



Strategic Environmental Assessment

Post Adoption Statement

South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2015

October 2010

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Cover Note

Part 1	
To:	SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or SEA Gateway Scottish Government Area 1H (Bridge) Victoria Quay Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
Part 2	
Post Adoption SEA statement is attached for the Plan, Programme or Strategy (PPS) entitled:	
<input type="text" value="South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan"/>	
The Responsible Authority is:	
<input type="text" value="South Lanarkshire Council (on behalf of the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership)"/>	
Part 3	
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Signature (electronic signature is acceptable)	<input type="text" value="Siân Williams"/>
Date	<input type="text" value="14/10/2010"/>

Post Adoption SEA statement for:

South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Adopted on:

1st August 2010

The Responsible Authority is:

South Lanarkshire Council

**Post Adoption SEA Statement
Introduction**

This document (referred to here as the post-adoption SEA statement) has been prepared in accordance with Section 18 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

**Post Adoption SEA Statement
Availability of Documents**

Website

The full South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan as adopted, along with the Environmental Report and Post Adoption SEA Statement are available on the Responsible Authority's website at:

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Office Address

The South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan, as adopted, along with the Environmental Report and Post Adoption SEA Statement may also be inspected free of charge (or a copy obtained for a reasonable charge) at the principle office of the Responsible Authority at:

Contact name, address and telephone number

Siân Williams (Biodiversity Officer)
South Lanarkshire Council
Countryside and Greenspace Service
Carlisle Road
Ferniegair, Hamilton
ML3 7UE
Tel: 01698 426213

Times at which the documents may be inspected or a copy obtained

Monday to Friday: 9:30 am to 12:00 pm & 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Key facts about the Plan

Name of Responsible Authority	South Lanarkshire Council
Title of PPS	South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Purpose of PPS	To conserve and enhance the biodiversity of South Lanarkshire.
What prompted the PPS (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	A key document for guiding local actions and contributing towards the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and the biodiversity duty placed on all public bodies by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.
Subject (e.g. transport)	Biodiversity
Period covered	2010 onwards
Frequency of updates	Every 5 years
Area of PPS (e.g. geographical area)	Council wide and not restricted to specific towns or areas, therefore the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Action Plan covers an area of 1774km ² .
Summary of nature/content of PPS	Sets out priorities for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and identifies key actions required by all relevant bodies.
Date adopted	1 st August 2010
Contact name & job title Address, email, telephone number	Siân Williams, Biodiversity Officer, South Lanarkshire Council, Chatelherault Country Park, Hamilton ML3 7UE, 01698 426213 Siân.williams@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Date	14/10/2010

Strategic Environmental Assessment Process

The South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan has been subject to a process of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as required under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. This has included the following activities:

- Taking into account the views of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Ministers (Historic Scotland) regarding the scope and level of detail that was appropriate for the Environmental Report.

- Preparing an Environmental Report on the likely significant effects on the environment of the draft PPS which included consideration of:
 - the baseline data relating to the current state of the environment;
 - links between the PPS and other relevant strategies, policies, plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives;
 - existing environmental problems affecting the PPS;
 - the plan's likely significant effects on the environment (positive and negative);
 - measures envisaged for the prevention, reduction and offsetting of any significant adverse effects;
 - an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives chosen;
 - monitoring measures to ensue that any unforeseen environmental effects will be identified allowing for appropriate remedial action to be taken.

- Consulting on the Environmental Report.

- Taking into account the Environmental Report and the results of consultation in making final decisions regarding the PPS.

- Committing to monitoring the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the PPS. This will also identify any unforeseen adverse significant environmental effects and to enable taking appropriate remedial action.

Environmental considerations and report taken into account

Table 1 highlights environmental considerations identified in the Environmental Report and how these have been incorporated into the PPS. The environmental objectives were revised in light of the SEA assessment process and were presented in the Environmental Report. Therefore, no negative effects are anticipated as a result of the implementation of the South Lanarkshire LBAP.

The Biodiversity Strategy aims to have a positive impact upon the environment and this was supported by the SEA Assessment. A number of areas where the LBAP can have a beneficial impact, which had perhaps not been fully valued, were also identified including benefits to human health and opportunities to encourage outdoor access.

TABLE 1
Problems identified in the Environmental Report

Environmental considerations and findings from the Environmental Report	Integrated into the PPS (yes/no)	How the issues have/have not been integrated/taken into account
Loss of biodiversity through loss and fragmentation of habitat.	Yes	Addressed throughout the LBAP.
Inadvertent loss of biodiversity through expansion of other valued habitats.	Yes	Addressed throughout the LBAP but particularly the Woodland Ecosystem Plan. Proposed Tier 3 projects will be assessed according to the criteria set out in the LBAP (section 1.6). Good practice to be promoted at Tier 3 project level. Guidance will be provided by the Biodiversity Partnership and national guidelines (as available).
Work on habitats to enhance them for specific species could have detrimental effects upon other species reliant on the habitat.	Yes	Will be assessed on a case-by-case basis at a Tier 3 level, in accordance with the criteria set out in the LBAP (section 1.6).
Biodiversity and the services/benefits it provides are still under-valued by the public.	Yes	The LBAP includes an action plan covering People and Communication. This action plan will directly address this issue.
As awareness increases, demand to access biodiversity may increase, potentially placing some fragile habitats under threat.	Yes	Will be assessed on a case-by-case basis at a Tier 3 level, in accordance with the criteria set out in the LBAP (section 1.6). Projects will comply with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, which promotes responsible access. Within the terms of this definition, responsible access will minimise the risk to fragile habitats.
Damage to and loss of geology and minerals.	Yes	The upland and freshwater/ wetland plans address the issue of peat and minerals extraction.
Erosion and pollution of soil.	Yes	Actions within the LBAP seek to address this issue.
Point source and diffuse Pollution.	Yes	Actions within the freshwater and wetland plan seek to address this

Environmental considerations and findings from the Environmental Report	Integrated into the PPS (yes/no)	How the issues have/have not been integrated/taken into account
		issue.
Potential increase in flood events (climate change related).	Yes	The Climate Change action plan addresses the issue of climate change adaptation and natural flood management. The LBAP links with other strategies designed to deal with this issue directly.
Use of non-renewable resources.	Yes	The freshwater/wetland and upland action plans address the issue of peat extraction.
Pollution from traffic and industry.	No	This issue cannot be addressed by the LBAP directly. However, the Biodiversity Partnership can promote good practise when opportunities arise.
Increasing emissions of greenhouse gases contributing to climate change.	No	This issue cannot be addressed by the LBAP directly. The LBAP promotes the cessation of peat extraction and promotes the functionality of peatlands as a carbon sink. The Biodiversity Partnership can promote good practise when opportunities arise and links closely with the SL Minerals Local Development Plan.
Damage to cultural and/or archaeological remains through indiscriminate tree planting.	Yes	Will be assessed on a case-by-case basis at a Tier 3 level, in accordance with the criteria set out in the LBAP (section 1.6). Archaeological sites will not be damaged.
Alterations to historic landscapes through changes in land cover.	Yes	Will be assessed on a case-by-case basis at a Tier 3 level, in accordance with the criteria set out in the LBAP (section 1.6). Archaeological sites will not be damaged.
Alterations to culturally important sites.	Yes	Will be assessed on a case-by-case basis at a Tier 3 level, in accordance with the criteria set out in the LBAP (section 1.6). Archaeological sites will not be damaged.
Alterations to landscapes through changes in land cover.	Yes	Will be assessed on a case-by-case basis at a Tier 3 level, in accordance with the criteria set out in the LBAP (section 1.6). Archaeological sites will not be damaged.

The SEA process identified one long-term aim, which had the possibility of having a negative impact upon the environment. As a result of the assessment, the wording of that aim was altered from “*a series of upland blocks, supporting a mosaic of habitats and a diverse range of species*” to “***a mosaic of habitats supporting a diverse range of native species***”. Several other potential negative impacts of the Plan were identified and addressed as described below:

1. The long-term aim of Forest Expansion for Carbon Management has the potential to induce a negative impact upon the environment at the expense of important

habitats loss due to indiscriminate woodland expansion. Furthermore, the planting of trees for Carbon management can result in monocultured areas of dense, single-aged and in most cases non-native species, which would not be in the best interests for promoting biodiversity. The LBAP steering group will not offer support to woodland expansion/creation in areas where such activity will have a negative impact upon the existing biodiversity. The LBAP Partnership will encourage new planting schemes to be “biodiversity friendly” and will provide support where appropriate to achieve this goal.

2. Increasing the areas of certain habitats could have a negative effect on other habitats, resulting in either diminishing the functionality of the other habitat or the loss of other valued habitats. The progress of the LBAP will be monitored for unexpected adverse effects on such habitats and associated species. If adverse effects are detected, then the action(s) will be reassessed by the LBAP Steering Group and work on that action may be stopped. Tier 3 project proposals, which are deemed to potentially have a negative impact upon habitats/species will not be approved by the LBAP Partnership.
3. Work that focus on improving a habitat(s) for the promotion of specific species could have detrimental effect(s) on other species which are reliant upon that habitat. The Action will follow as set out for point 2.

Considering the opinions expressed during consultation

Table 2 below sets out how the responses to the consultation of the Environmental Report have been taken into account through the preparation of the adopted version of the South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

TABLE 2
Consultation Responses to the SEA Environmental Report and how they have been taken into account

Consultation Authority / Respondent	Summary of comments	How the comment was taken into consideration
Scottish Natural Heritage	Appendix 1 refers to the Core Path Plan.	This is an error and the ER has been altered.
	Blank boxes in policies table.	This is an error and the ER has been altered.
	Environmental Baseline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SINCS/LNCS data not provided. Baseline data omitted. Incorrect number of SSSIs. River Nethan omitted from rivers list. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These sites are in the process of being reviewed, with site information provided in subsequent updates of the Council's State of the Environment Report through the PPS monitoring programme. Remove from table in the ER as non-designated site. Baseline data has been changed within the ER to 13 geological SSSIs. Added to the appropriate table within the ER.
	LBAP can help support funding applications.	Noted.
	Landscape objective. Alter indicator to read "the number of projects which accord with the planning and management guidelines for each landscape character area given in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment".	Noted. No action taken towards changing the assessment indicators.
	The use of sustainable materials for Tier 3 projects should be noted in the Biodiversity Strategy text.	Noted and has been incorporated into the LBAP Tier 3 document.
	Mitigation and recommendations from SEA process should be stated in the main body of the report.	Noted. Clarity of the ER would be lost if such action was taken.
	Use of symbols in appendices makes scoring process difficult to understand.	Noted for future reference in other assessments.
	Appendix 12 is a repeat of Appendix 11, not the non-ecosystem plans as suggested by the heading.	This is an error in the ER and has been altered.

Consultation Authority / Respondent	Summary of comments	How the comment was taken into consideration
	<p>Appendix 13 is unclear.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental issues likely to remain upon implementation of the LBAP are not highlighted as stated on page 41. • It is not clear whether Appendix 13 is an overview of Tier 1 or Tier 2 objectives. • Not all SEA environmental issues have been considered in the non-ecosystem plans. 	<p>The environmental issues likely to remain upon implementation of the LBAP have been highlighted within the finalised ER.</p> <p>Appendix 13 is an overview of the issues identified through the assessment of both Tier 1 and Tier 2 objectives.</p> <p>This has been an omission during printing and Appendix 12 has been amended to include the originally assessed non-ecosystem assessment within the finalised ER.</p>
	Text has been omitted from Appendix 14 due to printing issues.	All appendices are available online, where all text is visible. Printing issues will be resolved for any future print runs.
	There are blank boxes in the table in Appendix 14.	All appendices are available online, where all text is visible. Printing issues will be resolved for any future print runs.
	Mitigation/enhancement recommendation “identify appropriate species to facilitate maximum carbon capture” should not be included as a recommendation as it may promote the planting of monocultures. This may not be beneficial from a biodiversity point of view.	Noted, this issue is dealt with through Tier 3 on a project-by-project basis.
	The point above is addressed in the summary (page 4). This should be highlighted in the appendix and main body of Environment Report.	Appendix 14 highlights that best practice will be promoted through LBAP for woodland expansion and management, whilst potential impacts on habitats will be assessed.
	SNH’s monitoring programme runs on a 6 year cycle and so not all designated sites in South Lanarkshire will be monitored within the lifespan of the current LBAP.	The LBAP is intended to run beyond 2015 with only minor changes to the general ethos of the document. It is therefore acceptable that SNH’s monitoring cycle does not fall on a 5 yearly basis.
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Terminology should be altered from “water quality” to “ecological status of the water environment”, in line with WFD terminology.	Noted, with revised terminology incorporated into the finalised ER.
	Reference should be made to the revised classification system.	Noted, with revised terminology incorporated into the finalised ER. The revised classification system has been reflected in the monitoring plan with data supplied from SEPA.

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Consultation Authority / Respondent	Summary of comments	How the comment was taken into consideration
	River Basin Management Plans (containing a programme of measures) are available online.	Noted, guidance on implementing appropriate Tier 3 projects will be required from SEPA through the South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Partnership.
	Current ecological status, pressures and measures proposed to address problems are available on SEPA website.	Noted, guidance on implementing appropriate Tier 3 projects will be required from SEPA through the South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Partnership.
	More recent baseline data is available than that used in the ER.	Noted, however at the time of preparing the assessment process and the subsequent ER, 2008 water data was not available. The data used did illustrate appropriate trends in water quality.
	Consideration could be given to how the LBAP can take into account the predicted impacts of climate change.	Noted, this issue is addressed in the Climate Change action plan, contained in the LBAP. Amendments to Appendix 12 have been undertaken for the finalised ER.
	Brownfield and potentially contaminated land requires assessment to identify biodiversity value.	Noted, this issue has been addressed in the Lowland Ecosystem Plan, contained in LBAP.
Historic Scotland	Potential indicators for the historic environment (Appendix 15) are not necessarily a good measure of the effects of the LBAP. Consideration to selecting more relevant indicators should be given. There is no requirement to monitor effects that are not considered to be significant.	Noted, consideration has been given to the indicators, with the revised indicators incorporated into the finalised ER and monitoring programme, these now include the monitoring of projects directly relevant to the historic environment.

No further comments relating to the Environmental Statement were received during the consultation period.

Reasons for choosing the adopted PPS, in light of alternatives

The South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan was prepared under the guidance of the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership, led by the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Steering Group. The Biodiversity Steering Group provides expertise in most of the SEA topic areas.

The Plan (in its current layout) was first discussed by the Steering Group in November 2006. The draft plan and the SEA were on the agenda at subsequent Steering Group meetings (a total of 9 meetings). At each of these meetings the draft LBAP, including its layout, content and format were discussed. Further consultation meetings were held with the Biodiversity Officer and partnership representatives on a number of occasions and email dialogue took place between Steering Group meetings. Modifications to the LBAP were made at each stage. Two SEA-specific workshops were held in 2007 and 2009.

The result of this process demonstrates the continual evolution of the LBAP, in parallel with the undertaking of the SEA, over a 4 year period. The environmental issues and potential impacts were continually assessed using the expert opinion of the LBAP Partnership and South Lanarkshire Council's SEA co-ordinating Officer. Through this process, identified negative impacts were mitigated against and/or minimised through direct changes to the draft LBAP objectives, whilst positive effects associated with implementing the draft LBAP were maximised. The Environmental Report only highlighted those alternatives identified through the assessment, whilst the initial preparation stages of the draft LBAP also effectively assessed and removed unsuitable alternatives at the earliest steps of its preparation.

The LBAP is comprised of a suite of documents, including the Biodiversity Strategy and the Biodiversity Action Plan. The Biodiversity Strategy contains few aims, actions or objectives that are required to take place at specific locations within South Lanarkshire, whilst the Action Plan will catalogue current and planned site-specific projects. For the purposes of assessment, the actions and aims of the Biodiversity Strategy have been assessed for their environmental impacts. Tier 3 projects (to be catalogued in the Biodiversity Action Plan), will be assessed on an individual basis to ensure they meet the aims and objectives of the Strategy and to assess their potential impact upon the environment and SEA objectives.

During the assessment process, where issues were identified, they were addressed, either by modification of LBAP aims, actions or objectives, or by inclusion within the LBAP of generic guidance on appropriate mitigation that should be carried out during implementation.

Comments from the Consultation Authorities confirmed their agreement with the overall approach adopted. Through each of the consultation phase of the SEA process, the majority of minor comments were accepted, with appropriate changes undertaken. There were however, no comments received from the general public or other bodies on the SEA Environmental Report during the public consultation period. All comments received on the LBAP itself have been discussed, with appropriate action agreed through the LBAP Steering Group. The South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan, as modified following consultation, has therefore been adopted.

Monitoring the environmental effects of implementing the PPS

The monitoring of the South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan will take place in order provide early identification of any unforeseen adverse effects and allow the undertaken of appropriate remedial action. This is in line with Section 19 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

The monitoring programme will be initiated following the adoption of South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan, followed by any appropriate to reviews of the baseline data in order to assess the effectiveness of the measures proposed for the prevention, reduction, and offsetting of significant environmental effects. This will be undertaken, as part of the monitoring framework for the Action Plan in conjunction with the Council's other monitoring commitments (including the Council's State of the Environment Report).

The monitoring indicators adopted within the monitoring programme (see Table 3), were established by the Council's Biodiversity Officer and SEA Co-ordinating Officer in consultation with the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Partnership Steering Group. The data collected will contribute towards updating, improving and, in some cases, expanding the current environmental baseline, with the relevant data fed into the South Lanarkshire State of the Environment Report. Although biodiversity actions may affect a wide range of other environmental variables, rarely is sufficiently detailed monitoring carried out to be able to distinguish between impacts related to biodiversity actions and impacts related to other factors, therefore a range of proxy indicators have been selected when direct measures can not identified.

The frequency of monitoring will follow the review periods set out in the LBAP, namely:

Tier 1 – and Vision Statements: Reviewed after 5 years (unlikely to alter significantly).

Tier 2 – Reviewed every 2 years, with a report published by the SLBP (revised as necessary).

Tier 3 – Reviewed as required, no less than annually. Individual projects will be subject to individually identified timescales.

The exception to this is SNH monitoring of designated sites, which will follow the 6 year cycle set out by SNH.

TABLE 3
The monitoring plan and indicators for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Monitoring Indicators	Timescale	Data Source
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna		
Percentage of designated sites achieving favourable status condition within South Lanarkshire	6 years	SNH
Area covered by non-statutory designations (e.g. LNCS/ SINC)	TBC	SoE
Area of native woodland cover across South Lanarkshire	Yearly	SoE
Increase in woodland connectivity across South Lanarkshire	5 years	5 yr Review SLBP
Area of ancient semi-natural woodland within South Lanarkshire	2 years	SoE

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Monitoring Indicators	Timescale	Data Source
Condition of ancient semi-natural woodland within South Lanarkshire	TBC	Potential for SLBP
Connectivity of other habitats within South Lanarkshire, including species rich grasslands, wetlands (measured by the Integrated Habitat Network Model)	5 years	CSGN
Area of raised bog habitats within South Lanarkshire	2 years	SoE
Condition of raised bog habitats on designated sites within South Lanarkshire	6 years	SNH
Development of the SPG on Biodiversity	2 years	SLBP
Number of SRDP funding projects associated with biodiversity improvements	2 years	SGRPID
Area under management beneficial to biodiversity	2 years	SGRPID
Number of people involved in local surveys	2 years	SLBP
Number of people involved in national surveys	2 years	SNH
Number of local volunteer days	2 years	SLBP
Number and length of Core Path networks linked to biodiversity projects or associated habitats	2 years	SLBP/Outdoor Access Forum
Number of sites/total area managed by local community groups	2 years	SLBP
Proportion of schools attaining full eco-school status	2 years	SLC/CAG
Number of biodiversity themed event and participation of events	2 years	SLBP
Population and Human Health		
Number of LBAP associated projects	2 years	Same as T3 monitoring
Soil and geology		
Number and condition of designated sites where the geological location or the soil type is the designated feature	6 years	SNH
Water		
Total length of river network achieving Water Framework Directive objectives by the target dates specified in the RBMP	5 years	SEPA
Total length of surface water achieving Water Framework Directive objectives by the target dates specified in the RBMP	5 years	SEPA
Number and distribution of man-made obstructions to fish movement	5 years	SEPA
Number of water pollution incidents	5 years	SEPA
Number of flood incidents within urban areas	5 years	SLC/SoE
Area of wetland habitats	6 years	SNH (Currently only on designated sites)
Material Assets		
Number of planning consents that impact on peatland	2 years	SLC
Number and area covered by peat extraction licenses	2 years	SLC
Number of planning consents relating to mineral extraction activities	2 years	SLC
Climate		
Site condition of designated peatland sites across South Lanarkshire	6 years	SNH
Area of woodland cover across South Lanarkshire	2 years	SoE

Monitoring Indicators	Timescale	Data Source
Quality of woodland cover across South Lanarkshire	2 years	SLBP
Site condition monitoring across designated sites	6 years	SNH
Cultural Heritage		
Number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments in Lanarkshire which have LBAP projects ongoing	2 years	SoE
Number and status of historic and Listed Buildings in Lanarkshire which have LBAP projects ongoing	2 years	SoE
Number and areas of Historic Gardens and Designated Landscapes in Lanarkshire which have LBAP projects ongoing	2 years	SoE
Landscape		
Area of designated and sensitive landscapes across South Lanarkshire	2 years	SoE
LBAP Specific		
% of T2 action fully implemented after 5 yrs	5 years	SLBP
% of T3 actions which are delivered	5 years	SLBP
No. of projects undertaken (annual count)	2 years	SLBP
Success of each project individually (% SMART Target delivered)	2 years	SLBP

The LBAP will also have a monitoring programme in place, which will run parallel with the SEA monitoring. This has still to be fully completed; however projects which are proposed for inclusion in the LBAP will be agreed by the Steering Group of the Biodiversity Partnership to ensure that they will make a significant contribution to meeting the long-term objectives of the Plan and therefore the conservation of the biodiversity of South Lanarkshire. Actions will be reported back to the Partnership to ensure targets are being met. Where monitoring reveals that there is either a failure to meet targets or an unintended negative impact is occurring, a meeting of the Biodiversity Partnership will be called to identify action which will be taken to address the problem. Where possible, damaging works will cease as soon as a problem is identified.

The Biodiversity Partnership in turn reports to South Lanarkshire Council's Sustainability Partnership and reporting mechanisms are in place to ensure that the progress of the LBAP is being monitored.

The LBAP feeds into a number of other relevant strategies, notably the South Lanarkshire State of the Environment Report, the South Lanarkshire Rural Plan and the South Lanarkshire Greenspace Strategy (see Appendix 3 of the LBAP Environment Report for a full list of relevant Plans, Programmes and Strategies). The South Lanarkshire Core Path Plan promotes access to the countryside and so to biodiversity.

At a national level, data from the South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan is fed into the Biodiversity Action Reporting System. This national database is reviewed regularly. Biological survey data is fed into the National Biodiversity Network.

The LBAP will be reviewed fully after 5 years, with reports on progress made every two years, to coincide with reporting upon the South Lanarkshire State of the Environment Report. This alignment of reporting will enable baseline data to be updated simultaneously for both documents.

In concluding the Post-adoption SEA Statement

The South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan has been prepared by a wide range of partners to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of South Lanarkshire. It will also protect, and where possible enhance, the wider environment throughout the region.