quality, local infrastructure to support active travel (routes and public realm improvements) particularly in urban areas where high levels of cycling can be achieved, along with associated infrastructure such as cycle parking facilities at key destinations including schools, bus and rail stations, shopping areas and workplaces. ➢ Continue to develop and maintain the National Cycle Network to provide long distance cycling routes, connecting rural communities and promoting tourism. ➢ Develop better integration with public transport, through partnership working with interests such as rail and bus/coach operators and RTPs. ➢ Establish the Cycle Hub at Stirling Station as a pilot and evaluate	With access forming a considerable focus for the GNS, the objectives of the Strategy should demonstrate links that will complement the actions set by the Cycling Action Plan. In doing so, EDC will show a commitment to increasing bike journeys to meet Scottish Government targets.

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	it pilot for potential wider roll-out at other railway stations. ➢ Promote the implementation of 20 mph schemes in all residential areas and share best practice across the country. ➢ Develop and deliver a 'Mutual Respect' Campaign for all road users (complementing the 'Give Me Cycle Space' campaign aimed at drivers). ➢ Continue the roll-out of Bikeability Scotland cycle training through schools, steadily expanding participation, particularly in on-road training (Bikeability level 2). Develop and promote support for this, including volunteer-led delivery and parental involvement. ➢ Develop Adult Cycle Training resources, building on Bikeability Scotland standards, including an essential skills module as a pilot for potential roll-out nationwide. ➢ Promote and support community-led cycling initiatives, through signposting resources and providing support for projects that will promote cycling participation in an inclusive, accessible way. Evaluate the delivery of the Cycle Friendly Communities Fund programme to date and promote the learning to further develop approaches to supporting communities. ➢ Continue to promote projects which encourage primary school pupils to continue cycling when progressing to secondary schools, such as I-Bike and delivery of Bikeability Scotland level 3. ➢ Promote cycling for young people more broadly, for leisure or travel, for fun, health and sport, through the promotion of cycling activities, events and led cycle rides. ➢ Develop approaches to promoting access to bikes – e.g., develop Bike Library schemes for schools and communities to promote access to bikes in areas of low cycle use or deprivation, as taster cycling sessions. ➢ Encourage all employers across all sectors to become Cycle Friendly (e.g., by offering support for workplace cycling facilities	

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	and promotional resources, active travel champions, travel planning). ➢ Develop follow-up work from the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places evaluation report, applying learning to encourage active travel as part of community-based sustainable transport promotion. ➢ Report annually on an appropriate suite of national indicators to inform the national picture of cycling participation. ➢ Develop local monitoring, using data from local cycle counts and surveys etc., with support from national delivery bodies to develop a coordinated approach to data collection.	
Scottish Rural Development Programme 2014-2020	The overall purpose of the Scottish Rural Development Programme is to contribute towards sustainable economic growth within rural communities in Scotland by: ➢ Enhancing the rural economy ➢ Supporting agricultural businesses ➢ Protecting and improving the natural environment ➢ Addressing the impact of climate change ➢ Supporting rural communities.	In line with the SRDP, the GNS should consider how its objectives will contribute and adhere to the aims. In particular, the GNS should consider the role it can play in *protecting and improving the natural environment* and *addressing the impact of climate change* to *support rural communities.*
Scottish Outdoor Access Code	The Scottish Outdoor Access Code provides detailed guidance on the responsibilities set out within the Land Reform (Scotland) Act. The main principles laid out in the Code are: ➢ Respect the interests of other people ➢ Care for the environment ➢ Take responsibility for your own actions	The GNS should ensure that the principles of the Outdoor Access Code are integrated within the Strategy as part of identifying opportunities to enhance the green networks within East Dunbartonshire.

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Let's Get Scotland Walking – A National Walking Strategy	The National Walking Strategy is a key element to delivering the National Physical Activity Implementation Plan. Its vision *is a Scotland where everyone benefits from walking as part of their everyday journeys, enjoys walking in the outdoors and where places are well designed to encourage walking.* The 3 strategic aims are: ➢ Create a culture of walking where everyone walks more often as part of their everyday travel and for recreation and well-being ➢ Better quality walking environments with attractive, well designed and managed built and natural spaces for everyone ➢ Enable easy, convenient and safe independent mobility for everyone.	The development of the GNS will ensure that the aims of the National Walking Strategy are contributed to. The GNS will present a number of different opportunities to encourage walking in East Dunbartonshire.
People and Place-Regeneration Strategy Statement	The People and Place Regeneration Strategy Statement outlines Scotland's approach to regeneration and identifies the challenges that will be faced in ensuring success. It highlights the relationship between physical and social development within regeneration.- 'Although physical development on its own will not revive communities, land and property remain central to effective regeneration'.	The GNS intends to support regeneration through both physical and social development, in particular by identifying opportunities to integrate the green network in East Dunbartonshire with vacant and derelict land sites. Consequently, the Strategy will play a vital role in linking social and physical development with regard to the importance of a sense of place and community pride and inclusion.
Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) 2011	SHEP sets out the main principles and policies that will guide the management and enhancement of the historic environment for Scotland in support of the national outcome that '*we value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect and enhance it for future generations'.* The aims of SHEP are to: ➢ Realise the full potential of the historic environment as a resource – cultural, educational, economic and social – across every part of Scotland and for all the people; ➢ Make the best use of the historic environment to achieve their wider aims of economic and social regeneration; ➢ Identify the many aspects of our environment and protect and manage them in a sustainable way to secure their long-term	The GNS will contribute to the aims of SHEP by encouraging appropriate management of green networks which will encompass historical assets within East Dunbartonshire. It is likely that enhancements to the green network will provide benefits for the historic environment including visual amenity and improved access. Conversely, management and enhancement of the historic environment is likely to promote knowledge and use of the green network.

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	survival and preserve their embodied energy; ➢ Understand fully all aspects of the historic environment, and their condition and inter-relationships; ➢ Broaden access to the historic environment and break down intellectual physical and economic barriers; ➢ Ensure that effective systems underpinned by appropriate legislation and information are in place to conserve and manage the historic environment.	
Good Places, Better Health (2008)	Good Places, Better Health recognises the role of the physical environment for improving health inequalities and highlights the need to improve connections between these two factors. It supports five of the national outcomes: ➢ 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 ➢ We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need ➢ We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect and enhance it for future generations.	Through the opportunities that will be identified in in the GNS, the Strategy will show its commitment improving health and wellbeing in East Dunbartonshire. The GNS will demonstrate how the physical environment is vital for improving health and wellbeing.
Equally Well (2008)	In order to drive a vision to improve health inequalities in Scotland, the key principles include: ➢ Improving the whole range of circumstances and environment that offer opportunities to improve people's life circumstances and hence their health ➢ Addressing the inter-generational factors that risk perpetuating Scotland's health inequalities from parent to child, particularly by supporting the best possible start in life for all children in Scotland ➢ Engaging individuals, families and communities most at risk of poor health in services and decisions relevant to their health ➢ Delivering health and other public services that are universal, but also targeted and tailored to meet the needs of those most at risk of poor health. We need to prevent problems from	The GNS should demonstrate its commitment to improving health inequalities at a local level in East Dunbartonshire. It is likely that by integrating the green network for benefits related to biodiversity and improvements in accessing the environment for local communities, there will be also be notable health benefits as a result.

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	arising in the future, as well as addressing them if they do.	
	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 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	The findings of the Landscape Assessment are a key consideration for the GNS as it will need to be taking into account to ensure that the development of the GNS action plan, and its integration, notes the different landscape typologies within East Dunbartonshire and develops actions that are sensitive to the local landscape.

Relevant PPS to the Green Network Strategy	Summary / Objectives or requirements	How objectives and requirements influence the Green Network Strategy
	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 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. It recognises the green network as a key environmental component for addressing the range of objectives in the SDP.	The SDP provides the overall geographical framework for development in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Region. The GNS should consider the role of the green network in East Dunbartonshire for achieving the objectives set by the SDP as well as ensuring that the Strategy's objectives reflect the benefits of a green network as highlighted in the SDP.
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*	The GNS should support the vision of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Forestry and Woodland Strategy. It should consider the role of woodland and forestry in East Dunbartonshire and the role this can play in integrating with the green network in order to align with the aims of the GCV Forestry and Woodland Strategy.

Relevant PPS to the Green Network Strategy	Summary / Objectives or requirements	How objectives and requirements influence the Green Network Strategy
	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.	
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 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	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 GNS once it is fully implemented, particularly since East Dunbartonshire lies within or overlapping the district boundary of the C&LLFRMP. The GNS 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 the green network in East Dunbartonshire. The GNS 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 GNS will also need to understand the impact of actions within neighbouring authorities for East Dunbartonshire.

Relevant PPS to the Green Network Strategy	Summary / Objectives or requirements	How objectives and requirements influence the Green Network Strategy
	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 long term aims for 2014-44 are: ➢ Safeguard and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site by managing, conserving and protecting the Site and its cultural and natural landscape setting ➢ Promote awareness and understanding of this Outstanding Universal Value to local, regional, national and global audiences by improving physical and intellectual accessibility ➢ Realise the World Heritage Site's full potential as an education and learning resource ➢ Build strong structural and organisational partnerships with local, national and international organisations; strengthen engagement with local communities; and contribute to sustainable economic growth ➢ Balance wider environmental concerns in the sustainable management of the World Heritage Site ➢ Increase research opportunities nationally and internationally and use this new research to underpin work to protect and promote the World Heritage Site.	The GNS 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.
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	The neighbouring authorities to which this would relate include: ➢ West Dunbartonshire Council	The GNS will need to consider neighbouring authorities strategic plans in the development of the GNS. This is particularly important where

Relevant PPS to the Green Network Strategy	Summary / Objectives or requirements	How objectives and requirements influence the Green Network Strategy
Authority Strategic Actions	➢ 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 ➢ Active Travel Strategies	green networks cross boundaries into other local authorities, such as Mugdock Country Park which is part of Stirling Council.
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: ➢ 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.	The CSGN should be a primary consideration in the development of the GNS. Its vision and themes should be reflected in the GNS to ensure that East Dunbartonshire is demonstrating its duty and commitment to enhancing the green network across central Scotland. The objectives of the GNS should demonstrate how it will help to achieve the intended outcomes of the CSGN.
	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	The Campsie Fells is significant to the landscape of East Dunbartonshire. There is significant potential to integrate the actions of the GNS with the actions set out in the Campsies Action Plan in

Relevant PPS to the Green Network Strategy	Summary / Objectives or requirements	How objectives and requirements influence the Green Network Strategy
	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.	terms of protecting and enhancing East Dunbartonshire's natural environment. The GNS should reflect East Dunbartonshire's commitment to protecting biodiversity assets and promoting access that are linked to the Campsie Fells. The GNS should also consider its role in benefiting the landscape of the Campsies.
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 GNS 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
	The Local Plan 2 is primarily concerned with the use and development of	The GNS will help to guide developments, as set out in the Local Plan 2,

Relevant PPS to the Green Network Strategy	Summary / Objectives or requirements	How objectives and requirements influence the Green Network Strategy
Local Plan 2 2011-2016	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.	in order to reduce, prevent or offset the effects of development on biodiversity, access and networks.
Local Development Plan (2016)	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.
LDP Green Infrastructure and Green Network Supplementary Guidance	Following the implementation of the LDP, Supplementary Guidance (SG) for Green Infrastructure and Green Networks will be developed. At its current stage of development, proposed outcomes of the SG include: ➢ Define and map the existing and aspirational green network in East Dunbartonshire, including cores/ hubs, corridors, links and stepping stones ➢ Identify the principles for planning green networks ➢ Apply the SDP green network priorities to East Dunbartonshire: Priorities for habitats expansion, Priorities for improved access to open space, Disadvantaged communities and Climate change adaptation areas ➢ Be compatible with and support the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and emerging Active Travel Strategy. Part of this is to take integrated habitat networks into consideration. ➢ Refine the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Forest and Woodland Strategy for East Dunbartonshire by taking local information, including local natural and cultural heritage interest into consideration to provide more guidance on the suitability of land for new woodland planting and restocking. This will help secure financial resources to deliver the Strategy's vision and to assist Forestry Commission Scotland in considering the suitability of applications for grant assistance for planting and management of woodlands ➢ Apply the SDP green network opportunities to the area along with the additional opportunity of forest and woodland that include: underperforming open space, areas of land use change	It is likely that the GNS and the SG will be developed in parallel and the objectives for each document will be complementary. The outcomes of the GNS opportunity mapping will inform the SG.

Relevant PPS to the Green Network Strategy	Summary / Objectives or requirements	How objectives and requirements influence the Green Network Strategy
	and vacant & derelict land. Outline green network opportunities from development and woodland planting/restocking ➢ Set out an action plan for delivery of these opportunities and the stakeholders involved ➢ Set out guidance on how to do a site appraisal of existing and potential green infrastructure and green network, as part of a development proposal or woodland planting/ restocking proposal ➢ Provide a rationale for asking for Planning Obligations towards green network opportunities and the costs involved for development. This will inform supplementary guidance.	
EDC Core Path Plan	The East Dunbartonshire Council Core Path Plan objectives are: ➢ 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.	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 improvements to these assets. Issues related to access will be addressed within the GNS and opportunities will be highlighted to improve green network accessibility. As such, the objectives of the Strategy will be aligned with those in the Core Path Plan. In addition, the different network and core paths identified in the CPP will be an important consideration in the opportunities mapping in the GNS.
East Dunbartonshire 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 GNS will contribute, in parallel, to the aims of the Sustainable Development Strategy. In particular, the GNS should show its commitment to the sustainable use of the natural environment to ensure that it is protected. The GNS should also take into account the Sustainability and Climate Change Framework once it has been implemented.
EDC Open Space	The Open Space Strategy sets a framework for current and future open	The GNS will contribute to the aims of the Open Space Strategy. Both

Relevant PPS to the Green Network Strategy	Summary / Objectives or requirements	How objectives and requirements influence the Green Network Strategy
Strategy 2015 - 2020	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 ➢ Contribute to meeting the objectives of the Single Outcome Agreement.	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, will be addressed specifically through the GNS.
EDC Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-2020	East Dunbartonshire Council are in the process of developing a Local Biodiversity Action Plan which will play an important role in contributing towards the national targets for biodiversity set out by the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (SBS) to prevent further biodiversity loss and restore the essential services for a healthy natural environment by 2020. The targets of the SBS are due to be updated in 2020. As a result it is proposed the LBAP will run from 2016-2020 and then be reviewed to reflect any changes emerging from the review of the SBS targets. The proposed outcomes of the Plan are: ➢ Biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire is protected and enhanced with clear evidence for the reversal or slowing of decline ➢ Improved health and quality of life for the people of East Dunbartonshire, through protection and enhancement of greenspaces, protected areas, nature and landscapes ➢ The intrinsic value and importance of East Dunbartonshire's biodiversity and the additional social and economic benefits it provides are understood by all ➢ Ecosystems in East Dunbartonshire are healthy and functioning well so they are able to provide ecosystem services to residents and businesses	Both the LBAP and the GNS will be developed in parallel, and due to a direct link between biodiversity and the enhancement of East Dunbartonshire's green network, the GNS should demonstrate an alignment between the objectives for the Strategy and the LBAP.
EDC Active Travel Strategy	East Dunbartonshire Council are in the process of developing an Active Travel Strategy (ATS) which will cover the period of 2015 – 2020. The	The GNS will encompass issues related to access in East Dunbartonshire, including feasible options that will contribute to

Relevant PPS to the Green Network Strategy	Summary / Objectives or requirements	How objectives and requirements influence the Green Network Strategy
	proposed purpose of the Strategy is to: ➢ Produce a Strategy for increasing participation in Active Travel in East Dunbartonshire spanning 5 years which will complement and deliver on transport objectives and interventions within the current Local Transport Strategy and feed into LTS2. ➢ Set out an action plan for active travel in East Dunbartonshire outlining a range of coordinated projects which deliver multiple benefits and value for money for the region. This action programme of interventions and approaches should be derived from a robust evidence base and should include comprehensive maps of walking and cycling networks in the region. ➢ Deliver a comprehensive strategy document for East Dunbartonshire within a national and regional context that will set out how active travel for commuting, leisure and tourism purposes will be facilitated. ➢ Establish East Dunbartonshire's vision for active travel in the region and sets challenging but realistic targets for participation in active travel based on rigorous review of evidence. Clearly outlines what success looks like. ➢ Produce a strategy that is consistent with the Council, Government and transport bodies' (SPT, Sustrans) objectives and guidance for active travel. ➢ Deliver a Monitoring Plan that determines baseline levels of walking and cycling and reports on changes in participation rates of active travel.	improving participation with active travel. Some of the objectives in the GNS will relate to active travel and accessibility which will be aligned with those of the ATS. It is also likely that the outcomes of the ATS will have a direct influence on the GNS

Appendix B: 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	The scoping report provides a clear description of the approach to the assessment and HS are content to agree with the scope and level of detail proposed for the SEA.	Noted.
Consultation Period for the Environmental Report	HS note that it is proposed that the strategy and its environmental report be out for consultation for a minimum of 6 weeks. HS can confirm that HS are content with the consultation period proposed.	Noted.
Proposed Environmental Baseline Data	HS welcome the identification of an appropriate historic environment baseline for the assessment. Information on the type and location of designated historic environment assets can be found at http://data.historic-scotland.gov.uk/pls/htmldb/f?p=2100:10:0#. HS would also point you to HS guidance note on the consideration of the setting of the historic environment which can be found at http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/setting-2.pdf.	Noted. We will consider this guidance during the development of the Environmental Report.
Environmental Issues for the Green Network Strategy	HS welcome the recognition here of the potential negative effects an increase in access to sensitive historic environment assets could have.	Noted.
Scope In/Out of Environmental Factors	HS note that it is recognised that the strategy has the potential to have significant (positive and negative) effects on the historic environment. In light of this I agree with the scope of the assessment.	Noted.
Assessment Framework	HS understanding from the scoping report is that the vision, objectives, actions and interventions will be subject to assessment together with their reasonable alternatives. This approach is welcomed as is the recognition of the role SEA plays in proposing alternatives.	Noted.
Proposed SEA Objectives, Assessment Questions and Indicators	The suggested objective for the historic environment should work well in testing against the outputs of the strategy. HS note that the assessment criteria questions are focussed on access/visitor encouragement etc. While this is to be welcomes it will be important for the assessment to also consider where the outputs of the strategy have the potential to conflict with the protection of the historic environment. As the scoping	Noted. A draft question for the assessment under 'Cultural Heritage' has been added to reflect HS suggested. The additional question is *Will the proposed vision/objectives/actions protect sites of historic importance?* We are in

	report notes there is potential for increased access to historic environment sites to have a negative effect through increased footfall and erosion etc. In order for the assessment to help identify and offer mitigation for any such effects HS would suggest that the draft assessment questions be appended to include a question that specifically tests the actions in relation to protection. This could be along the lines of: *Will the proposed vision/objectives/actions protect sites of historic importance?* In terms of the draft indicators you may wish to consider amending the first entry as the "number of cultural heritage assets in or near the vicinity of projects in the GNS" can be influenced by a number of factors outwith the scope of the strategy. One solution to this could be "Condition of cultural heritage assets in or near the vicinity of projects where significant effects are predicted".	agreement with HS to include a question that reflects the impacts to the historic environment in broader terms. Agree. The indicator has been updated to reflect the opinion of HS.
Mitigation and Monitoring	HS welcome that the avoidance of significant negative environmental impacts on the historic environment is recognised as top of the mitigation hierarchy.	Noted.
SNH		
ISSUE	**COMMENT**	**HOW HAS THIS BEEN ADDRESSED IN THE ASSESSMENT?**
Scope of Assessment and Level of Detail	Subject to the specific comments below, SNH are content with the scope and level of detail proposed for the environmental report.	Noted.
Consultation Period for the Environmental Report	SNH note a minimum period of 6 to 8 weeks for consultation on the Environmental Report and are content with this proposed period.	Noted.
Alternatives	SNH are content with the alternatives considered within the Scoping Report and have no further comments to make with regard to this.	Noted.
SEA Objectives	SNH note the current SEA objectives and these generally appear satisfactory. We suggest the following additions under the following SEA topic: Soil and Geology: SNH would recommend that the proposed vision/objectives/actions for sensitive soils include protection and	Agree. The question for assessment has been updated to *Will the proposed vision/objectives/actions protect and improve areas of peatland and carbon rich soils?*

	improvement to peatland *and* carbon rich soils. Landscape: Within the proposed SEA objective SNH would recommend the objectives seek to actively enhance landscape character and other qualities. The objective may therefore read "*To protect, enhance and, where appropriate, restore landscape character, local distinctiveness and scenic value".*	Agree. The proposed objective for "Landscape" has been refined to reflect HS comments. It now reads *To protect, enhance and, where appropriate, restore landscape character, local distinctiveness and scenic value.*
Draft Assessment Matrix	SNH would recommend that the draft assessment matric presented in Appendix 2 includes mitigation where potential negative environmental effects or other conflicts are likely.	Noted. It is intended to include mitigation measures in each of the assessments in the Environmental Report where appropriate.
SEPA		
ISSUE	**COMMENT**	**HOW HAS THIS BEEN ADDRESSED IN THE ASSESSMENT?**
Alternatives	SEPA are satisfied with the alternatives to the plan outlined. It is also noted that alternatives to the proposed objectives and action plan will be considered. Any reasonable alternatives identified during the preparation of the plan 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. All reasonable alternatives will be assessed within the Environmental Report.
Scoping In/Out of Environmental Factors	SEPA agree with the environmental factors to be scoped into the assessment.	Noted.
Methodology for Assessing Environmental Effects	SEPA support the use of SEA objectives and associated questions as assessment tools as they allow a systematic, rigorous and consistent framework with which to assess environmental effects. When it comes to setting out the results of the assessment in the Environmental Report enough information to clearly justify the reasons for each of the assessments presented should be provided.	Noted.
Mitigation and Enhancement	It is noted that proposed mitigation measures will follow the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate). SEPA would also encourage you to use the assessment as a way to improve the environmental performance of individual aspects of the final option; and	Noted.

	the assessment should be used to highlight enhancement opportunities as well as mitigation of negative effects.	
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 in the Environmental Report included a description of the measures envisaged to monitor the significant environmental effects of the plan.	Noted.
Consultation Period	SEPA are satisfied with the proposal for a 6 to 8 week consultation period for the Environmental Report.	Noted.

Appendix C: Full assessment of the aims for the Green Network Strategy

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	✓	GNS 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	+ +	+	+ +	+ +	+ +	+	+ +	+ +	+ +	
	Proposed Aim: To contribute to the delivery of the vision and outcomes of the Central Scotland Green Network.									
	Assessment Commentary: Taking account of the vision and principles supporting the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN), this aim in general will be positive in nature. By contributing to the vision of the CSGN principles and five themes set by the CSGN, the likely positive effects to the environment include: ➢ Significant positive impacts to **Population and Human Health** as the green network in East Dunbartonshire will encourage increased levels of economic activity where businesses are enticed to locate, improve the natural environment for enjoyment by communities for benefits including improved levels of physical and mental wellbeing and a reduction in health inequalities. Furthermore, this aim will help to ensure that East Dunbartonshire has an attractive and safe green network, contributing to benefits to community involvement and sense of belonging. The role of the green network in improving the local area as an attractive place to live, work and visit will also present potential positive impacts to **Cultural Heritage** in terms of encouraging people to access their local historical environment and a contribution to the enhancement of cultural assets, which includes many natural historical sites such as Gardens and Designed Landscapes. ➢ Significant positive impacts to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, and Landscape** as the Strategy will help to contribute to the vision of the CSGN by '*creating an environment where nature can* flourish' (A place for nature – CSGN vision) which is likely to result in benefits to the various habitats and species in East Dunbartonshire, improving their resilience and allowing them to be enhanced. It is also anticipated that this aim will ensure that habitats in East Dunbartonshire will become more integrated and connected. In terms of landscape, it is likely that this aim will add to landscape character in the local area through a series of connected networks and habitats, linking both urban and rural communities in East Dunbartonshire. ➢ Potential significant positive impacts to **Air Quality, Climatic Factors, Soil and Geology, and Material Assets** related to the benefits associated with the role of green and blue assets in adapting to the effects of climate									

	change, including mitigating flooding, and capturing and storing carbon. This includes the protection of peatland and carbon rich soils by sustainably managing soil resources. It is also anticipated that achieving this aim will ensure that East Dunbartonshire's green network is well-connected to other core paths in the area and appropriate management of resources is encouraged and practiced. ➢ Positive impacts to **Water Quality** due to the role of the biodiversity aspect of green networks as a natural drainage management system and there is potential for the green network to contribute water catchment management. This will help to ensure that waterbodies in East Dunbartonshire are managed to maintain their ecological quality and prevent pollution and runoff.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: Although it is clear that this aim will result in predominantly significant positive effects to the local environment in East Dunbartonshire, it is suggested that the aim should also be aligned to the vision and outcomes of the Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership. "To contribute to the delivery of the vision and outcomes of the Central Scotland Green Network and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership".	
Alternative 2 ✓	**+ +** | **+** | **+ +** | **+ +** | **+ +** | **+** | **+ +** | **+ +** | **+ +**	✓
	Revised Aim: To contribute to the delivery of the vision and outcomes of the Central Scotland Green Network and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership.	
	Assessment Commentary: The environmental assessment of this alternative is comparable to that of Aim 1 Alternative 1; however, the revised aim will ensure greater alignment to both the Central Scotland Green Network and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership, offering a wide range of benefits for East Dunbartonshire and ensuring that East Dunbartonshire applies principles from both organisations for a holistic approach to green network enhancement.	
Aim 2		
Alternative 1	**+ +/+** | **?/-/+** | **+/0** | **?/-** | **+ +/+** | **?/-** | **+/+ +** | **+/+ +** | **+**	
	Proposed Aim: To protect and enhance the existing green network to realise a range of benefits including improved habitat connectivity, increased active travel, improved access to greenspace, enhanced health and wellbeing, and adaptation to the effects of climate change.	

Assessment Commentary:

The anticipated environmental effects of this aim are predicted to predominantly positive. In particular, the effects for **Population and Human Health and Landscape** are likely to be significantly positive. It is anticipated that the positive nature of these effects on the mentioned factors would contribute to:

- Benefits to local communities in East Dunbartonshire by improving access to open and greenspaces which is likely to improve participation in leisure pursuits and increase the enjoyment of the natural environment, with recognised health and wellbeing benefits.
- Opportunities to protect the various habitats and species in East Dunbartonshire, including protected and non-protected, as well as reducing habitat fragmentation across the landscape. This will improve connectivity in general, and potentially add to the character and visual amenity of East Dunbartonshire as a predominantly green belt area with designated sites such as Local Landscape Areas (e.g. Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills).

However, with no emphasis on expanding the green network, there is the potential that the impacts to **Population and Human Health and Landscape** will be minor positive, as some areas within East Dunbartonshire may not receive the opportunity to improve connectivity for health and wellbeing benefits and benefits for landscape connectivity.

Utilising East Dunbartonshire's green network to increase participation and use of active travel for leisure and business trips is likely to have minor positive impacts on **Air Quality and Climatic Factors** as this is likely to reduce the number of vehicles on the roads and the associated carbon emissions. The improvements are, in some locations, likely to be more significant, particularly where car-based travel is reduced within AQMAs such as Bearsden and Bishopbriggs.

At the stage, the effects to the remaining environmental factors are uncertain to an extent with some potential impacts predicted to the following factors:

- **Cultural Heritage** – By enhancing the green network in East Dunbartonshire to improve provision for active travel and access to the wider environment, there is the potential that increased footfall along green networks will negatively impact on sites of historical importance, including devaluing natural historical assets such as Gardens and Designed Landscapes and result in the deterioration of assets such as the Antonine Wall. On the other hand, by ensuring that the green network is a usable asset for all communities throughout East Dunbartonshire, there is potential for a positive impact in terms of tourism-related economy.
- **Soil and Geology –** Increasing active travel and improving access to the green network has the potential to result in erosion of soil, which is potentially high quality and valued for its geodiversity. Furthermore, access to the green network by walking and cycling has the potential to result in the disturbance of peatland and/or carbon rich soils, which has secondary impacts to air quality and climate change due to the potential release of carbon.
- **Water Quality** – Enhancing the green network will potentially require maintenance and alterations to the existing

	network, especially in order to improve access to the green network. This has the potential to result in temporary discharge or changes to drainage, with potential to contaminate nearby water sources including large waterbodies such as the Forth and Clyde Canal. The predicted impacts to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** are likely to be minor positive in terms of protecting and enhancing the green network for habitat connectivity, which is likely to present opportunities to protect protected and non-protected species in East Dunbartonshire, including reducing fragmentation of habitats. There is also potential that, through enhancements to the green network, designated sites such as LNRs, LNCS and SSSI will be allowed the chance to increase in value where possible. However, consideration should be given to take account of the potential that the effects to biodiversity might be neutral in terms of a lack of opportunities to expand the network. Although there are likely to be clear opportunities to protect and enhance existing biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire in priority locations, the effects may be limited. The likely effects for **Material Assets** are likely to be positive. Improving habitat connectivity and increasing the viability of the green network for active travel will help to connect other existing core paths, contributing to a well-connected and integrated network throughout East Dunbartonshire. This will show a commitment to changes to current transport infrastructure to promote a more sustainable network. However, the impact is predicted to be minor positive due to a lack of opportunity to expand the existing network for wider connections to existing core path networks and transport infrastructure beyond the local context.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: It is suggested that the aim focuses on the protection, enhancement and *expansion* of the green network. "To protect, enhance and expand the existing green network to realise a range of benefits including improved habitat connectivity, increased active travel, improved access to greenspace, enhanced health and wellbeing, and adaptation to the effects of climate change".	
Alternative 2	**+ +** | **?/-/+** | **+** | **?/-** | **+ +** | **?/-** | **+ +/-** | **+ +/-** | **+ +** **Proposed Aim:** To protect, enhance and expand the existing green network to realise a range of benefits including improved habitat connectivity, increased active travel, improved access to greenspace, enhanced health and wellbeing and adaptation to the effects of climate change.	

Assessment Commentary:

This aim is likely to be significantly positive for a number of environmental factors including **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets.** The effects are significant due to an emphasis on protecting, enhancing and expanded the green network, which goes beyond protection and management of the existing green network. It is anticipated that the positive nature of these effects on the mentioned factors would contribute to:

- Benefits to local communities in East Dunbartonshire by improving access to open and greenspaces which is likely to improve participation in leisure pursuits and increase the enjoyment of the natural environment, with recognised health and wellbeing benefits.
- Opportunities to protect the various habitats and species in East Dunbartonshire, including protected and non-protected, as well as reducing habitat fragmentation across the landscape. This will improve connectivity in general, and add to the character and visual amenity of East Dunbartonshire as a predominantly green belt area with designated sites such as Local Landscape Areas (e.g. Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills).
- A reduction in traffic congestion and resultant carbon emission levels as the green network will encourage active travel and a modal shift away from private car and road-based transport. This will contribute to improving air quality; this is particularly important for designated AQMAs in East Dunbartonshire in Bishopbriggs and Bearsden.
- Adaptation and mitigation to the effects of climate change in terms of the role that 'green'/natural assets plays in carbon storage, water retention and flood risk management.
- Improving habitat connectivity and increasing the viability of the green network for active travel will help to connect other existing core paths, creating a well-connected and integrated network throughout East Dunbartonshire. This will show a commitment to changes to current transport infrastructure to promote a more sustainable network.

At the stage, the effects to the remaining environmental factors are uncertain to an extent with some potential impacts predicted to the following factors:

- **Cultural Heritage** – By enhancing the green network in East Dunbartonshire to improve provision for active travel and access to the wider environment, there is the potential that increased footfall along green networks will negatively impact on sites of historical importance, including devaluing natural historical assets such as Gardens and Designed Landscapes and result in the deterioration of assets such as the Antonine Wall. On the other hand, by ensuring that the green network is a usable asset for all communities throughout East Dunbartonshire, there is potential for a positive impact in terms of tourism-related economy.
- **Soil and Geology** – Increasing active travel and improving access to the green network has the potential to result in erosion of soil, which is potentially high quality and valued for its geodiversity. Furthermore, access to the

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>green network by walking and cycling has the potential to result in the disturbance of peatland and/or carbon rich soils, which has secondary impacts to Air Quality and Climatic Factors due to the potential release of carbon.
➢ Water Quality – Enhancing the green network will potentially require maintenance and alterations to the existing network, especially in order to improve access to the green network. This has the potential to result in temporary discharge or changes to drainage, with potential to contaminate nearby water sources including large waterbodies such as the Forth and Clyde Canal.

SEA Suggested Alteration:
There is scope to increase the positive effects for Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna by ensuring that the aim focuses on increasing biodiversity and habitats, as well as the enhancement of habitat connectivity. It is also suggested that the wording of this aim be broadened beyond access to greenspace to account for access to all types of the outdoors. It is also suggested that the aim distinguishes between active travel for leisure and active travel for commuting.

“To protect, enhance and expand the existing green network to realise a range of benefits including improved habitat connectivity, enhanced biodiversity value, improved access to the outdoors and provision for walking and cycling, enhanced health and wellbeing and adaptation to the effects of climate change”.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Alternative 3
✓</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: To protect, enhance and expand the existing green network to realise a range of benefits including improved habitat connectivity, enhanced biodiversity value, improved access to the outdoors and provision for walking and cycling, enhanced health and wellbeing and adaptation to the effects of climate change.

Assessment Commentary:
The likely effects for each of the environmental factors are comparable to the above mentioned impacts for Alternative 2. However, the impact for Biodiversity Flora and Fauna has altered from minor positive to significant positive. This aim intends to protect, enhance and expand the existing green network in order to achieve enhanced biodiversity value. This is likely to result in significant benefits for protected and non-protected species in East Dunbartonshire, allowing for biodiversity to flourish and have the opportunity to enhance along with the expansion of habitats. It also highlights that the Strategy will ensure the protection and enhancement of designated sites such as Local Nature Reserves, Local Nature Conservation Sites and SSSI by increasing their value.

Although this aim has the potential to result in the disturbance of peatland and carbon rich soils due to the promotion of the green network for active travel for both leisure and commuting travel including walking and cycling, enhancing and expanding biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire has the potential to offset any additional carbon and pollutants in the atmosphere that may occur as a result of disturbance to the land. This has the potential to offset the negative effects for both Air Quality and Climatic Factors.</td><td>✓</td></tr>
</table>

	SEA Suggested Alternation: It is suggested that the aim be broadened beyond access to greenspace to account for access to all types of the outdoors. It is also suggested that the aim distinguishes between active travel for leisure and active travel for commuting. th								
Aim 3									
Alternative 1	**?/+**	**?/+**	**?/+**	**?/+**	**?/+**	**?/+**	**?/+**	**?/+**	**?/+**
	Proposed Aim: Measures to achieve a green network are incorporated into Council policies and strategies.								
	Assessment Commentary: This aim sets a broad outcome for East Dunbartonshire Council's Green Network Strategy, but fails to give detail as to how and to whom this will be delivered. Consequently the predicted effects to all of the environmental factors are unclear without explanation of its direction. However, there is the potential for positive effects for each of the environmental factors but the significance of these effects is anticipated to be limited due to the scope of this aim. The positive effects are related to the integration of green network priorities and measures into Council policies, strategies and decision-making processes, including: ➢ Benefits for local communities due to the potential to utilise the green network to promote active lifestyles for benefits to health and wellbeing. ➢ Opportunities to protect various habitats and species in East Dunbartonshire, including protected and non-protected, as well as reducing habitat fragmentation across the landscape. This will improve connectivity in general, which includes improving habitat connectivity and increasing the viability of the green network for active travel. This will play a part in connecting other existing core paths, creating a well-connected and integrated network throughout East Dunbartonshire, which will show a commitment to changes to current transport infrastructure to promote a more sustainable network. ➢ Contributions to the character and visual amenity of East Dunbartonshire as a predominantly green belt area with designated sites such as Local Landscape Areas (e.g. Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills). ➢ A reduction in traffic congestion and resultant carbon emission levels as the green network will encourage active travel and a modal shift away from private car and road-based transport. This will contribute to improving air quality; this is particularly important for designated AQMAs in East Dunbartonshire in Bishopbriggs and Bearsden. ➢ Adaptation and mitigation to the effects of climate change in terms of the role that 'green'/natural assets plays in carbon storage, water retention and flood risk management. ➢ The potential that increased footfall along green networks will result in a positive impact in terms of tourism-related economy.								
	SEA Suggested Alternation: Given the broad nature of this proposed aim, it is suggested that the wording of the aim is elaborated to highlight who will								

	benefit from the green network and to indicate the purpose of incorporating measures to achieve these benefits through the integration of measures in Council policies and strategies. "A functioning, productive and well-connected green network is seen as vital to society and the environment, and measures to achieve this are incorporated into Council policies and strategies."
Alternative 2	**+/+ +** | **?/-** | **+/+ +** | **?/-** | **+/+ +** | **?/-** | **+/+ +** | **+/+ +** | **+ +** **Proposed Aim:** A functioning, productive and well-connected green network is seen as vital to society and the environment, and measures to achieve this are incorporated into Council policies and strategies.
	Assessment Commentary: The predicted environmental effects of this aim are, in general, minor positive with some potential significant positive effects anticipated if there is an emphasis on a number of the benefits of a green network, particularly for **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets.** This alternative gives greater direction to the Strategy ensuring that other Council policies and strategies incorporate the measures outlined in the Green Network Strategy to contribute to a functioning, productive and well-connected green network. This is likely to result in a number of opportunities such as: ➢ Improving access to open and greenspaces which is likely to improve participation in leisure pursuits and increase the enjoyment of the natural environment, with recognised health and wellbeing benefits for local communities. ➢ The protection of habitats and species in East Dunbartonshire, including protected and non-protected, as well as contributions to a reduction in habitat fragmentation across the landscape. This has the potential to improve East Dunbartonshire as an attractive place to visit, live and work. ➢ A reduction in traffic congestion and resultant carbon emission levels through the encouragement of active travel measures and a modal shift away from private car and road-based transport. This will contribute to improving air quality; this is particularly important for designated AQMAs in East Dunbartonshire in Bishopbriggs and Bearsden. ➢ Adaptation and mitigation to the effects of climate change in terms of the role that 'green'/natural assets plays in carbon storage, water retention and flood risk management. ➢ The creation of a well-connected and integrated network throughout East Dunbartonshire. This will show a commitment to changes to current transport infrastructure to promote a more sustainable network. However, the impacts to **Cultural Heritage, Soil and Geology and Water Quality** at this stage are uncertain, with potential minor positive and negative impacts. This is due to the impact of access to the wider natural environment on the deterioration of valued soil such as peatland, the potential for drainage issues and run-off pollution from the deterioration of land, and potential adverse impacts to the historical environment due to increased footfall. Mitigation measures will need to be outlined and implemented in both the Green Network Strategy and other Council policies and strategies to

	account for these negative impacts, as well as to improve the significance of any positive effects.	
	SEA Suggested Alternation: Although this alternative is likely to present positive impacts through the incorporation of measures to deliver a functioning green network within all Council policies and strategies, where possible, which is able to act as a productive and valuable asset for a number of local and regional benefits, it is suggested that the wording of this aim includes the consideration of green network measures within decision making processes in the Council, such as planning applications. This will ensure that measures to achieve these roles of the green network are incorporated into as many streams as possible for effectiveness and comprehensiveness throughout Council operations. "A functioning, productive and well-connected green network is seen as vital to society and the environment, and measures to achieve this are incorporated into Council policies and strategies. The value of the green network is considered in all decision making".	
Alternative 3 ✓	++ | ?/+/- | ++ | ?/- | ++ | ?/- | ++ | ++ | ++	✓
	Proposed Aim: A functioning, productive and well-connected green network is seen as vital to society and the environment, and measures to achieve this are incorporated into Council policies and strategies. The value of the green network is considered in all decision making.	
	Assessment Commentary: The anticipated environmental effects of this alternative are comparable to those of Alternative 2. However, the refinement of the wording to include green network considerations in all decision-making processes is likely to increase the potential for significant impacts for **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets.** The impact to **Cultural Heritage, Soil and Geology and Water Quality** would remain uncertain at this stage, and further investigation would be required to determine the extent of the impact on these factors, particularly in order to avoid causing negative impacts, as discussed in the assessment for Alternative 2.	
	SEA Suggested Alternation: None at this stage.	

Appendix D: Full assessment of the objectives for the Green Network Strategy

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

Theme 1: Safeguarding Biodiversity

Objectives and Reasonable Alternatives	SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR									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	+	+	+ +	+	+ +	+	+	+	+	
	Proposed Objective: Improve habitat connections by enhancing biodiversity, restoring lost links and ensuring further fragmentation does not occur.									
	Assessment Commentary: This objective alternative focuses directly on enhancing biodiversity in order to improve habitat connectivity, restore fragmentation and prevent any further loss of habitats within East Dunbartonshire. As a result, it is anticipated that achieving this objective will have an overall positive impact on the environment, with some potential significant positive effects. The positive nature of the effects include: ➢ Direct significant positive effects for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Landscape** in terms of the potential to enhance the range and population numbers of species in East Dunbartonshire and contributing to improvements to habitat networks by increasing connectivity. This may lead to improved ecosystem services, management of woodland and forestry and encourage the use of the green network to benefit landscape									

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="3"></td><td>setting and distinctiveness across the Council-wide area.
➢ Positive impacts for Population and Human Health as there is potential that habitat improvements will promote a more sustainable environment to be enjoyed as well as demonstrate the benefits of a healthy environment on improvements to health and wellbeing.
➢ Positive impacts for Material Assets due to the consideration of how to utilise natural resources in East Dunbartonshire sustainably and is likely to improve habitat networks in order to encourage and improve connections to wider networks within the Council area and beyond into neighbouring authorities to some extent.

In addition to potential direct impacts as a result of meeting this objective set to safeguard biodiversity, there are potential secondary impacts to Cultural Heritage, Soil and Geology, Water Quality, Air Quality and Climatic Factors including:
➢ Potential contributions to enhancing natural heritage sits such as Gardens and Designed Landscapes and the settings of important historical sites in East Dunbartonshire such as the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and the Forth and Clyde Canal Scheduled Monument.
➢ With areas of peatland and/or carbon rich soils across the landscape of East Dunbartonshire, enhancing biodiversity and improving habitats is likely to protect such areas, where possible. Furthermore, the role of biodiversity for preventing soil erosion is likely to occur.
➢ Similarly, safeguarding biodiversity by enhancing existing biodiversity has the potential to have indirect benefits in terms of managing/enhancing water quality and the ecological status of waterbodies. The role of biodiversity for minimising the impact of surface water run-off and poor drainage might also be improved.
➢ The role of biodiversity for ecosystem services such as carbon capture and mitigating the effects of climate change including flooding are likely to maximised, with potential positive benefits for improving air quality, particularly in AQMAs and for reducing the negative impacts of climate change.</td><td rowspan="3"></td></tr>
<tr><td>SEA Suggested Alteration:
It is suggested that the objective focuses on both the quantity and quality of habitat connections within East Dunbartonshire as this is likely to have greater positive environmental impacts. It would also be beneficial to alter the wording so that the objective is more refined.

“Improve the quality and quantity of habitat connections and prevent further fragmentation”.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Alternative 1 Revised</td><td>
<table>
<tr><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+ +</td><td>+</td><td>+ +</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Proposed Objective: Improve the quantity and quality of habitat connections and prevent further fragmentation.</td></tr>
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</td><td></td></tr>
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✓	**Assessment Commentary:** The predicted environmental impacts of this revised objective are similar to those of the original alternative with an overall positive impact. The effects identified for each of the environmental factors are also likely to result by meeting this objective through the Green Network Strategy. Although the overall rating for each of the environmental factors is the same as those in the original assessment for Alternative 1 the wording of the objective is more refined and will not limit the range and number of actions that can be proposed to meet it. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.								✓
Objective 2									
Alternative 1	**?**	**?**	**+/+ +**	**?**	**?**	**?**	**?**	**?**	**?**
	Proposed Objective: Support the action of the East Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.								
	Assessment Commentary: By supporting the actions set out in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP), the GNS will demonstrate a commitment to biodiversity conservation, management and enhancement which can be interlinked with access/active travel opportunities through the Strategy. Consequently, it is likely that meeting this objective with have a positive effect on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna,** with some potential significant positive impacts. However, knowledge of the specific actions set out in the LBAP is needed before determining the likely effects on the other environmental factors as well as to understand any conflicts between supporting the actions of the LBAP and delivering the actions of the Green Network Strategy. At this stage, it is also unclear as to whether the GNS will help to contribute to the delivery of relevant biodiversity actions, where appropriate, which has greater potential at presenting positive environmental impacts than exclusively supporting the LBAP actions. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.								
Alternative 2	**?/+**	**?/+**	**+/+ +**	**?/+**	**?/+**	**?/+**	**?/+**	**?/+**	**?/+**
	Proposed Objective: Support the action and the delivery of the East Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.								
	Assessment Commentary: Supporting the actions and the delivery of the LBAP is likely to present positive, and potential significant positive, impacts on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna,** as described above. Although the effects of this objective on the other environmental factors are uncertain at this stage and dependent on the nature of the actions within the LBAP, it is more likely that supporting these actions as well as their delivery through the Green Network Strategy will present greater								

	positive impacts on the environment. Although the LBAP is likely to consider the transboundary effect of its actions on the environment taking into account the effects of actions on surrounding local authorities such as Glasgow, West Dunbartonshire, Stirling and North Lanarkshire, the nature of the GNS is such that the actions are more likely to have transboundary effects and the actions from these local authorities as part of their own LBAP might impact on the delivery of actions for the wider green network. It is important that these effects are considered to reduce any potential negative impacts.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: To address the possibility of potential negative impacts due to the influence of actions within neighbouring local authority LBAPs, the objective should explore the need to account for these. "Support the action and the delivery of the East Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan and take into account the priorities and actions within neighbouring Local Biodiversity Action Plans, where appropriate."	
Alternative 2 Revised ✓	?/+ | ?/+ | +/+ + | ?/+ | ?/+ | ?/+ | ?/+ | ?/+ | ?/+	✓
	Proposed Objective: Support the delivery of the East Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan and take into account the priorities and actions within neighbouring Local Biodiversity Action Plan, where appropriate.	
	Assessment Commentary: This alternative is likely to present similar environmental impacts as those detailed in the assessment of alternative 2; however refining the wording of the objective to consider the impact of the actions within neighbouring authorities' LBAPs on the environment has a greater potential for positive environmental impacts in terms of each of the environmental factors and greater consideration of any potential negative impacts that may limit East Dunbartonshire meeting the aims of its LBAP and related effects for the GNS.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Objective 3		
Alternative 1	X | X | + + | + | + | + | + | + | +	
	Proposed Objective: Promote land and natural resource management practices that support and enhance biodiversity.	
	Assessment Commentary: This objective will focus the GNS to carry out actions or projects that will promote land and resource management. This approach to safeguarding biodiversity will have a direct significant positive impact for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna.** Biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire will benefit from opportunities to enhance and focusing on land and natural resource management practices will ensure that species, including both protected and non-protected species, are	

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>managed appropriately to prevent the deterioration of biodiversity value and potential extinctions. Furthermore, this objective is likely to contribute to the management of woodland and forestry in East Dunbartonshire. Overall, this objective will help to prevent the loss of biodiversity, and in doing so is likely to present potential positive impacts to Soil and Geology, Landscape and Water Quality in terms of contributing to the protection and prevention of soil degradation/erosion, potential improvements to habitat networks in light of biodiversity enhancement which is likely improve the general landscape setting and its visual amenity, as well as opportunities to utilise the role of biodiversity for managing drainage issues, particularly to prevent the run-off of pollutants to nearby water sources. In addition, this objective is likely to have a positive impact for Material Assets due to the promotion of sustainable use of community assets such as natural resources (biodiversity, woodland and forestry).

In terms of Air Quality and Climatic Factors, appropriate land management to support and enhance biodiversity is likely to contribute to improved ecosystem services including potential secondary impacts to reduce poor air quality, carbon storage and natural mitigation against the negative effects of climate change, such as flooding.

It is anticipated that there will be unlikely significant impacts for Population and Human Health and Cultural Heritage. This objective focuses on land management practices to support thriving biodiversity and although there are benefits to local communities and cultural heritage in East Dunbartonshire from enhanced biodiversity for creating a pleasant natural environment to be enjoyed as well as contributing to improvements to sites of historical interest, the impacts are unlikely to be notable.

SEA Suggested Alteration:
In order to align this objective with wider national and international agendas for sustainability, it is suggested that the objective alter to “Promote sustainable land and natural resource management practices that support and enhance biodiversity”.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Alternative 1 Revised

✓</td><td>
<table>
<tr><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>+ +</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+/+ +</td></tr>
</table>
Proposed Objective: Promote sustainable land and natural resource management practices that support and enhance biodiversity.

Assessment Commentary:
It is anticipated that the nature of the environmental effects due to meeting this objective will be comparable to those detailed in the assessment for Alternative 1 above. However, not only does the inclusion of sustainable land and natural resource management in this objectives have greater alignment with national and international sustainable agendas, it is also predicted that sustainable practices will give greater consideration of sustainable use and protection of natural resources, such as woodland, forestry and soils, which had the potential to have significant positive impacts for Material</td><td>✓</td></tr>
</table>

	Assets. There is also the possibility of a wider range of benefits, as mentioned in the above assessment, for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna**.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Objective 4										
Alternative 1	+/+ +	X	+/+ +	+	+	X	X	X	X	
	Proposed Objective: Encourage an understanding of the importance of biodiversity to society's health and wellbeing.									
	Assessment Commentary: In terms of safeguarding biodiversity, encouraging greater understanding of the role of biodiversity for local communities will help give greater protection to biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire, and has the potential to encourage people to become involved in biodiversity/conservation projects. Consequently, it is anticipated that the impacts to **Population and Human Health** will be positive, with some potential significant effects. Furthermore, this is likely to have positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** by promoting the protection of biodiversity by giving greater consideration of biodiversity. It is likely that a greater understanding of the role of biodiversity for health and wellbeing will result in better management and use of natural resources, with additional benefits to **Landscape** setting in terms of ensuring that existing landscape features are retained. This has the potential to encourage the protection and appropriate use of valued **Soil and Geology** assets such as peatland.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: At this stage, the objective focuses on an understanding of the role of biodiversity for health and wellbeing within society. However, the importance of biodiversity extends to a contribution to effective and efficient ecosystem services. It would be beneficial for the objective to make note of this role. It is also suggested that the means for encouraging greater understanding be listed in the objective. "Encourage an understanding of the importance of biodiversity for ecosystem services and to society's health and wellbeing through improved communication and education".									
Alternative 1 Revised	+/+ +	X	+/+ +	+	+	X	X	+	X	
	Proposed Objective: Encourage an understanding of the importance of biodiversity for ecosystem services and to society's health and wellbeing through improved communication and education.									
	Assessment Commentary: The revision of this alternative option is likely to present similar positive environmental effects for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Landscape** in terms of encouraging involvement with biodiversity and conservation projects for the protection and management of biodiversity in the local area as well as the retaining landscape features									

	and setting and the protection of soil assets including peatland and carbon rich soils. Achieving this understanding through improved communication streams and education has the potential to engage with many people within the local communities which will contribute to both engagement with biodiversity projects and an awareness of biodiversity issues. Furthermore, an understanding of the role of biodiversity can play a part in changing culture and behaviour, ensuring that local communities are aware of the issues associated with climate change including the role of biodiversity for ecosystem services, therefore presenting positive impacts to **Climatic Factors.**	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Alternative 2	+ | X | +/+ + | + | + | ?/+ | ?/+ | ?/+ | ?/+	
	Proposed Objective: Promote the importance of biodiversity to society's health and wellbeing and encourage it to be accounted for at all levels of Council decision-making processes.	
	Assessment Commentary: Integrating measures for the promotion of biodiversity and biodiversity conservation at all levels of decision-making within Council processes is likely to present positive benefits for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, and Landscape** specifically. Meeting this objective will ensure that biodiversity is considered at all levels, where appropriate, which will seek to minimise any potential negative impact on biodiversity value and species within the local area. There is the possibility of significant positive effects depending on the level of concern for biodiversity integrated into decisions made in the Council. The effects for both **Soil and Geology, and Landscape** are anticipated to be secondary positive. The promotion of biodiversity, thus potential protection and management of natural resources in East Dunbartonshire, will help to ensure that soil assets remain well-managed by preventing soil erosion, deterioration as well as providing nutrients for high quality soils. By promoting biodiversity as a vital issue to be integrated as part of decisions made within the Council, the natural environment is likely to protected and maintained so that a high-quality environment can be enjoyed by local communities. This has the potential to contribute to reducing health and wellbeing inequalities by presenting opportunities for outdoor activities and recreation. There is also the potential for people to gain more understanding of the role of biodiversity for a healthy environment, therefore having a positive effect on **Population and Human Health.** At this stage, there are uncertainties as to the impacts on **Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets** as the impacts are dependent on the level of integration biodiversity issues receives. However, flourishing	

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>biodiversity can present benefits in terms of its role for storing and intercepting rainfall to reduce diffuse pollution and for retaining sediments and pollutants such as pesticides by preventing such pollutants from entering watercourses. Furthermore, assets such as trees and grassland are a natural solution to air quality management including carbon sequestration which can reduce the risk of poor air quality locally as well as reduce the associated effects on climate change. There is also the potential that this objective will encourage the consideration of sustainable use and protection of natural resources. In comparison to the revised Alternative 1, there is the potential for positive impacts on these environmental factors as this objective focuses on the integration of biodiversity in Council decision-making processes which has greater influence than solely promoting the importance of biodiversity through communication and education.

Overall, this objective will show a commitment to the six ‘Big Step for Nature’ as outlined in Scotland’s Biodiversity: A route map to 2020 by making sure that the Council consider biodiversity as a priority. In particular, the main ‘Big Step’ that the Council will contribute to is ‘Investment in natural capital’ which seeks to ensure that the benefits of biodiversity and nature in general are understood and appreciated which can lead to effective management of our local natural assets.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>SEA Suggested Alteration:
The assessment has highlighted merits in both Alternative 2 and the revised assessment for Alternative 1 so it is suggested that the objectives are combined in order to maximise the environmental benefits.

“Promote an understanding of the importance of biodiversity for ecosystem services and to society’s health and wellbeing through improved communication and education, and encourage it to be accounted for at all levels of Council decision-making processes”.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Alternative 2 Revised

✓</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>
Proposed Objective: Promote an understanding of the importance of biodiversity for ecosystem services and to society’s health and wellbeing through improved communication and education, and encourage it to be accounted for at all levels of Council decision-making processes.

Assessment Commentary:
The overall environmental impact of this revised alternative is likely to positive, with similar individual impacts predicted as those detailed in the above assessments for Objective 4, in terms of the following effects:
➢ Promoting the importance of the role of biodiversity through improved communication, education and the integration of biodiversity concerns in Council decision-making processes will ensure that biodiversity is a key consideration for the management and protection of it as a natural resource in East Dunbartonshire.</td><td>✓</td></tr>
</table>

	➢ There is also the potential to encourage people to become more involved in biodiversity conservation/projects, and opportunities for local communities and individuals to be aware of the benefits of biodiversity for a healthy and attractive natural environment, such as outdoor recreation. This can contribute to reducing health and wellbeing inequalities and have a significant positive impact on **Population and Human Health.** ➢ Although the extent of the benefits of biodiversity for **Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets** are uncertain, the role of biodiversity for benefits for each of these environmental factors have the potential to be maximised, where appropriate, as described in the above assessment. ➢ This objective is also likely to present significant positive benefits for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, and Landscape**. Meeting this objective will ensure that biodiversity is considered at all levels, where appropriate, and its importance made more aware of within the local community through improved communication which will seek to minimise any potential negative impact on biodiversity value and species within the local area. It is also anticipated that there will be a greater appreciation of the role biodiversity plays for healthy ecosystems and a healthy environment, and for general enjoyment of the wider environment in East Dunbartonshire. Overall, this objective focuses on the integration of biodiversity in Council decision-making processes as well as promoting its importance through improved levels of communication which is likely to greatly influence positive environmental impacts.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	

Theme 2: Mitigating and Adapting to a Changing Climate

Objectives and Reasonable Alternatives	SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR									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	
	Proposed Objective: Maintain the current capacity of our woodlands and peatland to store carbon.									

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>Assessment Commentary:
This objective focuses on maintaining the current woodland and peatland stores within East Dunbartonshire to ensure that the existing level of carbon storage is retained. Whilst this is still likely to contribute positively to Air Quality and Climatic Factors in terms of utilising woodland and peatland assets for carbon storage, thus reducing the impact of carbon and similar emissions on air quality as well as contributing to mitigating the effects of climate change at a local level, the effects will be minor without opportunities for enhancing these effects. This will also contribute to the management of ecosystem services within East Dunbartonshire. There is also likely to be secondary impacts for Population and Human Health in terms of improved air quality and environment for local communities with potential contributions to reducing health inequalities that are related to poor air quality.

In terms of Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, and Soil and Geology, the effects are likely to be minor positive. Meeting this objective will ensure that the current capacity of woodland in East Dunbartonshire is kept at the same level which will be beneficial for a range of species that utilise woodland as a habitat. Similarly, soil as a natural resource will be retained as much as possible.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>SEA Suggested Alteration:
It is suggested that the objective be more aligned with the SEA objective for Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology as the two most relevant environmental factors. Although woodland and peatland are the two main natural carbon capture assets, the Strategy might benefit from a capture-all term such as natural environment. This would change the objective to “Protect, enhance, create and, where necessary, restore our natural environment to store carbon”.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Alternative 1 Revised

✓</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>
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Proposed Objective: Protect, enhance, create and, where necessary, restore our natural environment to store carbon.

Assessment Commentary:
This revised objective is likely to have greater positive environmental impacts for each of the environmental factors compared to those in the above assessment. Ensuring that the GNS facilitates opportunities to not only maintain East Dunbartonshire’s natural environment including woodland, grassland, peatland and carbon rich soils, but for future protection, enhancement, creation and restore is likely to have a significant positive impact on Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology in terms of focussing a commitment to managing natural assets, which can benefit species and habitats that rely on these assets for their habitat. Peatland and carbon rich soils will also be protected and there is more likely to be opportunities to enhance these assets for long-term benefits. These effects will also consider the sustainable use of natural resources, resulting in positive impacts for Material Assets.</td><td>✓</td></tr>
</table>

	The impacts predicted for biodiversity and soil can lead to significant positive impacts for **Air Quality and Climatic Factors**. The role of natural assets, such as woodland and peatland, for carbon storage will contribute to improving local air quality as a natural approach to carbon sequestration. Woodland, grassland, peatland etc. will also contribute to the management and potential improvements to ecosystem services, as well as adaptation to the effects of climate change. There is the potential that the benefits of a healthy environment due to the protection, enhancement, creation and restoration of natural assets as a means to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of people, in particular local communities and residents, presenting positive, with the potential for significant positive, impacts for **Population and Human Health.** People will be able to benefit from a healthier environment which is less negatively affected by the impacts of carbon and emissions. In general, a healthy environment can encourage people to consider the protection of local natural resources. This can encourage East Dunbartonshire's green network and natural environment to be utilised for positive benefits to and the protection of the **Landscape,** including its setting and visual distinctiveness within the wider green network. It is also anticipated that there will be secondary positive impacts for **Water Quality.** Although this objective will focus on the protection, enhancement, creation and restoration of the natural environment for carbon storage, specifically, this can also benefit water quality in terms of maximising the role of woodland, grassland and soil, for example, contributing to the storage and interception of rainfall can help to diffuse pollution and prevent the run-off of sediments and pollutants into nearby waterbodies. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	
Alternative 2	+ | X | + + | + + | + | X | + + | + + | +	
	Proposed Objective: Maintain and, where possible, improve the capacity of our woodlands and peatland to store carbon.	
	Assessment Commentary: In aligning with the theme to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate, this objective demonstrates positive environmental effects, in general. In particular, maintaining and improving woodland and peatland capacity has potential for significant positive impacts for **Climatic Factors and Air Quality.** Ensuring that these natural assets are managed appropriately in order for them to maximise their potential for carbon sequestration will act as natural mitigation for the effects of climate change, whilst helping to reduce localised air pollution as well as potential	

	secondary benefits in terms of utilising woodland to alleviate the risks of flooding through water attenuation by the trees and as an interceptor. Furthermore, the impacts to both **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology** are anticipated to the be significantly positive due to a focussed commitment to manage and improve woodland within East Dunbartonshire, which is likely to result in secondary benefits for other species who rely on woodlands as their habitat. Peatland will also be protected, which will contribute to the long-term prevention for the release of stored carbon. It is predicted that there will also be minor positive impacts for **Population and Human Health, Landscape and Material Assets.** By managing the negative effects associated with climate change and improving air quality, where possible, local communities will benefit from a healthy environment with the potential to reduce health-related issues. There is also potential that there will be greater consideration given to the protection of natural resources and a contribution to retaining existing landscape features within East Dunbartonshire such as woodland to maintain East Dunbartonshire's setting, distinctiveness and visual amenity.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Objective 2		

Alternative 1	**+ +**	**?/+/-**	**?/+/-**	**?/-**	**?/+**	**?/-**	**+ +**	**+ +**	**+ +**
	Proposed Objective: Support measures within the East Dunbartonshire Active Travel Strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.								
	Assessment Commentary: Measures in East Dunbartonshire's Active Travel Strategy (ATS) primarily relate to encouraging active means of travel as an alternative to vehicular-based transport, as well as measures that will promote East Dunbartonshire's natural environment as an attractive and safe place to walk and cycle for both leisure and commuting. By supporting such measures, meeting this objective is likely to have significant positive impacts for **Population and Human Health, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets** with the following impacts anticipated: ➢ The GNS will promote the green network within East Dunbartonshire for alternative, more sustainable modes of transport for localised and cross-boundary journeys. The actions within the GNS are likely to support this by encouraging changes to existing infrastructure to a more sustainable network. ➢ Reducing a reliance on traditional transport modes e.g. car-based travel to more sustainable, active means will contribute to a reduction in vehicular emissions with benefits to improving air quality. This will be particularly beneficial in areas such as Bearsden and Bishopbriggs where AQMAs have been designated. ➢ Potential reduction in emissions-related illnesses such as heart disease and asthma as well as general								

	improvements to health and wellbeing through the encouragement of active travel. ➢ Generalised benefits in terms of contributing to mitigation/adaptation to the effects of climate change including the potential to reduce the urban heat island effect. At this stage, the specific environmental impacts for **Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Landscape and Water Quality** are dependent on the specific actions proposed in the Active Travel Strategy that will relate to the GNS. However, there are a number of positive and negative impacts that may arise including: ➢ Potential positive and negative impacts to cultural heritage sites. Although supporting measures in the ATS that will increase participation in walking and cycling will give people greater access to the natural environment which includes a range of historical sites, there is the potential that increased footfall will result in the deterioration of recognised heritage/cultural sites. Similar negative and positive impacts may result for biodiversity and habitats within East Dunbartonshire. Whilst this may promote a healthier environment where biodiversity can flourish, there is the potential that increased access to the environment will potentially result in the fragmentation of habitats and removal of species. ➢ With areas designated as having carbon rich/peatland soils in East Dunbartonshire, there is the potential that active travel means will disturb these sites with the potential to release carbon. There is also the potential for soil erosion and degradation. ➢ There is the potential that the promotion of active travel throughout East Dunbartonshire's green network will improve connectivity, particularly in areas where networks have been fragmented, to allow easy and safe access. ➢ With the promotion of active means of travel such as walking and cycling, there is the potential for soil erosion, as mentioned above. This can result in poor drainage and exacerbate existing drainage issues, causing potential run-off of pollutants with adverse impacts to nearby waterbodies and ground water sources.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Cultural Heritage:** ○ The GNS should encourage the use of archaeological watching briefs and best practice guidance in order to minimise and monitor any ground disturbance of cultural heritage sites. ○ The GNS should inform and reinforce mitigation set in the ATS to avoid the implementation of any measures to prevent disturbance to sites of historical importance. ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:** ○ The GNS should encourage the undertaking of further habitat and species surveys, where necessary, to determine the value of biodiversity that may be impacted e.g. bat surveys.	

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It is suggested that, where lighting is required, lighting along railways, woodland, hedgerow and river corridors should be avoided and compliance with best practice guidance such as the Bat Conservation Trust: Bats and Lighting in the UK should be adhered to.
Any works carried out should be at appropriate times of the year to reduce negative impact on species and consideration should be given to the need for further Phase 1 Habitat Surveys to determine grassland value and the presence of Invasive Non-Native Species.
It is important that any features of ecological value are retained as much as possible, especially priority species and habitats, and enhanced where appropriate.

➢ Soil and Geology:

Any actions within the ATS that will impact on areas of peatland and/or carbon rich soils should be avoided.
Liaison with EDC Environmental Health where actions near or impacting on contaminated land is concerned.
Implement soil erosion prevention measures as outlined in good practice guidance.

➢ Water Quality:

Adoption of best practices to benefit drainage and avoid negative impacts associated with pollution run-off.

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<tr><td>SEA Suggested Alteration:
Although supporting measures to reduce emissions that are within the emerging Active Travel Strategy will have a positive environmental impact in terms of contributing to emissions reductions at a local level, it would also be beneficial for the Green Network Strategy to consider the support of relevant actions related to emissions reductions that will be part of the emerging Sustainability and Climate Change Framework for East Dunbartonshire Council. Furthermore, there is likely to be some limitations as to positive environmental impact by solely supporting existing measures. Therefore it is suggested that the Green Network Strategy should consider aiming to also create new actions to support this theme by reducing emissions.

“Support measures within the East Dunbartonshire Active Travel Strategy and emerging Sustainability and Climate Change Framework, and devise new measures, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions”.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Alternative 1 Revised</td><td>
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<tr><td>+ +</td><td>?/+/-</td><td>?/+/-</td><td>?/-</td><td>?/+</td><td>?/-</td><td>+ +</td><td>+ +</td><td>+ +</td></tr>
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Proposed Objective: Support measures within the East Dunbartonshire Active Travel Strategy and emerging Sustainability and Climate Change Framework, and devise new measures, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
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✓	**Assessment Commentary:** This revised objective is likely to have comparable environmental impacts to those in the original proposed objective, with significant positive impacts predicted for **Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets**, as well as knock-on impacts for **Population and Human Health**. However, revising the objective will ensure that actions to reduce emissions in relation to the promotion of active travel to reduce emissions will be supported alongside additional relevant actions within the Sustainability and Climate Change Framework (SCCF) which will go beyond just focusing on active travel means. It is anticipated that the effects to **Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Landscape and Water Quality** will be similar to the proposed objective in terms of the impact of supporting the measures set within the ATS to reduce emissions. However, at this stage the likely effects from supporting related actions within the SCCF are uncertain, as it will be dependent on the scale and nature of the action, although the impact of reduced emissions locally for biodiversity, specifically, has the potential to have a positive impact in terms of contributing to healthy ecosystem services. Furthermore, meeting this objective by determining additional actions to reduce emissions through the Green Network Strategy that are not going to be actioned through either the ATS or the SCCF is likely to have a more comprehensive positive environmental impact as well as address the key sources of emissions in East Dunbartonshire and propose mitigation measures to prevent future increases in emissions. **Proposed Mitigation Measures:** As above. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	✓
Objective 3		
Alternative 1	**+** | X | **+** | **+/-** | **+** | **?/+/-** | **+** | **+** | **+** **Proposed Objective:** Promote green network links to and within new developments. **Assessment Commentary:** The environmental impacts of this alternative objective are likely to be minor positive in terms of the following effects: ➢ **Air Quality and Climatic Factors** – Promoting green network links as part of new developments as well as outwith connecting them to wider green network links has the potential to contribute to a reduction in emissions in terms of carbon sequestration and the potential to reduce flood risks through the role of green	

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<tr><td rowspan="4"></td><td colspan="9">assets. This is likely to have minor positive impacts for improving air quality; this is particularly important in urban areas and where AQMAs are designated, such as in Bishopbriggs and Bearsden.
➢ Population and Human Health and Material Assets – There is the potential that, by promoting new developments to be well connected to the wider environment and within the development through green network links, local communities will have the opportunity to access their local area as well as be able to utilise these links to connect with wider networks in East Dunbartonshire for leisure and commuting purposes. This would also give people the chance to access other local open spaces. This is likely to contribute towards a reduction in health and wellbeing inequalities as well as connect with the other various networks such as core paths.
➢ Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, and Landscape – Promoting green network links can be beneficial for species as there is the potential for them to be able to utilise the green network for habitats and as wildlife corridors to aid the movement of species. There is also the possibility that these green links will seek to improve habitat connectivity and will form part of an integrated green network in East Dunbartonshire.
➢ Soil and Geology and Water Quality – It is anticipated that there might be potential positive and negative impacts for soil and geology and water as a result of meeting this objective. Where green network links are promoted and incorporated within new developments or linked to new developments the vegetation that will form these networks can help to stabilise soils and improve drainage, with general positive impact on the value of soil assets and the ecological status of waterbodies. However, there is the potential that increased use of these links can result in soil erosion and potential degradation of soil. It will be important to consider the nature of the receiving environment to prevent disturbance on valued soil assets such as peatland. Erosion of soil can also have an impact on drainage, especially when the networks are in close proximity to waterbodies.</td><td rowspan="3"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Proposed Mitigation Measures:
➢ Soil and Geology:
○ Liaison with EDC Environmental Health where actions near or impacting on contaminated land is concerned.
○ Implement soil erosion prevention measures as outlined in good practice guidance.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">SEA Suggested Alteration
None at this stage.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Alternative 2</td><td>+</td><td>X</td><td>+ +/+</td><td>+/-</td><td>+</td><td>?/+</td><td>+/+ +</td><td>+/+ +</td><td>+</td><td rowspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Proposed Objective: Promote the introduction of green infrastructure and green network links to new developments.</td></tr>
</table>

	Assessment Commentary: Green infrastructure (GI) has the potential to play a significant role in providing a range of climate change services including a contribution to adapting to and mitigating climate change. Consequently, it is likely that promoting the requirements for green infrastructure as part of wider green networks within new development proposals will present positive benefits for **Climatic Factors,** with potential significant impacts depending on how well GI and green network links can be promoted and implemented by developers, in terms of carbon sequestration, reducing temperatures in urban areas specifically and flood risk management. GI also plays a similar role in effectively improving areas of poor **Air Quality**. Trees, plants and vegetation have the ability to act as natural filters for atmospheric pollutants, which will be particularly important in urban areas such as Bishopbriggs and Bearsden where an AQMA has been designated and additional pollutants in the air, primarily from transport, and the urban heat island effect resulting in higher urban temperatures are prevalent. It is likely that introducing GI within new developments will have positive impacts for **Population and Human Health**, as well as potential significant positive effects. GI improvements have the potential to improve greenspace areas, providing opportunities for outdoor activities, play areas and exercise. This is likely to have a positive impact on health and wellbeing inequalities. There is also potential that high quality greenspaces, as delivered through GI improvements, will help to promote a sense of belonging and increase safety amongst communities. This can aid a sense of ownership amongst locals which has shown to reduce anti-social behaviour. These potential benefits will be particularly important in urban areas where access to green spaces is often limited. GI also has the potential to provide greenspaces which are likely to encourage biodiversity into the area; this represents potential significant positive impacts to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna.** Developers may also be able to show their commitment to retaining native species through GI initiatives. There is also potential that introducing GI within new developments will improve habitat corridors and connectivity with existing habitat networks or by creating new vital habitats where habitats are fragmented or lacking, demonstrating potential positive impacts to **Landscape.** However, the impacts for biodiversity may be limited to minor positive as it will depend on how effective promoting GI and green network links to developers is. In terms of **Soil and Geology**, planting and various levels of GI has the potential to contribute to soil stabilisation. However, there is the potential for negative environmental effects to arise due to potential increased access to greenspaces. At this stage, the impacts to **Water Quality** are uncertain as it will depend on the sensitivity and proximity of nearby	

	watercourses and sensitive sites such as wetlands. However, there is the potential that GI can act as natural SUDS to alleviate flooding and improve drainage management. GI might also increase the function of trees, vegetation and soils to aid water interception, storage and infiltration. The introduction of natural vegetation will increase the interception of precipitation, reducing the potential for excess surface run-off and potential pollution of nearby waterbodies. GI has the potential to increase the quality of house stock within East Dunbartonshire, demonstrating potential positive impacts in terms of **Material Assets.** Improving greenspaces, particularly in urban areas, can have benefits which are reflected in increasing property and land values. It is anticipated that the effects to **Cultural Heritage** are likely to be insignificant. It is unlikely that introducing GI as part of new development will impact on cultural and heritage sites in East Dunbartonshire.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: As above.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Alternative 3 ✓	**+** | **X** | **+ +** | **+/-** | **+** | **?/+** | **+/+ +** | **+/+ +** | **+/+ +**	✓
	Proposed Objective: Ensure new developments enhance the existing green network and promote the introduction of green infrastructure.	
	Assessment Commentary: The anticipated environmental impacts of this objective are likely to be similar to those detailed in the assessment for Alternative 2, with an overall positive impact on the environment. Whilst the impacts predicted for Alternative 2 are also applicable to this objective, there are some additional or different impacts anticipated. For example, the term 'ensure' will give the Green Network Strategy greater opportunities to set requirements for developers to enhance the existing green network and explore opportunities for green infrastructure to be introduced. In particular, the emerging Green Infrastructure and Green Network Supplementary Guidance and the Design and Placemaking Supplementary Guidance will provide the Green Network Strategy with the capacity to push requirements for enhancements to the existing green network and introduction of green infrastructure. Consequently, the impact for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** is likely to be significantly positive as enhancements to the green network will coincide with new developments in East Dunbartonshire showing a commitment to habitat improvement and the management of species. This is also likely to result in potential significant positive effects for **Material Assets**.	

	Proposed Mitigation Measures: As above.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Objective 4		
Alternative 1 ✓	**+/+ +/-** | X | **+/-** | **+/-** | X | **+/-** | X | **+ +/-** | X **Proposed Objective:** Realise opportunities for catchment scale, natural flood management. **Assessment Commentary:** Meeting this objective is likely to have a significant positive impact on **Climatic Factors,** in particular flood management in East Dunbartonshire. By realising natural flood management through enhancements to the green network the Strategy is likely to make a significant positive impact managing flood risks, as defined by SEPA, and this area-wide approach will contribute to flood mitigation. There will also be potential positive impacts in terms of **Water Quality.** Managing flood risks will help prevent further drainage issues for the local area and reduce potential pollution run-off into nearby waterbodies. In turn, this is likely to ensure the protection and enhancement, where possible, of the ecological status of waterbodies. Similarly, managing flood risks through the GNS has the potential to benefit **Soil and Geology and Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** by contributing to a reduction in flood-related damage to sites of geodiversity importance including those designated as being peatland/carbon rich soils as well as a contribution to the protection of particularly important and vulnerable species, including wetland habitats. There may also be benefits to agricultural/grazing land in terms of maintaining its usable quality. The related impact of flooding for soil degradation and erosion is also likely to be reduced. However, the Strategy should consider where vulnerable soils, species and habitats are located in order to ensure that flood diversion at a catchment scale does not negatively impact on such sites. In terms of **Population and Human Health,** the benefits of natural flood management on the wider area are likely to have some secondary positive impacts socially and economically, with some potential significant positive impacts depending on the scale and areas that might be affected/improved. Much of the urban environment in East Dunbartonshire has some flood risk; catchment scale natural flood risk management has the potential to benefit those who live and work within urban areas, particularly on low-lying land, by protecting them from flooding. In addition, the benefits of natural flood risk management for habitats and the natural environment, in general, will allow greater recreation opportunities that are likely to encourage healthy lifestyles and education of East Dunbartonshire's environment. In terms of economics, natural flood management opportunities are generally more cost-effective and sustainable than hard flood defences. This approach also has the potential to support related	✓

	industries such as agriculture, fisheries and tourism. However, it is also important to note that there are potential negative impacts to each of the above mentioned environmental factors. Whilst catchment-scale natural flood management can reduce the impact of flooding on particular areas, there is the potential that this diversion will have a negative impact on areas elsewhere in East Dunbartonshire by potentially flooding vulnerable sites.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ Flood risk management for **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Water Quality and Climatic Factors:** ○ Implementation of good practice guidelines to avoid the diversion of flooding in East Dunbartonshire, liaison with SEPA and the consideration of appropriate and the best natural flood management measures for the local area. ○ Further investigation of vulnerable communities, habitats, natural environmental assets etc. may be required to fully understand the impact that meeting this objective will result in.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Justification for no additional reasonable alternatives	After consideration by the responsible officer and the SEA Officer, it has been concluded that at this stage in the assessment that there are no reasonable alternatives to this proposed objective. It has been determined that, for a Green Network Strategy, it would not be reasonable to promote grey or engineered methods of flood management as it would not align to both the vision of Central Scotland Green Network as well as the overall ambition for the Strategy. Furthermore, since the GNS looks at the network of green links strategically, both within and outwith the East Dunbartonshire Council boundary, it would not be appropriate to establish opportunities for natural flood management on an entirely local scale and not consider natural flood management at a catchment-wide level.	

Theme 3: Supporting Sustainable Communities

Objectives and Reasonable Alternatives	SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR									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	+	

	Proposed Objective: Improve access to high quality open space and the wider countryside.	
	Assessment Commentary: Improving access to high quality open space and the wider countryside within East Dunbartonshire is likely to have a range of positive and negative impacts on the environment. It is anticipated that there will be positive impacts to **Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage and Material Assets** including the following effects: ➢ This objective has the potential to have a significant positive impact in terms of increasing and encouraging local communities to access their local open spaces and countryside which has the potential to encourage outdoor leisure pursuits and reduce health-related illnesses. This objective will also support opportunities within the GNS to enhance the natural environment to make it a healthy and sustainable place to visit. ➢ It is anticipated that this would also encourage visitors to cultural heritage sites within East Dunbartonshire, including the Antonine Wall and the Forth and Clyde Canal. This may lead to increased tourism-related benefits such as increased tourism economics. ➢ Improved access has the potential to encourage the use of all networks within East Dunbartonshire such as Core Paths, Rights of Way and heritage paths, giving local communities and visitors greater access to the wider environment. However, meeting this objective has the potential to result in a number of different negative impacts for **Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Water Quality**. The negative nature of the effects are due to the following predictions: ➢ There are potential conflicts between increasing access to the wider environment on designated sites of cultural interest. Increased footfall near or within the vicinity of recognised historical sites can deteriorate sites, potentially devaluing them. ➢ Similarly, there is the potential that increased access, and subsequent footfall, can have an adverse effect on species and habitats within East Dunbartonshire. East Dunbartonshire is host to several protected and non-protected species and vulnerable habitats including wetland. There is likely to be potential conflicts between these designations and usability of the environment. ➢ In terms of water and soil quality, increased access can erode soils, resulting in poor drainage and potential run-off of pollutants into nearby waterbodies. This may impact on the ecological status of water as well as potential disturbance to valued geodiversity and peatland/carbon rich soils.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Cultural Heritage:** ○ The GNS should encourage the use of archaeological watching briefs and best practice guidance in order to minimise and monitor any ground disturbance of cultural heritage sites.	

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Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:

The GNS should encourage the undertaking of further habitat and species surveys, where necessary, to determine the value of biodiversity that may be impacted e.g. bat surveys.
It is suggested that, where lighting is required, lighting along railways, woodland, hedgerow and river corridors should be avoided and compliance with best practice guidance such as the Bat Conservation Trust: Bats and Lighting in the UK should be adhered to.
Any works carried out should be at appropriate times of the year to reduce negative impact on species and consideration should be given to the need for further Phase 1 Habitat Surveys to determine grassland value and the presence of Invasive Non-Native Species.
It is important that any features of ecological value are retained as much as possible, especially priority species and habitats, and enhanced where appropriate.

Soil and Geology:

Any action that will impact on areas of peatland and/or carbon rich soils should be avoided.
Liaison with EDC Environmental Health where actions near or impacting on contaminated land is concerned.
Implement soil erosion prevention measures as outlined in good practice guidance.

Water Quality:

Adoption of best practices to benefit drainage and avoid negative impacts associated with pollution run-off.

SEA Suggested Alteration:
None at this stage.
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<tr><td>Alternative 2</td><td>
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<tr><td>+ +</td><td>+/-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>?/+</td><td>-</td><td>?/+</td><td>?/+</td><td>+/+ +</td></tr>
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Proposed Objective: Improve access to high quality open space and the wider countryside by delivering a more connected network of routes and infrastructure.
Assessment Commentary:
The environmental impacts predicted for this alternative objective are likely to be comparable to the environmental effects outlined in the assessment for Alternative 1. Improving access to open spaces and the wider countryside in East Dunbartonshire by developing opportunities to create a more connected network of routes and infrastructure, such as transport, will help to contribute to changes to current infrastructure, namely transport infrastructure and networks such as core paths, to a more sustainable network with positive, and potentially significantly positive, effects for Material Assets. This has the potential to significantly benefit local communities in terms of Population and Human Health by giving people opportunities for leisure and recreation, including active travel, in an environment that is easily accessible and of a high quality. This can lead to a reduction in health inequalities and
</td><td></td></tr>
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	improve wellbeing amongst individuals and communities within the local area. This can also lead to greater appreciation of the local historical environment as well as the natural environment, contributing towards tourism with positive impacts for **Cultural Heritage.** However, consideration should be given to the potential that improving access to cultural heritage sites, such as gardens and designed landscapes and the Antonine Wall, can result in the deterioration of these sites due to increased footfall and litter, for example, which can have an adverse impact. At this stage in the assessment, the effects to **Landscape, Air Quality and Climatic Factors** are uncertain but there is the potential for this objective to have a positive impact on each of these environmental factors in terms of the following effects: ➢ This objective has the potential to seek to create opportunities for the integration of green networks at a local, EDC-wide and regional level, including those that integrate into networks in neighbouring authorities. ➢ Through the delivery of more connected networks and infrastructure within East Dunbartonshire, there is the potential that active travel will be encouraged. This has benefits in helping to reduce the impact of emissions on air quality and climate change as vehicular travel is discouraged. However, there are potential negative effects anticipated for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Water Quality.** Improved access to open space can result in the deterioration and degradation of habitats and soil including peatland and carbon rich soils, which can lead to poor drainage. This can result in pollution run-off into nearby watercourses affecting the quality of water. It is important that increasing access to open spaces does not have an adverse impact on valued soils and on protected and vulnerable species and habitats.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: As above.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: As the Green Network Strategy encompasses both the biodiversity and active travel elements of the green network, it should consider alignment with the Active Travel Strategy. Consequently, it is suggested that the wording of the objective be altered to "Improve safe access to high quality open space and the wider countryside by delivering a more connected network of maintained routes and infrastructure" to be more aligned with the wording of the ATS ambition.	
Alternative 2 Revised ✓	**+ +** | **+/-** | **-** | **-** | **?/+** | **-** | **?/+** | **?/+** | **+/+ +**	✓
	Proposed Objective: Improve safe access to high quality open space and the wider countryside by delivering a more connected network of maintained routes and infrastructure.	
	Assessment Commentary: Whilst the overall impact and individual environmental effects for each of the environmental factors will be the	

	same as those detailed in the original assessment for Alternative 2, altering the wording so that improvements result in *safe* access to open space and the wider countryside will have a more significant impact for **Population and Human Health** by ensuring that communities are able to enjoy their natural environment in a safe manner as well as be more closely aligned to the ambition of the Active Travel Strategy. Refining the objective to also ensure that any enhancements to the network are maintained will enable communities to benefit from the improvements and access to open space and the wider countryside in the long-term.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: As above.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Objective 2		
Alternative 1	+/+ + | -/+ | - | - | X | - | + | + | + +	
	Proposed Objective: Support development of Long Distance Routes to help connect East Dunbartonshire to the wider Central Scotland Green Network area.	
	Assessment Commentary: Supporting long distance routes in East Dunbartonshire is likely to present positive impacts, with potential significant benefits for **Population and Human Health and Material Assets,** giving local communities and visitors to the area opportunities to make the most of safe use of network links in East Dunbartonshire and cross-boundary links to other local authorities including cycle routes and core paths. People are more likely to be encouraged to increase active travel for a more sustainable network and increase participation in outdoor leisure activities, which is shown to have significant positive effects in terms of health and wellbeing. There is also likely to be positive impacts for **Air Quality and Climatic Factors.** Improvements to connections within and outwith the boundary of East Dunbartonshire has the potential to lead to a shift in transport mode from primarily vehicular travel to more sustainable methods such as cycling and walking. A reduction in traditional modes of transport has the potential to reduce related carbon emissions, contributing to improvements in local air quality and will contribute to reducing the effects of climate change and will be a step forward to adapting to a changing climate. However, the development of long distance routes has the potential to cause conflicts between rights of access and protecting valuable sites as well as potential deterioration of soil and water, and as such it is anticipated that there may be potential negative impacts to **Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Water**	

	Quality with the following impacts predicted: ➢ Increased footfall and use of the long distance routes and various networks in East Dunbartonshire may disturb vital habitats, disrupt breeding and have an adverse effect on protected and non-protected species. ➢ Potential loss of value to important habitat and wildlife sites such as SSSI, LNR and LNCS, of which East Dunbartonshire is host to. ➢ The role of biodiversity for effective ecosystem services may be reduced as a result if species and habitats are adversely affected due to increased access to the natural environment. ➢ Soil may become compacted, causing erosion. This will be particularly significant if increased access impacts on peatland and/or carbon rich soils. ➢ Soil erosion has the potential to increase surface-water run-off and the transfer of pollutants such as oil. This may change the ecological status of nearby waterbodies as well as impact on drainage. ➢ Although there is the potential that the development of long distance routes to connect people throughout East Dunbartonshire will encourage visitors to cultural heritage assets, with benefits including increased tourism, encouraging access might have a negative impact on sites of historical importance such as Gardens and Designed Landscapes, the Antonine Wall and Forth and Clyde Canal.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Cultural Heritage:** o The GNS should encourage the use of archaeological watching briefs and best practice guidance in order to minimise and monitor any ground disturbance of cultural heritage sites. ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:** o The GNS should encourage the undertaking of further habitat and species surveys, where necessary, to determine the value of biodiversity that may be impacted e.g. bat surveys. o It is suggested that, where lighting is required, lighting along railways, woodland, hedgerow and river corridors should be avoided and compliance with best practice guidance such as the Bat Conservation Trust: Bats and Lighting in the UK should be adhered to. o Any works carried out should be at appropriate times of the year to reduce negative impact on species and consideration should be given to the need for further Phase 1 Habitat Surveys to determine grassland value and the presence of Invasive Non-Native Species. o It is important that any features of ecological value are retained as much as possible, especially priority species and habitats, and enhanced where appropriate. ➢ **Soil and Geology:** o Any action that will impact on areas of peatland and/or carbon rich soils should be avoided. o Liaison with EDC Environmental Health where actions near or impacting on contaminated land is	

<table>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="9">concerned.
○ Implement soil erosion prevention measures as outlined in good practice guidance.
➢ Water Quality:
○ Adoption of best practices to benefit drainage and avoid negative impacts associated with pollution run-off.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="9">SEA Suggested Alteration:
None at this stage.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Alternative 2</td><td>+ +</td><td>-/+</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>X</td><td>-</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+ +</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="9">Proposed Objective: Support the development of long distance routes to help connect East Dunbartonshire to the wider Central Scotland Green Network area and to provide connections between communities.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="9">Assessment Commentary:
The anticipated effects of this alternative are likely to be similar to those outlined in the assessment for Alternative 1, presenting positive impacts for Population and Human Health, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets. However, the effects for Population and Human Health and Material Assets are likely to be more significant in terms of the positive nature of the impacts. This objective will contribute to improving connectivity between the main community settlements in East Dunbartonshire and give greater opportunities for residents in urban areas to have access to the rural environment and wider countryside. This is likely to greatly improve connectivity within East Dunbartonshire, connecting local settlements to each other and outwith the Council boundary area into nearby local authorities.

Like Alternative 1, this objective has the potential to result in negative impacts for Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Water Quality. The effects predicted as part of the assessment for Alternative 1 are also likely to be present as a result of meeting this objective. Therefore it is important that the negative impacts are minimised through the action programme in the Green Network Strategy.

0verall, this alternative is more aligned to the theme of “Supporting Sustainable Communities” by giving greater consideration to the role of networks, including long distance and local routes, for communities to benefit from.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="9">Proposed Mitigation Measures:
As above.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="9">SEA Suggested Alteration:
None at this stage.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Alternative 3</td><td>+ +</td><td>-/+</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>X</td><td>-</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+ +</td><td></td></tr>
</table>

✓	**Proposed Objective:** Support development of Long Distance Routes and access to them to help connect East Dunbartonshire to the wider Central Scotland Green Network area and to provide connections between communities.	
	Assessment Commentary: This objective is likely to have similar environmental impacts for each of the environmental factors as outlined in both the assessments for Alternative 1 and Alternative 2. However, there are additional significant benefits for **Population and Human Health and Material Assets** anticipated as supporting better access to Long Distance Routes (LDR) will give greater opportunities for individuals to gain access to LDR in order for them to utilise them for recreation or commuting purposes. This will also benefit communities in neighbouring authorities as they will also be able to use these routes and it is likely that the wider networks within East Dunbartonshire and outwith will be more comprehensively connected. It is more likely that people will use LDR more frequently if they are easy to get to.	✓
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: As above.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Objective 3		
Alternative 1	+ | - | - | - | X | - | X | X | X	
	Proposed Objective: Support mental and physical health agendas and reduce health inequalities by encouraging outdoor exercise.	
	Assessment Commentary: This proposed objective is likely to have a positive impact on **Population and Human Health** as it focuses on contributing towards both national and local health agendas. By encouraging outdoor exercise, the Green Network Strategy will contribute towards reducing health inequalities in East Dunbartonshire and is likely to increase community participation in exercise, in general. However, this objective is likely to result in an increased number of people accessing the wider environment, including natural, rural, urban and historic areas that East Dunbartonshire is host to. As a result, there is the potential that this can have a negative or adverse impact on **Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Water Quality.** There is the potential for disturbance to valuable sites and breeding/migration/nesting of species as well as damage or removal of vegetation. Similar adverse effects include soil degradation and erosion as well as potential disturbance of peatland/carbon rich soils. They may also be	

	potential secondary adverse effects as a result of the negative impacts to soil and geology and biodiversity, as described above, in terms of drainage issues that may cause pollution run-off. It is anticipated that this may result in probable negative changes to water quality and the ecological status of waterbodies, where appropriate. The anticipated environmental effects for **Landscape, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets** are unlikely to be significantly impacted as a result of meeting this objective through the Green Network Strategy as this focuses on encouraging exercise to address health inequalities which, at this stage, are not directly linked to these environmental factors.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Cultural Heritage:** ○ The GNS should encourage the use of archaeological watching briefs and best practice guidance in order to minimise and monitor any ground disturbance of cultural heritage sites. ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:** ○ The GNS should encourage the undertaking of further habitat and species surveys, where necessary, to determine the value of biodiversity that may be impacted e.g. bat surveys. ○ It is suggested that, where lighting is required, lighting along railways, woodland, hedgerow and river corridors should be avoided and compliance with best practice guidance such as the Bat Conservation Trust: Bats and Lighting in the UK should be adhered to. ○ Any works carried out should be at appropriate times of the year to reduce negative impact on species and consideration should be given to the need for further Phase 1 Habitat Surveys to determine grassland value and the presence of Invasive Non-Native Species. ○ It is important that any features of ecological value are retained as much as possible, especially priority species and habitats, and enhanced where appropriate. ➢ **Soil and Geology:** ○ Any action that will impact on areas of peatland and/or carbon rich soils should be avoided. ○ Liaison with EDC Environmental Health where actions near or impacting on contaminated land is concerned. ○ Implement soil erosion prevention measures as outlined in good practice guidance. ➢ **Water Quality:** ○ Adoption of best practices to benefit drainage and avoid negative impacts associated with pollution run-off.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	

Alternative 2	+ +	-	+/+ +/-	-	X	-	X	X	+	
✓	**Proposed Objective:** Support mental and physical health agendas and reduce health inequalities by encouraging outdoor exercise and developing positive associations with nature.									✓
	Assessment Commentary: Meeting this objective through the Green Network Strategy is likely to present significant positive effects for **Population and Human Health.** The Strategy will demonstrate a commitment to improving community health and wellbeing through encouraging people to use their surrounding environment for sport and exercise. This will help contribute towards meeting both the physical and mental wellbeing health agendas locally and nationally. This objective is also likely to present opportunities for people to connect with their surrounding natural environment for greater enjoyment of nature. Encouraging communities to utilise their local environment for exercise has the potential to encourage the use of wider networks within East Dunbartonshire, such as core path networks, which is likely to demonstrate a shift towards a more sustainable use of community assets with positive impacts for **Material Assets**. By developing positive connotations of the role of our local natural environment, there is the potential to increase an understanding of habitats and species that can be found in East Dunbartonshire and is likely to increase an awareness of their role and importance for a healthy environment that can benefit from the role of biodiversity for ecosystem services. Consequently, it is predicted that this objective will have a positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** with some potential significant effects depending on the nature of the species and habitats impacted as well as the scale of actions to achieve this objective. However, the encouragement of outdoor exercise and use of the surrounding natural environment can result in negative impacts to biodiversity value due to potential disturbance of valuable sites and breeding/migration/nesting of species as well as damage or removal of vegetation. Similar adverse effects may be experienced in terms of **Soil and Geology.** Use of the natural environment, and potential resulting increased footfall, may result in soil degradation and erosion as well as potential disturbance of peatland/carbon rich soils. In terms of **Water Quality,** potential secondary adverse effects as a result of the negative impacts to soil and geology and biodiversity, as described above, are predicted in terms of drainage issues that may cause pollution run-off. It is anticipated that this may result in probable negative changes to water quality and the ecological status of waterbodies, where appropriate. Secondary negative effects for **Cultural Heritage** are also predicted. There may be potential conflicts between an									

	increase in outdoor exercise and retaining the value of recognised historical and cultural sites in East Dunbartonshire, especially those with natural interest such as Gardens and Designed Landscapes. In terms of **Air Quality and Climatic Factors**, encouraging outdoor exercise can have a secondary impact on encouraging active travel which can contribute to a reduction in vehicular-relation emissions and air pollution. However, it is unlikely that the effects will be significant.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: As above.	
Objective 4		
Alternative 1		

+ +	X	+/-	+/-	X	X	+	+	+

Proposed Objective: Build community capacity by supporting opportunities for participation through volunteering, environmental education, training and skills development.

Assessment Commentary:

Meeting this objective is likely to present significant benefits for **Population and Human Health,** and potential positive effects for **Material Assets**. By supporting opportunities for local communities and individuals to participate in voluntary projects, people are more likely to become aware of their local green network, including the biodiversity and active travel issues associated with it, which may increase the use of the green network for leisure and recreation, as well as for commuting to work. Similarly educating people, especially if targeted at a young age through school initiatives/programmes, will inform people about East Dunbartonshire's green network as well as ideas for using it effectively and safely. Furthermore, supporting training and skills development opportunities has the potential to give people the awareness and understanding of East Dunbartonshire's green network and green network opportunities, and is likely to engage local communities in their natural environment. These opportunities have the potential to result in secondary positive effects in terms of giving local communities the information and means to take advantage of well-connected, and safe outdoor recreation for benefits to health and wellbeing. Having the capacity to support such opportunities is likely to be particularly beneficial for those living within or near deprived areas such as Hillhead and Lennoxtown.

There are also likely to be potential positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Air Quality and Climatic Factors,** with the following effects anticipation:

- As mentioned above, this objective is likely to promote greater engagement amongst local communities, including schools, to become awareness and involved in green network opportunities and projects. This may lead to a greater appreciation of local species and habitats, including areas of high value soil such as

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="4"></td><td colspan="9">peatland which is found in popular local sites such as Low Moss in Bishopbriggs. Consideration will need to be given to biodiversity and soil in order to prevent negative impacts that might arise in terms of conflicts between access to the natural environment and habitat and soil value.
➢ Having the capacity to engage with local people to become more involved in projects and use their surrounding environment for active travel is likely to promote a change in culture and behaviour in terms of using the green network for walking and cycling. This has the potential to promote a modal shift in transport towards a more sustainable network and consequently contribute to a reduction in vehicular emissions and related poor air quality. Given that there are two existing Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) designated in East Dunbartonshire in Bishopbriggs and Bearsden, this change would contribute to local air quality improvements and prevent further AQMAs being designated.</td><td rowspan="4"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Proposed Mitigation Measures:
➢ Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:
○ The GNS should encourage the undertaking of further habitat and species surveys, where necessary, to determine the value of biodiversity that may be impacted e.g. bat surveys.
○ It is suggested that, where lighting is required, lighting along railways, woodland, hedgerow and river corridors should be avoided and compliance with best practice guidance such as the Bat Conservation Trust: Bats and Lighting in the UK should be adhered to.
○ It is important that any features of ecological value are retained as much as possible, especially priority species and habitats, and enhanced where appropriate.
➢ Soil and Geology:
○ Any action that will impact on areas of peatland and/or carbon rich soils should be avoided.
○ Liaison with EDC Environmental Health where actions near or impacting on contaminated land is concerned.
○ Implement soil erosion prevention measures as outlined in good practice guidance.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">SEA Suggested Alteration:
in order for this objective to be more aligned with the themes and outcomes of the Central Scotland Green Network – ‘A Place to Belong’- it is suggested that the objective also aim to “Build community capacity and an appreciation of the green network by supporting opportunities for participation through volunteering, environmental education, training and skills development”.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Alternative 1 Revised</td><td>+ +</td><td>+</td><td>+/-</td><td>+/-</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td>+</td><td rowspan="2"></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="9">Proposed Objective: Build community capacity and an appreciation of the green network by supporting opportunities for participation through volunteering, environmental education, training and skills development.</td></tr>
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✓	**Assessment Commentary:** Since this revised objective has not been altered significantly, it is likely that the environmental impacts for **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets** will be the same as those outlined in the above assessment. However, through actions in the GNS to build an appreciation of East Dunbartonshire's green network, this has the potential to have a positive impact on **Cultural Heritage.** A range of different cultural sites can be found near or within East Dunbartonshire's green network such as the Antonine Wall, the Forth and Clyde Canal and Gardens and Designed Landscapes and, as such, there is the potential that this objective will promote heritage sites in East Dunbartonshire and encourage visitors in support of local tourism.	✓
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: As above.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	

Theme 4: Sustainable Economic Growth

Objectives and Reasonable Alternatives	SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR									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	
	Proposed Objective: Encourage biodiversity-friendly management of open space on business premises.									
	Assessment Commentary: This alternative objective has the potential to present positive impacts for **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Air Quality and Climatic Factors.** The encouragement of biodiversity-friendly management of open spaces on suitable business premises in East Dunbartonshire can contribute towards minimising negative impacts to biodiversity and open spaces. This has the potential to reduce any loss or disturbance to species and habitats whilst ensuring that these open spaces are managed appropriately. The secondary effect of this has the potential to impact positively on local communities as well as the businesses by helping to create an environment that is sustainable and attractive as well as more likely to be safe. There is also likely to be health benefits for employees at									

	business premises who are able to benefit from the encouragement of biodiversity-friendly management of open spaces in terms of improved working conditions and a more attractive place to work. Furthermore, where the management of biodiversity is carried out it is possible that this will have a positive effect on **Soil and Geology, Air Quality and Climatic Factors**, with the following potential effects: ➢ Management of biodiversity can lead to stabilisation of species population and general improvements to the health of species and habitats. This can contribute towards preventing soil degradation and erosion in order to maintain a good quality soil. The effects are likely to be localised however. ➢ There is the potential that the role of biodiversity for carbon sequestration and air quality management will result in local improvements to air quality and respond to the effects of climate change. This is important as many businesses will be affected by traffic from deliveries, work travel etc. as a main contributor of climate change and air pollution.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Alternative 2	+/+ + | ? | ? | X | ? | X | X | X | X	
	Proposed Objective: Provide attractive surroundings for business to stimulate economic growth, inward investment and jobs.	
	Assessment Commentary: In support of sustainable economic growth, meeting this objective through the Green Network Strategy is likely to demonstrate positive impacts, with some potential significant effects, for **Population and Human Health** with a number of effects anticipated including: ➢ Improvements to the surroundings to make them visually more appealing will encourage businesses into the area as well as benefits for local communities by improving their local environment which may be linked to opportunities for people to access their surroundings for leisure and recreation as well as improvements to wellbeing. ➢ Attractive surroundings have the potential to attract people in to the area for work, living and recreation. This is likely to improve the local economy. Similarly, businesses are more likely to locate in East Dunbartonshire which can bring investment to the area. Inward investment can have a knock-on effect on future investment and increase retail economy in nearby local town centres such as Kirkintilloch and Bishopbriggs. At this stage, the effects to **Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, and Landscape** are uncertain as the means to providing attractive surroundings is not specified, although it is anticipated that these actions will be assessed as part	

	of the action programme assessment. In terms of **Soil and Geology, Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets**, it is anticipated that this objective will not present significant environmental effects.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: In order to establish/increase the positive nature of the effects for **Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, and Landscape** and to have positive impacts on **Air Quality and Climatic Factors** it would be beneficial to be more specific within the objective of the means that will be explored through the action programme to deliver more attractive surroundings to achieve the effects outlined in the proposed objective. It is suggested that the wording from Alternative 1 and 2 combine in order to offer greater environmental benefits. "Provide attractive surroundings for business, including exploring the potential for green infrastructure and biodiversity-friendly management of open spaces, in order to stimulate economic growth, inward investment and jobs/employment."	
Alternative 2 Revised ✓	**+/+ +** | **?** | **+** | **+** | **?** | ✗ | **+/+ +** | **+/+ +** | ✗	✓
	Proposed Objective: Provide attractive surroundings for business, including exploring the potential for green infrastructure and biodiversity-friendly management of open spaces, in order to stimulate economic growth, inward investment and jobs.	
	Assessment Commentary: The revised objective has the potential to present positive impacts for **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Air Quality and Climatic Factors**, with the following impacts predicted: ➢ Potential to improve the surrounding area to business premises. This can attract businesses and people to the area to work, live and for recreation, and improve the nearby environment to be enjoyed by communities. This can bring investment to the area. Inward investment can have a knock-on effect on future investment and increase retail economy in nearby local town centres such as Kirkintilloch and Bishopbriggs. ➢ Determining the feasibility of introducing green infrastructure, such a green roofs, and biodiversity-friendly management of open spaces and businesses is likely to, overall, contribute towards minimising negative impacts to biodiversity and open spaces. There is the potential to reduce any loss or disturbance to species and habitats whilst ensuring that these open spaces are managed appropriately. ➢ Secondary effects including the potential to create an environment that is sustainable and attractive for businesses and local communities. There is also likely to be health benefits for employees at business premises who are able to benefit from the encouragement of biodiversity-friendly management of open spaces in terms	

	of improved working conditions and a more attractive place to work. ➢ There is also potential to contribute towards air quality improvements and mitigation of the effects of climate change as biodiversity is likely to be managed and its role for carbon sequestration will be able to be utilised. There are also similar benefits of green infrastructure which, when explored and implemented, are likely to offer benefits for climate change mitigation and air quality management. Through the combination of green infrastructure and biodiversity-rich open spaces at business premises there is a possibility of significant positive impacts for air quality and climatic factors. As detailed in the above assessment, the effects for **Cultural Heritage and Landscape** are uncertain at this stage as they will be dependent on the feasibility of being able to implement green infrastructure and biodiversity-friendly management of business' open spaces. However, the individual action plans that will form the action programme of the GNS to achieve this objective will provide more information on individual projects and give more of an insight into the environmental impacts for both of these environmental factors.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at the stage.	
Objective 2		
Alternative 1	**+** | X | **-/- -** | **?/-** | **+** | **?/-** | **-** | **-** | X	
	Proposed Objective: Promote the Campsie Fells as a destination for day trips to encourage eco-tourism.	
	Assessment Commentary: This objective has the potential to have a positive impact on **Population and Human Health, and Landscape,** with the following effects anticipated: ➢ Through the encouragement of eco-tourism and the use of Campsie Fells as a destination for day trips, people will more likely to be engage with their local environment for recreation and leisure activities, which has the potential to contribute to health and wellbeing agendas at a local level. ➢ The impact of eco-tourism for East Dunbartonshire will contribute to a reduction in social, economic and environmental deprivation in the local area. ➢ Since the Campsie Fells are designated as a Special Landscape Area, meeting this objective through the Strategy has the potential to contribute to the protection and management of this asset whilst helping maintain East Dunbartonshire's visual amenity and local distinctiveness. In terms of **Air Quality and Climatic Factors**, it is anticipated that there are potential negative effects associated with the promotion of the Campsies for tourism. Increased tourism to the local area can increase traffic levels as people from	

	East Dunbartonshire and outwith are encouraged to use the Campsies as a tourist destination and leisure purposed. This may result in increased emissions which will have a negative impact on air quality and contribute to the effects of climate change. Consideration should be given to the impact of parking facilities near the Campsies which is likely to encourage people to use less sustainable methods to access the Campsies on these environmental factors. Potential negative impacts are predicted for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna.** The Campsie Fells are host to a range of different species and habitats as well as being a key for habitat connectivity throughout East Dunbartonshire and the neighbouring communities. There are negative effects associated with increased tourism, and subsequent increased footfall to the area, on the protection of protected and non-protected species. The impact of this is dependent on the nature of the receiving environment but with Local Nature Conservation Sites and SSSIs identified in the area, the effects have the potential to be notable and potentially significant. The impacts to **Soil and Geology and Water Quality** are uncertain at this stage as the effects are dependent on the nature and sensitivity of the receiving environment as well as the impact of other environmental factors, such as impacts to biodiversity. However, there is the potential for negative effects that may result from the pressure of tourism including increased footfall, causing potential deterioration of soil assets. This can lead to poor drainage affecting nearby watercourses and waterbodies with the potential to increase the risk of localised flooding. There is also the possibility of negative impacts to peatland, which has been identified in areas on the Campsie Fells. For **Cultural Heritage and Material Assets,** it is anticipated that the effects are not likely to be significant. The impact of promoting the Campsie Fells for eco-tourism is unlikely to impact on local heritage sites or contribute to improvements within the wider green network.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:** ➢ The GNS should encourage the undertaking of further habitat and species surveys, where necessary, to determine the value of biodiversity that may be impacted e.g. bat surveys. ➢ It is important that any features of ecological value are retained as much as possible, especially priority species and habitats, and enhanced where appropriate. ➢ **Air Quality and Climatic Factors:** ➢ There are a range of methods that are available to access green assets in East Dunbartonshire including public transport and cycling, as well as options for walking. Reducing the negative effects to these two environmental factors may be achieved through meeting Objective 2 of Theme 2: Mitigating and Adapting to a Changing Climate.	

	SEA Suggested Alteration: Focusing on the Campsie Fells to encourage tourism to the local area is very niche and the impacts environmentally and socially of tourism will be more positive if the area of focus is expanded.	
Alternative 2 ✓	**+ +** | **+/-** | **?/+/-** | **?/-/+** | **+** | **?/-/+** | **-** | **-** | **+** **Proposed Objective:** Promote an image of East Dunbartonshire as a place with excellent green assets that together represent a unique destination for tourism and day trips. **Assessment Commentary:** It is anticipated that meeting this objective through the Strategy will be positive in nature with significant positive effects predicted for **Population and Human Health.** The following impacts are likely: ➢ This objective will contribute towards the delivery of a health environment in East Dunbartonshire and can deliver a range of opportunities for communities and individuals in terms of encouraging outdoor and tourism-related activities. ➢ Improving East Dunbartonshire's green network assets will also mean that locals, and visitors from outwith the Council boundary, can benefit from these assets and take advantage of them for recreational and commuting benefits. ➢ By promoting the range of green network assets that East Dunbartonshire has to offer, representing East Dunbartonshire as a unique destination for tourism can contribute to a reduction in social and economic deprivation in the local area with likely benefits to the local tourism-related economy. This can lead to positive environmental impacts to **Cultural Heritage** in terms of encouraging visitors to cultural heritage assets such as the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site. The effects for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** are uncertain at this stage as the scale of impacts will be dependent on the nature and sensitivity of the environment. However, there is the potential for both negative and positive environmental effects. This objective may increase an understanding of the role and importance of biodiversity as well as contribute to improvements to increasing the population number and range of species, which can benefit important natural assets such as LNRs, LNCS and SSSI. Woodland management and sustainable use of woodland assets in East Dunbartonshire is also likely to be recognised through the Strategy's set of actions and contribute towards meeting this objective. However, there is also potential that promoting East Dunbartonshire's green network assets, with a particular focus on increasing the tourism potential, can have a negative impact on species and habitats in terms of conflict between increased footfall and access to the natural environment and the need to protect and manage biodiversity. With the promotion and potential improvements to green network assets to encourage tourism, there will be opportunities to utilise the green network for positive benefits to and the protection of **Landscape** setting, including	✓

	potential enhancements to the green belt and Special Landscape Areas such as the Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills. With the potential to promote and encourage active travel, there is potential for positive impacts for **Material Assets** in terms of encouragement for the use of network throughout East Dunbartonshire such as core paths as well as likely management of natural resources to achieve an excellent quality of green assets. Whilst this objective is generally positive in nature, there are potential negative impacts predicted for several of the environmental factors, including: ➢ **Cultural Heritage** – Like biodiversity, there is the likelihood that the promotion of East Dunbartonshire as a tourist destination might have an adverse effect on historical natural and physical assets due to increased footfall, which may result in possible deterioration to sites and negative impacts to their value. ➢ **Soil and Geology and Water Quality** – It is uncertain as to the effects on soil and water as the impacts will be dependent on the sensitivity of the environment. However, promoting East Dunbartonshire for tourism has the potential to impact both negatively and positively on both of these assets due to potential increased footfall resulting in the deterioration of valued soils such as peatland or waterbodies, although it is likely that in order to promote East Dunbartonshire for tourism appropriate management of these resources will be employed. ➢ **Air Quality and Climatic Factors** – Increased tourism in an area has the potential to lead to poor air quality and increase the effect of climate change especially through potential increased transportation in an area, although the GNS might present opportunities to offset or neutralise these negative effects through the promotion of active travel.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Cultural Heritage:** ○ The GNS should encourage the use of archaeological watching briefs and best practice guidance in order to minimise and monitor any ground disturbance of cultural heritage sites. ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:** ○ The GNS should encourage the undertaking of further habitat and species surveys, where necessary, to determine the value of biodiversity that may be impacted e.g. bat surveys. ○ It is important that any features of ecological value are retained as much as possible, especially priority species and habitats, and enhanced where appropriate. ➢ **Air Quality and Climatic Factors:** ○ There are a range of methods that are available to access green assets in East Dunbartonshire including public transport and cycling, as well as options for walking. Reducing the negative effects to these two environmental factors may be achieved through meeting Objective 2 of Theme 2: Mitigating and Adapting	

	to a Changing Climate. ➢ **Soil and Geology:** ○ Peatland and/or carbon rich soils should be avoided and protected. ○ Liaison with EDC Environmental Health where actions near or impacting on contaminated land is concerned. ○ Implement soil erosion prevention measures as outlined in good practice guidance. ➢ **Water Quality:** ○ Adoption of best practices to benefit drainage and avoid negative impacts associated with pollution run-off. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	

Objective 3

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

Proposed Objective: Provide opportunities for social enterprise to develop and to diversify the economy.

Assessment Commentary:

At this stage in the assessment, the overall anticipated effects of this objective are not significant or uncertain with the exception of **Population and Human Health**; meeting this objective is likely to have positive impacts on this environmental factor, with the potential for significant effects. There are a range of positive impacts for local communities and businesses, alike, that may be experienced due to meeting this objective including:

- Potential opportunities for local employment. This will give local people the chance to work close to home with a social enterprise, with potential opportunities to gain new skills and receive training.
- There is likely to be greater ownership within communities with the potential to provide a number of different facilities for people, especially in areas of deprivation such as Hillhead and Lennoxtown.
- Potential localised benefits for the economy by generating business and employment, which can encourage spending in the area.
- The nature of social enterprises means that there is the possibility that any profits from such businesses will be able to be utilised to benefit the local community.

Overall, opportunities to create social enterprise will demonstrate a positive change within East Dunbartonshire communities and will be a sustainable approach to improving social inequalities.

At this stage, the effects to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Water Quality and Material Assets** are uncertain. However, there is the potential that projects that will be proposed as part of the Green Network Strategy will enable both the development of social enterprises and encourage them to show a commitment to reducing adverse or

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>negative impacts on the environment, although the effects would be dependent on whether specific projects in support of the green network are guaranteed to be delivered by the social enterprise groups. These potential positive effects include:
A commitment to reducing negative environmental impacts on the environment and ecology, contributing to the protection of species, where possible.
An understanding of the role of biodiversity for reducing adverse effects and disturbance to soil assets and secondary impacts of a healthy ecosystem for maintenance of water quality.
Social enterprises may also help contribute to the local community by helping to fund or create green/open spaces which will further contribute to a high quality green network.
Further assessment of actions is required to determine the environmental impact in relation to meeting this objective.

SEA Suggested Alteration:
None at this stage.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Alternative 2

✓</td><td><table><tr><td>+ +</td><td>X</td><td>?</td><td>?</td><td>X</td><td>?</td><td>X</td><td>?</td><td>?</td></tr></table>Proposed Objective: Support the development of local businesses and social enterprise to diversify the economy in line with the forthcoming Economic Development Strategy.

Assessment Commentary:
This objective is likely to have similar effects on the environment as those predicted in Alternative 1. However, it is also anticipated that this option is more likely to result in significant positive impacts for Population and Human Health. This objective is likely to encourage opportunities for both social enterprise and local businesses to give back to the local community in terms of employment opportunities, a greater sense of ownership within local areas, contributions to the local economy which in turn will help to improve facilities in East Dunbartonshire, in particular those that are areas of deprivation, as well as an overall sustainable approach to sustainable economic growth and a reduction in social inequalities.

As outlined in the assessment for Alternative 1, the environmental impacts for Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Water Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets are unclear at this stage and further assessment of the actions will be required to understand the full nature of the effects of meeting this objective.

SEA Suggested Alteration:
None at this stage.</td><td>✓</td></tr>
</table>

Appendix E: Full assessment of the local opportunities for the Green Network Strategy

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

Local Green Network Opportunities – Bearsden and Milngavie

Local Green Network Opportunities and Reasonable Alternatives	SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR									Preferred Option
	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	
BM1										
Alternative 1 ✓	+/+ +	X	+/+ +/-	-	X	+	+	+	+	✓
Proposed Opportunity: Craigton Road Housing Development Site i. The key requirements for the housing development outline the opportunity for habitat creation and access enhancements including requirements to enhance the Clober Burn habitat corridor. ii. Investigate green infrastructure opportunities for flood mitigation and surface water run-off. iii. Links to the adjacent core path network at Craigton Wood and north to Allander Park should be provided. iv. Design layout of the development should take into account the on-road Active Travel Strategy improvements proposed to the south.										
Assessment Commentary: i. During the development of East Dunbartonshire Council's Local Development Plan (LDP), environmental site assessments were carried out on all new proposed allocated and non-allocated housing and business/employment										

development sites. The site assessment for this site highlighted the need for habitat creation and access enhancement around the Clober Burn as mitigation to the negative impacts identified in the assessment. These SEA suggestions were then translated into the LDP Proposed Plan as key requirements to be taken forward as part of development applications. Consequently, it has been determined that it is not reasonable to assess this particular action within the opportunity for Craigton Road at this stage to avoid duplicating assessments.

ii. Investing green infrastructure opportunities has the potential to present positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Climatic Factors, Water Quality, Air Quality and Material Assets** as there is the potential that such measures such as increased planting, SuDS and green roofing, for example, can act as natural mitigation measures to alleviate the potential risks of flooding by intercepting rainfall and acting as a natural storage option for flooding and surface water. This could be particularly beneficial as developments are likely to increase the amount of impermeable surfaces which can enhance the risk of flooding. Overall, implementing green infrastructure into the design of developments will actively show a commitment to mitigating the negative effects of climate change at a local level, enabling new or enhanced habitats to be established, improve the visual amenity of the site and clean air and water to an extent whilst reducing the potential risks of flooding and surface water management.

iii. & iv. Providing links to the adjacent core path network at Craigton Wood and north to Allander Park is likely to present positive benefits to **Population and Human Health and Material Assets,** with potential significant benefits for local communities, as this would ensure that people from within this residential area in Milngavie, including those who will reside at this housing development site, are able to utilise the core path network to access their wider countryside, including Craigton Wood, Allander Park and the Kilpatrick Hills to the West, which will give local communities greater opportunities to engage in active travel and outdoor leisure, which has shown to be beneficial in terms of reducing health and well-being inequalities. This will ensure that the development is not excluded from the rest of the green network and conversely, will ensure that that development does not restrict active travel through the network as a barrier. Providing links to the adjacent core path network and taking into account the requirements of the Active Travel Strategy will also ensure alignment with the aims of the Active Travel Strategy, taking into account the green network elements that can be delivered to enhance the wider green network.

In terms of **Soil and Geology and Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** there is the potential for secondary negative impacts associated with the conflicts between use of core path networks and increased access to soil and biodiversity in terms of erosion and disruption to habitats.

Proposed Mitigation Measures:

- **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:**
  - 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures and for biodiversity protection. ○ The mitigation measures proposed in the environmental assessment of the relevant action in East Dunbartonshire's Active Travel Strategy is also relevant here and should be considered as appropriate mitigation for the negative impacts outlined.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: As these opportunities are primarily governed by the key requirements in the Local Development Plan it has been considered that there are no alternatives or SEA suggestions to be made.	
BM2		

Alternative 1	+	X	+ +	X	X	+	X	+ +	X	
	Proposed Opportunity: Kilmardinny Mixed Use Development Site i. Ensure the delivery of the Kilmardinny Habitat Management Plan. ii. Ensure the delivery of the proposed open space elements of the Master Plan including morphological improvements to the Craigdhu Burn and Manse Burn.									
✓	**Assessment Commentary:** i. It has been identified that there are opportunities to further-promote the need for a Kilmardinny Habitat Management Plan, as outlined as a key requirement in the Local Development Plan proposed plan, which is likely to have a significant positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** at a local level. This will ensure that the negative impact of housing and business developments will be offset or any negative impacts reduced in terms of creating new opportunities or enhancing existing habitats on this site which will ensure that wider habitat connectivity is maintained, such as to the east across Douglas Park Golf Course, north east to the LNCS at Dougalston Loch and west to the LNR and LNCS at Kilmardinny Loch. This will ensure that migration amongst species is not limited by the development. ii. The Kilmardinny development site is also at risk of flooding, as identified by the SEPA flood risk map, from Manse Burn and Craigdhu Burn both of which run alongside the site. Not only will the delivery of open space elements of the Masterplan, which include recreational facilities, have a positive impact on **Population and Human Health** in terms of providing open space opportunities for recreation and leisure locally but the potential to incorporate morphological improvements to the Craigdhu Burn and Manse Burn will have a positive impact on managing drainage which can help to prevent the run-off of pollutants into these waterbodies with positive impacts to **Water Quality** and significant positive impacts to **Climatic Factors** as a natural mitigation measure to address flood risks.									✓

	SEA Suggested Alteration: As these opportunities are primarily governed by the key requirements in the Local Development Plan it has been considered that there are no alternatives or SEA suggestions to be made.	
BM3		
Alternative 1	+ | X | +/+ + | + | X | +/+ + | + | + | +/+ +	
	Proposed Opportunity: Allander Water There is potential for Natural Flood Management (NFM) measures upstream of Milngavie. Details are dependent on the outcome of the Allander NFM survey. Implementation of NFM should also deliver green network benefits for biodiversity and access.	
✓	**Assessment Commentary:** Current funding opportunities for flood risk management have been secured for the Allander Water and will include a Natural Flood Management (NFM) survey. There is the potential that improvements to the Allander Water through NFM measures to not only have a positive impact on flooding and water quality but to include measures that will deliver improved biodiversity and access as part of the wider green network in East Dunbartonshire. However the feasibility of this will be dependent on the impending survey. At this stage, the environmental impacts for **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets**, but there is the potential for a range of benefits to be delivered through this action, including the following: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality and Material Assets**– This action is likely to result in positive impacts to habitats and species, both terrestrial and aquatic, with the potential for significant positive effects. By including benefits for biodiversity as part of NFM measures, there is the potential to use biodiversity for both flood management and water quality as well as to enhance biodiversity populations, improve ecosystems and encourage greater connectivity between habitats. There is the possibility that the action could result in significant impacts for biodiversity, but it will be wholly dependent on the outcome of the survey and the feasibility of proposed measures to be implemented. ➢ **Population and Human Health –** Similarly, there is scope for access improvements to be included alongside the implementation of NFM measures. Access improvements as part of the wider green network in East Dunbartonshire has the potential to benefit local communities by presenting possible opportunities for local communities to use the area around the Allander Water for leisure activities, for example, which can lead to improved health and wellbeing as well as encouraging people to become better connected to their local natural environment. ➢ **Climatic Factors –** This action has the potential have a positive impact on the effects of climate change in terms of implanting NFM measures to alleviate flooding around the Allander Water and using biodiversity as a means of doing so.	✓

	➢ **Soil and Geology and Air Quality –** There may be secondary impacts through biodiversity improvement and NFM measures being implemented for both of these environmental factors; the role of biodiversity for the management of ecosystem services, air quality improvements, removal of pollutants in the air and improvements to soil value has the potential to be exercised. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	

BM4

Alternative 1 ✓	**+/+ +**	X	**-**	**-**	X	X	X	X	**+**

Proposed Opportunity: Cairnhill Woods (Bearsden)
As part of the Woodlands in and Around Towns (WIAT) scheme, upgrade existing paths within sites to improve access and encourage more use by local communities.

Assessment Commentary:
Most notably, upgrading existing paths within Cairnhill Woods as part of the WIAT scheme will present minor positive impacts to **Material Assets and Population and Human Health**. Upgrading existing paths will ensure that accessibility to the woods and throughout is improved and of a standard that makes it usable for all people, as well as presenting opportunities to enhance any existing paths and links to the wider networks. This is likely to encourage local communities and individuals, specifically from within Bearsden and the local residential areas, to access their local woodland for recreation and leisure activities. This will demonstrate a commitment to improving health and wellbeing at a local level and help to promote an environment that is healthy and safe. The WIAT scheme, funded by Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) and delivered jointly by the Central Scotland Green Network Trust (CSGNT) and East Dunbartonshire Council, will present opportunities for communities to be involved in the consultation process regarding the siting of routes, for example. This can have a significant positive impact on **Population and Human Health**, in addition to the other impacts, as communities will be encouraged to become more involved in their local environment and environmental projects. ✓

However, greater use and access of the woodland can have a negative environmental impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology**. Increased footfall has the potential to cause erosion of paths and soils, contributing to a decrease in its value and having secondary impacts to increasing drainage issues. There is also the potential that this could disturb habitats and species with potential deterioration of biodiversity value.

Proposed Mitigation Measures:

- **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:**
  - 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures and for biodiversity protection.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	

BM5

Alternative 1 ✓	**+ +**	X	**?/-**	**?/-**	X	X	X	**?/-**	**+**	✓

Proposed Opportunity: Dougalston Golf Course
Core path network around and adjacent to the golf course area requires upgrade.

Assessment Commentary:
Upgrading the core path network that runs around Dougalston Golf Course and throughout is likely to have a significant positive impact on **Population and Human Health** as it will enable local communities to utilise the routes for leisure and sport including use of the golf course. This will encourage active travel and leisure pursuits which in turn can promote health and wellbeing benefits of a functioning local environment. It will give people the chance to utilise the network to access the wider natural environment, such as to the west through the green belt to Baldernock and north towards Mugdock Country Park and the Campsie Fells. This is likely to result in positive impacts to **Material Assets** as it will improve and encourage the use of wider core path networks in East Dunbartonshire.

Whilst it has been determined that the environmental impact of this action on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Climatic Factors** are likely to be insignificant, as stated there is the potential that this action will increase use and footfall of the core path network in and around the golf course. There is the potential for minor negative impacts to each of these environmental factors in terms of the potential disturbance to habitats and species, and erosion of soil. This could be potentially disruptive as the site is designated as a LNCS for biodiversity. Erosion of soil and deterioration/removal of habitats can also put the site at greater risk of poor drainage which could be problematic as there are flood risks identified in the east and south of the site. This could exacerbate the risk.

Proposed Mitigation Measures:

- **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:**
  - 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures and for biodiversity protection. ➢ **Climatic Factors:** ○ Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	

BM6

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

Proposed Opportunity: Craigton Wood
Core path network to the north-west of Craigton Wood requires upgrade.

Assessment Commentary:
As with BM5 opportunity, this action is likely to present minor positive impacts for **Population and Human Health and Material Assets**. Upgrading the quality of the existing core path in the north-west of Craigton Wood will improve its usability for local communities to access and with improve the wider connection of networks locally, particularly for the surrounding residential areas. This will demonstrate the GNS commitment to encouraging health and wellbeing improvements through access and use of the natural environment and will be in line with the aims of the Active Travel Strategy.

Whilst it isn't explicit that the action will impact on other factors such as **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Climatic Factors,** and therefore at this stage the impacts are predicted to be insignificant, there is the potential that long-term use of the core path network in the north-west of Craigton Wood and connectivity throughout the whole woodland site and into the rest of the local green network could result in negative impacts to these environmental factors. There is a potential risk that increased footfall over a long period of time can impact negatively on these factors in terms of disturbance to habitats and species and devaluing and erosion of soil which in turn can increase the risk of poor drainage and flooding. In the case of Craigton Wood, this could be reduce the value of the site as a LNCS for biodiversity, which it is designated as, as well as the value of the Gardens and Designed Landscape designations on the site.

Proposed Mitigation Measures:
- In addition to the above mitigation measures, other **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** measures to consider include:
  - Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc.
  - Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting

	design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'. ○ Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection including the entire LNCS. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	

BM7

Alternative 1 ✓	**+/+ +**	X	**?/-**	**?/-**	X	X	X	**?/-**	**+/+ +**	✓

Proposed Opportunity: Craigdhu Wedge

i. Core path network requires improvement through the LNCS and to the connection west of Heather Avenue Open Space.
ii. Upgrades to the cycle network through the Craigdhu Wedge and additional signage, as set out in the Active Travel Strategy.

Assessment Commentary:

i. There is an existing core path network from the east of the site across to the west as well as north along the Craigdhu Burn. However, it has been identified that the path network to the Heather Avenue Open Space in the west of the site is in need of quality improvements. Doing so is likely to improve the usability of the network for access for local communities to use for leisure and recreational purposes and will contribute towards the promotion of the green network for benefits towards health and wellbeing. This will result in positive impacts to **Population and Human Health** although it should be noted that there is the potential for significant effects as such improvements will also promote the aims of the Council's Active Travel Strategy by providing improved means for active travel and recreational opportunities, including greater use of Heather Avenue Open Space.

Similarly, the action is likely to result in positive impacts to **Material Assets**, with the potential for significant effects, as it will improve the local core path network which in turn will encourage its use and potentially contribute towards changes to the current transport infrastructure and travel modes by managing a network that is both sustainable and safe.

At this stage, the impacts of this opportunity on other factors such as **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Climatic Factors** are uncertain and likely to be dependent on the actual use of the core path networks that run throughout this site. However, long-term use of the site can result in increased footfall which has the potential to negatively impact these sites by deteriorating existing habitats and disturbing species, especially as this site is designated as a LNCS for biodiversity, and there may also be soil erosion. This could lead to soil being over-exposed and unprotected by vegetation cover resulting in increased drainage issues and potential flood risks. This could exacerbate the existing flood risk from

	Craigdhu burn to the east of the wedge. ii. The second action as part of the Craigdhu Wedge opportunities has previously been assessed as part of the Environmental Report for East Dunbartonshire Council's Active Travel Strategy. Consequently, it has been determined that it is not necessary to duplicate the assessment. **Proposed Mitigation Measures:** ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:** ○ 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures and for biodiversity protection. ○ Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc. ○ Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'. ○ Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection. ➢ **Climatic Factors:** ○ Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures. **SEA Suggested Alteration:** None at this stage.	

BM8

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

Proposed Opportunity: Baillie Drive Open Space
Core path network requires improvements through open space sites to provide better connection to Craigdhu Wedge.

Assessment Commentary:
Core path network improvements at Bailie Drive Open Space is anticipated to present positive impacts to **Population and Human Health and Material Assets**, with the potential for significant effects, with likely similarly impacts as those detailed in the above assessment including:

✓

✓	➢ Improved usability of the network for access for local communities to use for leisure and recreational purposes and will contribute towards the promotion of the green network for benefits towards health and wellbeing. This is likely to beneficial a number of individuals due to the residential setting of this site. ➢ Promotion and contribution to the aims of the Council's Active Travel Strategy by providing improved means for active travel and recreational opportunities, including greater use of this open space site, the wider natural environment including the Craigdhu Wedge and Heather Avenue Open Space which is located north-west of the site. ➢ Improvements to the local core path network which in turn will encourage its use and potentially contribute towards changes to the current transport infrastructure and travel modes by managing a network that is both sustainable and safe. At this stage, the impacts of this opportunity on other factors such as **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Climatic Factors** are uncertain and likely to be dependent on the actual use of the core path networks that run throughout this site. However, long-term use of the site can result in increased footfall which has the potential to negatively impact these sites by deteriorating existing habitats and disturbing species and there may also be soil erosion. This could lead to soil being over-exposed and unprotected by vegetation cover resulting in increased drainage issues and potential flood risks.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:** ○ 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures and for biodiversity protection. ○ Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc. ○ Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'. ○ Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection. ➢ **Climatic Factors:** ○ Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish	

	whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
BM9		
Alternative 1 ✓	**+/+ +** | **+/-** | **+ +** | **?/-** | **X** | **?/-/+** | **?/+** | **?/+/-** | **+** **Proposed Opportunity:** Bearsden Golf Course Housing Development Site i. The key requirements within the LDP outline the opportunity for woodland and grassland habitat creation and improvements to access to open space. ii. Native habitat connections and buffer should be incorporated into the layout design to ensure appropriate buffer to the adjacent Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in Glasgow. iii. Access to this LNR from East Dunbartonshire could be improved together with access to the adjacent Thorn Park. iv. Green Infrastructure options for surface water run-off with biodiversity and recreation co-benefits should be investigated. **Assessment Commentary:** Overall, proposed opportunities i., ii., and iv. have the potential to have positive impacts on **Population and Human Health**, with the potential for significant effects, as well as significant positive and minor positive effects for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets**, respectively. Woodland and grassland habitat creation will help to create new habitats as part of this housing development which is likely to replace any habitats lost due to the impact of the development, such as its construction, as well as add to the existing wider habitat value in this area of Bearsden. Furthermore, there is the potential that the inclusion of green infrastructure as part of the development will offer benefits for biodiversity as it will contribute to the creation of habitats, aid habitat connectivity and improve ecosystem services. In general, habitat improvement and enhancements, through the creation of new habitats and green infrastructure options, is likely to mitigate any loss of biodiversity and habitats resulting from the development and ensure that species are able to move throughout the countryside effectively. General improvements to open space, as part of the key requirements in the LDP and the role of new habitats and green infrastructure as recreational assets to some extent will benefit communities by providing open space to be enjoyed at a local level but also improve access to nearby open spaces such as Thorn Park, the LNR over the local authority border in Glasgow (Garscadden Wood) and Bearsden Golf Course. This is likely to lead to contribute towards improving health and wellbeing as people will be able to access their natural environment. Bearsden Golf Course development site is located west of a Conservation Area in Bearsden as well as south of the line of the	✓

	Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and buffer zone. There is the potential that these opportunities at this development site will contribute to these **Cultural Heritage** assets by improving the setting but there is the possibility of, without sensitive design and environmental consideration, negative impacts to these assets that will detract from its value. Any options considered should be sensitive to the adjacent Conservation Area. At this stage, there are a number of uncertainties in terms of the effects increased access to and from the development site to nearby recreational assets, possible green infrastructure options and habitat creation. However there is the potential for negative impacts on **Soil and Geology and Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** directly, and indirectly for **Water Quality and Climatic Factors** as there is the potential that improving access to Thorn Park, Garscadden Wood LNR and the newly created open space will increase the risk of soil erosion and deteriorate habitats to an extent, which in turn can increase the risk of surface water run-off and flooding. Conversely potential green infrastructure options can play a role in natural flood management which could have a positive impact on any flood risks, offsetting the negative effects previously described. There is also the potential that feasible green infrastructure as part of the development will play a positive role in improving **Air Quality.** In terms of ii., it should be noted that during the development of East Dunbartonshire Council's Local Development Plan (LDP), environmental site assessments were carried out on all new proposed allocated and non-allocated housing and business/employment development sites. The site assessment for this site highlighted the need to incorporate native habitat connections and a buffer into the layout design to ensure appropriate buffer to the adjacent Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in Glasgow. These SEA suggestions were then translated into the LDP Proposed Plan as key requirements to be taken forward as part of development applications. Consequently, it has been determined that it is not reasonable to assess this particular action within the opportunity for Bearsden Golf Course at this stage to avoid duplicating assessments. **Proposed Mitigation Measures:** ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Water Quality, Climatic Factors and Cultural Heritage:** ○ 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 interests on the site. ○ Best practice guidance should be applied in terms of soil erosion prevention measures and for biodiversity protection. ○ Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish	

	whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: As these opportunities are primarily governed by the key requirements in the Local Development Plan it has been considered that there are no alternatives or SEA suggestions to be made.	

BM10

Alternative 1	**+/+ +**	X	**+/+ +**	X	**+**	X	X	X	**+**

✓

Proposed Opportunity: Kessington Housing Development Site

i. Opportunities for woodland extension to adjacent Templehill Woods as outlined as a requirement in the LDP.
ii. Access in line with the proposed path upgrades at the woodland site is essential (BM5).
iii. Grassland habitat creation/enhancement is also possible.
iv. Green infrastructure options for required flood mitigation and surface water run-off should be investigated, potentially utilising naturally wet areas within the site.

Assessment Commentary:

It is anticipated that extending the existing woodland at the adjacent Templehill Woods with upgraded paths to and within the woodland site will present minor benefits for **Population and Human Health**, with the potential for significant effects, as it is likely to encourage greater use of the woodland and local environment for leisure which can be seen to have health benefits. As it stands Templehill Woods is a LNCS for biodiversity so there is also the possibility that extending the existing woodland alongside this development site will increase the woodland habitat for species and help to maintain or enhance the value of the woodland as a LNCS, presenting positive impacts to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets** with the potential for significant effects for biodiversity. It is likely that this will further integrate woodland into the wider green network in coordination with opportunity BM5.

Given the location of this proposed development site on the edge of the green belt, woodland expansion has the potential to enhance the setting of the green belt as well as ensure that a natural barrier between the housing development and rural landscape is created to ensure that the urban – rural divide is limited. This is likely to have a positive impact on **Landscape**.

In terms of opportunities iii. & iv., it should be noted that during the development of East Dunbartonshire Council's Local Development Plan (LDP), environmental site assessments were carried out on all new proposed allocated and non-allocated housing and business/employment development sites. The site assessment for this site highlighted the need for grassland habitat creation and enhancement, as well as the implementation of green infrastructure measures to mitigate the flooding risk (river and surface-water) identified south east of the site. to incorporate native habitat connections and a buffer into the layout design to ensure appropriate buffer to the adjacent Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in Glasgow. These SEA

✓

	suggestions were then translated into the LDP Proposed Plan as key requirements to be taken forward as part of development applications. Consequently, it has been determined that it is not reasonable to assess this particular action within the opportunity for Kessington at this stage to avoid duplicating assessments.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: As these opportunities are primarily governed by the key requirements in the Local Development Plan it has been considered that there are no alternatives or SEA suggestions to be made.	

Local Green Network Opportunities – Bishopbriggs, Torrance, Balmore and Bardowie

Local Green Network Opportunities and Reasonable Alternatives	SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR									Preferred Option
	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	
BT1										
Alternative 1	+/+ +	X	-/+	-	X	+	+	+	+/+ +	✓
✓	**Proposed Opportunity:** Woodhill Park (Bishopbriggs) Woodhill Park requires a full redesign via the production of a Masterplan. This new design should incorporate multifunctionality and ensure connections to other adjacent open spaces.									
	Assessment Commentary: Upgrading existing paths within Woodhill Park as part of the WIAT scheme will present minor positive impacts to **Material Assets and Population and Human Health**. Upgrading existing paths will ensure that accessibility to the park and throughout is improved and of a standard that makes it usable for all people, as well as presenting opportunities to enhance any existing paths and links to the wider networks. This is likely to encourage local communities and individuals, specifically from within Bishopbriggs and the local residential areas, to access their local park for recreation and leisure activities. This will demonstrate a commitment to improving health and wellbeing at a local level and help to promote an environment that is healthy and safe and encourage communities to become more involved in their local environment and environmental projects. However, greater use and access of the park can have a negative environmental impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology**. Increased footfall has the potential to cause erosion of paths and soils, contributing to a decrease in									

	its value and having secondary impacts to increasing drainage issues. There is also the potential that this could disturb habitats and species with potential deterioration of biodiversity value. In addition there are also opportunities for a full redesign via the production of a Masterplan in order to incorporate multifunctionality and ensure connections to other adjacent open spaces. This would further enhance the positive nature of the effects of these opportunities for **Population and Human Health and Material Assets** as it will contribute towards improvements in the park in terms of improve connectivity and enhanced usability of the open space to be enjoyed by local communities. Whilst there is still the possibility of secondary negative impacts to **Soil and Geology and Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** in terms of the conflicts between increased access and footfall on biodiversity and soil value, this opportunity has scope to explore potential for biodiversity-gain, and potentially offset the negative impacts, as well as implement measures that are sensitive to water quality management, use biodiversity for the filtration of pollutants and carbon capture, and natural flood risk management where appropriate. This would have potential positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality, Air Quality and Climatic Factors.**	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:** ○ 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures and for biodiversity protection. ○ Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc. ○ Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'. ○ Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
BT2		

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

Proposed Opportunity: Jellyhill, Meadowburn and Balmuildy Road Housing Development Sites

i. The key requirements for these development sites within the LDP identify the need for a masterplan to be produced to guide the design of all three sites together. Opportunity exists to ensure the green network is protected and enhanced at the masterplan design stage.

ii. Green infrastructure for the control of surface water run-off which delivers benefits to biodiversity and recreation should be investigated.

iii. Core path connections to the Canal should be retained and enhanced from existing residential areas.

Assessment Commentary:

The location of these three development sites in Bishopbriggs is on the edge of the green belt to the north so there is the potential that incorporating measures to protect the existing green network and enhanced through the Master Plan design stage, outlined in the LDP key requirements, will utilise such enhancements of the green network to bring positive benefits to the **Landscape** setting and visual amenity whilst also allowing improved access to and quality of the green belt. In addition, this requirement alongside potential green infrastructure options are likely to have a positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets**, with the potential for significant effects, as it will contribute to preventing the loss of habitats and species, encourage improved habitat connectivity and seek to integrate biodiversity into the development of which habitats may be removed in the construction stages. In particular, there is the possibility that measures will contribute to protecting the value of the LNCS at Cawder Wood to the north of the site.

As green infrastructure options will need to be investigated before measures are determined feasible on this development site, the impacts for **Population and Human Health** are uncertain but there is the potential for both minor and significant positive impacts. There is the possibility that green infrastructure can be used to enhance the site for open space and recreation, as well as create a visually appealing place to live. Together with the retention and enhancement of existing core paths in the area to the Canal, local communities will have more opportunities to access their local environment and improve connectivity for residents in this urban area to access the rural environment.

In terms of **Climatic Factors and Air Quality**, there is the potential to use green infrastructure as a natural flood management measure which will help to reduce the risk of surface water flooding on site and for the suppression of emissions; this could be particularly beneficial as parts of Bishopbriggs (Bishopbriggs Cross) is susceptible to high levels of air pollution and is designated as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).

Proposed Mitigation Measures:

Although no negative impacts predicted, consideration should be given to the Conservation Area to the north of the site at

	Cawder Wood and Keir Golf Course (the A803 intersects them). All measures should be sensitive to this designation.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: As these opportunities are primarily governed by the key requirements in the Local Development Plan it has been considered that there are no alternatives or SEA suggestions to be made.	
BT3		
Alternative 1 ✓	**+** | **-** | **?/-** | **?/-** | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | **?/-** | **+** **Proposed Opportunity:** Cawder Golf Course Core path network adjacent to golf course requires upgrade. **Assessment Commentary:** Primarily, this opportunity would present minor positive impacts for **Population and Human Health and Material Assets** as core path upgrades adjacent to the golf course will ensure better connectivity across this green belt area and give people the opportunity to participate in active travel and access the wider green network which in turn can promote health and wellbeing benefits of a functioning local environment. It will give people the chance to utilise the network to access the wider natural environment, such as to the west through the green belt towards Torrance and beyond to the Campsie Fells. This will improve and encourage the use of wider core path networks in East Dunbartonshire. Whilst it has been determined that the environmental impact of this action on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Water Quality and Climatic Factors** are unclear at this stage, as stated there is the potential that this action will increase use and footfall of the core path network in and around the golf course. There is the potential for minor negative impacts to each of these environmental factors in terms of the potential disturbance to habitats and species, and erosion of soil. This could be potentially disruptive as there are LNCS for biodiversity in the area including Balmore Haughs and Cawder Golf Course Woods. Erosion of soil and deterioration/removal of habitats can also put the site at greater risk of poor drainage which could be problematic as there is an existing medium probability of flooding across the entire golf course area. It should also be noted that the golf course is in the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site Buffer Zone. There is the potential to have a negative impact on this **Cultural Heritage** asset so any upgrades should be sensitive to the environment. **Proposed Mitigation Measures:** ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:** ○ 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures and for biodiversity protection. ○ Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc. ○ Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'. ○ Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection. ➢ **Water Quality:** ○ Adopt best practice measures to avoid pollution run-off and to improve drainage. ○ Consider the use of sustainable drainage options to improve drainage e.g. SuDS. ➢ **Cultural Heritage:** ○ Adverse effects on the character and quality of the Antonine Wall should be avoided or reduced by improving the quality, design and appropriateness of street furniture, lighting, and appropriate signage.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: This action was highlighted through the Opportunities Mapping exercise so there are no alternatives at this stage. However, the mitigation measures will guide sustainable thinking in terms of the options taken forward to upgrade the quality of the core path network.	
BT4		
Alternative 1	++ | X | ++/- | - | + | + | + | +/- | ++	
	Proposed Opportunity: Westerhill Business and Employment Development Site, Phase 5 Bishopbriggs Relief Road (BRR) and High Moss Local Nature Conservation Site i. Habitat enhancement work required (as part of Westerhill and BRR Phase 5 development) at Cadder Yard LNCS and High Moss LNCS. ii. Water vole habitat enhancements could be conducted on the local habitat corridor to the north. iii. There is opportunity and a need to ensure new path connections along the railway, as outlined in the Active Travel Strategy, also function as a habitat corridor via ensuring suitable space and native planting along new paths. iv. There is further scope to link into High Moss development site to include access around High Moss LNCS. v. Green infrastructure options for surface water run-off should be investigated to deliver biodiversity and recreation co-benefits.	✓
	Assessment Commentary:	

✓	The five different opportunities identified as part of the green network opportunities mapping exercise for the Westerhill, Phase 5 BRR and High Moss LNCS will collectively result in a number of positive environmental impact for the majority of the environmental factors including significant positive effects to **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets** along with minor positive impacts to **Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality and Climatic Factors**, although there is also the potential for secondary negative effects to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Climatic Factors**. The following details the individual impacts predicted for each of the environmental factors. ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets** – ensuring that habitat enhancements to Cadder Yard LNCS and High Moss LNCS are integrated into future developments at the allocated development site at Westerhill and in the next stage of development of the Bishopbriggs Relief Road (BRR) will ensure that any potential impacts of development on these designated sites is minimised and will contribute to improved ecosystems, the prevention of biodiversity loss and maintenance of each of these sites' value as a LNCS. This could benefit species and habitats, alike, helping them to flourish and increase population numbers. The third opportunity related to new path connections also identifies scope for native planting along routes which would not only contribute towards increasing native populations of species in East Dunbartonshire but will also contribute towards sustainable management of natural resources, improved connectivity and a reduction in habitat fragmentation. Furthermore green infrastructure options, as in the fifth opportunity, would provide additional biodiversity enhancements with a focus on delivering biodiversity benefits alongside recreational opportunities, such as open space. In addition, the opportunity related to water voles will ensure that habitats are viable for this species and enable them to be able to feed, live and breed appropriately whilst utilising the habitat as a corridor for migration and movement around East Dunbartonshire. ➢ **Population and Human Health** – potential opportunities for new path connections along the railway to access these developments and the Local Nature Conservation Sites in the vicinity as well as scope to integrate access route from the proposed development at High Moss to High Moss LNCS will give local communities greater opportunities to access their local/natural environment including elsewhere in East Dunbartonshire using the railway core path and connecting green network routes to access the wider environment. New connections and improved access can promote active travel and encourage outdoor recreation whilst contributing to improvements in health and wellbeing. In addition, it has also been identified that there is potential to incorporate green infrastructure improvements to benefit the green network with potential for recreation options. This would further contribute to providing locals with opportunities to access open space and for recreation. ➢ **Climatic Factors** – enhancement of the existing habitats such as the LNCS in the area, native planting and green infrastructure options all have the potential to contribute as natural measures to mitigate and manage flooding and surface water run-off. This will contribute towards climate change mitigation and adaptation at a local level. ➢ **Landscape, Water Quality and Air Quality** – in addition to direct positive impacts habitat enhancement works,	

native planting and green infrastructure options can result in secondary positive impacts to these environmental factors in terms of utilising these green network enhancements to improve the visual setting of the landscape and improving the quality of this majority green belt location, contribute towards the management of any drainage issues and maximising the role of biodiversity for carbon capture and improvements to poor air quality. In particular, the role of biodiversity for air quality improvements could be particularly beneficial in this area due to the impact of developments and the BRR which may result in increased vehicular traffic and associated emissions.

Whist there are a number of potential positive impacts of these opportunities, there may also be associate negative impacts including the following:

- **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Climatic Factors** – there are potential negative impacts to each of these environmental factors as a result of potential increased access to the surrounding natural environment. Increased footfall and cycling could increase the risk of disturbance or deterioration to species and habitats, soil erosion and poor drainage which in turn could increase the risk of flooding.

Proposed Mitigation Measures:

- **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:**
  - 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures and for biodiversity protection.
  - Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc.
  - Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'.
  - Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection.
- **Water Quality:**
  - Adopt best practice measures to avoid pollution run-off and to improve drainage.
  - Consider the use of sustainable drainage options to improve drainage e.g. SuDS.

SEA Suggested Alteration:

As these opportunities are primarily governed by the key requirements in the Local Development Plan it has been considered that there are no alternatives or SEA suggestions to be made.

BT5

Alternative 1

+/+ +	X	+/+ +/-	+/-	X	X	X	+/-	+/+ +

✓

Proposed Opportunity: Main Street (Torrance) Housing Development Site

i. Enhance the adjacent path and its setting as outlined as a key requirement in the LDP.
ii. The Kelvin Valley Way provides the opportunity to link this development and other parts of the village to the proposed Local Nature Reserve at West Balgrochan Marsh.
iii. Green infrastructure options for surface water run-off should be investigated to deliver biodiversity and recreation co-benefits.

Assessment Commentary:

These opportunities at Main Street Housing development site in Torrance is likely to have positive impacts for **Population and Human Health**, with the potential for significant effects, as links between the development site and the proposed LNR at West Balgrochan Marsh using the Kelvin Valley Way as a key green network, green infrastructure options for the creation of a visually attractive place to live and the creation of open space and enhanced path networks within and near to the site will give people greater opportunities to be able to access their local environment; this includes others within the Torrance and Balmore settlements who will be able to take advantage of the enhanced core paths and access routes. This can lead to improved health and wellbeing and a better appreciation of the environment. This has the potential to reduce habitat fragmentation and improve connectivity to be utilised by both people and wildlife. This is likely to present positive impacts to **Material Assets and Landscape**.

In addition, there is the potential to explore benefits for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna**, with some significant effects predicted depending on the feasibility of green infrastructure options on the site, as green infrastructure can create habitats as part of the housing site and contribute towards retaining habitat links in this green belt area. Similarly, green infrastructure can play a role in intercepting rainfall thus reducing the risk of surface water run-off, with positive impacts for **Climatic Factors**.

However it should be noted that increased access to the wider environment, which is likely to be promoted by these opportunities, can have a negative impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Climatic Factors** including habitats and species in terms of potential disturbance, soil erosion due to increased footfall and the removal of vegetation and soil which can increase the risk of poor drainage and flooding.

Proposed Mitigation Measures:

- **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:**
  - It is important that measures are put in place in order to prevent, offset or reduce any negative impacts to

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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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures and for biodiversity protection.
- Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc.
- Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'.
- Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection.

➢ **Climatic Factors:**

- Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures.

SEA Suggested Alteration:

As these opportunities are primarily governed by the key requirements in the Local Development Plan it has been considered that there are no alternatives or SEA suggestions to be made.

BT6

Alternative 1

+/+ +	X/-	+ +/-	-	+	X	X	X	+

Proposed Opportunity: Cadder Wilderness SSSI

i. The SSSI itself is in unfavourable condition and requires management work, in particular to remove non-native species and beech regeneration.
ii. The site is privately owned however opportunity exists to work with the landowner to improve the condition of the site.
iii. The core path network connecting the SSSI to the Forth and Clyde Canal towpath requires upgrade.

✓

Assessment Commentary:

i. As an Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) 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 INNS at Cadder Wilderness SSSI will help to ensure that native species are given the opportunity to grow and regenerate effectively

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and help to protect the site as an important local site recognised for its biological value. Wilderness Woods West is also designated as a LNCS for biodiversity within the SSSI site so this opportunity will contribute to protecting its value. Similarly, regenerating 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 the removal of INNS and beech at Cadder Wilderness SSSI will have a significant positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** including improved ecosystem services and positive impacts for **Landscape and Material Assets** as it will result in sustainable use and management of natural resources in East Dunbartonshire and demonstrate the benefits of flourishing biodiversity for enhancements to the green network within this green belt location.

ii.&iii. Both of these individual opportunities have the potential to result in positive impacts for **Population and Human Health**, with the potential for significant effects. working with local landowners will ensure that locals are engaged with related management works and will ensure that there is greater transparency and understanding of the work required to enhance the local green network in East Dunbartonshire. Furthermore, upgrading the towpath connecting the SSSI and the Forth and Clyde Canal will contribute towards the promotion of active travel and encourage people to access their local environment. This could lead to a better appreciation of the natural environment as well as potential associated benefits to health and wellbeing. Consideration should be given to the fact that increased access to the site, as encouraged by the towpath upgrade, could deteriorate habitats and disturb species which could impact negatively on the value of the SSSI and LNCS, as well as erode soil presenting negative impacts to **Soil and Geology**.

The SSSI is located within the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site Buffer Zone and is within close proximity to the line of the Antonine Wall. Whilst at this stage this opportunity is unlikely to present significant effects on this **Cultural Heritage** asset, upgrades to the core path network and management of the SSSI should be sensitive to this historic designation.

Proposed Mitigation Measures:

- **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:**
  - 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures and for biodiversity protection.
  - Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from

	path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc. ○ Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'. ○ Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection. ➢ **Cultural Heritage:** ○ Adverse effects on the character and quality of the Antonine Wall should be avoided or reduced by ensuring that upgrades to the path network and SSSI are sensitive to this historical asset.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
BT7		

Alternative 1	+	X	-	-	X	X	X	-	+

	Proposed Opportunity: Forth and Clyde Canal (south) The core path on the south of the canal connecting from Rookery Plantation LNCS requires upgrade.
	Assessment Commentary: Primarily, upgrading the core path that connects the Rookery Plantation LNCS to the Forth and Clyde Canal will ensure that the path is improved in standard making it usable and safe for local communities to use for recreation and leisure. This will present greater opportunities for people to take part in active travel, taking advantage of the connecting core paths locally along the Forth and Clyde Canal and connecting people to the wider natural environment. These opportunities would present positive impacts to **Population and Human Health and Material Assets**. Whilst this opportunity specifically relates to the health and wellbeing objective in the Green Network Strategy, potential increased access and footfall along the core path and wider network has the potential to result in secondary negative impacts to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Climatic Factors**. Rookery Plantation is designated as a LNCS for biodiversity; there are potential conflicts between access and the protection of both biodiversity and soil as increased footfall can result in disturbance to habitats and soil erosion which could reduce the value of this designated site. This could reduce the ability of the soil and biodiversity to manage drainage and potentially enhance the risk of flooding. This could impact flooding along the Forth and Clyde Canal corridor.
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:** ○ 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures and for biodiversity protection. ○ Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc. ○ Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'. ○ Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection. ➢ **Climatic Factors:** ○ Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	

Local Green Network Opportunities – Kirkintilloch, Lenzie and Twechar

Local Green Network Opportunities and Reasonable Alternatives	SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR									Preferred Option
	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	
KLT1										
Alternative 1	+	X	+/-	-	X	+	X	+/-	+	✓
	Proposed Opportunity: <u>The Greens and Southbank Business and Employment Site</u> i. There are opportunities for multifunctional open space enhancements including opportunities for flood mitigation and/or storage, biodiversity and improved amenity at The Greens. ii. Initial consultation with the local community is essential before making future plans for The Greens. iii. The Greens is also adjacent to the Southbank Business and Employment Site which should contribute to the									

✓	enhancement of the core path and habitat creation. iv. Green infrastructure options for the management of surface water run off which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and recreation should be investigated as part of all new developments.	
	Assessment Commentary: It is anticipated that enhancing The Greens as an open space for benefits towards improved amenity is likely to present positive impacts to **Population and Human Health** as it will improve the site for use by local communities as an area to be enjoyed for recreation and leisure which can help to reduce health and wellbeing inequalities at a local level. Furthermore, it has been noted that community consultation is vital for any improvements to The Greens which will ensure that local communities are engaged with appropriately to understand and appreciate the future of this amenity space. It has also been identified that the site has opportunities for flood mitigation and storage and biodiversity improvements. This could lead to positive impacts to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Climatic Factors and Material Assets**. These improvements would contribute towards enhancing or creating new habitats for a variety of species as well as help to alleviate the existing medium probability of flood risk that has been identified by SEPA from Park Burn at The Greens and promote the sustainable use and enhancement of community assets in East Dunbartonshire. Flood storage options, such as SuDS, can also help to create wetland habitats. In terms of **Water Quality**, managing flooding and surface water run-off can help to prevent run-off of pollutants which will reduce the possibility of water contamination to the nearby Park Burn and help to maintain a good ecological water quality. Although there are a number of positive impacts of this opportunity being realised, it has also been identified that increased access to The Greens and environmental constraints at the site could result in secondary negative impacts to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Climatic Factors**. Increased footfall could deteriorate habitats and soil, potentially causing erosion and increasing the risk of poor drainage. Furthermore, the core path that runs between the site connecting Christine's Way past the Park Burn could act as a natural barrier for some improvements including limitations in the type of natural flood management options explored. This should be taken into account during the planning for future plans of the site. It should be noted that, as the opportunity states, there is scope for future developments at the allocated Southbank Business and Employment Site can deliver the habitat enhancement, flood mitigation, biodiversity and amenity opportunities identified. This could result in greater enhancements due to funding and availability of resources.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:** ○ 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures and for biodiversity protection. ○ Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc. ○ Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'. ○ Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection. ➢ **Climatic Factors:** ○ Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: As these opportunities are primarily governed by the key requirements in the Local Development Plan it has been considered that there are no alternatives or SEA suggestions to be made.	

KLT2

Alternative 1	**+/+ +**	X	**+/-**	**-**	X	**+**	**+**	**+ +/-**	**+**	
✓	**Proposed Opportunity:** Park Burn i. This area has been identified as suitable for natural flood management measures. There is the opportunity for this to include co-benefits via habitat improvements or green space enhancements. ii. The Open Space Strategy also includes actions on the upgrade of the core path and woodland expansion.									
	Assessment Commentary: Park Burn is currently identified, through SEPA flood risk maps, as an area at medium risk of flooding which means there is scope for flood risk management options to be explored and implemented. It has also been noted that flood risk management can be delivered to ensure that co-benefits for habitat improvements and open space enhancements are also incorporated which would have a positive impact on **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality and Material Assets** as well as significant positive impacts for **Climatic Factors** due to the extent of improvements that could be achieved around Park Burn. Primarily, natural flood management measures will contribute towards alleviating local flood risks and preventing surface water run-off to protect water quality but these measures can also provide valuable habitats, including wetland, which will help to increase or regulate species populations as well as opportunities to improve									✓

	this section of the green network for greenspace enhancements for communities to access, via the adjacent core path, as a recreational asset. Furthermore, there is scope for core path upgrades along Christine's Way which runs alongside Park Burn which would contribute towards wider green network enhancements as well as improve the viability for active travel such as walking and cycling for people. As the Open Space Strategy states there is potential for woodland expansion within the Park Burn area as a viable enhancement. Not only will this contribute to woodland management within the green network to prevent loss of habitats and species but woodland expansion can also be beneficial for managing areas of poor air quality and for carbon storage, representing potential positive impacts for **Air Quality**. It should be noted however that along with positive impacts there is the potential for negative impacts to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Climatic Factors.** Increased footfall could deteriorate habitats and soil, potentially causing erosion and increasing the risk of poor drainage. Furthermore, the core path that runs south of the Park Burn along Christine's Way means that opportunities mostly lie to the north of this natural barrier which could limit possibilities for improvement. This should be taken into account during the planning for future plans of the site.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:** ○ 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures and for biodiversity protection. ○ Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc. ○ Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'. ○ Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection. ➢ **Climatic Factors:** ○ Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures.	

	○ Consider the siting of natural flood management measures to maximise the role for flood risk management and minimise any impact from the barrier that is Christine's Way, as outlined in the assessment.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
KLT3		

Alternative 1 ✓	**+ +**	X	**+/+ +/-**	**-**	X	**+/-**	X	**+/-**	**+**

Proposed Opportunity: Claddens South and Lenzie Hospital Housing Development Sites

i. As part of these development sites there is a requirement within the LDP for new open space creation, wetland enhancement and access connections to and around Millersneuk Wetland.
ii. Potential for interpretation improvements as required for the LNCS.
iii. Investigate green infrastructure options for the management of surface water run-off which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and recreation.

Assessment Commentary:

i. During the development of East Dunbartonshire Council's Local Development Plan (LDP), environmental site assessments were carried out on all new proposed allocated and non-allocated housing and business/employment development sites. The site assessment for this site highlighted the need to include a buffer around Millersneuk Wetland to protect its value as a habitat and mitigation including enhancement, such as enhancement of the existing trees at the wetland, in order to retain the ecological integrity of the wetland are. These SEA suggestions were then translated into the LDP Proposed Plan as key requirements to be taken forward as part of development applications. Consequently, it has been determined that it is not reasonable to assess this particular action within the opportunity for Claddens South and Lenzie Hospital at this stage to avoid duplicating assessments. However, opportunities for new open space creation and access to Millersneuk Wetland will be assessed below.

i. & ii. Open space creation at both Claddens South and Lenzie Hospital, improved connections to Millersneuk and the surrounding area, and potential implementation of interpretation boards at Millersneuk LNCS is likely to have a significant positive impact on **Population and Human Health** and positive impacts for **Material Assets** as it will provide opportunities for local communities, from these new housing sites and the surrounding residential areas, to access their local environment, including Millersneuk Wetland and the green belt to the west, which can help to improve health and wellbeing. Furthermore, interpretation boards can act as an educational resource, with valuable information about the LNCS, but also help to restrict inappropriate use and access of the natural environment.

Although interpretation boards can restrict inappropriate use and access of the natural environment to an extent, there is still the possibility that increased use and access of Millersneuk Wetland LNCS will have minor negative impacts on

	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Water Quality and Climatic Factors in terms of potential soil erosion and removal of habitats and vegetation which can exacerbate pollution run-off and increase the already existing flood risk from the Wetland and Cult Burn. Whilst further investigation will be needed to determine what green infrastructure options can be included as part of each of these housing development sites, there is the potential that green infrastructure will be beneficial for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality and Climatic Factors.** It can play a role in creating new habitats and contributing towards reducing the impacts of development on habitat connectivity, which in turn will help to protect the value of the nearby LNCS, intercept rainfall and contribute to flood risk management as a natural mitigation measure. Furthermore, green infrastructure options can complement open space enhancements which will be beneficial for local communities.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:** ○ 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures and for biodiversity protection. ○ Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc. ○ Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'. ○ Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection. ➢ **Water Quality:** ○ Adopt best practice measures to avoid pollution run-off and to improve drainage. ○ Consider the use of sustainable drainage options to improve drainage e.g. SuDS and utilise wetland creation to reduce the impact of poor drainage on the site. ➢ **Climatic Factors:** ○ Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration:	

	As these opportunities are primarily governed by the key requirements in the Local Development Plan it has been considered that there are no alternatives or SEA suggestions to be made.	
KLT4		
Alternative 1 ✓	**+/+ +** | X | **+/-** | **-** | X | **+/-** | X | **+/-** | **+ +** **Proposed Opportunity:** Fauldhead Housing Development Site and Luggie Water core path i. As part of the housing development there are requirements within the LDP to improve and protect habitat links to and along the Luggie Water corridor. ii. Access to core paths and access connections through the adjacent Woodilee development should also be improved. iii. The existing core path on the opposite site of Luggie Water requires upgrade. iv. Investigate green infrastructure options for the management of surface water run off which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and recreation. **Assessment Commentary:** i. During the development of East Dunbartonshire Council's Local Development Plan (LDP), environmental site assessments were carried out on all new proposed allocated and non-allocated housing and business/employment development sites. The site assessment for this site included mitigation measures to improve and protect habitat links to and along the Luggie Water corridor. These SEA suggestions were then translated into the LDP Proposed Plan as key requirements to be taken forward as part of development applications. Consequently, it has been determined that it is not reasonable to assess this particular action within the opportunity for this site at this stage to avoid duplicating assessments. ii. & iii. Improved access to core paths and connectivity to and through Woodilee housing estate as well as upgrades to the core path that runs alongside the Luggie Water is likely to encourage greater participation in active travel and enable local communities to be able to access their local natural environment, including use the Luggie Water route as both a local and cross-boundary access route. This can promote the benefits of access to the environment and outdoor recreation for reducing health and wellbeing inequalities with minor positive impacts to **Population and Human Health**, with the potential for significant effects, and significant positive impacts to **Material Assets** in terms of improving local core paths to be improved and promote a more sustainable network within East Dunbartonshire. Although there are positive impacts associated with better access links, there is also the possibility that increased use and access across the natural environment and Luggie Water core path will have minor negative impacts on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Water Quality and Climatic Factors** in terms of potential soil erosion and removal of habitats and vegetation which can exacerbate pollution run-off and increase the already existing flood risk from the Luggie Water.	✓

	iv. Whilst further investigation will be needed to determine what green infrastructure options can be included as part of Fauldhead Housing Development Site, there is the potential that green infrastructure will be beneficial for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality and Climatic Factors.** It can play a role in creating new habitats and contributing towards reducing the impacts of development on habitat connectivity, intercept rainfall and contribute to flood risk management as a natural mitigation measure. Furthermore, green infrastructure options can complement open space enhancements which will be beneficial for local communities.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:** o 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. o Best practice guidance should be applied in terms of soil erosion prevention measures and for biodiversity protection. o Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc. o Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'. o Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection. ➢ **Water Quality:** o Adopt best practice measures to avoid pollution run-off and to improve drainage. o Consider maximising the use of sustainable drainage and green infrastructure options to improve drainage e.g. SuDS. ➢ **Climatic Factors:** o Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: As these opportunities are primarily governed by the key requirements in the Local Development Plan it has been considered that there are no alternatives or SEA suggestions to be made.	
KLT5		

Alternative 1	+/+ +	+	+ +/-	+/-	+	+/-	X	+/-	+ +	
✓	**Proposed Opportunity:** Broomhill Hospital Housing Development Site i. The requirements for this development within the LDP include the preparation of a masterplan for development which provides the opportunity to include green network improvements at the early design stage. This should include protection and enhancements to the LNCS (including interpretation) and river corridor. ii. Access from the development site to the River Kelvin corridor to the east should be considered together with contributions to the River Kelvin Corridor strategic opportunity. iii. Green infrastructure options for the management of surface water run off which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and recreation should be investigated.									
	Assessment Commentary: The green network opportunities for Broomhill Hospital Housing Development Site are likely to have an overall positive environmental impact. In particular, including measures to protect and enhance the LNCS for biodiversity at the site and the LNCS for geodiversity north of the site and north of the River Kelvin, as well as the River Kelvin corridor itself is likely to have a significant positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets** and positive impacts for **Soil and Geology and Landscape** as actions will actively seek to ensure that valued habitats and species are protected including the important geodiversity features north of the River Kelvin. In addition, the site is currently a brownfield site on the edge of green belt; green network enhancements, as implied by the need for a Masterplan of the site, will help to restore the site to a more favourable condition. There is also likely to be enhancements to the river corridor in terms of improved habitat connectivity, allowing species to travel throughout the wider green network in East Dunbartonshire. In addition, enhancing the LNCS and river corridor can utilise the role of biodiversity for improving the setting of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and Forth and Clyde Canal Scheduled Monument which are both located south of Broomhill development site. This could play a positive role in enhancing **Cultural Heritage** assets locally. However, it should be noted that there is the potential that increased access and use of open spaces, designated sites and green networks can have a negative environmental impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Cultural Heritage, Soil and Geology, Water Quality and Climatic Factors**. Increased footfall has the potential to cause erosion of paths and soils, contributing to a decrease in its value and having secondary impacts to increasing drainage issues and pollution run-off into both the Forth and Clyde Canal and River Kelvin. Although access will improve an appreciation of these natural assets, the impact of increased footfall could deteriorate the value of the LNCS for biodiversity on the site and adjacent LNCS for geodiversity. There is a potential flood risk from the Kelvin north of this site so increased footfall could exacerbate the existing flood risk. There is also the potential that this could disturb habitats and species with potential deterioration of biodiversity value.									✓

	Potential access improvements to the River Kelvin from the development has the potential to have a positive impact on **Population and Human Health** as it will help to promote the River Kelvin corridor as an active travel and recreational route and encourage people to access their wider natural environment. This is likely to contribute to the strategic opportunities identified for the River Kelvin at a local level. Whilst further investigation will be needed to determine what green infrastructure options can be included as part of this site there is the potential that green infrastructure will be beneficial for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Climatic Factors, Landscape, Water Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets.** It can play a role in creating new habitats and contributing towards reducing the impacts of development on habitat connectivity, enhance the setting of the historic assets locally, intercept rainfall and contribute to flood risk management as a natural mitigation measure in this flood risk area, as well as complement open space enhancements.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:** ○ 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures, brownfield site enhancement and for biodiversity protection. ○ Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc. ○ Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'. ○ Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection. ➢ **Water Quality:** ○ Adopt best practice measures to avoid pollution run-off and to improve drainage. ○ Consider the use of sustainable drainage options to improve drainage e.g. SuDS. ➢ **Climatic Factors:** ○ Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures.	

	➢ **Cultural Heritage:** ○ Biodiversity enhancements and path upgrades should be sensitive to the setting of the Antonine Wall and Forth and Clyde Canal, taking into account best practice guidelines as detailed in the Antonine Wall Management Plan 2014 – 19 (Historic Scotland and partner local authorities), relevant East Dunbartonshire Council planning guidance on the historic environment (emerging) and guidance and expertise from Scottish Canals.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: As these opportunities are primarily governed by the key requirements in the Local Development Plan it has been considered that there are no alternatives or SEA suggestions to be made.	
KLT6		
Alternative 1	**+ +** | **+/-** | **+ +** | **-** | **+** | **+/-** | ✕ | **+/-** | **+ +**	
	Proposed Opportunity: Glen Shiva Road Housing Development Site, Twechar i. The requirements for this development within the LDP include access links to Gartshore Park and canal and habitat creation opportunities. ii. Access connections to the Forth and Clyde Canal and Barhill (via adjacent Gartshore Public Park) should be created or existing connections enhanced. iii. The habitat corridor of the Forth and Clyde Canal should be enhanced with an appropriate habitat buffer of native species. iv. Green infrastructure options for the management of surface water run off which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and recreation should be investigated. v. The Open Space Strategy provides actions for habitat creation at Gartshore Public Park and there is opportunity to link this with landscaping within the development ensuring a habitat connection from the Forth and Clyde Canal to Barhill.	✓
✓	**Assessment Commentary:** Opportunities for habitat creations at the site, as well as improved habitat corridor links through the implementation of a buffer of native habitats and species at the adjacent Forth and Clyde Canal, potential green infrastructure options and appropriate habitat management to ensure robust habitat connectivity from the Canal to Barhill is likely to have an overall significant positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets** and a positive impact to **Landscape.** In general, these opportunities will have a direct impact on preventing the loss of species and habitats, reduce habitat fragmentation and encourage native plants and wildlife to flourish, including protecting the value of the nearby LNCS for biodiversity to the south east of the site. Enhancing the local biodiversity value is also likely to maximise the role of biodiversity for improving and protecting the Forth and Clyde Canal as a Scheduled Monument and retaining the value of	

	the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site which is directly north of the proposed development site. This can be positive for **Cultural Heritage**. Access links to Gartshore Park and the Canal, as well as access to Barhill via adjacent Gartshore Public Park) and enhancement of existing connections is likely to have a significant positive impact on **Population and Human Health** as it will provide local communities within Twechar will greater opportunities to access the wider environment for recreation and leisure which in turn will impact on health and wellbeing, as well as encourage visitors to local cultural sites such as the Antonine Wall. However, increased access and use of networks locally has the potential to have minor negative impacts on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Water Quality and Climatic Factors** in terms of potential soil erosion and removal of habitats and vegetation which can exacerbate pollution run-off and increase the risk of flooding. This could impact on the flood potential of the Canal adjacent to the site. Whilst further investigation will be needed to determine what green infrastructure options can be included as part of Glen Shirva Road Housing Development Site, there is the potential that green infrastructure will be beneficial for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality and Climatic Factors**. It can play a role in creating new habitats and contributing towards reducing the impacts of development on habitat connectivity, intercept rainfall and contribute to flood risk management as a natural mitigation measure. Furthermore, green infrastructure options can complement open space enhancements which will be beneficial for local communities.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: As above.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: As these opportunities are primarily governed by the key requirements in the Local Development Plan it has been considered that there are no alternatives or SEA suggestions to be made.	

KLT7

Alternative 1	**+**	**?/-**	**+/-**	**?/-**	X	X	X	**?/-**	**+**	✓
	Proposed Opportunity: Forth and Clyde Canal (south) Core path network between east Kirkintilloch and Twechar requires sensitive upgrading along the south of the canal while still maintaining the integrity of the habitat corridor function and adjacent woodland.									
	Assessment Commentary: Upgrading the existing core path network that connects east Kirkintilloch and Twechar along the south of the Forth and Clyde Canal is likely to present positive impacts for **Population and Human Health and Material Assets**, as improvements to the network will help to promote active travel and outdoor leisure, encouraging local communities to utilise this network as									

✓	part of the wider green network. This could lead to changes towards greater connectivity within the green network and health and wellbeing benefits. In addition, the opportunity indicates that any upgrades should be sensitive to the surrounding environment which includes any environmental designations in the area in order to maintain the integrity of the functionality of the habitat corridor and to protect the adjacent woodland. This will have a direct positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** by contributing to preventing the loss of species and habitats, encouraging habitat connectivity by ensuring that fragmentation is reduced. This would also demonstrate a commitment to the management of woodland, and possibly native species, at a local level. Whilst at this stage there are uncertainties as to the full nature of the effects on **Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Climatic Factors** it has been determined that there are some potential secondary negative impacts to each of these environmental factors, including: ➢ The Forth and Clyde Canal is designated as a Scheduled Monument, and as such, it is vital that all upgrade options are sensitive to this historical asset as there is the possibility of negative impacts by detracting from the existing setting and characteristics. ➢ Whilst the main aim of this opportunity is to improve the core path for use by local communities, there are associated secondary negative impacts of increased footfall with soil erosion and disturbance to habitats and species which in turn can increase the risk of drainage issues and flooding. For this area, there is a risk of flooding as identified by SEPA to the north of the Canal which could be exacerbated by these impacts.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:** ○ 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures and for biodiversity protection. ○ Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc. ○ Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'. ○ Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection. ➢ **Climatic Factors:**	

	○ Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures. ➢ **Cultural Heritage:** Biodiversity enhancements and path upgrades should be sensitive to the setting of the Forth and Clyde Canal, taking into account best practice guidelines such as relevant East Dunbartonshire Council planning guidance on the historic environment (emerging), guidelines from Scottish Canals and the Council's planned Canal Strategy once it has been developed.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	

KLT8

Alternative 1	X	X	+/++	X	X	X	X	X	+	
✓	**Proposed Opportunity:** Bishopbriggs to Lenzie Access Route The Active Travel Strategy proposes a new access route along the railway corridor between Bishopbriggs and Lenzie. This route should be multifunctional for both access and biodiversity and potential diversion from the railway corridor to the south may be required at Lenzie Moss LNR.									
	Assessment Commentary: The proposed new access route along the railways corridor between Bishopbriggs and Lenzie has previously undergone a recent environmental assessment as part of the full SEA process for the Active Travel Strategy, including highlighting all of the anticipated environmental effects and proposing mitigation measures to reduce or prevent any of the negative impacts identified which have been integrated into the adopted Active Travel Strategy. The Green Network Strategy proposed that as part of this Active Travel Strategy action that the route be considered for multifunctional uses in terms of access and biodiversity in line with the vision of the GNS. There is the possibility that this multifunctionality will result in positive impacts to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets** as there will be a commitment to protecting biodiversity and ensuring that existing habitat connectivity is not fragmented or deteriorated, affecting its ability to function effectively as an important habitat and core path network in East Dunbartonshire. In addition, it has been indicated that there is potential to divert this access route south to avoid impacting on the Local Nature Reserve at Lenzie Moss. This would still deliver the intended outcomes of the Active Travel Strategy in terms of access and improved active travel routes but there is also the potential for significant effects to biodiversity as it will be a direct commitment to ensuring that the LNR remains an active and valuable local environmental and community asset. This could also contribute to preventing the negative impacts on the LNR as identified in the environmental assessment for the Active Travel Strategy for this related action.									✓
	Proposed Mitigation Measures:									

	It is important that the mitigation measures included in the environmental assessment of the relevant action in the Active Travel Strategy is taken into account.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	

KLT9

Alternative 1 ✓	**+ +**	**+/-**	**+/-**	**-**	X	**+/-**	X	**+/-**	**+**

Proposed Opportunity: Cleddens Playing Field Housing Development (Kirkintilloch)

i. The Open Space Strategy proposes upgrading park facilities at the adjacent open space at Tintock Park.
ii. There is also a need to ensure the development links to the LNCS at Harestanes.
iii. The key requirements within the LDP include opportunities for woodland creation and open space enhancement.
iv. Green infrastructure options for the management of surface water run off which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and recreation should be investigated as part of all new developments.

Assessment Commentary:

Primarily, these opportunities for Cleddens Playing Field Housing Development Site focus on enhancing existing park facilities, open space enhancement and recreation opportunities which is likely to have a significant positive impact on **Population and Human Health** as it will ensure that appropriate provision is available for local residents to use for recreation and leisure which can help to reduce health and wellbeing inequalities. Furthermore, linking the proposed development to the LNCS for biodiversity in nearby Harestanes will help to connect people to their natural environment and increase an appreciation of local designated areas. Conversely, increased access and use of networks locally has the potential to have minor negative impacts on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Climatic Factors, Soil and Geology, Water Quality and Climatic Factors** in terms of potential soil erosion, deteriorate sites of historical importance and removal of habitats and vegetation, which could be particularly adverse for species at the nearby LNCS at Harestanes by impacting on their value. These effects can exacerbate pollution run-off and increase the risk of flooding. These will need to be considered during planning stages. ✓

In terms of **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets** there is the potential for woodland creation which will help to manage or replace lost woodland due to the development, integrate woodland in to the wider green network and contribute to improved ecosystem services. Furthermore, whilst further investigation will be needed to determine what green infrastructure options can be included as part of this site there is the potential that green infrastructure will be beneficial for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Cultural Heritage, Water Quality and Climatic Factors.** It can play a role in creating new habitats and contributing towards reducing the impacts of development on habitat connectivity, enhance the setting of the nearby cultural site of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and Forth and Clyde Canal Scheduled

	Monument, intercept rainfall and contribute to flood risk management as a natural mitigation measure, as well as complement open space enhancements which will be beneficial for local communities.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:** ○ 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures and for biodiversity protection. ○ Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc. ○ Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'. ○ Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection. ➢ **Water Quality:** ○ Adopt best practice measures to avoid pollution run-off and to improve drainage. ○ Consider the use of sustainable drainage options to improve drainage e.g. SuDS. ➢ **Climatic Factors:** ○ Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures. ➢ **Cultural Heritage:** ○ Biodiversity enhancements and path upgrades should be sensitive to the setting of the Antonine Wall and Forth and Clyde Canal, taking into account best practice guidelines as detailed in the Antonine Wall Management Plan 2014 – 19 (Historic Scotland and partner local authorities), relevant East Dunbartonshire Council planning guidance on the historic environment (emerging) and guidelines from Scottish Canals.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: As these opportunities are primarily governed by the key requirements in the Local Development Plan it has been considered that there are no alternatives or SEA suggestions to be made.	
KLT10		

Alternative 1	+	-	+ +/-	-	X	+/-	X	+/-	+	
✓	**Proposed Opportunity:** MacDonald Crescent Housing Development (Twechar) i. Opportunity for broadleaved woodland and wetland habitat mosaic creation associated with surrounding LNCS and ensuring there is access to the strategic green network asset at Barhill. ii. Green infrastructure options for the management of surface water run off which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and recreation should be investigated as part of all new developments.									
	Assessment Commentary: i. Broadleaved woodland and wetland habitat creation on site and integrated with the surrounding LNCS at Board Craigs Wood adjacent to the site is likely to have a significant positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** as it will actively seek to manage and integrate woodland into the wider green network as well as create new habitats which will benefit a range of different species. in general this will seek to prevent the loss of biodiversity, including reduce the negative impact of the development of habitats and species, which in turn will improve ecosystem services. In addition, improving access to the strategic green network asset at Barhill will give local communities the opportunities to access this local heritage site as well as the wider environment and will contribute towards access for locals and visitors as part of the wider green network. This is likely to have a minor positive impact on **Population and Human Health and Material Assets**. However, it should be noted that there is the potential for negative impacts on **Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Water Quality and Climatic Factors** due to increased footfall. This could result in potential soil erosion, deteriorate sites of historical importance and removal of habitats and vegetation, which could be particularly adverse for species at the nearby LNCS by impacting on their value. These effects can exacerbate pollution run-off and increase the risk of flooding. These will need to be considered during planning stages. ii. Whilst further investigation will be needed to determine what green infrastructure options can be included as part of this site there is the potential that green infrastructure will be beneficial for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Cultural Heritage, Water Quality and Climatic Factors.** It can play a role in creating new habitats and contributing towards reducing the impacts of development on habitat connectivity, enhance the setting of the nearby cultural site of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site and Forth and Clyde Canal Scheduled Monument, intercept rainfall and contribute to flood risk management as a natural mitigation measure, as well as complement open space enhancements which will be beneficial for local communities.									✓
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: As above.									

	SEA Suggested Alteration: As these opportunities are primarily governed by the key requirements in the Local Development Plan it has been considered that there are no alternatives or SEA suggestions to be made.	
KLT11		
Alternative 1 ✓	+ | X | + | X | + | + | + | + | +	
	Proposed Opportunity: Badenheath Business and Employment Site i. There is opportunity for the development design to minimise impact on the surrounding landscape and contribute to enhancement of the Green Belt together with retaining a buffer around the Luggie Water and ensuring the integrity of Mosswater Local Nature Reserve in North Lanarkshire. ii. Green infrastructure options for the management of surface water run off which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and recreation should be investigated as part of all new developments.	
	Assessment Commentary: i. During the development of East Dunbartonshire Council's Local Development Plan (LDP), environmental site assessments were carried out on all new proposed allocated and non-allocated housing and business/employment development sites. The site assessment for this site included mitigation measures to minimise any impacts on the surrounding landscape including the green belt with a buffer around the Luggie Water and protection of the ecological integrity of the LNR in North Lanarkshire over the border. These SEA suggestions were then translated into the LDP Proposed Plan as key requirements to be taken forward as part of development applications. Consequently, it has been determined that it is not reasonable to assess this particular action within the opportunity for this site at this stage to avoid duplicating assessments.	✓
	ii. Badenheath Business and Employment Site is located on the border between East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire so there is the potential that the implementation of green infrastructure will have positive cross-boundary effects. Whilst further investigation will be needed to determine what green infrastructure options can be included as part of this site there is the potential that green infrastructure will be beneficial for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape, Water Quality, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets.** It can play a role in creating new habitats and contributing towards reducing the impacts of development on habitat connectivity, enhance the setting of the Local Landscape Area in which the site is situated, intercept rainfall and contribute to flood risk management as a natural mitigation measure in this flood risk area, as well as complement open space enhancements which will be beneficial for local communities and will improve the setting of this employment site as an attractive place to work. In addition, it is likely that a business site will experience higher levels of traffic from employees and deliveries, for example, so green infrastructure options can play a role in suppressing pollutants from vehicles and improving air quality.	

	SEA Suggested Alteration: As these opportunities are primarily governed by the key requirements in the Local Development Plan it has been considered that there are no alternatives or SEA suggestions to be made.	
KTL12		
Alternative 1 ✓	**+/+ +** | X | - | - | X | X | X | - | +	
	Proposed Opportunity: Luggie Park, Tintock Wood and Boghead Wood As part of Woodlands in and Around Towns (WIAT) scheme upgrade existing paths within sites to improve access and encourage more use by local communities.	
	Assessment Commentary: Upgrading existing paths at each of these sites within Kirkintilloch and Lenzie as part of the WIAT scheme will present minor positive impacts to **Material Assets and Population and Human Health**. Upgrading existing paths will ensure that accessibility to these sites as community assets and throughout is improved and of a standard that makes it usable for all people, as well as presenting opportunities to enhance any existing paths and links to the wider networks. This is likely to encourage local communities and individuals, specifically from the local residential areas, to access these parks/woodlands for recreation and leisure activities. This will demonstrate a commitment to improving health and wellbeing at a local level and help to promote an environment that is healthy and safe. The WIAT scheme, funded by Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) and delivered jointly by the Central Scotland Green Network Trust (CSGNT) and East Dunbartonshire Council, will present opportunities for communities to be involved in the consultation process regarding the siting of routes, for example. This can have a significant positive impact on **Population and Human Health**, in addition to the other impacts, as communities will be encouraged to become more involved in their local environment and environmental projects. However, greater use and access of the woodland can have a negative environmental impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Climatic Factors**. Increased footfall has the potential to cause erosion of paths and soils, contributing to a decrease in its value and having secondary impacts to increasing drainage issues. In particular both Luggie Park and Boghead Wood have flood risk s identified on part of each of the site and Tintock Wood borders the Forth and Clyde Canal to the south – impacts on drainage to exacerbate the risks of flooding at each of these sites. There is also the potential that this could disturb habitats and species with potential deterioration of biodiversity value.	✓
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:** ○ 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures and for biodiversity protection. ○ Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc. ○ Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'. ○ Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection. ➢ **Climatic Factors:** ○ Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	

Local Green Network Opportunities – Lennoxtown, Milton of Campsie, Haughhead and Clachan of Campsie

Local Green Network Opportunities and Reasonable Alternatives	SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR									Preferred Option
	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	
LMC1										
Alternative 1	+/+ +	X	-	-	X	X	X	-	+	✓
	Proposed Opportunity: Southfields Woodland and Redhills Woodland As part of Woodlands in and Around Towns (WIAT) scheme upgrade existing paths within sites to improve access and encourage more use by local communities.									
	Assessment Commentary: Most notably, upgrading existing paths at both of these woodland sites as part of the WIAT scheme will present minor									

✓	positive impacts to **Material Assets and Population and Human Health**. Upgrading existing paths will ensure that accessibility to the woods and throughout is improved and of a standard that makes it usable for all people, as well as presenting opportunities to enhance any existing paths and links to the wider networks. Due to the location of each of these woodlands, upgrading the existing paths is also likely to improve connectivity between the two sites. This is likely to encourage local communities and individuals, specifically from within Lennoxtown and Milton of Campsie, to access their local woodland for recreation and leisure activities. This will demonstrate a commitment to improving health and wellbeing at a local level and help to promote an environment that is healthy and safe. The WIAT scheme, funded by Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) and delivered jointly by the Central Scotland Green Network Trust (CSGNT) and East Dunbartonshire Council, will present opportunities for communities to be involved in the consultation process regarding the siting of routes, for example. This can have a significant positive impact on **Population and Human Health**, in addition to the other impacts, as communities will be encouraged to become more involved in their local environment and environmental projects. However, greater use and access of the woodland can have a negative environmental impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Climatic Factors**. Increased footfall has the potential to cause erosion of paths and soils, contributing to a decrease in its value and having secondary impacts to increasing drainage issues. At Southfields Woodland, specifically, this could exacerbate the existing flood risk on the site from the Glazert Water. There is also the potential that this could disturb habitats and species with potential deterioration of biodiversity value.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:** ○ 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures for biodiversity protection. ○ Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc. ○ Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'. ○ Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection. ➢ **Climatic Factors:**	

	○ Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
LMC2		
Alternative 1 ✓	**+/+ +** | X | **+ +/-** | **-** | **+** | **+/-** | X | **+/-** | **+ +**	✓
	Proposed Opportunity: Redmoss housing development site i. The requirements for this development within the LDP include the creation of new open space and habitat creation (woodland and grassland) and access links to LNCS and Strathkelvin Railway Path. ii. Green infrastructure options for the management of surface water run-off which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and recreation should be investigated.	
	Assessment Commentary: It is likely that these opportunities at Redmoss Housing Development Site are likely to have an overall positive environmental impact. In particular opportunities for the creation of new open space and woodland and grassland habitat creation, alongside potential green infrastructure options as part of the development, is likely to have a direct significant positive impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets** as not only will this help to replace lost habitat value as the site is designated as a LNCS for biodiversity but it will also help to protect biodiversity in the long-term by creating valuable habitats and improving habitat connectivity throughout Milton of Campsie and the wider natural environment. New habitats will also be able to integrate into the wider green network. In addition, new open space on the site and improved links to the LNCS at Redmoss and the Strathkelvin Railway Path will have a positive impact on **Population and Human Health**, with the potential for significant effects, in terms of encouraging locals to access their wider environment for recreation and other settlement areas such as Kirkintilloch which has merits in reducing health and wellbeing inequalities and improving an awareness of the local natural environment, including the Campsie Fells, and the wider green network. However, there is the potential that increased access and use of open spaces, designated sites and green networks can have a negative environmental impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Water Quality and Climatic Factors**. Increased footfall has the potential to cause erosion of paths and soils, contributing to a decrease in its value and having secondary impacts to increasing drainage issues and pollution run-off into the Glazert Water. There are also LNCS for geodiversity near to the proposed Redmoss housing site such as that at Gallow Hill east of the site and Incbelle Farm which is located south east alongside the Strathkelvin Railway Path. Although access will improve an appreciation of these natural	

	assets, the impact of increased footfall could deteriorate the value of these designated sites. At Redmoss, this could exacerbate the existing flood risk on the site from the Glazert Water. There is also the potential that this could disturb habitats and species with potential deterioration of biodiversity value of the nearby LNCS. Whilst further investigation will be needed to determine what green infrastructure options can be included as part of this site there is the potential that green infrastructure will be beneficial for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape, Water Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets.** It can play a role in creating new habitats and contributing towards reducing the impacts of development on habitat connectivity, enhance the setting of the Local Landscape Area in which the site is situated, intercept rainfall and contribute to flood risk management as a natural mitigation measure in this flood risk area, as well as complement open space enhancements.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:** ○ 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures and for biodiversity protection. ○ Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc. ○ Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'. ○ Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection including the LNCS. ➢ **Water Quality:** ○ Adopt best practice measures to avoid pollution run-off and to improve drainage. ○ Consider the use of sustainable drainage options to improve drainage e.g. SuDS. ➢ **Climatic Factors:** ○ Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: As these opportunities are primarily governed by the key requirements in the Local Development Plan it has been	

	considered that there are no alternatives or SEA suggestions to be made.	
LMC3		
Alternative 1 ✓	++ | X | + | - | + | X | X | X | ++ **Proposed Opportunity:** Balcorrach Woodland Creation Forestry Commission woodland creation project on former Hole Farm. Design being developed but there is the opportunity to link through the new woodland to Clachan of Campsie and Campsie Glen creating accessible green network from Lennoxtown. **Assessment Commentary:** The woodland creation project on former Hole Farm has recently been assessed as part of the environmental assessment for East Dunbartonshire Council's Local Biodiversity Action Plan, indicating that the likely environmental impacts are positive for **Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets** with some degree of significance for a selection of the environmental factors. It also highlighted that this action would result in secondary minor negative impacts to **Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology**. However, given that it has been assessed this element of the green network opportunities at Balcorrach Woodland will not undergo a duplication assessment at this stage but the other element regarding improved links will be, as discussed below. Opportunities to link the new woodland to Clachan of Campsie and Campsie Glen from Lennoxtown will have a significant positive environmental impact for **Population and Human Health and Material Assets** as it will promote the woodland sites as 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 offroad cycle tracks, to access the wider Campsie Fells area. Creating links will 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. Furthermore, there is likely to be a 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. There is also the possibility that achieving this opportunity will have secondary positive effects for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Landscape** as new links will form part of the wider green network including encouraging a more robust series of habitat links to improve connectivity for species by reducing the number of fragmented habitat networks at a local level. However, it should also be noted that increased use of the links including increased footfall can result in soil erosion due to	✓

	compaction and potential removal of soil cover which would result in negative impacts to **Soil and Geology**. In general, delivering this opportunity in parallel with the related LBAP action will contribute towards the Balcorrach Wood Land Management Plan produced by the Scottish Forestry Commission and the strategic priorities for access and health in the Scottish Forestry Strategy 2006.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Soil and Geology:** ○ 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
LMC4		
Alternative 1	+ | - | - | - | - | - | X | - | +	
	Proposed Opportunity: Campsie Glen Core path from Clachan of Campsie required upgrading.	
✓	**Assessment Commentary:** The current core path network from Clachan of Campsie to the Campsie Glen is fragmented so upgrading the existing network will focus on improving its quality to ensure that the network can act as a viable route to access the wider green network and environment within East Dunbartonshire. Primarily, upgrading the core path so that it is usable will present positive impacts to **Population and Human Health and Material Assets** as any improvements for quality will ensure that there is adequate provision that will encourage local communities, as well as visitors to the area, to partake in active travel and outdoor leisure as part of the wider green network in East Dunbartonshire. Not only does this have benefits in giving local people the opportunity to access and appreciate the value of the natural environment but there are benefits associated with outdoor recreation and improved health and wellbeing, including a reduction in stress-related illnesses and improved fitness. However, access and increased footfall can present secondary negative impacts including **Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Landscape, Water Quality and Climatic Factors** due to the range of environmental	✓

	constraints and designations in the Campsie Glen including the following: ➢ The Campsie Glen LNCS for biodiversity has the potential to be impacted by upgrades to the path and associated use of the network as it could result in disturbance to habitats and disrupt ecosystem services. Tis could impact on the wider habitat network around the Campsie Glen. ➢ A LNCS for geodiversity is also designated at the Campsie Glen which connects to the LNCS for geodiversity along the Crow Road in the Campsie Fells. Increased footfall has the potential to increase the risk of soil erosion through compaction and possible removal of vegetation as a soil stabiliser. This also could result in the deterioration of the area as a site of geodiversity importance, potentially reducing its value from its current status of '*excellent*'. ➢ The existing core paths are within the Campsie Fells Local Landscape Area and there are a number of Garden and Designed Landscapes designated close to the upper course of the Glazert Water; it is important that upgrade options are sensitive to these designations and use of the core paths do not detract from the value of the Campsies as a tourist designation within East Dunbartonshire and cultural assets. ➢ Soil erosion can result in an increased risk of drainage issues with the potential to exacerbate the existing flood risk from the upper course of the Glazert Water which can impact on flooding further downstream and increase the risk of pollutant and surface-water run-off. It should be noted, however, that the full impact of both the positive and negative environmental impacts described are dependent on the options chosen to upgrade the existing core paths from Clachan of Campsie to the Campsie Glen. The proposed mitigation measures below should be considered where appropriate and integrated into the Strategy in order to reduce the risk of negative impacts regardless of the upgrade options taken forward in the life of the Strategy.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:** ○ 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures, brownfield site enhancement and for biodiversity protection. ○ Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc. ○ Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'. ○ Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the	

	design and ensure the highest priorities for protection. ➢ **Water Quality:** o Adopt best practice measures to avoid pollution run-off and to improve drainage. o Consider the use of sustainable drainage options to improve drainage e.g. SuDS. ➢ **Climatic Factors:** o Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures. ➢ **Cultural Heritage:** o Best practice guidelines and sensitive upgrade options should be applied. o Consider referencing Historic Environment Scotland's 'Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland: A guide for owners, occupiers and managers' to ensure that options are appropriate. ➢ **Landscape:** o All path upgrades in the Campsie Fells will need to integrate with the setting of this Local Landscape Area and consider the use of native planting along pathways and appropriate signage to limit negative impacts and deterioration of this valued landscape asset.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage, although it is vital that mitigation is included in order to reduce, prevent or offset the potential negative impacts identified in the assessment.	
LMC5		
Alternative 1 ✓	**+ +** | X | **+ +/-** | **-** | **+** | **+/-** | X | **+/-** | **+ +** **Proposed Opportunity:** 132 Main Street Housing Development Site, Lennoxtown i. The key requirements within the LDP highlight green network opportunities for woodland and open space enhancement, including the Glazert corridor, and improved access. ii. Green infrastructure options for the management of surface-water run-off which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and recreation should be investigated as part of all new developments. **Assessment Commentary:** i. Opportunities for woodland and open space enhancement and improved access at Main Street development site as well as the Glazert Corridor is likely to present significant positive impacts on **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets** as well as minor positive impacts to **Landscape** as it will enhance open space and recreational provision in this part of residential Lennoxtown which will encourage local communities to access their local environment for recreation and leisure. There is also likely to be greater	

protection of non-protected and protected species due to habitat enhancement, improved habitat connectivity in this rural location, potential integration with the LNCS for biodiversity south of this site and contributions to the landscape setting in this Local Landscape Area. In addition, habitat enhancement and access of the Glazert corridor will have a positive impact on the wider green network.

However, there is the potential that increased access and use of open spaces, designated sites and green networks can have a negative environmental impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Water Quality and Climatic Factors**. Increased footfall has the potential to cause erosion of paths and soils, contributing to a decrease in its value and having secondary impacts to increasing drainage issues and pollution run-off into the Glazert Water. Although access will improve an appreciation of these natural assets, the impact of increased footfall could deteriorate the value of these designated sites. There is a potential flood risk from the Glazert south of this site so increased footfall could exacerbate the existing flood risk. There is also the potential that this could disturb habitats and species with potential deterioration of biodiversity value of the nearby LNCS at Glazert Wood.

ii. Whilst further investigation will be needed to determine what green infrastructure options can be included as part of this site there is the potential that green infrastructure will be beneficial for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape, Water Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets.** It can play a role in creating new habitats and contributing towards reducing the impacts of development on habitat connectivity, enhance the setting of the Local Landscape Area in which the site is situated, intercept rainfall and contribute to flood risk management as a natural mitigation measure in this flood risk area, as well as complement open space enhancements.

Proposed Mitigation Measures:

- **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology:**
  - 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures, brownfield site enhancement and for biodiversity protection.
  - Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc.
  - Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'.
  - Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the

	design and ensure the highest priorities for protection. ➢ **Water Quality:** ○ Adopt best practice measures to avoid pollution run-off and to improve drainage. ○ Consider the use of sustainable drainage options to improve drainage e.g. SuDS. ➢ **Climatic Factors:** ○ Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: As these opportunities are primarily governed by the key requirements in the Local Development Plan it has been considered that there are no alternatives or SEA suggestions to be made.	
LMC6		
Alternative 1 ✓	**+ +** | ✗ | **+ +/-** | **-** | **+** | **+/-** | ✗ | **+/-** | **+ +** **Proposed Opportunity:** Campsie Golf Club Housing Development Site i. The key requirements within the LDP highlight green network opportunities for wetland, woodland and grassland creation. In addition, ensuring access to adjacent open space. ii. Green infrastructure options for the management of surface-water run-off which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and recreation should be investigated as part of all new developments. **Assessment Commentary:** i. Opportunities for wetland, woodland and grassland creation and improved access to the adjacent open spaces, which include the greenbelt and Campsie Fells is likely to present significant positive impacts on **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets** as well as minor positive impacts to **Landscape** as it will enhance open space and recreational provision on the edge of Lennoxtown which will encourage local communities to access their local environment for recreation and leisure. There is also likely to be greater protection of non-protected and protected species due to habitat enhancement, improved habitat connectivity in this rural location, potential integration with the LNCS for biodiversity at Balgrochan Marsh and contributions to the landscape setting in this Local Landscape Area. However, there is the potential that increased access and use of open spaces, designated sites and green networks can have a negative environmental impact on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Water Quality and Climatic Factors**. Increased footfall has the potential to cause erosion of paths and soils, contributing to a decrease in its value and having secondary impacts to increasing drainage issues. Although access will improve an appreciation of these natural assets, the	✓

	impact of increased footfall could deteriorate the value of designated sites such as Balgrochan Marsh LNCS, and the expansive LNCS for geodiversity north of the site in the Campsies. Increased footfall could also have an impact on flooding. ii. Whilst further investigation will be needed to determine what green infrastructure options can be included as part of this site there is the potential that green infrastructure will be beneficial for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape, Water Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets.** It can play a role in creating new habitats and contributing towards reducing the impacts of development on habitat connectivity, enhance the setting of the Local Landscape Area in which the site is situated, intercept rainfall and contribute to flood risk management as a natural mitigation measure in this flood risk area, as well as complement open space enhancements.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: As above.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: As these opportunities are primarily governed by the key requirements in the Local Development Plan it has been considered that there are no alternatives or SEA suggestions to be made.	

Appendix F: Full assessment of the strategic opportunities for the Green Network Strategy

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

Strategic Area 1: Campsie Fells

Strategic Green Network Opportunities	SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR									Preferred Option
	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	
Opportunity 1										
Alternative 1	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Proposed Opportunity: The Campsie Fells are promoted as a recreational, countryside asset in East Dunbartonshire.									
	Assessment Commentary: Ensuring that the Campsies are promoted as a recreational asset as part of the countryside will present positive impacts for Population and Human Health as it will encourage local communities from East Dunbartonshire to take advantage of this asset for recreation, active travel and outdoor leisure which can help to ensure that more people can access their local natural environment. Increased access to the outdoors can help to reduce associated health and wellbeing inequalities such as poor physical health, obesity and respiratory illnesses.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: The role of the Campsie Fells has the potential to extend beyond being a recreational countryside asset to one that brings both environmental and economic gain to the area. "The Campsie Fells are promoted as a recreational, countryside asset bringing environmental and economic benefits to									

	neighbouring villages and East Dunbartonshire as a whole".									
Alternative 1 Revised 	++	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Proposed Opportunity: The Campsie Fells are promoted as a recreational, countryside asset bringing environmental and economic benefits to neighbouring villages and East Dunbartonshire as a whole.									
	Assessment Commentary: Revising this opportunity is likely to have a significant positive impact on **Population and Human Health**. In addition to the positive effects outlined in the above assessment, using the Campsies to promote the economic and environmental benefits for local communities, such as those in Milton of Campsie, Lennoxtown and Clachan of Campsie. In particular, this is likely to encourage visitors to the Campsies as a recreational and a tourism asset which can further enhance the associated health benefits and increase the appreciation of the natural environment.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Opportunity 2										
Alternative 1	+	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	+	
	Proposed Opportunity: The habitats and wildlife value of the Campsie Fells are understood.									
	Assessment Commentary: Ensuring that the range of habitats and wildlife that are native and important to the Campsie Fells are understood will contribute to ensuring that negative impacts to habitat and wildlife, including both non-protected and protected, are minimal and will help to prevent loss of biodiversity in the long-term. Understanding the biodiversity value of the Campsies also has the potential to benefit local communities by increasing an awareness of the natural environment; this could also act as an educational resource in schools, for example. In addition, this could lead to greater consideration of managing and using natural resources in a sustainable manner. Overall, achieving this opportunity can have positive impacts on **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Population and Human Health and Material Assets**.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: It is suggested that the vision for the Campsie Fells extend to utilise the knowledge of the habitats and wildlife value to enhance their role as a natural asset. "The habitats and wildlife value of the Campsie Fells are understood and projects are underway to restore and enhance their ecological function".									
Alternative 1 Revised	+	X	++	X	X	X	X	X	+	
	Proposed Opportunity: The habitats and wildlife value of the Campsie Fells are understood and projects are underway to									

✓	restore and enhance their ecological function.	
	Assessment Commentary: In addition to the anticipated environmental impacts outlined in the above assessment, ensuring that projects contribute to the restoration and enhancement of habitats and wildlife value to improve their ecological function is likely to change the impact to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** from minor positive to significant positive. This is likely to have a greater positive impact on protecting species in the long-term and ensuring that they are able to maximise their role for ecosystem services as part of the wider ecological functions required.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Opportunity 3		
Alternative 1	+ | + | + | X | + | X | X | X | +	
	Proposed Opportunity: Access is responsible and use sustainable, ensuring there is minimal detrimental effects to the environment.	
	Assessment Commentary: Ensuring that projects are delivered to achieve this opportunity is likely to have an overall positive environmental impact, with potential direct positive effects for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Population and Human Health and Material Assets** as well as secondary positive effects for **Cultural Heritage and Landscape.** The following outlines the anticipated effects: ➢ Greater long-term protection and consideration to prevent the loss of biodiversity by minimising negative impacts; ➢ Consideration for the sustainable use of natural materials in East Dunbartonshire; ➢ Local communities and visitors to the area will still be able to access the Campsie Fells for recreation and leisure, but access will be managed in a responsible manner to minimise negative impacts to the environment; ➢ Considering the sustainable use of materials is likely to also ensure that the current setting of the Campsies as a Local Landscape Area (LLA) and the value of the different Gardens and Designed Landscapes is maintained.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: It is suggested that the vision for the Campsies change to ensure that no detrimental effects to the environment occur. "Access is responsible and use sustainable, ensuring there is no detrimental effects to the environment".	
Alternative 1 Revised ✓	+ | +/+ + | +/+ + | X | +/+ + | X | X | X | +/+ +	✓
	Proposed Opportunity: Access is responsible and use sustainable, ensuring there is no detrimental effects to the environment.	
	Assessment Commentary: Whilst the effects identified in the above assessment are applicable to the assessment of this revised alternative, there is	

	the possibility that ensuring *no* detrimental effects from access and use of the Campsies will have significant positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Material Assets** with greater consideration of the Campsie Fells as a valuable resource to be managed sustainably.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	

Strategic Area 2: Glazert Valley

Strategic Green Network Opportunities	SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR									Preferred Option
	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	
Opportunity 1										
Alternative 1	X	X	+/+ +	X	X	+/+ +	X	X	X	✓
	Proposed Opportunity: Improved ecological status, water quality and riparian habitat of the Glazert Water.									
	Assessment Commentary: Improved ecological status and water quality of the Glazert Water will have a direct positive impact, with the potential for significant effects, on **Water Quality**. There is also the potential for positive, and potential significant positive, effects to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** as improved ecological and water quality of the Glazert can help to ensure that the water is appropriate to allow species to flourish. Furthermore, improved riparian habitat will seek to contribute towards preventing the loss of riparian species. Overall, achieving this vision through future strategic protects will not only be beneficial at a local level but will also be positive for the rest of the Glazert Valley in terms of habitat and wildlife protection, especially as there are links to the LNCS at both Lennox Forest in Lennoxtown and Redmoss in Milton of Campsie, and for water quality.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									
Opportunity 2										
Alternative 1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	+	X	
	Proposed Opportunity: Increased capacity to mitigate flooding.									
	Assessment Commentary: Primarily, increasing capacity within the Glazert Valley to address the need to mitigate flood risks is likely to have a direct positive impact on **Climatic Factors** as it will demonstrate an active commitment and approach to enhancing the green network to facilitate flood management at a local level. However, it will also demonstrate a commitment to regional and									

	national mitigation of the negative effects of climate change.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: The SEPA Flood Risk Map identifies the Glazert Water as having a high probability of surface-water flooding and the Glazert Valley is identified as a potentially vulnerable area to flooding. Consequently it would be beneficial to focus the opportunity on mitigating the effects of high rainfall which is likely to influence the risk of flooding to a greater extent within the Glazert Valley. This will ensure that resources can be focussed and measures more specific to what the Green Network Strategy wishes to achieve overall. "Increased capacity to mitigate flooding in times of high rainfall".	
Alternative 1 Revised ✓	X | X | X | X | X | X | X | **+/+ +** | X	
	Proposed Opportunity: Increased capacity to mitigate flooding in times of high rainfall.	
	Assessment Commentary: The anticipated effects of this revised option are likely to be as above; however, there is more likely to be the potential for significant positive effects to **Climatic Factors** as it will ensure that resources can be focussed and measures more specific to what the Green Network Strategy wishes to achieve overall in terms of addressing the high risk of surface-water flooding in this area.	✓
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	
Opportunity 3		
Alternative 1 ✓	**+** | X | **-** | **-** | X | **-** | X | **-** | X	
	Proposed Opportunity: Improved access and signage from the John Muir Way into neighbouring villages.	
	Assessment Commentary: This opportunity is likely to present positive impacts for **Population and Human Health**, particularly for the neighbouring villages within the Glazert Valley such as Lennoxtown, Clachan of Campsie and Milton of Campsie. The John Muir Way, situated alongside the Glazert Water, is a vital strategic network within East Dunbartonshire and especially for the Campsie villages. Improved access and signage will encourage people to utilise their local environment for recreation and active travel and will provide an alternative means to access the wider East Dunbartonshire countryside, using the John Muir Way as a core access route. However, whilst improved signage is likely to ensure that use of the John Muir Way is responsible there is also the potential that use, thus increased footfall, will present secondary negative impacts to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Water Quality and Climatic Factors**, including disturbance to habitats, deterioration of biodiversity value including	✓

	the LNCS at Lennox Forest and Redmoss and increased risk of soil erosion. This could lead to drainage issues and pollutant run-off into the Glazert Water and enhance the risk of flooding within the Valley. These negative impacts could result in conflicts between the other proposed opportunitys for the Glazert Valley.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology and Water Quality:** ○ 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures and for biodiversity protection. ○ Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc. ○ Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'. ○ Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection. ○ Adopt best practice measures to avoid pollution run-off and to improve drainage. ➢ **Climatic Factors:** ○ Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	

Strategic Area 3: River Kelvin

Strategic Green Network Opportunities	SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR									Preferred Option
	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	
Opportunity 1										
Alternative 1	+ +	+/-	+ +/-	?/-	+/-	?/-	+	+/-	+	✓

✓	**Proposed Opportunity:** A new green network link through East Dunbartonshire connecting from Glasgow and North Lanarkshire.	
	Assessment Commentary: By exploring options to ensure the delivery of a new green network link via the River Kelvin through East Dunbartonshire to connect Glasgow and North Lanarkshire to the wider green network there is likely to be a number of different positive environmental impacts, including the following: ➢ **Population and Human Health** – significant positive impacts for people, and positive impacts for **Material Assets**, in terms of providing an active travel route that connects Glasgow through East Dunbartonshire to North Lanarkshire. This is likely to encourage greater sustainable travel, especially for leisure purposes, demonstrating changes to the current transport infrastructure and reliance on less sustainable modes of transport and enable people to become better connected to their local environment. Use of the Kelvin as a green network link will also contribute towards improving health and wellbeing due to potential increases in outdoor leisure opportunities. ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** – there are an extensive number of designated sites around the River Kelvin corridor including LNCS for biodiversity (e.g. Balmore Haughs, Springfield Marsh and Bridgend Marshes), LNCS for geodiversity (Inchbelle Quarry, Torrance Meanders and River Kelvin Meanders) and Cadder Wilderness SSSI which is near the to the River to the South, not to mention the River itself is a valuable habitat for a number of non-protected and protected species. Consequently, projects that deliver on a new green network link using the Kelvin as a main strategic route has the potential to maximise the biodiversity-aspect of a green network for benefits to habitats and species, enhancing biodiversity value, helping to secure long-term protection of protected/priority species and improve ecosystem services. ➢ **Cultural Heritage** – the River Kelvin flows through several areas within East Dunbartonshire with cultural assets near to the watercourse, including Listed Buildings (e.g. Cawder House, Killermont House and Balquharrage Bridge), Significant Archaeological Sites (e.g. Cawder Estate and Bogside) and the River is within the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site, of which is located nearby. Furthermore, there are a number of Gardens and Designed Landscapes near to the River Kelvin. Enhancing the biodiversity elements of the green network has the potential to improve the value of these cultural heritage sites in terms of its visual amenity, protecting selected sites for their role as a tourist attraction. ➢ **Landscape and Material Assets** – there is the potential that the biodiversity elements of the green network, specifically, along the route of the River Kelvin will contribute towards improving and protecting the existing landscape setting, of which is partly greenbelt, as well as improving habitat connectivity and ensuring that this part of the wider East Dunbartonshire integrates locally, EDC-wide and at a regional level with benefits for neighbouring authorities. ➢ **Air Quality and Climatic Factors** – encouragement of active travel and a shift towards more sustainable travel	

	through use of the green network and the role of biodiversity has the potential to improve local air quality in terms of reducing pollutants. There may also be benefits in terms of natural mitigation measures for flood risks, as identified at the River Kelvin, which will be beneficial along the entire route of the River including the sections out with the EDC boundary. However, there is the potential that increased use of the River Kelvin as a cross-boundary strategic green network asset will have negative impacts on **Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Water Quality and Climatic Factors.** A greater number of people accessing the network, thus increased footfall, can result in soil erosion and disturbance to habitats and species including the removal of vegetation. This can lead to surface water run-off and increase the already medium to high risk of flooding identified at the Kelvin.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality and Soil and Geology:** ○ 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures, drainage management and for biodiversity protection. ○ Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc. ○ Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'. ○ Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection. ➢ **Climatic Factors:** ○ Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures. ➢ **Cultural Heritage:** ○ Biodiversity and access enhancements should be sensitive to the setting of the Antonine Wall and Forth and Clyde Canal, taking into account best practice guidelines as detailed in the Antonine Wall Management Plan 2014 – 19 (Historic Scotland and partner local authorities), relevant East Dunbartonshire Council planning guidance on the historic environment (emerging) and guidance and expertise from Scottish Canals.	

	➢ **Landscape:** ○ All improvements will need to integrate with the setting taking into account the green belt location and Local Landscape Areas Area. ○ Consider the use of native planting along pathways and appropriate signage to limit negative impacts and deterioration of landscape setting and visual amenity.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	

Opportunity 2

Alternative 1	X	X	+/+ +	X	X	+/+ +	X	+/+ +	X	
	Proposed Opportunity: Improved ecological status and increased capacity of the River Kelvin to improve water quality, riparian habitat and prevent flooding.									
✓	**Assessment Commentary:** Improved ecological status and water quality of the River Kelvin will have a direct positive impact, with the potential for significant effects, on **Water Quality**. There is also the potential for positive, and potential significant positive, effects to **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna** as improved ecological and water quality of the Kelvin can help to ensure that the water is appropriate to allow species to flourish. Furthermore, improved riparian habitat will seek to contribute towards preventing the loss of riparian species. For biodiversity in general, there are several natural designations in the River Kelvin corridor such as Balmore Haughs, Buchley Farm and Cawder Golf Course Woods LNCS for biodiversity, and Wilderness Plant, Torrance Meanders and Inchbelle Quarry LNCS for geodiversity. The SEPA flood risk map has identified the River Kelvin as being at a high risk of river flooding in the whole of the East Dunbartonshire stretch of the River. Consequently, there is the need to mitigate flooding which this opportunity is likely to contribute to, with potential long-term significant positive impacts to **Climatic Factors.** Overall, achieving this vision through future strategic protects will not only be beneficial at a local level but will also be positive for the rest of the River Kelvin valley in terms of habitat and wildlife protection.									✓
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									

Strategic Area 4: Forth and Clyde Canal

Strategic	SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR	Preferred

Green Network Opportunities	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	Option
Opportunity 1										
Alternative 1	**Proposed Opportunity:** The Canal continues to function as a strategic green network corridor.									
	Assessment Commentary: It has been determined that this is the current 'business-as-usual' vision for the Forth and Clyde Canal as a key strategic green network corridor for East Dunbartonshire and beyond into neighbouring authorities. Consequently, the decision has been made, in coordination with the Greenspace and Biodiversity Officer that this particular opportunity will not be subject to an environmental assessment at this stage.									
	SEA Suggested Alteration: Whilst the above determination has been made, the local opportunities outlined as part of the Green Network Strategy have identified that there is scope for improvements and enhancements of the Forth and Clyde Canal to ensure long-term effective functionality of the Canal as an important strategic asset. "The Canal functions as a strategic green network corridor through improvement and enhancement measures".									
Alternative 1 Revised ✓	**+/+ +**	**+**	**+/+ +/-**	**?/-**	**?/+**	**?/-**	**?/+**	**?/+/-**	**+/+ +**	
	Proposed Opportunity: The Canal functions as a strategic green network corridor through improvement and enhancement measures.									
	Assessment Commentary: As there are a number of local opportunities that apply to the Forth and Clyde Canal at various locations with both access and biodiversity improvements and enhancements, this revised opportunity is likely to have various positive impacts to the Canal as a strategic network. In particular, it is anticipated that improvement and enhancement measures to ensure effective functionality will result in the following effects: ➢ **Population and Human Health –** positive impacts, with the potential for significant effects, in terms of ensuring that the Canal can be used a strategic network to encourage active travel and recreation, giving people from within East Dunbartonshire the chance to access their local environment but it will also give people from outwith the EDC boundary area to enjoy the Canal. ➢ **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Material Assets –** as the GNS focusses on enhancing access and biodiversity, improvement and enhancement of the Canal is likely to present positive impacts, with the potential for significant effects, to habitats and species and the conservation of natural resources found within the Canal corridor. This includes a number of designated sites including LNCS for biodiversity (Broomhill Ox-bow Lake, Easterton Woods and Rookery Plantation, for example) and LNCS for geodiversity (Bishopbriggs Gravel and Inchbelle Quarry, for example),									✓

as well as an impact to biodiversity that is near to the vicinity such as Wilderness Plantation SSSI and Merklands Local Nature Reserve. As such, achieving this strategic opportunity will help to protect and enhance biodiversity found near the Canal with long-term benefits.

- **Cultural Heritage –** the Forth and Clyde Canal is a Schedule Monument; enhancements to the Canal as part of the wider green network has the potential to improve its setting and value with the possibility of encouraging tourism into the area.

Whilst there are some direct positive effects there is also the potential for secondary impacts, both negative and positive for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Landscape, Air Quality and Climatic Factors**. Increased access to the Forth and Clyde Canal strategic network has the potential to impact negatively on species and habitats in terms of disturbance as well as contribute towards soil erosion and compaction. Furthermore, as there are a number of LNCS for geodiversity located within the Forth and Clyde Canal corridor there is the potential that increased footfall could decrease the value of these designations. This can lead to poor drainage and increase the risk of pollutant run-off into the Canal impacting negatively on water quality and increasing the risk of surface water and river flooding. However, enhancing the biodiversity value can maximise the role of biodiversity for filtrating pollutants in the air, managing flooding as a natural mitigation measure and enhancing the setting of the Canal within the landscape. There is also the possibility that over time, the promoting the Canal as a strategic green network asset can also lead to long-term modal shifts in transport to active travel.

Proposed Mitigation Measures:

- **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality and Soil and Geology:**
  - 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures, drainage management and for biodiversity protection.
  - Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc.
  - Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'.
  - Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection.
- **Climatic Factors:**
  - Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This

	should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures.								
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.								
Opportunity 2									
Alternative 1	**+/+ +**	X	**?/-**	**?/-**	X	**?/-**	X	**?/-**	**+**
	Proposed Opportunity: It is easily accessible and well used by neighbouring communities and the wider region.								
	Assessment Commentary: Primarily, delivering projects that ensure that the Canal is both easily accessible and well used locally and strategically will have a positive impact on **Population and Human Health** with the potential for significant effects where appropriate and positive impacts for **Material Assets**. There is likely to be greater opportunities for local communities to access their local natural environment and wider countryside, using the Canal as a core path network as part of the wider green network. This can give people greater awareness and appreciation of East Dunbartonshire's green network whilst contributing to health benefits of outdoor recreation. However consideration should be given to the potential secondary negative impacts associated with access and use of the Canal as it can increase footfall. This can lead to negative impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and Soil and Geology** in terms of deterioration of sites, such as those detailed in the above assessment for Opportunity 1, and soil erosion which can enhance the risk of drainage issues, surface-water run-off, changes to water quality and an increased risk of flooding.								
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: As above.								
	SEA Suggested Alteration: Although there are merits of this opportunity for the Canal and local communities, alike, it would be beneficial to alter the wording to ensure that access and use of the Canal is done in a responsible and sustainable manner to ensure that the negative effects are reduced as much as possible. "It is easily accessible and well used in a responsible and sustainable manner by neighbouring communities and the wider region".								
Alternative 1 Revised	**+/+ +**	X	**?/-**	**?/-**	X	**?/-**	X	**?/-**	**+**
	Proposed Opportunity: It is easily accessible and well used in a responsible and sustainable manner by neighbouring communities and the wider region.								
	Assessment Commentary:								

✓	Although it is anticipated that the effect of this opportunity will be similar to those in the above assessment, changing the wording to ensure that any projects to achieve this promote responsible and sustainable use and access of this Canal is likely to reduce the risk of the potential negative effects that can result from increased access (see above assessment) and ensure that its role as a strategic green network asset is delivered in the long-term.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: As above.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	

Opportunity 3

Alternative 1	X	X	+	X	+	X	X	X	+	
✓	**Proposed Opportunity:** Adjacent habitat is well connected to the Canal corridor allowing species to effectively move through the landscape.									
	Assessment Commentary: This opportunity is likely to present positive impacts for **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape and Material Assets** as it will actively contribute towards protecting biodiversity native to the Canal corridor, encourage habitat connectivity by decreasing fragmented networks and improving the use of the Canal as a strategic green network route within East Dunbartonshire as well as out-with in neighbouring authorities.									✓
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.									

Strategic Area 5: Mugdock Country Park

Strategic Green Network Opportunities	SEA ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR									Preferred Option
	Population and Human Health	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	Soil and Geology	Landscape	Water Quality	Air Quality	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	
Opportunity 1										
Alternative 1	+/+ +	?/+/-	+/+ +	?/-	+/+ +	?/-	+/+ +	+/+ +	+/+ +	
	Proposed Opportunity: Mugdock Country Park is recognised as an exemplar green network asset and acts as a source of inspiration for other green network opportunities.									✓
	Assessment Commentary: Achieving this opportunity will encapsulate the varied range of benefits of an established green network which is likely to be									

✓	beneficial for East Dunbartonshire and also act as a best practice example for delivering the benefits of a green network for access and biodiversity on both a local and strategic level in other local authority area. Although Mugdock Country Park has been recognised as a strategic green network asset there are also other local opportunities in Milngavie and the Campsie Foothills that link to the Country Park, demonstrating the vast range of opportunities the Park has for East Dunbartonshire's green network. As such it is recognised that there are a number positive effects, with the potential for significant positive impacts, for **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Landscape, Air Quality, Climatic Factors and Material Assets.** The identified positive effects are related to: ➢ Impacts to human health and wellbeing due to an improved quality of environment to live and work in, and visit as well as notable positive impacts for the local economy as a place that is attractive for leisure pursuits and businesses. Furthermore, there may be opportunities to reduce health inequalities associated with a lack of physical activity. ➢ The potential to enhance the scenic value and attractiveness of the landscape in East Dunbartonshire which includes links to the Local Landscape Area at both the Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills. There is also likely to be improved connectivity across the Council wide area, reducing fragmentation and enhancing habitat connectivity and corridors throughout both the built and natural environment. ➢ The potential to protect and manage a range of natural assets in the wider environment including the protection of vulnerable species and habitats as part of the green network, allowing biodiversity to flourish and improving biodiversity value. There is also likely to be recognisable benefits of green network enhancements to the protection of designated sites such as Mugdock Wood SSSI and Mugdock Reservoir LNCS, example. ➢ Through increased provision of the active travel network, in line with the aims of the Active Travel Strategy, there are also positive impacts in terms of air quality and climatic factors through modal shift towards active travel alternatives and general improved access to the local natural environment. The environmental effects for **Soil and Geology and Water Quality** are not fully certain at this stage but, as with other assessments of the impacts of access on these factors, there is the potential for negative impacts of increased footfall, resulting in an increased risk of soil erosion and surface water run-off. In terms of **Cultural Heritage**, the effects are uncertain at this stage but there is potential for positive impacts related to sustainable economic growth and increased tourism locally to be realised as well as potential negative due to improved access to cultural sites. This may result in conflicts between increased access and protection of valuable sites which has the potential to negatively impact on cultural assets. It should be noted that the effects of green network enhancements in other local authority areas will be dependent on the	

	environmental constraints and sensitivities of the area; however this opportunity is likely to deliver a range of benefits from both an access and biodiversity point of view for enhanced green networks and demonstrate to other practitioners that the benefits of the green network can be delivered on the ground.	
	Proposed Mitigation Measures: ➢ **Water Quality and Soil and Geology:** ○ 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures, drainage management and for biodiversity protection. ○ Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc. ○ Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust 'Bats and Lighting in the UK'. ○ Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection. ➢ **Cultural Heritage:** ○ Best practice guidelines and sensitive consideration of green network enhancements and promotion should be applied ○ Consider the implementation of signage to increase awareness of local cultural heritage and restrict negative impacts. This has the potential to encourage others to carry out similar measures.	
	SEA Suggested Alteration: None at this stage.	

Opportunity 2									
Alternative 1	**+**	**?/-**	**?/-**	**?/-**	**?/-**	**?/-**	**?/-**	**?/-**	**+**
	Proposed Opportunity: It is easily accessible and well used.								
	Assessment Commentary: Opportunities that ensure the realisation that Mugdock Country Park is easily accessed and well used as a green network asset (see opportunity 1) will present positive impacts to **Population and Human Health and Material Assets**. Primarily there will be a greater number of opportunities and encouragement of people from East Dunbartonshire, as well as outwith as Mugdock Country Park is seen as a strategic asset attracting people from neighbouring authorities such as Glasgow, West Dunbartonshire and Stirling. In addition, there will be active promotion of the Park for safe use with connections to other								

networks within the Council area.

However, a Park that is easily accessed and well used has the potential to impact negatively on its cultural and natural heritage as well as impact on its function as an environmental asset. As such, the impact of increased footfall and use of the park could have a negative impact on the other seven environmental factors, including the following potential effects:

- Mugdock Country Park is situated adjacent to a Conservation Area in Milngavie and there are listed buildings, such as Mugdock Caste. Access and use could lead to possible deterioration of assets or result in adverse effects to the value of the Park as a cultural asset.
- Disturbance and/or deterioration of habitats and species, particularly as there is a LNR, LNCS for biodiversity and SSSI designated within the Park. Consideration should be given to ensuring that use of the Park is not to the detriment of valued and designated species and environmental assets. Any disturbance to habitats, or removal of vegetation, could minimise the role of biodiversity for ecosystem services.
- Access and associated increased footfall also has the potential to compact soil and exacerbate the risk of erosion. In addition, Mugdock Wood is designated partly as a LNCS for geodiversity; access to the Park could deteriorate or detract from its value as an important geodiversity site.
- Soil erosion can lead to an increased risk of surface water run-off and increase the risk of pollutants running into nearby waterbodies, affecting the quality of the water. This could also exacerbate the risk of flooding identified around the Allander Water and Mugdock Reservoir.
- Increased visitor access via less sustainable modes of transport such as cars.

Proposed Mitigation Measures:

- **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water Quality and Soil and Geology:**
  - 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 in terms of soil erosion prevention measures, drainage management and for biodiversity protection.
  - Additional surveys to determine level and type of species/habitats that will be potentially impacted from path upgrades such as bat surveys/extended habitat surveys etc.
  - Where network improvements require lighting to ensure that the route is safe for users, lighting design should follow best practice guidance - Bat Conservation Trust ‘Bats and Lighting in the UK’.
  - Any infrastructure changes/improvements should aim to retain features of ecological value within the design and ensure the highest priorities for protection.

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Cultural Heritage:

Best practice guidelines and sensitive consideration of green network enhancements and promotion should be applied
Consider the implementation of signage to increase awareness of local cultural heritage and restrict negative impacts. This has the potential to encourage others to carry out similar measures.

Landscape:

All enhancements to improve access to Mugdock Country Park will need to integrate with the setting of the landscape and consider the use of native planting along pathways and appropriate signage to limit negative impacts and deterioration of this asset as part of the wider landscape area, with links to the Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills Local Landscape Areas.

Air Quality and Climatic Factors:

Further Flood Risk Assessments may be required to determine the extent of flood risk in the area. This should include on-going monitoring with the Flood Risk team within the Council and SEPA to establish whether there is a need for the implementation of flood risk management measures.
The benefits associated with reducing car usage by encouraging public transport use should be maximised where appropriate particularly by promoting the benefits of sustainable travel e.g. buses and active travel.

SEA Suggested Alteration:
Although there are merits of this opportunity for Mugdock Country Park, it would be beneficial to alter the wording to ensure that access and use of the Park is done in a responsible and sustainable manner to ensure that the negative effects are reduced as much as possible.

“It is easily accessible and well-used in a sustainable and responsible manner”.
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<tr><td>Alternative 1 Revised

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Proposed Opportunity: It is easily accessible and well-used in a sustainable and responsible manner.

SEA Commentary:
Although it is anticipated that the effect of this opportunity will be similar to those in the above assessment, changing the wording to ensure that any projects to achieve this promote responsible and sustainable use and access of this Park is likely to reduce the risk of the potential negative effects that can result from increased access (see above assessment) and ensure that its role as a strategic green network asset is delivered in the long-term.

Proposed Mitigation Measures:
As above.

SEA Suggested Alteration:
None at this stage.
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Opportunity 3

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

Proposed Opportunity: The sustainable management of the Park continues to incorporate biodiversity, responsible access, climate change resilience, sustainable economic growth and environmental education.

✓

Assessment Commentary:

Ensuring that the sustainable management of the Park delivers opportunities for biodiversity, access, climate change resilience, economic growth and education is likely to have direct positive impacts on **Population and Human Health, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Climatic Factors and Material Assets,** with the potential for significant impacts, in terms of:

- Seeking to minimise the negative impacts of the use of the Park on habitats and species to ensure long-term protection of species, particularly those that contribute to the value of the designated environmental sites at Mugdock Country Park and protected/priority species;
- Providing opportunities for local communities in East Dunbartonshire and from other regions to access the Park with ease. This is likely to increase an awareness of the natural environment, engage people to become involved in any projects and contribute towards reducing health and wellbeing inequalities;
- Contributing to reducing social, economic and environmental deprivation by using the Park as an economic and tourism asset;
- Acting as an educational resource, particularly since the Park is home to a range of different important natural designations and niche habitats; and,
- Ensuring that the local impacts of climate change are able to be managed in a sustainable manner which in turn will reduce or prevent the overall effects of climate change locally and nationally, including flood risks.

✓

SEA Suggested Alteration:

None at this stage.

Appendix G: SEA objectives and criteria questions for the Green Network Strategy

Environmental Factor and SEA Objectives	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 projects?
	Increase awareness of the natural environment?
	Act as an educational resource for local schools? Improve connectivity for residents in urban areas with the rural environment/access routes for people to access amenities and services in East Dunbartonshire?
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?
	Improve access to cultural heritage assets, with benefits to increased tourism? Protect sites of historic importance?
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 minimise and 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?
	Integrate woodland and forestry into the wider green network? Address issues related to improved access to the green network and conflicts to biodiversity

	and habitats?
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 and carbon rich soils? Seek to prevent and improve soil degradation and erosion? Result in improvements to areas of contaminated land/seek to upgrade Vacant and Derelict Land for the use as valued greenspace? Protect and enhance sites of geodiversity importance?
Landscape - To protect, enhance and, where appropriate, restore landscape character, local distinctiveness and scenic value	Utilise the green network for positive benefits to and protect landscape setting, local distinctiveness and visual amenity in East Dunbartonshire? Protect and enhance landscape designations (e.g. the Campsie Fells, green belt)? Seek to improve habitat connectivity? Seek to integrate green networks at a local, EDC-wide and regional level, including those that integrate into networks in neighbouring authorities? Improve access to and quality of the green belt?
Water Quality - To prevent deterioration and, where possible, enhance the ecological status of water bodies	Have a direct or indirect impact on water quality and the ecological status of waterbodies in East Dunbartonshire? Have an impact on drainage through green network improvements in close proximity to watercourses?
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 issues associated with climate change? Promote the enhancement of green networks and associated improvements to biodiversity as a means to mitigate potential risks to flooding? Include adaptation measures in light of a changing climate and local environment?
Material Assets - To promote the sustainable use of community assets 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 changes to current transport infrastructure to a more sustainable network?