

# South Lanarkshire Proposed Minerals Local Development Plan



December 2010



## SEA Environmental Report



Enterprise Resources

## SEA Environmental Report – Cover Note

### PART 1

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### PART 2

An SEA Environmental Report is attached for the Plan, Programme or Strategy (PPS) entitled:

Minerals Local Development Plan

The Responsible Authority is:

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January 2011

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# Non Technical Summary

## Introduction

1. This is a non technical summary of the Environment Report (ER) which documents the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) of the Minerals Local Development Plan (LDP) and the policies set out within the proposed Minerals LDP, published by South Lanarkshire Council. A SEA is required under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 in order to determine the potential environmental effects of implementing the LDP.
2. Preparation of the MIR and LDP is under the provisions of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006. The SEA process allows environmental considerations to be integrated into the LDP, and potential environmental impacts to be predicted and mitigation measures put in place where necessary. The public and stakeholders can comment on the MIR and the SEA.

## SEA methodology

3. The MIR identified significant policy issues for the LDP to address and proposes preferred options for dealing with these issues and also alternative options. The SEA process for the MIR followed established methods and systematic testing MIR options as they developed. Following on from the MIR, the policies were developed within the LDP and assessed the SEA. Each stage of the SEA and the conclusions from each are summarised in the sections below.

## The environmental baseline for South Lanarkshire

4. The SEA evaluation requires an understanding of the environmental characteristics of the Council area. The environmental issues relevant to the Minerals LDP are:
  - **Biodiversity, species and habitats** - South Lanarkshire has a wide range of landscapes and habitats. The area is mainly agricultural land with pockets of natural and semi-natural habitats, including peat land, ancient woodland and upland moor. The main environmental pressures on biodiversity within the area include the invasion of non-native species and inappropriate development that is insensitive to the local natural environment.
  - **Population and human health** – The health of the population is fair with life expectancy improving. Incidences of smoking and alcohol related illness/deaths are higher than national averages. Injuries from road traffic accidents in the rural area are higher than for the Council as a whole but no higher than national averages for rural roads.
  - **Soil** - South Lanarkshire's soil quality is considered to be generally good although past industrial activities have resulted in some contaminated sites.
  - **Water** - Water quality in South Lanarkshire is currently relatively good and continuing to improve. Data shows an increase in river flow rates and the number of flood incidents, in line with increased precipitation across the region.
  - **Air** - Air quality in South Lanarkshire is generally good however there are some areas where traffic emissions result in poor air quality that exceed national limits.
  - **Noise** - There is currently no baseline data for environmental noise levels within the Council area. However since the introduction of more stringent powers for the Council to deal with noise, complaints, particularly for residential noise, have doubled.
  - **Material assets and landscape** - The area has a diverse landscape that is rich in scenic value. Minerals remain an economically important resource, with some sites currently going through a closure phase.
  - **Cultural heritage** - South Lanarkshire has an extensive and varied cultural heritage both in urban and rural locations. Pressures on historic assets come primarily from development which could potentially result in damage to or the complete loss of sites of cultural significance.

5. SEA objectives have been developed for each of the identified environmental issues after careful review of relevant policies, plans and programmes and the collection of environmental baseline data. The SEA objectives are:

- To prevent the risk of loss and maintain the quality of international, national and locally protected sites and species of natural importance
- Protect and avoid irreversible loss of biodiversity
- Ensure a high standard of site restoration to enhance biodiversity the value of the wider environment
- Protect existing levels of amenity
- Minimise potential environmental impacts on the population
- Minimise the loss of sensitive soils - prime quality agricultural land, ancient woodland, and peat land.
- Prevent deterioration and where appropriate enhance the ecological status of the aquatic ecosystem
- Prevent deterioration in local air quality and minimise the impacts of noise pollution
- Minimise impacts on the essential infrastructure of communities
- Protect known mineral deposits from sterilisation
- Preserve and protect heritage assets, archaeological sites and culturally important features
- Maintain local landscape designations
- Prevent undermining of identified landscape characteristics

### **Developing strategic alternatives**

6. Strategic policy alternatives were considered for the Spatial Strategy of the Minerals LDP. Five options were considered, though these were somewhat restricted in that minerals can only be extracted where they exist. This immediately constrains choice in where extraction could take place. The environmental impacts of the alternatives were assessed using the environmental baseline data and it was concluded that the identification of specific areas of search for minerals allows long-term mineral extraction opportunities, whilst at the same time offering environmental protection through the identification of appropriate areas of search. It was considered that this was the best environmental option whilst maintaining a positive policy position for mineral development. This is presented in the MIR as the Preferred Spatial Strategy.

### **Testing Minerals LDP objectives against SEA objectives**

7. The SEA objectives noted above were used to measure the environmental performance of the Minerals LDP objectives. As a result of this there was some minor adjustment of objectives leaving the LDP's objectives as:

- **To meet society's needs** - To contribute to the national supply of minerals to meet the needs of society and the economy
- **To minimise effects on communities and maximise local economic benefits** - To minimise the potential adverse impact of minerals extraction on communities and maximise the economic benefits arising from development for local communities
- **To protect the environment** - To protect international, national and locally designated species and areas of natural or built heritage importance from adverse impacts
- **To safeguard resources** - To safeguard minerals from sterilisation to allow the possibility of future extraction

- **To minimise impacts on infrastructure** - To minimise potential impacts from mineral operations on infrastructure, particularly roads, to preserve the vitality of local communities and businesses
- **To ensure excellence in working practices and restoration** - To ensure sensitive working practices during mineral extraction that minimise environmental and transport impacts; and once extraction has ceased, to ensure sites are reclaimed to a high standard and enhance the value of the wider environment

### **Predicting and evaluating the effects of the alternative policy options for the LDP**

8. The MIR identifies the significant concerns that the LDP must deal with. It presents alternative policy options for dealing with these issues and states a preferred option. This stage in the SEA process involved assessing these alternatives against the SEA objectives to identify the different environmental impacts of the different options and their potential duration. A specific Health Impact Assessment was undertaken to inform the SEA of the impacts and risks to human health. Overall it is considered that the implementation of the MIR's preferred options will result in more positive effects on the environment than the alternative options.

9. Nevertheless the SEA assessment added to and refined the preferred policy options with regard to the consideration of biodiversity, habitat networks, sensitive transport routes, handling peat, protecting prime quality agricultural land, flood risks, landscape, restoration schemes, buffer zones around settlements and environmental monitoring regimes. Where these refinements had a locational dimension they were incorporated into the Preferred Spatial Strategy presented in the MIR.

### **Considering ways of mitigating the adverse effects of the LDP**

10. The SEA demonstrates that the preferred options for the LDP should prevent significant negative impacts upon the environment. Where potential negative effects have been identified, the assessment has identified mitigation and enhancement measures to reduce and offset any significant adverse effects on the environment. These measures resulted in the actions listed below being undertaken in the preparation MIR.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action taken</b>
Environmental and population protection.	Criteria such as buffer areas, international/national heritage designations and sensitive transportation routes have been added to the Spatial Strategy Map.
Monitoring of environmental effects.	Reference is made to the standards and credentials of monitors.
Removal, storing and restoration of peat.	To be incorporated in Supplementary planning guidance on restoration and after care.
Incorporating water environments in restoration schemes.	
Improving community engagement in restoration schemes	
Conservation of designated sites, protected species and local biodiversity.	A minerals development specific Biodiversity Action Plan is suggested as an appropriate means of tackling this issue.
Landscape impacts	Landscapes sensitive to development and to cumulative effects of development are identified by the Spatial Strategy Map.

### **Evaluating the policies within the LDP**

11. The policies set out in the proposed LDP were developed through the themes adopted within the policy options assessed within the MIR. This approach ensured that the main environmental intentions within the MIR were fully adopted within the LDP policies. The LDP policies were assessed through the SEA to identify any significant environmental concerns relating to the adoption of the LDP. The SEA assessment promoted the refinement of the LDP policies with regards to the environmental considerations set out within the SEA Objectives. Further mitigation and enhancement measures were identified to ensure the refined policies promoted the prevention, reduction and offset of any significant adverse effect upon the environment. Once refined, the assessment concluded that the implementation of the LDP policies would promote a positive level of environmental protection across the minerals sector.

### **Proposed measures to monitor the environmental effects of LDP implementation**

12. The development of a monitoring plan is aimed to assist in the early identification of environmental issues (either positive or negative) associated with the implementation of the LDP. The finalisation of the monitoring plan will incorporate appropriate comments received through the consultation process. Monitoring will be conducted annually with the LDP reviewed as required.

### **Consultation**

13. In accordance with SEA legislation, the ER will be made available for public consultation along with the MIR for a period of 6 weeks between January and February 2011. Early engagement with the consultees and other stakeholders has already taken place and these discussions/representations have informed the content of the MIR.

# 1 Introduction

## Background

1.1 South Lanarkshire Council published a Main Issues Report (MIR) as the first step in the development of a Local Development Plan (LDP) for minerals development in South Lanarkshire. This plan will replace a Minerals Local Plan prepared by the Council and adopted in 2002. The preparation of the MIR and the proposed LDP now published for consultation has been informed by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

1.2 This report constitutes an Environmental Report (ER) in accordance with the requirements of the European Community (EC) SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 (the SEA Act). The ER illustrates the SEA process and the identification of all potentially significant environmental effects (both positive and negative) associated with the developing LDP. The overall SEA process aims to:

- Identify relevant environmental issues associated with the LDP and provide for a high level of environmental protection, integrating environmental decision making into the preparation of the LDP;
- Assess the potential for alternative policy approaches for the LDP through consideration of other policy options and delivery methods whilst taking into account the overall objectives and geographical scope of the LDP.
- Evaluate the likely significant environmental effects associated with the policies of the LDP to ensure appropriate environmental issues are identified, described, evaluated and taken into account before the LDP is adopted; and
- Provide an early opportunity for public participation in environmental decision making.

## Purpose of the Environmental Report

1.3 The purpose of the ER is to support the consultation on the proposed Minerals LDP by:

- Providing a summary of the SEA process and a description of the consultation that has been undertaken as part of the SEA to date; and
- Identifying, describing and providing an evaluation of the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan.

1.4 The ER allows decision-makers, statutory consultation authorities, the public and other stakeholders to understand the likely significant impacts of the LDP and the measures that are suggested to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects. The MIR and the proposed LDP along with the ER have been made available as part of a public consultation exercise which is required by planning and SEA legislation. The consultation authorities are defined within the SEA Act as:

- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH);
- Historic Scotland (HS); and
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

1.5 The SEA Act defines the key stages of SEA as:

- Screening – Determination of whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and whether an SEA is required;
- Scoping – Identification of the scope and level of detail of the ER, and the consultation period for the report. This stage involves consultation with SNH, HS and SEPA;

- Environmental Report – Publication of an ER on the plan which includes a summary of SEA process and consultation process, and provides an evaluation of the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan;
- Post-Adoption – Provides information on: the adopted plan; how consultation comments have been taken into account; and methods for monitoring the significant environmental effects of the plan implementation; and
- Monitoring – Proposed framework for monitoring the potential significant effects of implementing the plan.

1.6 The ER describes the assessment of the LDP's proposed objectives and recommended measures to prevent, reduce and mitigate any potentially significant negative environmental effects, whilst providing measures to improve or enhance the positive environmental effects of implementing the plan identified through the SEA process. The ER sets out a proposed framework for monitoring the potential significant effects of implementing the LDP.

## Consultation process

1.7 In accordance with planning and SEA legislation, the MIR, the proposed LDP and its ER will be made available for public consultation for **a minimum period of 6 weeks**. Early engagement with the consultation authorities and other stakeholders has already taken place and these discussions/representations have informed the content of the MIR.

1.8 Throughout the ER particular questions are highlighted in yellow boxes, to which the Council seeks responses to assist in the consultation process. Comments on other aspects of the ER either in general or specifically will also be welcomed. Comments should be sent to the contact details on the Cover Note of the ER.

## 2 Background to the Minerals Local Development Plan

### Plan context and overview

2.1 Preparation of the Minerals LDP is a requirement of Section 16 of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006. This requires planning authorities to prepare local development plans for all parts of their district and allows for different local development plans to be prepared for different purposes for the same part of any district, in this instance the specific issue of minerals development, encompassing the extraction of coal, sand and gravel, hard rock and other mined products.

2.2 The proposed Minerals LDP consists of a series of policies and justification for them, aimed at directing and managing mineral developments and operations. These policies will be supported by maps outlining known mineral reserves and constraints.

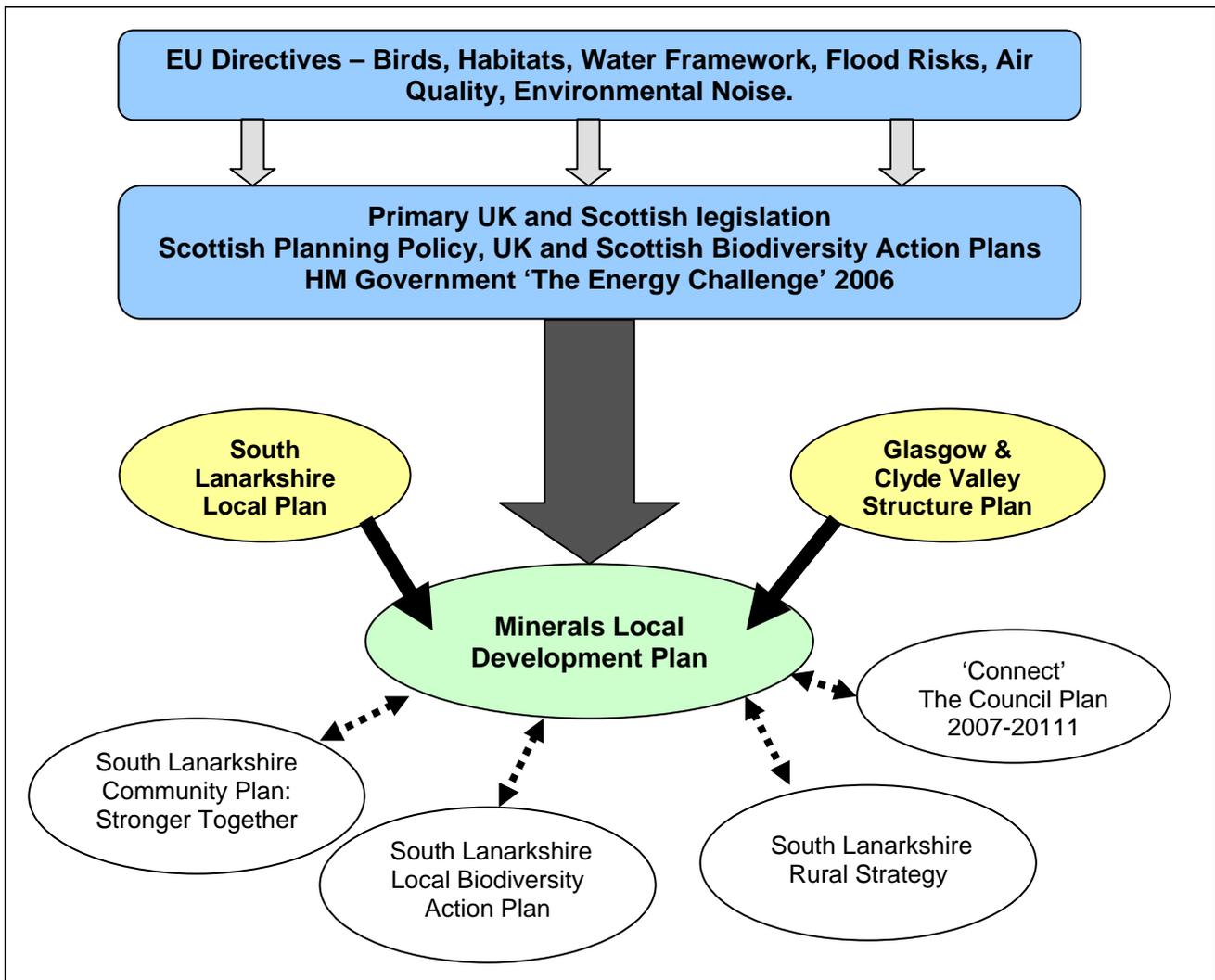
2.3 The Minerals LDP aims to deliver the following objectives:-

- To safeguard minerals as far as possible for future use;
- To contribute to the national supply of minerals to meet the needs of society and the economy;
- To minimise the potential adverse impact of minerals extraction on communities;
- To protect international, national and locally designated areas of natural or built heritage importance from adverse impacts; and
- Encourage sensitive working practices during mineral extraction that minimise the environmental and transport impacts and once extraction has ceased, ensure sites are reclaimed to a high standard or enhance the value of the wider environment.

2.4 The Minerals LDP is a spatial strategy based upon the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan's wider environmental framework for the sustainable development of natural resources. This will be presented by maps of the area and a written statement setting out the key policies and proposals of the LDP. Consideration is being given to minor proposals and detailed policies relating to development management being presented in supplementary planning guidance.

**Relationship with other relevant plans, programmes and strategies and Council environmental objectives.**

**Figure 1: The relationship between the Minerals LDP and other plans, programmes and strategies (selected)**



2.5 The Minerals LDP will link to existing plans, programmes and strategies (PPS), whilst at the same time it is intended that it will be influenced by and have an influence on future strategic development planning by the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority in preparing the Strategic Development Plan. The Minerals LDP is directly and indirectly influenced by a number of international, national and regional PPS (see Figure 1).

2.6 The relationship between the Minerals LDP and other PPS requires to be analysed as part of the SEA process. A list of existing PPS which may affect or be affected by the Minerals LDP and how they relate to relevant SEA issues is contained in Appendix 1. The aims of these PPS have been used to inform the environmental objectives of the SEA and an assessment was undertaken to

screen these PPS against the aims and objectives of the Minerals LDP. The assessment considered the scale at which the LDP delivers the PPS objectives. It concluded that the majority of the LDP aims and objectives make a positive contribution to the delivery of the PPS aims. For the full assessment table refer to Appendix 1.

2.7 The main policy principles relevant to the Minerals LDP and the environmental issues within the SEA have been identified from common themes arising in the aims of the PPS that have been assessed. These are:

- Protect designated species and habitats;
- Safeguard and protect biodiversity and designated natural and built heritage sites;
- Safeguard the water environment;
- Consider impacts on human health;
- Protect sensitive soils; and
- Promote sustainable minerals development.

### 3 SEA Methodology

#### Overview of the SEA of the Minerals LDP

3.1 The SEA process involves testing the Minerals LDP objectives against the environmentally-based SEA objectives, predicting potential environmental effects and considering mitigation/enhancement measures followed by the preparation and undertaking of a policy-specific monitoring programme once the Minerals LDP is adopted. The key areas of the SEA methodology are summarised in Table 1.

**Table 1: Stages set out within the SEA Methodology**

<b>SEA assessment stage</b>	<b>Assessment requirements</b>
Development of SEA objectives from assessment of other relevant PPS.	To inform the SEA objectives by taking into account the environmental objectives of the PPS that it must have regard to.
Testing Minerals LDP objectives against SEA objectives.	To ensure that the overall objectives of the Minerals LDP are in accordance with environmental principles and provides a framework for developing options.
Developing strategic alternatives.	To assist in the development and refinement of the alternatives for achieving the Minerals LDP objectives.
Predicting and evaluating the effects of the Minerals LDP, including alternatives.	To predict and evaluate the effects of the Minerals LDP and its alternatives and assist in the refinement of the Minerals LDP.
Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects against the Minerals LDP.	To ensure all potential mitigation measures and measures for maximising beneficial effects are considered and, as a result, residual effects identified.
Proposed measures to monitor the environmental effects of Minerals LDP implementation.	To propose a monitoring framework to assess the environmental performance of the Minerals LDP.

## Scoping the SEA

3.2 The Scoping Report set out sufficient information on the Minerals LDP that enabled the statutory consultation authorities to form a view on the consultation periods and scope/level of detail that would be appropriate for the ER. The following SEA issues were considered in the scoping exercise to assist in determining the potential significance of impact of the Minerals LDP.

**Table 2: Scoping of SEA issues associated with the SEA of the Minerals LDP**

SEA Issue	Scoped In	Scoped Out	Rationale
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential impacts on designated sites for nature protection, protected species, ancient woodlands and habitats recognised in the national and local biodiversity action plan</li> <li>• Interrelationship between terrestrial biodiversity and soil form and function</li> <li>• Effects may be irreversible and cumulative</li> </ul>
Population and human health	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential impacts on population in vicinity of operational quarries due to noise, dust, vibration, traffic movements</li> <li>• Interrelationship also with landscape and air, and to a lesser extent water</li> <li>• Effects may be local and time bound but cumulative and synergistic</li> </ul>
Soil	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential impacts on agricultural land, woodland and areas of peatland</li> <li>• Potential for soil erosion and subsequent increased dissolved organic carbon within associated water bodies</li> <li>• Effects may be irreversible</li> </ul>
Water	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential impacts on ecological status, water pollution, water quality and quantity, water table and on standing water</li> <li>• Effects may be long term and cumulative</li> </ul>
Air and noise	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise and dust generation from operations may have impacts on population and sensitive habitats</li> <li>• Effects may be local and time bound but cumulative and synergistic</li> </ul>
Climatic factors		X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LDPs focus is on the location and operation of extraction itself not on the end use of the material extracted which does have potential climatic implications</li> </ul>
Material assets	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extraction will cause the irreversible loss of the asset</li> <li>• Distribution of extracted material will use local road infrastructure, mainly within the rural area</li> <li>• Effects can be widespread and cumulative</li> </ul>
Cultural heritage	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential impacts on protected built heritage, monuments and archaeology</li> <li>• Effects may be irreversible</li> </ul>
Landscape	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential impacts on Green Belt, Strategic Green</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects can be time bound but cumulative and synergistic in nature with the potential for positive improvements</li> </ul>
Interaction between factors	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minerals development may give rise to areas that are effected by cumulative effects of several sites or to areas that are effected by an accumulation of different effects e.g. noise impacts and visual intrusion</li> </ul>

## 4 Environmental Baseline and Key Issues

### Introduction to the local environment

4.1 The SEA Act requires that the ER includes a description of “*the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme*”, and “*the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected*”. This section aims to describe the environmental context within which the Minerals LDP will operate and the constraints and targets that this context imposes. The full environmental baseline for South Lanarkshire can be found in the Council’s State of the Environment Report (SoE), 2009.

4.2 The environmental baseline provides information on both the current and potential issues directly associated with the Minerals LDP, with the likely future state without implementing the plan estimated using past trends. This baseline has been used to assessment the potential effects of different policy options considered in the Main Issues Report for the LDP.

### Introduction to South Lanarkshire

Figure 2: Map showing boundary of South Lanarkshire and main settlements



4.3 South Lanarkshire is the fifth largest populated local authority in Scotland covering an area of 650 square miles (1,722 km<sup>2</sup>). The River Clyde and its major tributaries the Douglas Water, Nethan, Avon and Rotten Calder are features of the landscape, which ranges from moorland and upland areas in the south and east, through extensively farmed agricultural lowlands and onto the highly urbanised fringes of the Glasgow conurbation, with the major settlements of Hamilton, East Kilbride, Cambuslang and Rutherglen (Figure 2).

### Collecting environmental data

4.4 The environmental baseline was established for those environmental issues scoped in to the assessment, taken from the environmental topics listed in Schedule 3 of the SEA Act. The relevant environmental information was primarily sourced from the Council's State of the Environment Report (2009) with information gathered from SEPA, HS, SNH and the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership (link to the current version of the Council's State of the Environment Report: [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)). The collection of the baseline information serves to support the future monitoring programme for the implementation of the LDP, through the identification of key indicators. The current status, trend and key environmental issues are considered in the environmental indicators relevant to the LDP. The following sections provide information on the SEA environmental issues, which are:

- Biodiversity, species and habitats
- Population and human health
- Soil
- Water
- Air and noise
- Material assets and landscape
- Cultural heritage

4.5 The baseline assessment requires consideration of the issues listed below:

- The inter-relationship between the issues
- Short, medium and long term effects
- Permanent and temporary effects
- Positive and negative effects
- Secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects

4.6 In preparation of the MIR, a Health Impact Assessment and detailed demographic profile was prepared to focus on population and human health issues. This has assisted in the consideration of the environmental effects of mineral extraction on people at an early stage.

### Environmental Baseline

4.7 The baseline for the Minerals LDP environmental indicators has been compiled and is presented in this section. The current status of key environmental indicators has been identified using trends from past data sets.

 Good	 Fair	 Improving
 Poor	 Limited data	 Deteriorating
		 No change

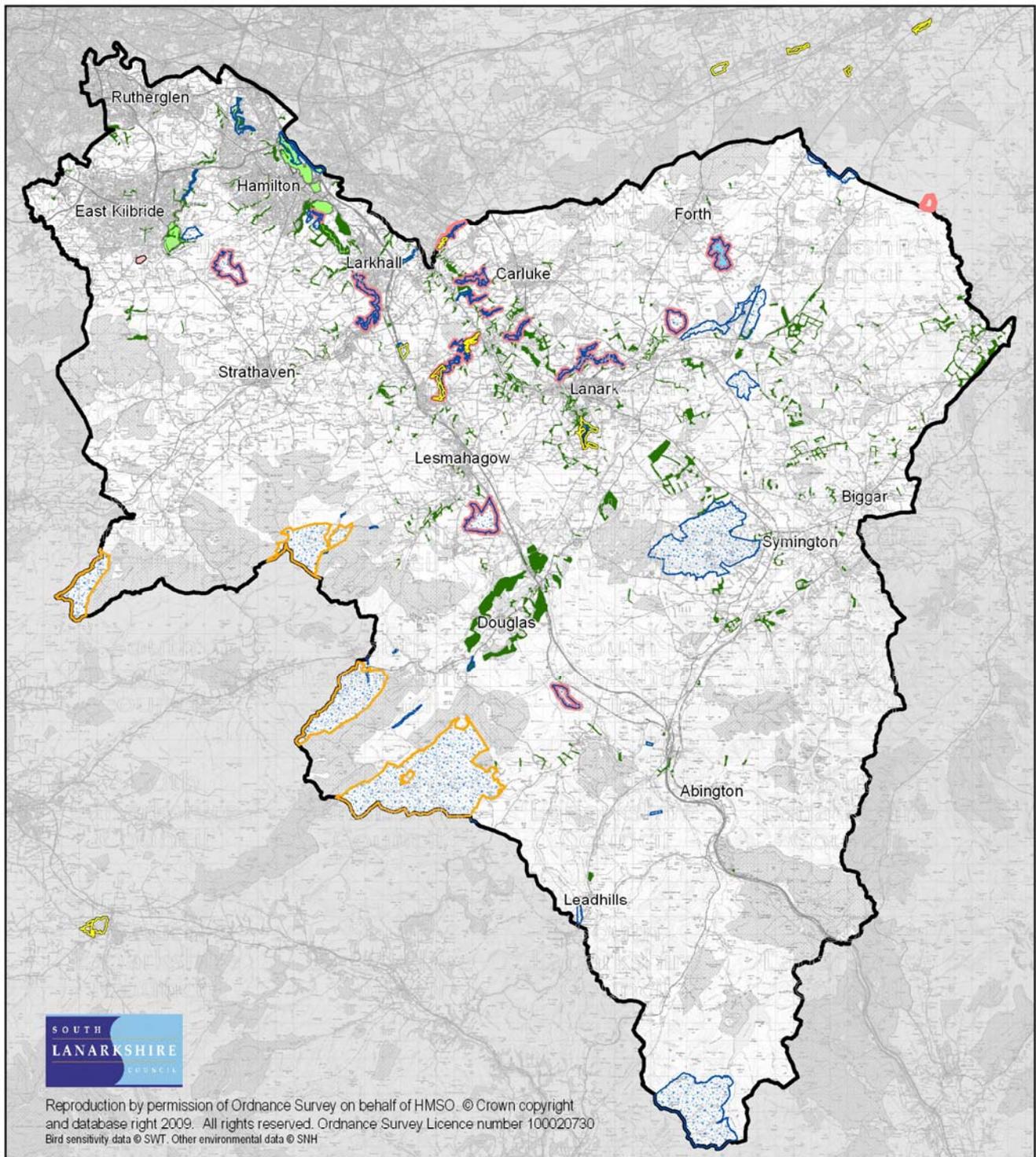
## Biodiversity

4.8 South Lanarkshire has a wide range of landscapes and habitats. Although the area is mainly agricultural land, there are still pockets of natural and semi natural habitats, including ancient woodland, peat land and upland moorland. The lack of detailed information on the range of habitats across the South Lanarkshire, their condition and the level of fragmentation between such habitats is of concern in determining the overall status of biodiversity within the area. Although fragmentation is detrimental to the connectivity of habitat systems, the main environmental pressures that are having an adverse affect on biodiversity within the area include the invasion of non-native species and the inappropriate location of urban development or development that is insensitive to the local natural environment. Arguably, the single greatest potential pressure on ecosystem function is climate change, with habitat fragmentation restricting the movement of species in response to this. Colonisation by non-native, invasive species is placing further pressure on remaining natural habitats.

4.9 The table below highlights the current status of the key environmental indicators for biodiversity. The majority of the indicators are fair and have the potential to improve. The map overleaf illustrates the data sets available for biodiversity.

Indicator	Current status	Trend direction	Explanation
Designated areas (SAC, SPA, SSSI sites)	F	↔	Just over 50% of sites demonstrate favourable status. The majority show no overall directional change. Some sites have site management agreements in place.
Local Nature Reserves	F	↑	Management practices are in place to improve the overall condition of the LNRs.
Native woodland	F	↑	Although total woodland cover is increasing, further work is required to improve connectivity of habitats.
Ancient woodland	F	↔	There is no change in ancient woodland cover. There is limited data on the overall condition of this habitat.
Habitat network			The recent Integrated Habitat Network study will provide baseline qualitative data.
Raised bogs			There is insufficient data on the overall condition of raised and blanket bogs across the area, with only a small number of designated sites recorded as unfavourable.

**Map 1: Designated and non-designated areas of high biodiversity value in South Lanarkshire**



- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  SWT Reserves |  SAC |  Country Parks                              |
|  SPA          |  NNR |  Ancient Woodland/<br>Semi Natural Woodland |
|  SSSI         |  LNR |  |

## Population and human health

4.10 The table below highlights the current status of the key environmental indicators for population and human health for South Lanarkshire. The majority of the indicators are fair and have the potential to improve. This highlights a number of concerning areas when comparison is made to Scottish averages.

Indicator	Current status	Trend direction	Explanation
Life Expectancy(m)	F	↑	Life expectancy for men in South Lanarkshire has increased in recent years, but it remains below Scottish average.
Life Expectancy (f)	F	↑	Life expectancy for women in South Lanarkshire has increased in recent years, but it remains below the Scottish average.
Deaths < 75 Coronary heart disease	P	↑	While improving, Coronary heart disease remains a major source of deaths in the under 75 – usually taken to be early or premature deaths. The rate of decline in deaths is slower than for Scotland as a whole.
Deaths < 75 Cancer	F	↔	Cancer remains a major cause of death for those aged under 75, but there are significant improvements in some types of cancer, e.g. lung cancer in men. Death rates remain worse than Scottish average in spite of improvements.
Alcohol Related Deaths	P	↓	Alcohol related deaths have increased significantly in recent years and continue an upward trend. South Lanarkshire's figures mirror a national trend which has been recognised as a major challenge for public health.

4.11 As referred to above a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) has been undertaken for the Minerals MDP. Specific work has been undertaken to build a profile of the communities affected by mineral operations. This area of 27,000 people is less than a tenth of the population size of South Lanarkshire. A full paper on this profile has been prepared to supplement the HIA report. While on the whole the profile of this area was the same as for South Lanarkshire there were a number of variations as follows:

- Self reported health status is better than South Lanarkshire average and hospital admissions are lower than average for a range of common, serious conditions.
- The most recent Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) indicates that there are two rural datazones in the area covered by the Minerals LDP which are also counted among the most deprived 15% datazones in Scotland. These are: Rigsides-Douglas Water and Douglas Central.
- Survey data for Glespin, Rigsides, Forth and Carstairs Junction, settlements within the MLDP area, suggest higher rates of smoking and alcohol consumption compared with either Clydesdale or South Lanarkshire and lower than average consumption of fruit and vegetables and lower rates of physical activity.
- As a rate per 1,000 of population, there are more road traffic accidents in the area than for South Lanarkshire as a whole. This is true for fatal, serious and slight accidents. Motoring offences per head of population are also significantly higher for the area compared with South Lanarkshire.

- Residents are slightly more likely to have access to more than one car than in South Lanarkshire as a whole, and less likely to have no car in the household. This is in line with expectations for a rural area.
- Residents are more likely to commute more than 20km than in South Lanarkshire as a whole; they are also more likely to work at or closer to home and to be self employed than residents in South Lanarkshire generally.

## Soil

4.12 Soil quality in South Lanarkshire is considered to be generally good although baseline data is difficult to gather and is rarely updated. Human activity, land use and intensity and global climatic effects can be detrimental to soils, reducing their distribution, function and sustainability. Healthy and diverse soils are important for crop growth, carbon storage and sustaining biodiversity across a range of habitat types.

4.13 The table below highlights the current status of the key environmental indicators for soils. The majority of the indicators are fair to good though two of the indicators have limited data. The map overleaf illustrates the data sets available for soil.

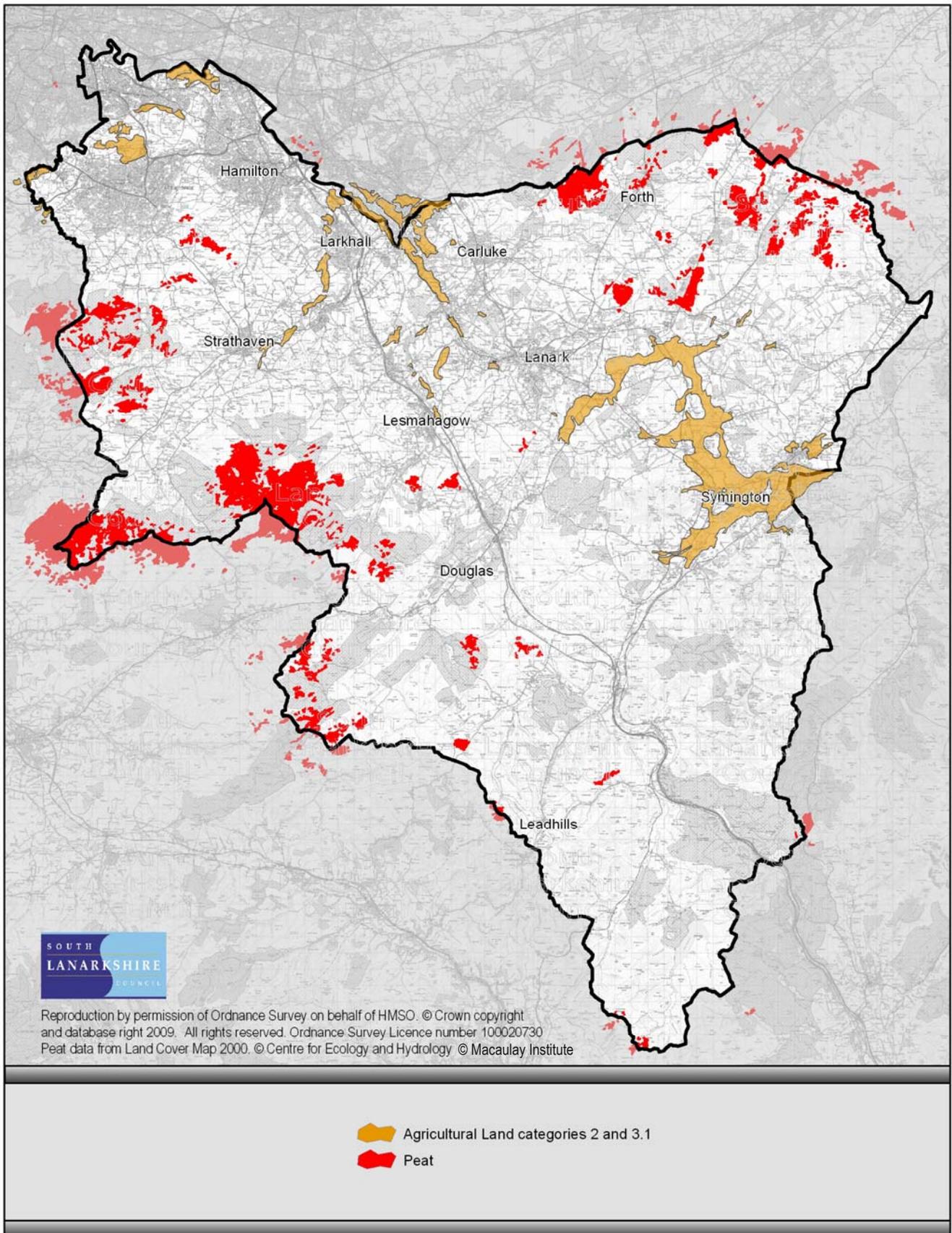
Indicator	Current status	Trend direction	Explanation
Sustainable Soil	L		There are no data sets at present focussing on soil sustainability.
Soil Quality	G	↔	Current data, though limited, indicates good soil quality in a Scottish or regional context.
Soil Capacity	G	↔	The level of Local Plan departures in to greenbelt development can indicate soil capacity across the region. Information from the Scottish Agricultural Census can be refined to provide more area specific soil capacity data. Topsoil carbon mapping is an important area for data development.
Landscape Use	L		Further analysis of Landscape Character, Land Use and Scottish Agricultural Census data could be utilised to provide information on Landscape Use.
Contaminated Land	F	↑	The number of contaminated sites identified within South Lanarkshire remains consistent, with initial site investigation continuing.

## Water

4.14 The water environment is an important resource across South Lanarkshire; being used for industrial and urban development, natural resources for agricultural and recreational use. Water quality is therefore closely linked to human health and the biodiversity of the wider natural environment in addition to being important for the local economy and the amenity value of an the area.

4.15 Water quality in South Lanarkshire is currently relatively good and continuing to improve. The major water bodies are the River Clyde and its tributaries, with approximately 140 km of rivers classified as excellent, and 277 km classed as good in 2006. River flow data shows an increase in annual water flow rates in line with increase precipitation across the region, in addition the number of flood scouting incidents responded to by the Council have increased.

**Map 2: Areas of sensitive soils across South Lanarkshire**

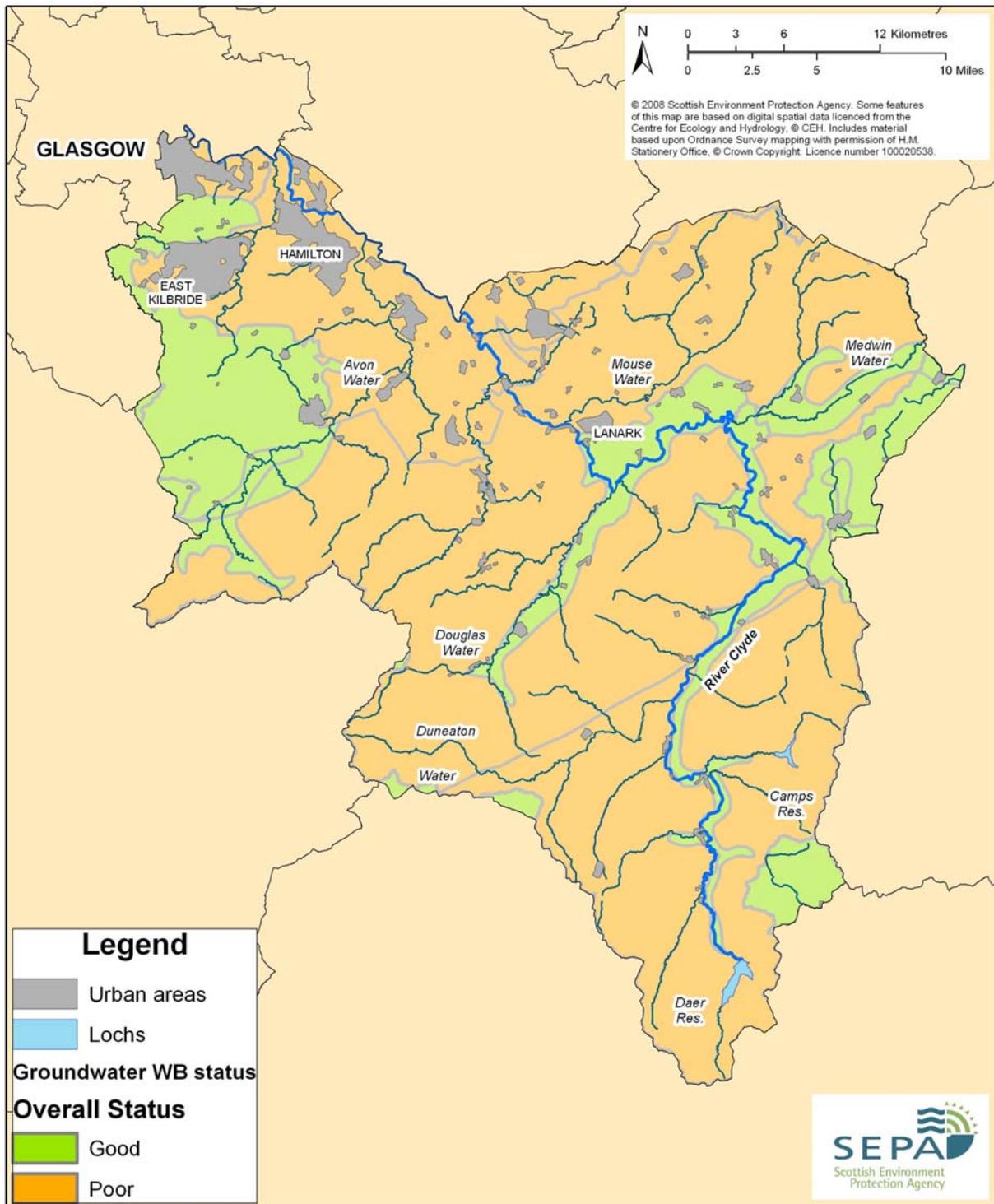


4.16 Human activity can damage the water environment, ultimately compromising the benefits associated with this resource. Changes in the state of the water environment can be attributed to changes within the water itself or through inputs associated with land and air or directly through human activity.

Indicator	Current status	Trend direction	Explanation
River Quality	G	↑	The number of sampled rivers is increasing and river quality shows improvement.
River Flow Rate	F	↓	The annual water flow rates in the rivers across the area have continually increased - linked to the increase in annual precipitation rates.
Standing Water Quality	L		The current water quality status of the main Reservoir monitored in the area is of Good status. There is limited data to report on the remaining standing water across the area.
Water Pollution	F	↑	The numbers of water pollution incidents have fallen over recent years, along with the number of licensed discharges issued.
Flooding	P	↓	Recent climate change predictions indicate a potential risk of increased flood incidents. The number of flooding incidents reported to and responded by the Council has increased.
Water Biodiversity	G	↑	Intensive land use has led to a significant decline in Scotland's biodiversity. But in the rivers there is a noticeable increase in diversity.
Historical Contamination	F	↑	Hot spots from mining activities still remain a problem in specific areas. Some remedial work has commenced.

4.17 In 2007, SEPA provided the first groundwater classification in Scotland. There are 21 groundwater waterbodies within or intersecting the South Lanarkshire area. These vary in area from just over 8km<sup>2</sup> to almost 800km<sup>2</sup>, 6 of these groundwaters have been classified by SEPA as poor status, with the remaining 15 classified in good status. The assessment of status is based on complex hydrological, qualitative and quantitative tests.

**Map 3: Groundwater status within South Lanarkshire**



**Air**

4.18 Air quality across South Lanarkshire is generally good and below air quality objective limits, with 'hotspot' areas identified within the urban environment. Transport is the main source for urban pollution, with elevated levels associated with the main transport corridors. Within the rural area acidification and nutrient enrichment are the main concerns, particularly across elevated ground. Long-range pollutants, emitted out-with South Lanarkshire are mainly associated with these effects and therefore controlling these pollutants is more challenging.

Indicator	Current status	Trend direction	Explanation
No. of Days Exceeding Air Quality Limits	F	↓	Air quality across South Lanarkshire is generally good. There are some areas where traffic emissions result in poor air quality that exceed national limits set to protect human health.
Exceedance in Annual Mean Limits	F	↔	Current background concentrations of air pollutants remain below the target levels. Roadside concentrations are elevated, with some locations breaching air quality objectives.
Ground-level Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> )	G	↓	Although elevated episodes of ground-level O <sub>3</sub> do not exceed national limits, background concentrations are slowly increasing.
Acidification	F	↑	All SAC sites currently exceed the critical load for acid deposition, whilst this is predicted to improve by 2010.
Nutrient Enrichment	F	↑	6 of the 7 SAC sites currently exceed the critical load for nitrogen deposition. This is predicted to improve by 2010.
Nuisance	L		Complaints recorded indicate that odour is the main nuisance within South Lanarkshire. There is insufficient data to determine the trend in nuisance complaints.

## Noise

4.19 Noise can have an adverse impact on peoples' quality of life. Excessive noise can cause annoyance and stress and may disturb sleep. Public concern about noise is a national indicator for quality of life and it is suggested that this could be compiled for complaints. Since the introduction of more stringent powers for the Council to deal with noise, complaints have doubled.

4.20 Although there is currently no baseline data for environmental noise levels within the Council area, there is scope for future local noise maps to be produced under the European Noise Directive. Such maps could potentially focus on noise sensitive areas with the addition of tranquillity maps to identify tranquil areas.

Indicator	Current status	Trend direction	Explanation
Noise Complaints	P	↓	The level of noise complaints received by the Council has increased considerably, particularly relating to residential noise.
Noise Mapping			Currently the Glasgow agglomeration noise map covers a limited area. Further expansion of this map to include other areas will increase awareness of environmental noise issues.
Tranquillity Areas			There are no tranquillity maps developed for South Lanarkshire; however 80% of the area is classified as rural, therefore potentially tranquil.
Light Pollution			There is little data on light pollution across South Lanarkshire.

## Material assets and landscape

4.21 South Lanarkshire offers a wide variety of recreational activities. Many areas within South Lanarkshire are well serviced by both recreational green space and built facilities. Public access to the wider environment is improving through footpath and cycleways and the local Country Parks. The area has a diverse landscape that is rich in scenic value.

4.22 South Lanarkshire's landscape is characterised by its diverse range of land uses and cover and is dominated by features such as the Lowther Hills and the Clyde Valley – designated for its landscape value and importance. The diversity of landscape across the area is a key feature of South Lanarkshire and therefore it is important that it is preserved and promoted for wider public use through a range of opportunities.

4.23 South Lanarkshire has areas of dense population, where development poses a risk to the very landscape that provides the area with its local characteristics. It is important that the green belt, local recreational and green space networks are maintained, whilst continuing to develop appropriate vacant and derelict land.

Indicator	Current status	Trend direction	Explanation
Vacant & Derelict Land	G	↑	The area of vacant and derelict land has decreased through re-development. Recent economic conditions have seen some new areas becoming vacant.
Recreational Land	F	↔	Whilst redevelopment has increased specific recreational provisions, further improvements are necessary for green space provisions, particularly through linkage with other issues including biodiversity and habitat connectivity, and social/environmental deprivation.
Countryside Access	F	↑	It is envisaged the emerging core path network will increase general access to the wider countryside.
Landscape	G	↓	Some development is detrimental to the local landscape; however the South Lanarkshire Local Plan has helped in identifying development areas that are not detrimental to the overall landscape characteristics of the area.
Minerals	F	↔	Minerals remain an economically important resource, with some sites currently going through a closure phase.

## Cultural heritage

4.24 The historic and built heritage of South Lanarkshire is complex and varied, from Medieval Burghs such as Hamilton and Biggar through to New Lanark. There are numerous listed buildings and castles, particularly in the Medieval Burghs. In addition to those sites situated above ground there are a number of buried archaeological assets however the knowledge of such sites is limited. Pressures on historic assets, comes primarily from development, which could potentially result in damage to or the complete loss of sites of cultural significance.

4.25 The table below highlights the status of the majority of cultural heritage indicators as good and shows the trend as improvement. The Map 3 illustrates the available baseline data for cultural heritage indicators.

Indicator	Current status	Trend direction	Explanation
<b>Built Heritage</b>	G	↑	The level of designated protected sites, buildings and Scheduled Monuments in South Lanarkshire has increased along. Less than 2% of Listed Buildings are on the 'Buildings at Risk' register.
<b>Gardens &amp; Designed Landscapes</b>	G	↑	There are a further 2 additional sites added to the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes.
<b>Archaeological Sites</b>	F	↔	No change in the number of sites recorded, with only a limited number of buried sites known.
<b>World Heritage Site</b>	G	↑	Development continues at New Lanark tourism attraction, thus improving the facilities and infrastructure of the site as a whole.
<b>Battlefields</b>	L		There is limited information on the condition of battlefield sites, with less information on any additional associated sites.

### Key issues relating to the Minerals LDP

4.26 Schedule 3 (4) of the SEA Act requires that the ER includes a description of existing environmental problems, in particular those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance. The existing environmental problems (refer to above baseline data) requires to be considered in relation to the Minerals LDP and the likely affect to aggravate, reduce or otherwise effect current environmental problems.

4.27 The key environmental concerns relating to minerals development and the LDP are described in Planning Advice Note 50 and relate to:

- the effects of road traffic
- the effects of blasting, noise and dust
- visual landscape effects
- contamination and other effects on the water environment

4.28 In reviewing the environmental indicators for South Lanarkshire additional issues emerge as follows:

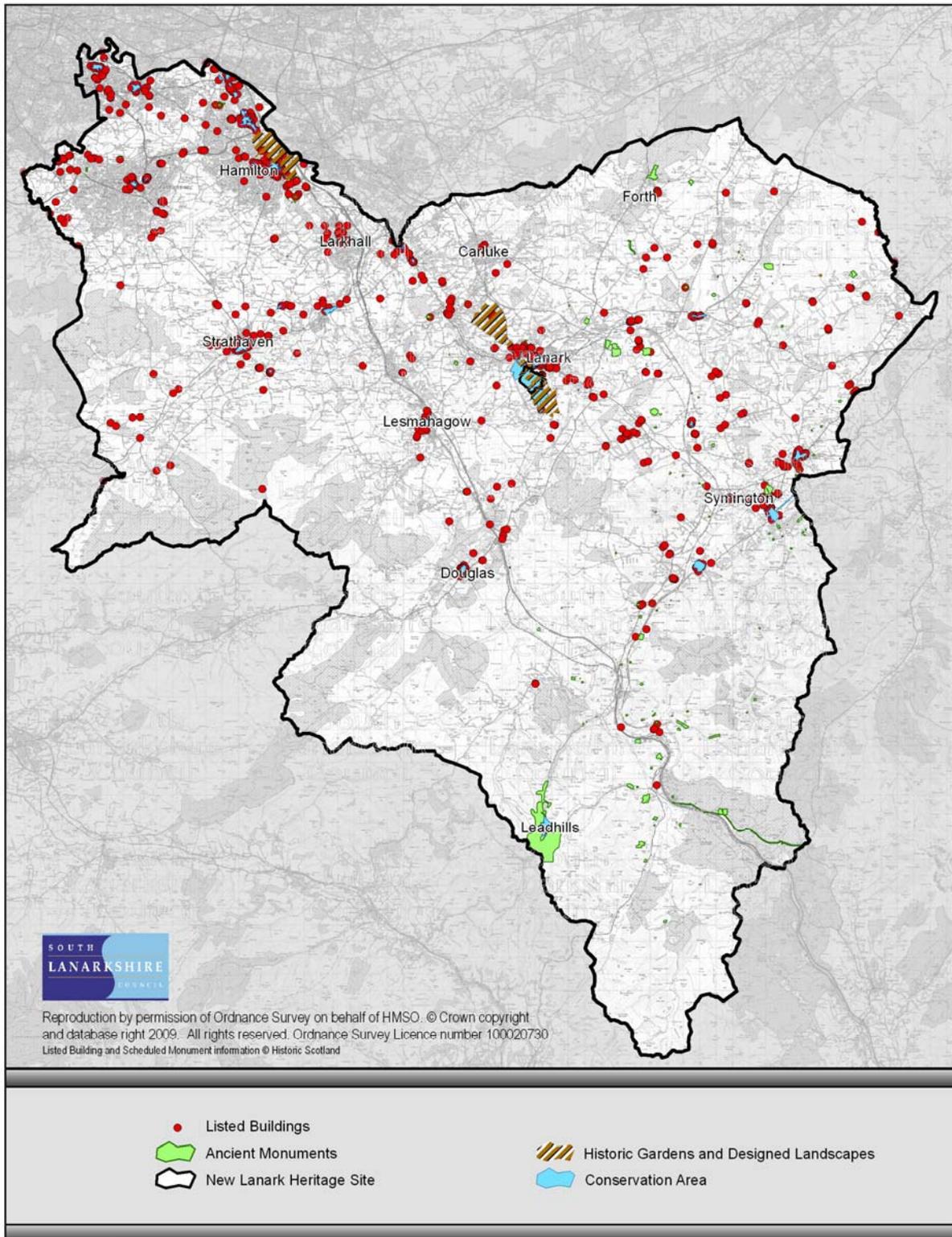
- designated sites for nature protection, protected species, ancient woodlands and habitats recognised in the national and local biodiversity action plan
- agricultural land, woodland and areas of peat land
- cumulative impacts where concentrations of sites occur

4.29 It is considered that through the SEA process these existing environmental concerns shall be taken into account and where necessary mitigation measures will ensure that the existing concerns highlighted will not be aggravated, and in some instances may be reduced.

## **Likely evolution of the environment without the Minerals LDP**

4.30 The SEA process involves an assessment of the evolution of the environment without the plan being implemented. There is an existing policy framework for the development of minerals proposals contained in the adopted Minerals Local Plan 2002, however new legislation and environmental policy has emerged since that point, for example in relation to air quality, biodiversity and the water environment. Therefore in the absence of the new Minerals LDP there would be some potential for negative effects on the environment. A lack of understanding of the vulnerability of biodiversity would make it more likely that measures to promote, prevent, reduce and offset adverse effects would not be put in place for future developments. Without new LDP there may be a greater risk of damage to soils and a lost opportunity to raise awareness of the links between soils and surface biodiversity. In the absence of the LDP this may lead to insensitive developments that erode landscape character qualities together with biodiversity.

**Map 4: Areas of high conservation and cultural value**



4.31 In relation to the current trends identified for the existing South Lanarkshire environment, if the Minerals LDP was not prepared then certain environmental indicators would deteriorate. Designated Areas and Local Nature Reserves could be negatively impacted upon together with soil and local air quality. The current trend for landscape and flooding is deteriorating and this would intensify without the LDP.

## 5 Development of the Assessment Criteria – SEA Objectives

5.1 The purpose of the SEA is to inform the development of the Minerals LDP by assessing the potential impacts of the plan on the environment. A useful way to describe, analyse and compare the environmental effects of the LDP is the use of environmentally-specific objectives (described as SEA objectives) and indicators. SEA objectives have been developed after a review of relevant policies, plans and programmes, the collection of environmental baseline data and the identification of potential environmental issues. The SEA objectives for the LDP that were identified in the scoping report were revisited which resulted in the revision of the wording of six of the objectives. This review is presented in Appendix 2, along with the assessment criteria, which was used to assist the overall assessment through considering in more detail the SEA Objectives and environmental indicators, which were used to consider the relevant baseline information and identifying any potential areas for future monitoring. These revised SEA objectives and criteria will be used as measures by which the environmental impacts of the Minerals LDP can be assessed. The SEA objectives are:

- To prevent the risk of loss and maintain the quality of international, national and locally protected sites and species of natural importance
- Protect and avoid irreversible loss of biodiversity
- Ensure a high standard of site restoration to enhance biodiversity the value of the wider environment
- Protect existing levels of amenity
- Minimise potential environmental impacts on the population
- Minimise the loss of sensitive soils - prime quality agricultural land, ancient woodland, and peat land.
- Prevent deterioration and where appropriate enhance the ecological status of the aquatic ecosystem
- Prevent deterioration in local air quality and minimise the impacts of noise pollution
- Minimise impacts on the essential infrastructure of communities
- Protect known mineral deposits from sterilisation
- Preserve and protect heritage assets, archaeological sites and culturally important features
- Maintain local landscape designations
- Prevent undermining of identified landscape characteristics

## 6 Developing Strategic Alternatives for the Minerals LDP

6.1 The SEA Act requires consideration of reasonable alternatives to the plan within the ER. There is a requirement that an ER is prepared to “*identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects on the environment of implementing*” the LDP, together with assessing reasonable alternatives to the plan.

6.2 The Council has taken the view that preparing the Minerals LDP is a necessity under the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 as the previous Minerals Local Plan is now out-of-date. Therefore there is no alternative to producing the plan. The MIR sets out five strategic policy alternatives for the spatial strategy of the LDP. These were assessed in line with the requirements set out in Schedule 3 of the SEA Act, against the SEA indicators (see section 4.4) and identified as having a positive, negative, uncertain or no environmental effect over a time period extending to 2030 (i.e. short-term 1-5 years, medium-term 5-10 years and long-term 10+ years). The full assessment can be reviewed in Appendix 3 – Assessment of Alternative Spatial Strategies. Table 3 below provides a summary of the assessment for the five alternatives.

**Table 3: Summary of the assessment of alternative spatial strategies**

Alternative	Score	Comment
1. Constrain new workings (sites) but protect reserves for the future.	✓✓/✗ <b>S-M</b>	Although this offers the greatest potential for environmental protection providing long-term gains across many of the environmental issues, it does not deliver the Scottish Government's minerals policy commitment and will reduce the capacity to meet minerals demand from indigenous supplies. This approach could potentially result in greater importation of minerals, thus impacting on environmental issues across a wider geographical area.
2. Allow new working anywhere subject to a range of operational controls	✗✗/✓ <b>S-M-L</b>	This alternative option affords the least level of protection towards all aspects of the environment with many of the impacts extending well past the lifetime of the Plan. Environmental protection would only be delivered through legislative and operation control measures with no selection criteria employed for future mineral site identification.
3. Identify an area for extraction and encourage fast working and completion.	✗✗/✓✓ <b>S-M</b>	There is a level of environmental protection afforded through this alternative approach, particularly through the identification of areas appropriate for mineral extraction. The majority of environmental issues would be generally over a short to medium time period which would be more dependent on the sites lifetime. The identification approach can include environmental constraints, such as buffer zones around sensitive areas. However the intense extraction approach has a greater potential to impact on more localised environmental issues, particularly upon sensitive receptors.
4. Phase extraction across South Lanarkshire and ensure that no further development is allowed for a period of time following completion.	✓✓/✗✗ <b>S-M-L</b>	Phased extraction allows some degree of environmental protection through identification of extraction sites. However such approach would not allow for full recovery before extraction in the area commenced again. In addition, there is the potential for greater localised cumulative effects over the extraction periods which would potentially result in effects extending over a longer time scale.
5. Identify specific areas of search/sites across South Lanarkshire	✓✓/✗ <b>S-M-L</b>	This approach can allow long-term mineral extraction opportunities, whilst at the same time offering optimal environmental protection through the identification of appropriate areas of search. Any potential environmental effects will be spread over a relatively long time scale depending on the lifetime of the site. This approach also allows the extraction of minerals to match demand and supply, whilst identifying and maintaining future reserves.
<b>Direction of Effects</b> Positive      Negative ✓ - Minor      ✗ - Minor      ○ - None      ? - Uncertain ✓✓ - Major      ✗✗ - Major		<b>Duration of effects</b> <b>S</b> - Short-term <b>M</b> - Medium-term <b>L</b> - Long-term

6.3 The assessment concluded that alternative 5 provides the best environmental option, whilst maintaining a positive policy position for mineral extraction. The process of assessing alternatives identified key issues and areas which have influenced the preparation of the MIR. These are:

- **Biodiversity:** To provide the highest level of protection towards biodiversity and habitat connectivity, policy should provide a protection mechanism at the site identification stage and a promotion mechanism at both the extraction and restoration stage. Policy relating to biodiversity must incorporate the actions for UK BAP and the SLC LBAP. Biodiversity issues are best incorporated in to site selection and operation conditions at the start of the planning process.
- **Population:** Provide policy that considers a variety on potential impacts on local sensitive human receptors and consider the potential for cumulative effects. Policy should also consider potential impacts associated with transportation to reduce impacts on the wider population.
- **Soils:** Identification of potential extraction sites must consider soil sensitivity and functional importance. These issues must also be addressed at the restoration stages to ensure maximum biodiversity benefits and soil function.
- **Water:** Policy guidance must consider the water environment as a whole (ecological, chemical and physiological) in order to reflect WFD requirements and the potential cumulative impact from individual sites on local water bodies. Further guidance for site restoration to maximise the incorporation of water bodies and/or the protection of water-based environments (e.g. groundwater) within the restoration process.
- **Air:** Policy issues relating to air quality must take in to consideration local air quality issues in relation to working practice and transportation of minerals, noise must be considered through mineral activities, whilst further consideration must also be given to potential cumulative effects across the local area in relation to multiple operational sites.
- **Material Assets:** The policy should aim to provide minerals for use whilst at the same time safeguard minerals for future use. The minerals plan should aim to maintain and/or improve local assets including the reduction in impacts on the local infrastructure.
- **Cultural Heritage:** Policy aims should drive to protect local site of heritage importance, preserve the integrity and setting of such sites from mineral extraction processes.
- **Landscape:** Both regional and local landscape should be preserved to reduce the visual impact associated with mineral activity, sensitive landscape characteristics should be identified to minimise local impacts and potential cumulative impacts.

## 7 Assessment of the Minerals LDP Objectives

7.1 The Minerals LDP objectives were assessed for their environmental effects and likely significance upon the environmental baseline. The objectives were assessed against the range of environmental issues set out in Schedule 3 of the SEA Act, using the SEA objectives which formed the assessment criteria. Full results of the assessment are set out in Appendix 4 – Compatibility analysis of objectives was informed by the following steps:

- Predicting potential environmental effects;
- Determining the magnitude of the effects and the sensitivity of the receptors;
- Evaluating the significance of the effects of implementation;
- Predicting the cumulative effects of the LDP;
- Developing mitigation measures to prevent, reduce or offset effects; and
- Revising assessment taking into account agreed mitigation measures.

7.2 The SEA objectives noted above, in section 5.0, were developed to measure the environmental performance of the Minerals LDP objectives. As a result of testing the LDP objectives

against the SEA objectives, there was some minor revision to the fourth objective leaving the LDP's objectives as:

- **To meet society's needs** – To contribute to the national supply of minerals to meet the needs of society and the economy;
- **To minimise effects on communities and maximise local economic benefits** – To minimise the potential adverse impact of minerals extraction on communities and maximise the economic benefits arising from development for local communities;
- **To protect the environment** – To protect international, national and locally designated species and areas of natural or built heritage importance from adverse impacts;
- **To safeguard resources** – To safeguard minerals from sterilisation to allow the possibility of future extraction;
- **To minimise impacts on infrastructure** – To minimise potential impacts from mineral operations on infrastructure, particularly roads, to preserve the vitality of local communities and businesses; and
- **To ensure excellence in working practices and restoration** – To ensure sensitive working practices during mineral extraction that minimise environmental and transport impacts; and once extraction has ceased, to ensure sites are reclaimed to a high standard and enhance the value of the wider environment.

7.3 The assessment noted that there are potentials for the Minerals LDP to enhance the quality of the local environment and quality of life within local communities. This could be achieved through the protection of local amenity, by protecting and promoting biodiversity, by achieving high standards of site restoration and through the enhancement of local assets such as path networks, recreation and nature conservation sites. Additional mitigation measures should be encouraged to maintain and/or reduce the impacts of extraction on either individual species or sensitive habitats where appropriate.

7.4 The biodiversity issue brought out specific points. The assessment identified the opportunity afforded by site assessment and site restoration to protect biodiversity and habitat networks during site working and at restoration to encourage a wide range of biodiversity through appropriate habitat creation and enhancing connectivity across habitats both within and adjacent to the site.

7.5 Further assessment of impacts of mineral extraction on the population was recommended at this stage. These issues have been considered in a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) the findings of which inform Section 8. This has considered issues relating to noise and air quality.

7.6 The assessment identified the strategic environmental value to be gained from the protection of sensitive soils formed by prime quality agricultural land, ancient woodland and peat land. Prime quality agricultural land and ancient woodland have been incorporated into the preferred spatial strategy for the LDP presented by the MIR. The MIR sets out the Council's preference, highlighted by this SEA assessment, not to consent to any further commercial extraction of peat.

## **8 Evaluating the potential environmental effects associated with the Minerals LDP**

8.1 The assessment of the alternatives in Section 5 concluded that Alternative's 1 and 5 provided the greatest environmental protection, with Alternative 5 – Identify specific areas of search/sites across South Lanarkshire, providing protection whilst delivering the Scottish Government's minerals policy commitment.

8.2 In this stage of the assessment consideration was given to the overall level of impact across both the LDP and SEA objectives in relation to:

- Direction of impact (positive or negative);

- Intensity of impact (major or minor positive or negative); and
- Duration of impact (short, medium or long term).

8.3 The results of the full assessment are shown in Appendix 5. In order to properly evaluate the policy options presented in the MIR two assessments were undertaken within the context of the alternative spatial strategy being progress through the SEA, after the initial assessment. The spatial strategy taken forward identified specific areas of search/sites across South Lanarkshire, with a series of alternative policies within the strategy considered within the assessment, as set out within preferred Option 1. Within the assessment Option 5, which considered financial Community Benefits and Option 6 Maximising Local Economic Benefits were not take forward for further assessment, as these dealt with issues that would not result in any significant environmental issues. One for the preferred options identified in the MIR and one for the identified alternatives where appropriate for consideration within the assessment. Overall the results of the assessment of the preferred options showed far more positive effects, highlighted by the green colours on the assessment matrix, than the alternatives which in the main returned negative environmental effects, as shown in orange/red shading on the matrix. Table 4 a-h outlines the key environmental effects of the preferred options for the LDP.

**Table 4: Summary of key environmental effects and receptors**

<b>a. Preferred Option 2: No supply chain constraints with LDP identifying appropriate locations for mineral development and protection from sterilisation</b>
<b>Biodiversity:</b> Identifying appropriate mineral locations should include designated and biodiversity rich/sensitive locations within the search criteria.
<b>Population and human health:</b> Using sensitive populations within the assessment criteria would benefit the wider local population, whilst no supply constrains would generate greater transport of minerals which could affect population across the wider area.
<b>Soil and Geology:</b> Sensitive soils within the assessment criteria would protect such soils however increase extraction to deliver regional demand may add pressure on such soils.
<b>Water:</b> Sensitive water bodies within the assessment criteria would protect the water environment; increased extraction to deliver regional demand could add pressure on such water bodies.
<b>Air and Noise:</b> There is the potential to spread extraction sites thus reducing the potential for localised air issues, however increased road transport would affect the wider area and other AQMAs.
<b>Material Assets:</b> There is the potential to spread transport which would have both a positive and negative effect on the road system, whilst identifying appropriate mineral sources will afford protection form future sterilisation.
<b>Cultural Heritage:</b> Any impacts are dependent on the cultural assets identified.
<b>Landscape:</b> Protecting both the local and regional landscape characteristics will be dependent on the mapping criteria.
<b>b. Preferred Option 3: Settlement buffer zones identified through Spatial Strategy Maps and continual monitoring and validation across active sites</b>
<b>Biodiversity:</b> Further monitoring for noise could have a positive impact on sensitive species, particularly during specific life cycle periods.
<b>Population and human health:</b> Buffer zones around settlements and continual monitoring would afford a positive benefit to local populations.
<b>Soil and Geology:</b> Further protection of the wider biodiversity could maintain overall soil function within the habitat setting.

<b>Water:</b> Further protection of the wider biodiversity could maintain the overall quality of the water environment.
<b>Air and Noise:</b> Continual monitoring would provide a proactive response to localised air/noise incidents potentially triggered by specific mineral operations.
<b>Material Assets:</b> Further monitoring of air emissions and transport movement could assist other regional LAQMAs.
<b>Cultural Heritage:</b> Noise monitoring could assist in reducing noise pollution thus maintaining the tranquil setting of some heritage assets.
<b>Landscape:</b> No clear relation between the proposed option and Landscape issues.

**c. Preferred Option 4: Sensitive routes identified through Spatial Strategy Map with operational transport routes away from sensitive receptors**

<b>Biodiversity:</b> No clear indication as to the potential effects on biodiversity issues.
<b>Population and human health:</b> Identifying sensitive transport routes within the region would benefit the local population, maintaining the amenity value of the area.
<b>Air and Noise:</b> The identification of sensitive transport networks could afford greater protection to declared and/or potential local AQMAs.
<b>Material Assets:</b> Identifying and maintaining transportation to non sensitive infrastructural routes would provide a positive benefit to the road system across the region.
<b>Cultural Heritage:</b> Transport routes away from sensitive areas could benefit culturally-rich areas.

**d. Preferred Option 7: No support to new commercial peat extraction operations and further monitoring of environmental issues including peat storage**

<b>Biodiversity:</b> Removal of further peat extraction for commercial purposes will benefit the local biodiversity, whilst additional benefits could be achieved through greater enhancement at restoration stages.
<b>Population and human health:</b> Amenity sites associated with local peat areas would remain a benefit to the local community.
<b>Soil and Geology:</b> Peat areas suitable for commercial purposes will be protected, whilst enhanced restoration measures could improve peat-based soils.
<b>Water:</b> Peat areas are important for water bodies, with enhanced restoration practices potentially improving such habitats.
<b>Cultural Heritage:</b> No further commercial peat extraction would protect existing commercially viable peat deposits.
<b>Landscape:</b> Peat areas are important aspects of the local landscape, this policy approach offers such landscapes future protection.

**e. Preferred Option 8: Mineral extraction should take into consideration landscape issues through landscape assessments and cumulative impacts considered**

<b>Biodiversity:</b> Taking in to consideration local landscape characters will afford some protection to the wider local biodiversity through protecting key habitat types and promoting such habitat connectivity through restoration programmes.
<b>Population and human health:</b> Taking in to consideration local landscape issues will afford protection to the local landscape as an amenity asset and the potential accumulative impacts visually this would have on the local population.

<b>Soil and Geology:</b> Some sensitive soil-based landscapes are included in sensitive landscape characters, thus additional protection could be afforded.
<b>Material Assets:</b> There is the potential to protect some habitats that may be considered within the landscape characters and considered a local asset.
<b>Cultural Heritage:</b> There is the potential to maintain the cultural setting of key culturally rich areas.
<b>Landscape:</b> Including landscape within the strategic map will protect sensitive landscape areas and reduce the potential for cumulative visual impacts at a local and regional scale.

<b>f. Preferred Option 9: Protect designated sites, protected species and the local biodiversity, with integrated habitat networks spatially mapped to afford protection or mitigation and enhancement through minerals working and restoration</b>
<b>Biodiversity:</b> Affords direct protection to all designated sites and provides opportunity for improving habitat connectivity across the area, particularly through appropriate site restoration.
<b>Population and human health:</b> Promotes the connectivity of habitats, providing enhancement to the local communities overall biodiversity.
<b>Soil and Geology:</b> Supporting connectivity of the wider biodiversity would have a positive benefit to functioning soils.
<b>Water:</b> Promoting the wider biodiversity will improve the overall quality and functionality of the water environment.
<b>Material Assets:</b> Improving the local biodiversity will improve the overall area as a local asset.
<b>Cultural Heritage:</b> Improvements to the local biodiversity and key habitat types will benefit the overall setting of key cultural assets.
<b>Landscape:</b> Improving habitat connectivity and structure will have a positive benefit to the local landscape.

<b>g. Preferred Option 10: Protect functioning flood plains through spatial strategy and support the objectives of WFD and River Basin Management in protecting the water environment, whilst mineral development should neither be at risk from flooding nor increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.</b>
<b>Biodiversity:</b> Affords protection to those habitats that are located within floodplain boundaries and further water-based habitats.
<b>Population and human health:</b> Minimises the risk of further flooding within densely populated sensitive flood areas.
<b>Soil and Geology:</b> Provides protection to functioning water-based soils and the wider habitats these soils support.
<b>Water:</b> Affords protection to the wider water environment and provides a functioning hydrological system to reduce the potential for further flooding in sensitive areas.
<b>Material Assets:</b> Affords protection to many floodplains that are rich in mineral deposits, such as sand.
<b>Cultural Heritage:</b> Potential to protect cultural assets that are at risk of flooding.
<b>Landscape:</b> Potential to protect designated landscapes and maintain the local landscape areas associated with floodplains.

<b>h. Preferred Option 11: New minerals operations will require a Site Waste Management Plan</b>
<b>Biodiversity:</b> Appropriate site backfilling will potentially improve/promote biodiversity rich

ecosystems on restored sites.
<b>Soil and Geology:</b> The WMP should assist in promoting functioning soils within restoration programmes rather than promoting general backfilling.
<b>Water:</b> Appropriate consideration to backfilling will promote the quality of both the groundwater and receiving water body.
<b>Material Assets:</b> Appropriate waste management may afford some protection to future mineral deposits within either a restoration context or the extraction of further buried minerals.
<b>Landscape:</b> Appropriate site restoration would have a benefit to the local landscape

8.4 The impact of mineral operations on the SEA objectives was considered by the assessment. The nature of effect was considered. By this is meant whether the effect has the potential to be cumulative and whether it permanent, temporary or reversible. The following points were noted:

- **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:** Although there will be an inevitable loss in biodiversity on a site specific basis, the overall preferred policy options will afford direct protection to designated areas, species and other sensitive habitats whilst at the same time improve the opportunity to recreate habitats through appropriate restoration programmes. The potential for the use of a mineral specific Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) will improve biodiversity within the operations of certain sites and will help to reduce any negative impacts associated with general site operations. Additional monitoring through the BAP would ensure biodiversity is fully considered and the potential for individual sites are achieved.
- **Population and Human Health:** The use of buffer zones around settlement areas and the identification of sensitive transportation routes will have a positive effect on the associated impacts of mineral activities on human health. The additional consideration of local high valued amenity areas in specially identifying potential mineral activity sites and the incorporation of such amenity assets through site restoration programmes should improve the perception of mineral activities on communities as a whole.
- **Soil and Geology:** The protection of designated sites (including geological features), no support to further commercial peat extraction, the protection of functioning floodplains that will reduce the risk for flooding elsewhere and the consideration of wider landscape visual issues will afford a cumulative protection for many sensitive soils within South Lanarkshire. Further enhancement of soils will come from appropriate restoration programmes, considering the functionality of soils in supporting a strong bio-diverse habitat.
- **Water Environment:** The protecting of hydrologically important habitats (including upland designated sites and peat-rich areas) will protect the natural flow of water whilst protecting functioning floodplains will relieve pressures on water bodies, thus helping to maintain water quality. Further enhancement of water environments will come through appropriate restoration programmes, supported by a minerals specific BAP.
- **Air and Noise:** The inclusion of settlement buffer zones will protect a range of sensitive receptors (including potential local AQMAs) from exposure to elevated atmospheric emissions from minerals activities. In addition, buffer zones will also afford further reductions in potential noise pollution exposure.
- **Material Assets:** Minimising the potential impacts on sensitive community infrastructure will synergistically afford further protection on human health through reduced exposure to mineral transportation emissions; maintain core network routes for walking etc, whilst at the same time reducing the potential contributions to local AQMAs. Maintaining a wide supply chain and taking into consideration visual landscape issues will further protect communities from potential impacts associated with mineral activities, whilst the protection of mineral resources from sterilisation will

- **Cultural Heritage:** The identification and restriction of sensitive mineral operational transportation routes will afford protection to some high-valued local heritage areas (including conservation areas etc.), whilst the inclusion of landscape assessments to minimise cumulative impacts will protect the visual setting of other culturally rich areas. However transportation may be forced through other areas not initially identified as potentially sensitive.
- **Landscape:** The Spatial Strategy Map will ensure that a full range of landscape issues are considered and protect sensitive landscape characters against potential cumulative impacts associated with mineral activities. This will have an added benefit to local communities. Other actions will contribute to the overall protection of the local landscape, including the protection of designated sites, the promotion of connectivity between habitats, maintaining functioning floodplains and appropriate site restorations.

8.5 Appendix 5 also records the results of the assessment of the alternative options considered. These options are:

- Alternative Option 2: Constraints and maintained local supply chain
- Alternative Option 3: No settlement buffer zone
- Alternative Option 4: Specified times and routes for operational traffic with transport safety developed for all applications
- Alternative Option 7: Support peat extraction through set criteria policy dependent on environmental and heritage suitability
- Alternative Option 8: Minerals extraction takes into consideration local landscape issues that include design of extraction proposal and restoration schemes through existing criteria policy
- Alternative Option 9: No alternative identified
- Alternative Option 10: Flood plains are not spatially identified and exemption may allow certain mineral extraction activities, whilst water quality is presented spatially with extraction prevented within sensitive water buffer areas
- Alternative Option 11: No alternative identified

## 9 Proposed mitigation and enhancement measures

9.1 Schedule 3 (7) of the SEA Act requires an explanation of “the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.” The SEA demonstrated that the preferred options outlined in the MIR should prevent significant negative impacts upon the environment. Where potential negative effects were identified, although not considered significant through the assessment, mitigation and environmental enhancement measures were developed. The assessment identified proposed actions to ensure the promotion, prevention, reduction and offset of any significant adverse effects on the environment. The table below details those measures identified for the preferred options and the actions taken in the MIR to incorporate these.

**Table 5: Mitigation and enhancement measures**

Preferred option		Mitigation measure	Enhancement measure	Action taken
2	No supply chain constraints with LDP identifying appropriate locations for mineral development and protection from	Control mineral extraction rates and mineral transportation across the area to deliver	Add appropriate strategic criteria to the spatial strategy maps to afford best environmental and population	Criteria such as buffer areas, international/national heritage designations and sensitive transportation routes

	sterilisation.	regional demands.	protection.	have been added to the Spatial Strategy Map.
3	Settlement buffer zones identified through Spatial Strategy Maps and continual monitoring and validation across active sites.	No measure identified.	Monitoring procedures and equipment should be verified to UK accredited standards.	Reference is made to the standards and credentials of monitors.
4	Sensitive routes identified through Spatial Strategy Map with operational transport routes away from sensitive receptors.	No measure identified.	Further enhancement could be achieved through identifying routes in association with sensitive biodiversity issues and culturally-rich areas.	Further assessment did not reveal any areas where this could be added to the Spatial Strategy.
7	No support to new commercial peat extraction operations and further monitoring of environmental issues including peat storage.	Storage of peat throughout the working life of the minerals operation should be kept to a minimum and monitored.	Where appropriate, site restoration should promote functioning peat-based habitats.	Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on restoration and after use is suggested in the MIR.
8	Mineral extraction should take into consideration landscape issues through landscape assessments and cumulative impacts considered.	No measure identified.	No measure identified.	-
9	Protect designated sites, protected species and the local biodiversity, with integrated habitat networks spatially mapped to afford protection or mitigation and enhancement through minerals working and restoration.	No measure identified.	Further enhancement of biodiversity interests could be achieved through a minerals specific BAP, whilst spatial identification of sensitive/agricultural soils could improve protection.	The suggestion for a minerals development specific BAP has been added to this preferred option.
10	Protect functioning flood plains through spatial strategy and support the objectives of WFD and River Basin Management in protecting the water environment, whilst mineral development should neither be at risk from flooding nor increase the risk of	No measure identified.	Promote functioning water bodies within the restoration of mineral sites and ensure appropriate restoration practices promote soil layering to reduce potential impacts on the groundwater.	This can be covered within the SPG referred to in relation to preferred option 7.

	flooding elsewhere.			
11	New minerals operations will require a Site Waste Management Plan.	No measure identified.	No measure identified.	-

9.2 These measures are supplemented by further factors that came from the same assessment when the SEA objectives and environmental issues were considered. The following factors have been incorporated in the preferred options to mitigate impacts and/or enhance the environment:

- **Biodiversity, flora and fauna:** The incorporation of buffer zones, enhanced monitoring and minerals specific biodiversity guidance.
- **Population and human health:** Considering local access, improving community engagement in restoration schemes and identifying buffer zones and sensitive transport routes.
- **Soil and geology:** Monitoring the handling and storage of peat when removed as over burden.
- **Water environment:** Encouragement of water habitats within site restoration and enduring groundwater protection.
- **Air and noise:** The incorporation of buffer zones and enhanced monitoring regimes.
- **Material assets:** Identifying potential mineral assets to prevent sterilisation to allow future extraction and identification of sensitive traffic routes.
- **Cultural heritage:** Identification and protection of built heritage resources.
- **Landscape:** Identification of landscapes sensitive to development and to cumulative effects of development.

## 10 Evaluating the policies within the proposed Minerals LDP

10.1 The CAs provided comments on the Minerals LDP MIR and the SEA Environment Report which were consulted upon over a 6 week period from the 15<sup>th</sup> April to the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010. Comments were considered within the finalisation of the ER and the assessment of the policies set out within the proposed Minerals LDP (see Appendix 6 for comments and SLC response)

10.2 The final assessment of the policy context set out within the proposed Minerals LDP considered the overall level of impact across both the policy areas and SEA objectives. The policies were assessed in line with the requirements set out in Schedule 3 of the SEA Act, against the SEA objectives (see section 5) and identifying the:

- Direction of impact (positive or negative);
- Intensity of impact (major or minor positive or negative); and
- Duration of impact over a time period extending to 2030 (i.e. short-term 1-5 years, medium-term 5-10 years and long-term 10+ years).

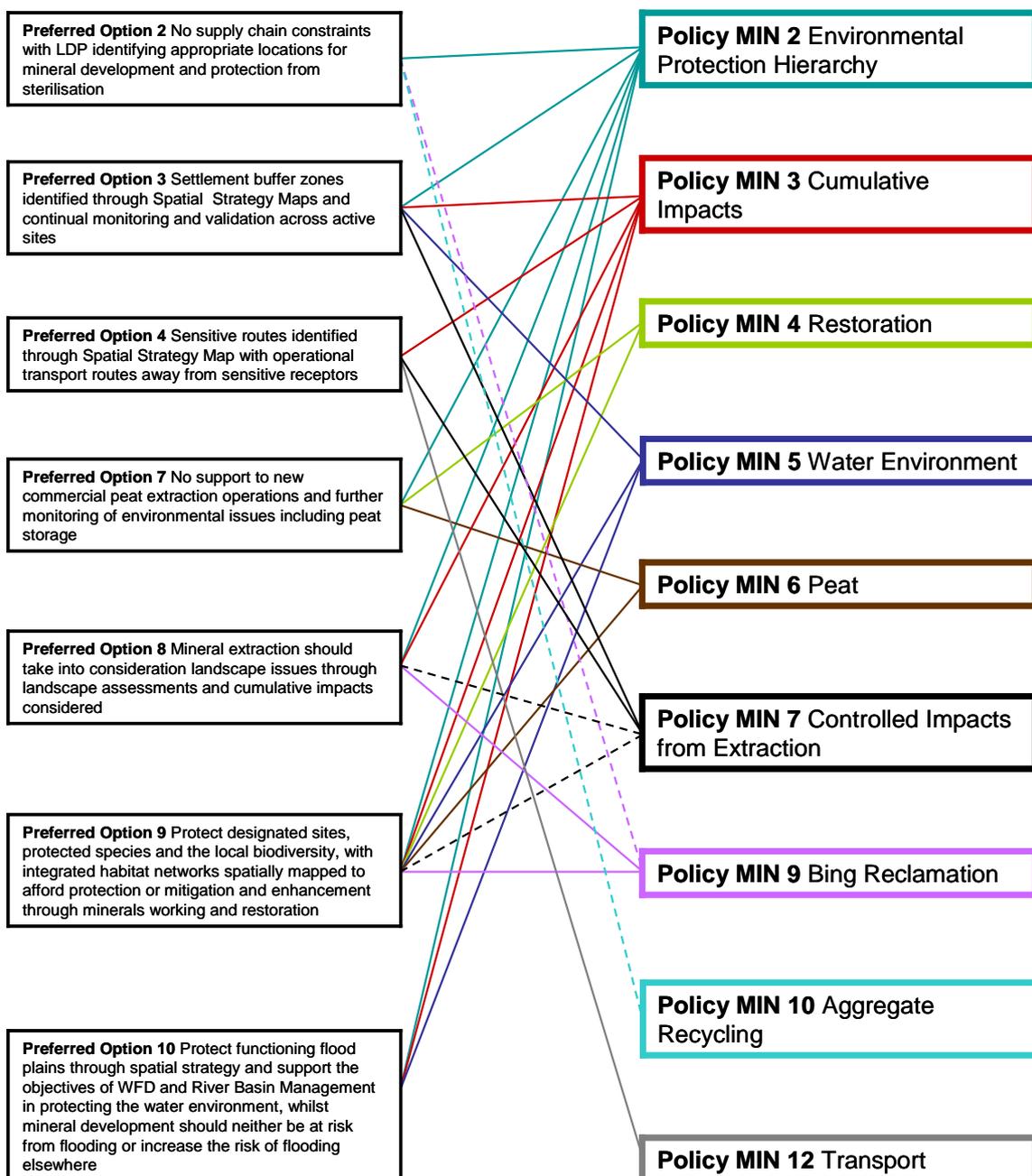
10.3 The policies within the proposed Minerals LDP were developed through the Preferred Options identified within the Minerals LDP MIR and assessed through the SEA within Section 8 of the ER and the comments received through the consultation process. The policies set out within the proposed Minerals LDP consisted of:

- Policy MIN 1 – Spatial Framework**
- Policy MIN 2 – Environmental Protection Hierarchy**
- Policy MIN 3 – Cumulative Impacts**
- Policy MIN 4 – Restoration**
- Policy MIN 5 – Water Environment**
- Policy MIN 6 – Peat**
- Policy MIN 7 – Controlling Impacts from Extraction Sites**
- Policy MIN 8 – Community Benefit**

- Policy MIN 9 – Bing Reclamation**
- Policy MIN 10 – Aggregate Recycling**
- Policy MIN 11 – Supporting Information**
- Policy MIN 12 – Transport**
- Policy MIN 13 – Legal Agreements**
- Policy MIN 14 – Protection of Resources**
- Policy MIN 15 – Monitoring and Enforcement**

10.4 Figure 3 illustrates how the Preferred Options identified within the MIR have been taken forward within the proposed Minerals LDP. The intentions of the Preferred Options have been taken forward across more than one policy area, insuring that the environmental intentions within the MIR are fully implemented within the policies set out in the proposed Minerals LDP.

**Figure 3: Illustrates the link between the Preferred Options within the Minerals MIR and the developed policies within the proposed Minerals LDP**



10.5 The results of the full assessment are shown in Appendix 7 – Evaluation of LDP Policies. In evaluating the policies set out within the draft MLDP, Policies MIN 1, MIN 8, MIN 11, MIN 13, MIN 14 and MIN 15 were not take forward for further assessment. MIN 1 was the basis of the Preferred Option 5 of the Spatial Strategy which was previously assessed in detail (see Table 3, Section 6). It was concluded that the other policies would not result in any significant environmental effects due to the intention of the policy areas covered. Overall the results of the assessment of the policies demonstrated a high level of environmental protection through the illustration of positive effects, highlighted by the green colours on the assessment matrix (see Appendix 7). Table 6 a-h outlines the key environmental effects of the preferred options for the LDP.

**Table 6: Summary of the key environmental outcomes associated with the assessment of the proposed Minerals LDP policies**

<b>a. MIN 2 – Environmental Protection Hierarchy</b>
<b>Biodiversity:</b> Many of the Cat.1 sites are protected through International legislation, Cat.2 sites are more susceptible to destruction and fragmentation, but can offer greater community benefits and connectivity, the policy aims to afford a level of protection to such sites.
<b>Population and human health:</b> The regional impacts from this policy are more uncertain, whilst the potential for benefits at the community level a more significant through protection of community-based Cat 2 sites.
<b>Soil and Geology:</b> Many of the more sensitive soils sites are within Cat. 2 sites, although there is a level of protection afforded by the policy, this is lower then afforded to Cat 1 sites.
<b>Water:</b> Although Floodplains are included in Cat. 2 sites, further consideration may be required to wider sensitive water bodies on a site-specific basis (see MIN 5).
<b>Air and Noise:</b> The use of localised buffer zones for sensitive receptors, such as urban areas will reduce the direct impact from such sites, whilst the wider effects from transport are less known.
<b>Material Assets:</b> It is unclear the effects this policy will have on the wider infrastructure of the community and beyond.
<b>Cultural Heritage:</b> Cat. 1 site are well protected through International legislation, whilst those in Cat. 2 are protected there remains the potential for some level of effects on historical and cultural assets.
<b>Landscape:</b> The policy affords a higher level of protection towards local landscape issues, due to the added protection from settlement buffers.
<b>b. MIN 3 – Cumulative Impacts</b>
<b>Biodiversity:</b> The use of cumulative consideration would reduce the potential for effects from multiple mineral sites where individual impacts are less significant on site/habitat integrity.
<b>Population and human health:</b> Consideration of the cumulative effects from mineral and other developments at community level will afford significant protection to the community.
<b>Soil and Geology:</b> The consideration of development pressures within a specific area should reduce the potential impact on sensitive soils as an added environmental issue.
<b>Water:</b> The potential impact on water body status can come from multiple sources and therefore the consideration of mineral development in relation to both such sources and in relation to other sites will reduce the potential for cumulative effects on water bodies.
<b>Air and Noise:</b> Considering the cumulative effect mineral activities have on the transport network and the potential impacts on either declared or proposed LAQMAs will significantly reduce the negative impact on localised air quality.

**Material Assets:** Identifying the cumulative use of the road network will reduce potential damage to the infrastructure.

**Cultural Heritage:** Consideration of cumulative effects on historic and cultural assets will afford protection against the effects from multiple sources.

**Landscape:** Considering the cumulative impact of mineral development upon the local landscape should afford protection to the local landscape characteristics.

#### c. MIN 4 - Restoration

**Biodiversity:** Appropriate restoration programmes will seek to create habitats and improve the connectivity of existing habitats in promoting species richness across a wider area.

**Population and human health:** The local amenity value of the restoration area will be considered through the restoration plan, thus aiming to provide an added benefit to the local community.

**Soil and Geology:** Although restoration should aim to restore land to its original quality, there will be a loss to sensitive soil structures through the action of the mineral extraction process, whilst restoration will follow best practice to maintain/improve sensitive soils such as peat-based soils.

**Water:** The restoration of former sites will aim to incorporate functioning water bodies to encourage the water ecology and enhance the water environment; There is the potential for some impacts on groundwater, which will be considered on an individual site basis.

**Material Assets:** There will be minimal impact on the infrastructure through the restoration phase, additional path networks could be incorporated within the restoration plan.

**Cultural Heritage:** The effects on the cultural heritage of the area are unknown.

**Landscape:** The restoration phase should aim to improve the landscape value of the local area, from one of formal working site to one of improved setting.

#### d. MIN 5 – Water Environment

**Biodiversity:** The protection of the water environment will reduce any adverse affect of the associated biota.

**Population and human health:** The policy aims to protect the existing amenity value of the water bodies at a community level across South Lanarkshire.

**Soil and Geology:** Protecting the wider water environment should afford some benefit to areas associated with sensitive soils such as ancient woodlands that are associated with water gorges within South Lanarkshire.

**Water:** The aim of the policy is to prevent any significant deterioration across the water bodies within South Lanarkshire, whilst promoting the enhancement of the wider water environment within the workings of mineral sites and the restoration process at such sites.

**Material Assets:** It is uncertain as to the overall impact of this policy whilst there will be some protection to the water environment as a material assets for the area.

**Cultural Heritage:** The overall impact of this policy on cultural heritage assets across South Lanarkshire is uncertain however the setting of such sites will remain unaffected.

**Landscape:** Although the overall impact of this policy is uncertain, there will be protection to local and regional landscape characters directly related to the water environment.

#### e. MIN 6 – Peat

**Biodiversity:** The potential for peat removal for access to other minerals will lead to the loss of such habitats, whilst the use of good practice on peat storage and restorations will be promoted to

minimise the loss.
<b>Population and human health:</b> It is uncertain the overall effect this will have at the population level.
<b>Soil and Geology:</b> The removal of peat through mineral extractions will result in the loss of some sensitive peat-based soil.
<b>Water:</b> It is uncertain the overall affect this will have on the water environment, even though peat-based soils are important water holding soils.
<b>Air and Noise:</b> Although peat extraction or removal will not directly affect local air quality, the removal or disturbance of peat will promote carbon release.
<b>Material Assets:</b> Although there will be some protection to peat assets through no new extraction sites, there will still be the potential for some loss through other mineral activities.
<b>Cultural Heritage:</b> There will be potential for some loss in unknown archaeological sites through continual mineral activities.
<b>Landscape:</b> Peat areas dominated many important landscapes within South Lanarkshire, with the potential for both positive and negative effects through no new peat extraction sites and continual peat removal for mineral activities.

<b>f. MIN 7 – Controlled Impacts from Extraction</b>
<b>Biodiversity:</b> Monitoring the extended impacts of mineral sites activity beyond the site boundary will afford an extended level of habitat protection.
<b>Population and human health:</b> The impacts on local communities through mineral activities should be minimised through the key focus of this policy in reducing and minimising the effects on the local population through appropriate monitoring regimes set up to consider potential issues.
<b>Soil and Geology:</b> Although the overall policy impact is uncertain there is the potential to expand the monitoring of such sites to include the impacts associated at a local level to the infrastructure of certain sensitive habitats.
<b>Water:</b> Controlling the working practice through appropriate monitoring of the surrounding water should promote a high level of protection to the water environment.
<b>Air and Noise:</b> Monitoring the impact of the minerals activity on the local air quality should reduce any potential for atmospheric exceedance in air quality standards.
<b>Material Assets:</b> Monitoring the potential impacts of minerals activities on the road infrastructure should afford a degree of protection to the integrity of the infrastructure and the potential for traffic accident hotspots.
<b>Cultural Heritage:</b> Through appropriate monitoring of mineral activities there is the potential to reduce any impacts on cultural assets and individual historic sites.

<b>g. MIN 9 – Bing Reclamation</b>
<b>Biodiversity:</b> Although there are no bings within close proximity to designated sites there is the potential for both positive and negative effects on local biodiversity particularly in relation to those bings that have re-colonised habitats.
<b>Population and human health:</b> It is uncertain as to the amenity value of such sites, with the potential for both positive long-term benefits and short-term effect through the extraction processes at a local level.
<b>Air and Noise:</b> There is the potential for some localised deterioration in air quality through emission of dust and increased vehicle usage.
<b>Material Assets:</b> There is the potential for increased pressure on the local transport infrastructure

through bing extractions.
<b>Cultural Heritage:</b> The overall effects on the historic environment are unknown, however some bings are regarded as a cultural identity of the industrial past of the area.
<b>Landscape:</b> There is a greater potential to improve the local landscape character within some communities through the removal and restoration for the bing site.

<b>h. MIN 10 – Aggregate Recycling</b>
<b>Biodiversity:</b> This policy will not significantly affect the integrity of any designated or locally important site, but will aim to reduce the need for mineral extraction activities through appropriate recycling.
<b>Population and human health:</b> There is the potential for both positive and negative effects on local populations depending on location, activities and impact on local transport infrastructure.
<b>Soil and Geology:</b> The promotion of aggregate recycling will aim to reduce the overall need for mineral extractions.
<b>Water:</b> The effects are uncertain and depending on future site location.
<b>Air and Noise:</b> There is the potential for some localised deterioration in air quality through emission of dust and increased vehicle usage.
<b>Material Assets:</b> There is the potential for increase use of the local transport infrastructure through the recycling process.
<b>Cultural Heritage:</b> The overall effects on the historic environment are unknown, however there is the potential for some negative effects on cultural assets depending on location.
<b>Landscape:</b> The overall effects on the landscape at a regional scale will not be regarded as significant, whilst there will be some potential for localised effects.

<b>i. MIN 12 Transport</b>
<b>Population and human health:</b> The proposed policy is aimed at minimising the potential impact mineral related transport will have on the local community, through imposing haulage routes etc.
<b>Air and Noise:</b> Emissions from the transportation of minerals and the extraction process can potentially contribute to localised air quality issues.
<b>Material Assets:</b> The policy aims to provide level of protection to the transport network through the identification of sensitive routes to reduce level of damage or over-usage.
<b>Cultural Heritage:</b> There is the potential for impacts on culturally rich areas from excessive transport whilst the policy aims to minimise this through the identification of haulage routes and sensitive receptors/areas.

10.6 The assessment identified the potential effects associated with implementing the policies set out within the proposed Minerals LDP against the SEA objectives. The intention of the assessment was to determine whether the effects were cumulative, permanent, temporary or reversible in nature in relation to the policies and their key themes. The following points were noted:

- **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:** Many of the effects on biodiversity associated with mineral activates are considered irreversible in the sense that sites are stripped during mineral extraction, with the potential for further habitat fragmentation through the cumulative effect of either site extension or further localised sites. Through restoration there is the potential to incorporate a long-term programme of habitat reconstruction. Although mineral activities will inevitably result in biodiversity loss on a site-specific basis, the policies set out within the draft LDP will afford

- **Population and Human Health:** There is the potential for significant impacts on wellbeing at a community level particularly through secondary and synergistic effects from visual and other perceived issues. The HIA did not identify the potential for direct effect on human health, with issues such as air quality below National Air Quality Levels. The introduction of buffer zones around settlement areas through MIN 2, the consideration of cumulative impacts through MIN 3 and the direct control of mineral activities at individual sites through MIN 7 should minimise the potential community-related effects. The use of pre-determined transportation routes away from sensitive receptors will have a positive effect on human health, through identifying hotspot areas and directing mitigation measures against issues such as increased congestion, accident rates and potential AQMAs.
- **Soil and Geology:** Mineral activity will result in the permanent loss of associated geological features, with the potential loss in soil structure and function, including high-carbon based soils and peat. The policies set out within the LDP aim to protect the most sensitive of soils and assist where possible the re-development of soil function through restoration, with MIN 2 and MIN 3 providing a level of protection for the most sensitive soils, whilst MIN 6 along with MIN 4 providing the basis for promoting the maintenance and restoration of soil function.
- **Water Environment:** Through mineral activities there is the potential for both short and long-term effects on the water environment, both in terms the ecological and physical status of the water bodies and groundwater status. The policies set out within the LDP aim to protect various aspects of the water environment through direct impacts associated with site working MIN 7 and the selection of potential mineral sites through MIN 2, MIN 3 and the promotion of the water environment through MIN 5.
- **Air and Noise:** All mineral activities emit differing levels of dust, light, noise and vibration throughout the lifetime of the site. These effects are time-bound to the lifetime of the site and are governed by the specific areas of working or through the key transport routes associated with mineral haulage. Such affects have the potential to disturb communities and individual species within sensitive habitats. The inclusion of settlement buffer zones within MIN 2, the consideration of accumulative effects through MIN 3 and controls over working practices (MIN 7) and transportation routes (MIN 12) aim to minimise the potential impacts on such receptors.
- **Material Assets:** Via transportation of minerals from working sites there is the potential for direct impacts on the transportation infrastructure. These impacts can be limited to the lifetime of the working sites depending on location. The policies set out within the LDP aim to minimise the effects on the transportation infrastructure across communities particularly through the early identification of sensitive transport routes (MIN 12) and the consideration of cumulative impacts across other mineral activities (MIN 3).
- **Cultural Heritage:** Mineral activities could potentially result in the permanent loss of some unknown buried cultural assets, whilst at the same time provide a mechanism to identify and record such assets. These sites will be considered on an individual site basis. Designated historic and cultural assets are afforded a level of protection through MIN 2, with the potential for cumulative effects upon their setting considered through MIN 3, whilst MIN 12 will consider the effects associated with mineral transportation through sensitive culturally rich areas.
- **Landscape:** Mineral operations can results in long-term landscape impacts through visual effects. These impacts are normally restricted to the operational life of the site, with restoration aimed at promoting the reinstatement or improvement of the landscape at a regional or local level. Sensitive landscape areas are identified within MIN 2, whilst the potential for cumulative effects are considered through MIN 3 within the LDP. The aim of the policies are set to afford

## 11 Mitigation and enhancement measures identified for the proposed Minerals LDP policies

11.1 Schedule 3 (7) of the SEA Act requires an explanation of “the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.” The SEA demonstrated that the policies outlined in the proposed Minerals LDP should prevent significant negative impacts upon the environment and the local community. Where there are potential negative effects identified, mitigation measures were identified, whilst further enhancement measures were developed for those effects not considered significant through the assessment. The assessment identified proposed actions to ensure the promotion, prevention, reduction and offset of any significant adverse effects on the environment. The table below details those measures identified for the policies and the actions taken in the proposed Minerals LDP to incorporate these.

**Table 7 Mitigation and enhancement measures identified for the proposed Minerals LDP policies**

Minerals LDP policy		Mitigation measure	Enhancement measure	Action taken
MIN 1	Spatial Framework	No measure identified.	The main aim of the overarching spatial framework is to allow mineral development whilst affording protection to both the environment and the local community therefore equal emphasis should be placed on community.	The policy has been reworded to reflect the overall character of the actual spatial framework intention to afford protection to both the environment and communities.
MIN 2	Environmental Protections Hierarchy	No measure identified.	The policy places emphasis on sites already protected by international provision, further emphasis should be placed on locally important habitats.	Consideration will be given to such sites through Cat 2 and 3, with further consideration conditions imposed on permitting the proposed development.
MIN 3	Cumulative Impacts	No measure identified.	The cumulative effects from existing and proposed development should consider environmental issues in relation to existing pressures.	Wording within the text has been adapted to consider both the wider environmental issues and existing pressures.
MIN 4	Restoration	Consider the	Restoration should	Further consideration

Minerals LDP policy		Mitigation measure	Enhancement measure	Action taken
		impact on MIN 2, 5, 6 and 8.	seek to improve local habitat connectivity and compliment SAC/SPA sites to promote the designated features or interests out with the site boundaries.	has been given to the interaction between policies within the LDP, whilst habitat enhancement measures through restoration will be considered in relation to local issues as appropriate.
MIN 5	Water Environment	No measure identified.	Groundwater and the ecological status of the water environment should be emphasised within the policy.	The wording of the policy has been revised to ensure the water environment as a whole is fully considered.
MIN 6	Peat	Further minimise peat extraction or disturbance	Promote the use of best practice in storage and restoration of peat areas.	Many of the ecologically-rich peat sites are within high conservation interests sites and are protected through MIN 2, whilst ancillary extraction relating to other mineral activities will follow best practice to minimise degradation and promote peat formation through appropriate restoration practice.
MIN 7	Controlled Impacts from Extraction	Promote the ecological monitoring of active mineral sites.	Promote monitoring out-with the mineral site boundaries for environmental issues such as air quality.	Further consideration will be given to extend the monitoring requirements on a site by site basis.
MIN 8	Community Benefit	No measure identified.	Community benefit funds could be used to promote local environmental enhancement projects.	These are considered within the fund structure on a community basis.
MIN 9	Bing Restoration		Through Bing workings policies MIN 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 12 should be considered.	The intention of the policies set out within the Minerals LDP is that they are cross-referenced throughout the assessment of mineral activities.

Minerals LDP policy		Mitigation measure	Enhancement measure	Action taken
MIN 10	Aggregate Recycling	Consideration should be given to the need for restoration plans within the scope of some recycling applications.		Consideration will be given to restoration plans within appropriate recycling activities.
MIN 12	Transport	Exclude where possible both designated and potential LAQMAs within designated haulage routes.	Include the identification of areas of high conservation value within the assessment criteria to identify potential risks to such sites	Supporting text will be included to consider further environmental issues relating to transportation routes, including local air quality and sensitive conservation areas.

## 12 Monitoring Strategy

12.1 In order to prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse effects once the Minerals LDP has been adopted a monitoring plan has been developed (SEE Table 8) The aim of developing the monitoring plan is to assist in the early identification of potential environmental issues (either positive or negative) associated with the implementation of the Minerals LDP. The monitoring plan will incorporate appropriate comments received through the consultation process. Monitoring will be conducted annually with the Minerals LDP reviewed as required.

**Table 8: Proposed monitoring plan for the Minerals LDP**

Policy	Key Objective	Measure	Responsible Authority
MIN 1 <b>Spatial Framework</b>	Minimise the impacts of mineral activity on the environment and local communities.	All future mineral working conform to appropriate policies.	SLC
		All mineral activities supported with Environmental Assessments, where appropriate.	SLC
		Location and design of future mineral workings.	SLC
MIN 2 <b>Environmental Protection Hierarchy</b>	No new mineral extraction in Cat. 1 areas.	Location of mineral workings.	SLC
		Designated areas and site condition status (SAC and SPA sites).	SNH
	No new mineral extraction in Cat. 2	Location of mineral workings.	SLC

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Key Objective</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Responsible Authority</b>
	& 3 areas subject to criteria.	Designated areas and site conditions (SSSI and LNRs).	SNH/SLC
		Native woodland cover.	FC/SLC
		Ancients Woodland Cover.	FC/SLC
	Retention of prime agricultural land	The loss of prime quality land.	SG/SLC
	Recording and protection of archaeological features	Maintain Archaeological Sites and Monuments database.	HS/WoSAS/SLC
	Reduce the number of historic and conservation features affected by mineral workings	Location and design of mineral workings	SLC
	All new mineral workings will not adversely impact upon visual amenity.	Location and design of mineral workings	SLC
	Minimise the potential for mineral related impacts on the local community.	Localised area health statistics	SG/NHS/SLC
	Protection of key landscapes	Location and design of mineral workings	SLC
		Design and quality of restorations proposals.	SLC
<b>MIN 3 Cumulative Impacts</b>	Minimise the cumulative impacts of minerals activity on the environment and local communities.	Location of mineral workings.	SLC
		Future mineral working conform to appropriate policies.	SLC
<b>MIN 4 Restoration</b>	All new workings must set out a restoration programme.	Quality of restoration programme and inclusion of environmental consideration.	SLC
		Quality of restored sites	
	Suitability of after-use scheme.	Appropriate after-use proposals.	SLC
	Bing Reclamation.	Reclamation of bing workings.	SLC
	An increase in public access provisions	Record number of and length of RoW, footpaths,	SLC

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Key Objective</b>	<b>Measure</b>	<b>Responsible Authority</b>
		bridleways etc	
	Require all new mineral workings to be covered by a restoration bond	Submission of restoration bonds	SLC
<b>MIN 5 Water Environment</b>	No change to water courses, surface water and groundwater.	Number of water bodies achieving good or high ecological status.	SEPA/SLC
		Number of water bodies protected from deterioration in status as a result of the plan.	SEPA/SLC
		Number of watercourses requiring alteration or likely to deteriorate as a result of the plan.	SEPA/SLC
		Number of mineral related water pollution incidents.	SLC/SEPA
<b>MIN 6 Peat</b>	Overall reduction in peat extraction.	Area of raised bogs and upland peat.	SNH/SLC
		Designated area and site conditions (SSSI Peatland sites)	SNH/SLC
		Location of mineral workings.	SLC
		Quantity and volume of peat extraction	SLC
	Restoration of sites to peatland or wetland habitats.	Quality of site restoration.	SLC
<b>MIN 7 Controlling Impacts from Extractions Sites</b>	Minimise the impacts on the environment and local community	Location of mineral workings	SLC
<b>MIN 8 Community Benefit</b>	Provision of local community benefit	Level of environmental or other benefits provided	SLC
	Level of contribution to the Rural Trust Fund	Amount contributed	SLC
<b>MIN 9 Bing Reclamation</b>	Reclamation of bings without causing adverse impacts.	Number of schemes implemented	SLC

Policy		Key Objective	Measure	Responsible Authority
MIN 10	<b>Aggregate Recycling</b>	Re-use of mineral waste	Reduction in use of primary aggregates	SLC
			Increase in mineral recycling rates	SCL
MIN 11	<b>Supporting Information</b>	All mineral applications to be accompanied by adequate supporting information.	Number of planning applications submitted with appropriate supporting information.	SLC
		All mineral applications to be accompanied by an EIA.	Number of mineral applications submitted with EIA or Appropriate Assessment.	SLC
MIN 12	<b>Transport</b>	All future applications to be accompanied by a TIA.	Provision of TIA.	SLC
		Reduction in accident hotspots.	Number of accident rates.	SLC
			Number of mineral haulage related complaints.	SLC
		Improvement in local air quality.	Number of AQMAs.	SLC
			Number of mineral related monitoring sites.	SLC
			Concentration of PMs (PM <sub>10</sub> and PM <sub>2.5</sub> ).	SLC
MIN 13	<b>Legal Agreements</b>	Conclusion of appropriate legal agreements.	Number of consents requiring legal agreements.	SLC
MIN 14	<b>Protection of Resources</b>	Safeguarding economically significant mineral deposits.	Level of resources sterilised by development.	SLC
MIN 15	<b>Monitoring and Enforcement</b>	Minimise noise nuisance.	Number of complaints received.	SLC
		Minimise dust nuisance.	Number of complaints received.	SLC
		Protect tourism and recreation interests	Loss of tourism and recreational facilities and amenities	SLC
		Regular monitoring of site operations	Provision of information	SLC

## 13 Next Steps

13.1 Table 9 lists future milestones in the development of the LDP and the dates when these are expected to be completed.

**Table 9: Milestones**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Expected date</b>
Environmental report consultation period	15 April – 28 May 2010
Proposed plan	October 2010
Deposit period for Proposed plan	November – December 2010
Examination and report of Proposed Plan	May – September 2011
Adoption and Post adoption SEA statement	October 2011

## Appendices

## Relationship with other relevant plans, programmes and strategies

	Plans, programmes or strategies	Main requirements of the PPS	How it affects, or is affected by the Minerals LDP in terms of SEA issues referred to in Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act	Score	Comments on how the key policy issues are addressed within the Minerals LDP
International (European Community Level)	EU Birds Directive	Protects all wild birds, their nests, eggs and habitats within the EC. Provides the basis to classify Special Protection Areas (SPA).	The Minerals LDP should comply with the Directive by not adversely affecting the integrity of SPAs, or the protection of wild, rare and vulnerable birds, their nests, eggs and habitats.	+	The Minerals LDP will identify through a Preferred Spatial Strategy those designated sites and features, afford protection on such sites and designated features from minerals development/ activities. The Minerals associate BAP/SPG will aim to promote favourable conditions for designated species out-with the designated sites.
	EU Habitats Directive	The Habitats Directive protects natural habitats and other species of wild plants and animals and provides the basis to classify Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). The Habitats Directive is a major contribution by the EC to implementing the Biodiversity Convention agreed at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. The Directive has a number of wider implications, such as those relating to European protected species.	The Minerals LDP should comply with the Directive by not adversely affecting the integrity of SACs, by avoiding detrimental impacts on the favourable conservation status of European protected species.	+	As above.
	EU Water Framework Directive	Safeguards the sustainable use of water. Supports the status of aquatic ecosystems. Addresses issues such as pollution, flooding, droughts and river basin management planning.	The Minerals LDP should comply with the Directive by not adversely affect the aquatic ecosystem and associated environments.	+	Through the Preferred Spatial Strategy the Minerals LDP will identify areas sensitive to flooding, with potential cumulative issues considered through appropriate policies with site specific issues managed through appropriate working practices. Enhancement of the water environment will be promoted through appropriate site restoration policies or BAP/SPG.
	EC Assessment and Management of Flood Risks Directive	Its aim is to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. The Directive requires Member States to identify areas at risk of flooding, draw up flood risk maps and establish flood risk management plans.		+	As above.
	EC Air Quality Framework Directive	The aim of the Strategy is to map out ambient air quality policy and to set health-based standards for eight main air pollutants and objectives, identifying the action required at international, national and local level to ensure the objectives are met.	Minerals LDP will aim to identify potential air quality issues and incorporate such issues in to the final LDP.	+	A health impact assessment will be undertaken through the development assessment of the Minerals LDP. Air quality issues will be addressed through appropriate policy guidance that will identify potential poor air quality areas, local sources and considerations from cumulative point sources and transportation issues.

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	Plans, programmes or strategies	Main requirements of the PPS	How it affects, or is affected by the Minerals LDP in terms of SEA issues referred to in Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act	Score	Comments on how the key policy issues are addressed within the Minerals LDP
International	EU Environmental Noise Directive	The Directive requires the creation of strategic noise maps (indicating the extent of environmental noise due to road, rail, aircraft and industry) and noise action plans to identify and preserve quiet areas.	It is unlikely that the content of the Minerals LDP will add to the implementation of the Directive, but will adhere to any localised noise action plans.	○	Strategic noise maps do not cover the majority of the South Lanarkshire area therefore the Minerals LDP will consider noise in relation to human health, with policy guidance focusing on appropriate monitoring requirements.
	EU Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection	"The overall objective of the Soil Thematic Strategy is to ensure a comprehensive approach to soil protection and sustainable use, based on the following guiding principles: • preventing further soil degradation and preserving its functions; • restoring degraded soils to a level of functionality consistent at least with current and intended use, thus also considering the cost implications of the restoration of soil. "	The Minerals LDP will aim to minimise the impact of extraction on sensitive soils.	+	Policy guidance within the Minerals LDP will afford protection to the most sensitive soils, whilst the nature of minerals extraction requires soil displacement and therefore appropriate protection to soil function will be addressed through BAP/SPG, along with incorporating the function of soils within site restoration.
National	Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006	This is the main planning legislation in Scotland and sets out requirements for development planning and management.	The Minerals LDP will be prepared under the provisions of the 2006 Act.	+	The Minerals LDP will adhere to the planning hierarchy that is set out within the 1997 Act. The LDP will incorporate policies already within the Local Plan.
	Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	Sets out a series of measures designed to conserve biodiversity and to protect and enhance the natural heritage of Scotland. This includes a biodiversity duty placed on all public bodies and officials.	The Minerals LDP should comply with the Act by protecting and enhancing the Council's natural heritage.	+	The Preferred Spatial Strategy for the Minerals LDP identifies National Designation areas, therefore removing these sites from potential extraction area, whilst addition BAP/SPG will include further conservation enhancement measures to promote biodiversity as a whole, included within site restoration programmes.
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	The Act provides for the notification of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – areas of special scientific interest by reason of their flora, fauna, or geological features. The Act provided various levels of protection for listed fauna and flora and restricts the establishment of non-native species which may be detrimental to native wildlife.	The Minerals LDP should comply with the protection of listed species and will control impacts on SSSI.	+	As above.
	Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003	The Act establishes statutory rights of access to land and inland water for outdoor recreation, placing new duties and powers upon the Council, including an overarching duty to uphold access rights as well as a duty to produce a core paths plan.	The Minerals LDP will consider land access issues in relation to both extraction sites and restoration programmes.	+	Policy guidance within the Minerals LDP will aim to maintain a level of access across recognised areas/paths where appropriate. Site restoration programmes will aim to incorporate additional access requirements to enhance local recreational activities, with local consultation promoted to enhance recreational access.

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	Plans, programmes or strategies	Main requirements of the PPS	How it affects, or is affected by the Minerals LDP in terms of SEA issues referred to in Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act	Score	Comments on how the key policy issues are addressed within the Minerals LDP
National	Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007)	The Strategy replacing previous version, sets out air quality (AQ) standards and objectives, providing policy framework dealing with air quality issues to assist in achieving the Strategy's objectives.	The Minerals LDP will take into consideration the required limits and objectives for air quality.	+	Policy guidance within the Minerals LDP will address site specific air quality and site monitoring, whilst policy direction will be focused towards the Council's future Air Quality Strategy for appropriate guidance on localised AQ issues, with the potential impacts associated with transportation considered on a site specific basis.
	Scottish Government policy on the Control of Woodland Removal	This policy seeks to protect existing forest resource, supporting deforestation only where it would achieve significant and clear public benefits - compensatory planting may form part of this balanced approach.	The Minerals LDP will aim to protect where appropriate and encourage reforestation through restoration projects.	+	Policy guidance in the form of a Minerals BAP/SPG will aim to improve woodland cover to encourage habitat connectivity through appropriate restoration practices and the establishment of natural boundary.
	Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003	Protects the water environment including ground water, surface water and wetlands, for or in connection with implementing the Water Framework Directive.	"The Minerals LDP should assist in achieving the Act's objectives of: - Preventing deterioration and enhance the aquatic environment. - Promoting sustainable water use - Reducing pollution release across the water environment"	+	The Minerals LDP and associated BAP/SPG policy guidance will promote the enhancement of the water environment through appropriate working practice, reduction in cumulative effects upon individual water courses and promoting functioning water habitats within the restoration programmes.
	Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009	The Act introduces a sustainable approach to managing flooding, streamline development and improve coordination between the various agencies involved in flood risk management.	The Minerals LDP will consider flood related issues in considering and developing spatial mineral maps and policy guidance.	+	Developing the Preferred Spatial Strategy will include potential flood risk areas, whilst policy guidance will address the potential issues relating to flooding and other issues.
	UK Biodiversity Action Plan	Aims to conserve and enhance biological diversity within the UK, contributing to the conservation of global diversity.	"The Minerals LDP should assist in achieving the Plan's objectives: - To conserve and where practicable to enhance threatened and native species, wildlife habitats and ecosystems - To increase public awareness of, and involvement in, conserving biodiversity"	+	Policy guidance in the form of a mineral specific BAP/SPG will provide appropriate guidance for the Minerals LDP to promote biodiversity throughout the working life of a site, encouraging appropriate enhancement projects and focusing biodiversity as a consideration within restoration programmes.
	UK Biodiversity Action Plan	Aims to conserve and enhance biological diversity within the UK, contributing to the conservation of global diversity.	"The Minerals LDP should assist in achieving the Plan's objectives: - To conserve and where practicable to enhance threatened and native species, wildlife habitats and ecosystems - To increase public awareness of, and involvement in, conserving biodiversity"	+	Policy guidance in the form of a mineral specific BAP/SPG will provide appropriate guidance for the Minerals LDP to promote biodiversity throughout the working life of a site, encouraging appropriate enhancement projects and focusing biodiversity as a consideration within restoration programmes.

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	Plans, programmes or strategies	Main requirements of the PPS	How it affects, or is affected by the Minerals LDP in terms of SEA issues referred to in Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act	Score	Comments on how the key policy issues are addressed within the Minerals LDP
National	Scottish Biodiversity: It's in Your Hands – A Strategy for the Conservation and Enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland	Provides a 25 year strategy to conserve and enhance biodiversity throughout Scotland. The overall aim of which is “to conserve biodiversity for the health, enjoyment and wellbeing of the people of Scotland now and in the future”	"The Minerals LDP should assist in achieving the Plan's objectives to: - Halt the loss of biodiversity through targeted action for species and habitats. - Increase awareness of biodiversity, conservation and enhancement. - Restore and enhance biodiversity through better planning, design and practice. - Develop an effective management framework that ensures biodiversity is taken into account in decision making."	+	As above.
	National Planning Framework 2 (NPF) 2009	The NPF sets out the long term spatial strategy for Scotland's development. It identifies the significant developments required to deliver a wealthier, fairer, greener, safer, healthier and smarter Scotland in 2030.	The Minerals LDP should assist in achieving the NPFs objectives by setting a framework for minerals extraction to contribute to Scottish development whilst considering issues of fairness and environment Green Network.	++	Policy guidance and development of the Minerals LDP has taking into consideration the environmental objectives along with human health and local economic growth thus achieving the objectives of the NPFs providing a more sustainable policy perspective to mineral extraction.
	Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)	These documents set out the role of the planning system in allowing development within a context of protecting and conserving important assets. In particular setting out the principles, policies and the actions for development planning.	The Minerals LDP will be explicitly guided by the SPP. The LDP will therefore develop a considered approach to the protection of environmental and historic assets; to the needs of the local and national economy; and to the livelihood of local communities.	++	As above.
	Planning Advice Notes (PAN)	"PAN 42 – Archaeology PAN 50 and its annexes – Controlling the Environmental Effects of Surface Mineral Workings PAN 51 – Planning, Environmental Protection and Regulation PAN 60 – Planning for Natural Heritage PAN 64 – Reclamation of Surface Mineral Workings These documents provide specific advice on best practice to be followed in implementing SPP policy."	As above.	++	As above
	HM Government, The Energy Challenge, Energy Review Report 2006	Considers the overall requirement to optimize the use of coal reserves in the UK whilst striking the right balance between the economy, environmental impacts and the needs of communities.	The Minerals LDP will seek to provide the policy framework for the delivery of these objectives locally.	+	One of the objectives of the Minerals LDP will optimize coal reserves across the South Lanarkshire area.

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	Plans, programmes or strategies	Main requirements of the PPS	How it affects, or is affected by the Minerals LDP in terms of SEA issues referred to in Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act	Score	Comments on how the key policy issues are addressed within the Minerals LDP
National	Scottish Enterprise Energy Industries Strategy	Energy generation is one of Scottish Enterprise's key sectors. Its strategy is for Scotland to maintain its position in supplying power to the UK where approximately 25% of Scottish power generation is fuelled by coal.	The Minerals LDP will recognise the importance of the coal industry to the wider development of Scotland and the UK whilst considering the range of issues that extraction activities generate.	+	As above.
	Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP)	SHEP provides a policy framework on the conservation of Scotland's historic environment in order to inform the work of a wide range of public sector organisations with responsibility on historic conservation.	The Minerals LDP will take into consideration the policy objectives set out in SHEP for the protection of the historic environment and the link with relevant policy areas within the Local Plan.	+	The Minerals LDP will take into account policy guidance within the Local Plan to ensure that historic assets and their setting are considered on a site-by-site basis. The WHS will be identified through the Preferred Spatial Strategy with the sites setting and buffer zone protected.
	Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance Notes (Historic Scotland)	The guidance notes encourage a proactive approach to managing change in the historic environment, enabling development and securing best viable use; ensuring the special qualities of the historic environment are protected, conserved and enhanced. The guidance notes provide the practical application of the policies contained in the SHEP.	As above.	+	As above.
Regional (Clyde Valley)	Glasgow and Clyde Valley Joint Structure Plan 2006	The plan provides a strategic land use framework for the Glasgow and Clyde Valley conurbation. The Structure Plan policy for mineral extraction is Strategic Policy 8.	The Structure Plan provides the strategic context for the Minerals LDP and therefore will accord with the Structure Plan.	++	The Minerals LDP is expanding on the strategic land use framework of the Structure Plan through the development of the strategic constraints and land-use map, which identifies appropriate constraints in relation to mineral activity.
	Natural Heritage Futures West Central Belt (SNH)	The Natural Heritage Futures initiative promotes integrated management of the natural heritage.	The Minerals LDP will aim to conserve and where appropriate enhance the integration of natural heritage.	+	Appropriate restoration policy guidance in the form of the minerals specific BAP/SPG will focus on the integration and connectivity of the natural heritage of the area.
	Regeneration Strategy "Changing Gear" 2004 - 2010 (Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire)	The aim of the strategy is to facilitate the growth of a diverse and sustainable local economy, improving quality of life so that Lanarkshire is widely regarded as an attractive place to live, work and do business.	The subject of the Minerals LDP will contribute to the diversity of the local economy the LDP will aim to undertake this in a sustainable manner.	+	
	New Lanark World Heritage Site Management Plan	The management plan sets out the framework for managing the site through a 30-year vision and aims along with shorter term (five-year) issues and objectives. As the plan will include preserving the setting of the site it will have direct implications for a wider area including the site's designated buffer zone.	The Minerals LDP will consider the setting of the WHS within the Council's policy framework of SHEP.	+	Minerals Activity will be restricted within the proximity of the WHS through taking account of the SLLP policy guidance. The Preferred Spatial Strategy will exclude the WHS buffer site from potential mineral activities in order to afford protection from physical and visual impacts associated with mineral workings.

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	Plans, programmes or strategies	Main requirements of the PPS	How it affects, or is affected by the Minerals LDP in terms of SEA issues referred to in Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act	Score	Comments on how the key policy issues are addressed within the Minerals LDP
Regional (Clyde Valley)	Forestry for People (F4P)	The Forestry for People Challenge supports local involvement in woodland projects for promoting health, learning and strengthening communities. The aim is to promote healthier lifestyles, through improving urban woodlands and creating better access to woodlands and encourage communities to get more involved in their woodlands through volunteering or education projects.	The Minerals LDP will incorporate the both the natural heritage aspect of local woodlands and the potential for connectivity across local communities.	+	The Minerals LDP will utilise the policy guidance provided by existing Council Strategies (LBAP and Greenspace) whilst incorporating further guidance in the form of an BAP/SPG, with site restoration providing an opportunity to expand on the natural habitats across the area, whilst community engagement should promote appropriate recreation access.
	Woodlands in and Around Towns (WIAT)	"The WIAT programme provides the focus for Forestry Commission Scotland's work on improving quality of life in towns and cities and aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• create new woodland</li> <li>• bring neglected woodland into active management</li> <li>• work with people to help them use their local woodland."</li> </ul>	As above.	+	As above.
	"Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Minerals and the Natural Heritage in Scotland's Midland Valley Minerals, 2000"	"Guidance and accompanying data is provided to aid the assessment approach for natural heritage interests in relation to opencast coal and aggregate extraction within the Midland Valley. The document sets out the basis for SNH's interest within the minerals sector in relation to development proposals and policy matters. SNH interests include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earth Heritage</li> <li>• Nature Conservation</li> <li>• Landscape</li> <li>• Recreation and Access"</li> </ul>	The Minerals LDP will take into consideration SNH interests in protecting natural heritage and utilise appropriate data in developing the policy guidance set out within the Minerals LDP.	+	SNH interests will be incorporated within the development of the Preferred Spatial Strategy and further policy guidance within the Minerals LDP. The spatial strategy will include nature conservation, landscape and earth data, whilst policy guidance on working and reclamation practice will include all aspects of SNH's listed interests.
Local (South Lanarkshire)	South Lanarkshire Single Outcome Agreement 2009 2010	"Sets the local outcomes for the delivery of national outcomes for the Council and its partners to achieve for South Lanarkshire, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A sustainable economy</li> <li>• Improved health and well being</li> <li>• Reduced inequalities, poverty and deprivation</li> <li>• A sustainable environment</li> <li>• A Safer South Lanarkshire"</li> </ul>	The Minerals LDP will promote careful use of minerals resources and the will consider the impacts of its extraction on South Lanarkshire's communities.	+	Through policy guidance the Minerals LDP will promote sustainable use and extraction of minerals across South Lanarkshire, whilst expanding the economic growth of the rural areas and promoting human health.
	South Lanarkshire Community Plan – Stronger Together (2005-2015)	Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 requires local authorities to initiate and subsequently maintain a Community Plan. South Lanarkshire's Community Plan has 3 aims –successful and inclusive, safe and healthy, working and learning communities.	As above	+	As above

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	Plans, programmes or strategies	Main requirements of the PPS	How it affects, or is affected by the Minerals LDP in terms of SEA issues referred to in Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act	Score	Comments on how the key policy issues are addressed within the Minerals LDP
Local (South Lanarkshire)	South Lanarkshire Local Plan (SLLP) 2009	Does not deal with minerals development but does set the principle policies for environmental protection – tested at public inquiry and subject of SEA.	The Minerals LDP will accord with the SLLP supplementing its coverage of environmental issues for specific impacts of minerals development.	++	Policy guidance within the Minerals LDP will consolidate some policy areas within the SLLP and expand others, providing appropriate links to other strategies within the Council.
	South Lanarkshire Landscape Character Assessment (2009)	Establishes planning and management guidelines for each landscape character type identified within the South Lanarkshire area.	The Minerals LDP will take into consideration the local landscape assessment characteristics in undertaking spatial mapping.	+	The Minerals LDP will expand on the landscape character assessment by incorporating strategic spatial constraints identified through a mapping process specific for mineral extractions.
	South Lanarkshire Greenspace Strategy	"The Strategy provides a framework for developing and improving a functional network of urban green spaces. The strategy will; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and facilitate healthy activity</li> <li>• Contribute positively to the local landscape</li> <li>• Connect communities to services, each other and the wider countryside</li> <li>• Provide diverse opportunities for play and learning</li> <li>• Provide habitats for wildlife</li> <li>• Act as a focus for community interaction. "</li> </ul>	The Minerals LDP should recognise the importance of the Greenspace and the wider network for community benefit.	+	The Minerals LDP will provide guidance and direction to the Greenspace Strategy in promoting green space and connectivity of use for community benefit through appropriate restoration programmes and appropriate community engagement.
	South Lanarkshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan	The Plan provides policy objectives for broad habitat types across South Lanarkshire, setting out actions for the protection, promotion, sustainability and functionality of these habitats and associated species.	The Minerals LDP will recognize the need for particular policies relating to key habitats and reflect the reviewed LBAP when it becomes available.	+	The Minerals LDP will promote guidance and direction on minerals specific BAP/SPG, providing appropriate direction to the Council's LBAP for promoting biodiversity throughout the lifecycle of a minerals site.
	South Lanarkshire Local Transport Strategy 2006 - 2009	Sets out the Council's policies and proposals in relation to transport in the Council area and aims to support sustainable economic and social development. Seeks to reduce damage to road network caused by freight transport.	The Minerals LDP will support the aims of the LTS and consider impacts of traffic movements on the road network, notably in rural areas and in towns/villages.	+	Appropriate policy guidance or direction through the Minerals LDP will consider the potential impacts associated with transportation across the South Lanarkshire area, with particular attention on key transport corridors.
	South Lanarkshire Rural Strategy 2007 - 2013	Establishes the Council's objectives to develop the communities, enhance the environment, improve the accessibility, develop the economy and promote the rural area of South Lanarkshire.	The Minerals LDP will seek to balance the economic opportunities afforded by mineral extraction with the other factors set out as objectives in the Rural Strategy.	+	The Minerals LDP will focus efforts in maintaining and improving rural communities through economic and social opportunities within the minerals sector, informed through appropriate community engagement.

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	Plans, programmes or strategies	Main requirements of the PPS	How it affects, or is affected by the Minerals LDP in terms of SEA issues referred to in Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act	Score	Comments on how the key policy issues are addressed within the Minerals LDP
Local	South Lanarkshire Local Transport Strategy 2006 - 2009	Sets out the Council's policies and proposals in relation to transport in the Council area and aims to support sustainable economic and social development. Seeks to reduce damage to road network caused by freight transport.	The Minerals LDP will support the aims of the LTS and consider impacts of traffic movements on the road network, notably in rural areas and in towns/villages.	+	Appropriate policy guidance or direction through the Minerals LDP will consider the potential impacts associated with transportation across the South Lanarkshire area, with particular attention on key transport corridors.
	South Lanarkshire Rural Strategy 2007 - 2013	Establishes the Council's objectives to develop the communities, enhance the environment, improve the accessibility, develop the economy and promote the rural area of South Lanarkshire.	The Minerals LDP will seek to balance the economic opportunities afforded by mineral extraction with the other factors set out as objectives in the Rural Strategy.	+	The Minerals LDP will focus efforts in maintaining and improving rural communities through economic and social opportunities within the minerals sector, informed through and appropriate community engagement.

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## Revised SEA Objectives for the Minerals Local Development Plan

Draft SEA Objectives in the Scoping Report	Revised SEA Objectives used in the Assessment	Assessment Criteria Indicators	Potential Indicators
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>			
Prevent the risk of loss and maintain the quality of South Lanarkshire's designated nature conservation sites.	To prevent the risk of loss and maintain the quality of international, national and locally protected sites and species of natural importance.	Protect and where possible promote favourable condition of national and locally designated sites and non-designated sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of designated sites, areas covered and favourable status condition within South Lanarkshire</li> <li>Number of Local Authority designated sites, area covers and condition of sites within South Lanarkshire</li> </ul>
		Protect and where possible promote species of natural importance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Status of designated features</li> <li>Number of Local Authority designated sites, area covers and condition of sites within South Lanarkshire</li> </ul>
Protect and avoid irreversible loss of biodiversity.	Protect and avoid irreversible loss of biodiversity.	Promote habitat connectivity and the development of an integrated habitat network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area of native woodland cover across South Lanarkshire</li> <li>Area and condition of ancient semi-natural woodland within South Lanarkshire</li> <li>Area and condition of upland peatland habitats</li> <li>Area and condition of raised bog habitats within South Lanarkshire</li> </ul>
Improve biodiversity in restoring minerals sites/degraded land.	Ensure a high standard of site restoration to enhance biodiversity the value of the wider environment.	Promote the integration of biodiversity interests within site restoration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of the Local on Biodiversity Action Plan and associated Guidance for mineral restoration</li> </ul>
		Promote the uptake of relevant funding options to promote local biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of funding projects associated with biodiversity improvements</li> </ul>
		Improve the biodiversity and local amenity value of areas associated with mineral activities restoration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of sites/total area managed by local community groups</li> </ul>
<b>Population and Human Health</b>			
Protect existing levels of amenity.	Protect existing levels of amenity.	Improve the biodiversity and functionality of soils through appropriate restoration projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of biodiversity themed event and participation of events.</li> <li>Number of volunteer days</li> <li>Number of people involved in national surveys</li> </ul>
Minimise potential environmental impacts on the population.	Minimise potential environmental impacts on the population.	Promote the development of biodiversity projects across the council area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of LBAP associated projects</li> </ul>

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Draft SEA Objectives in the Scoping Report	Revised SEA Objectives used in the Assessment	Assessment Criteria Indicators	Potential Indicators
<b>Soil and geology</b>			
Protect sensitive soils - prime quality agricultural land, ancient woodland, peatland.	Minimise the loss of sensitive soils - prime quality agricultural land, ancient woodland, peatland.	Improve the biodiversity and functionality of soils through appropriate restoration projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and condition of designated sites where the geological location or the soil type is the designated feature</li> </ul>
		Maintain and improve the connectivity of soils and soil function Maintain soils associated with ancient and semi-natural habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area and condition of peatland across South Lanarkshire</li> <li>Area and condition of semi-natural upland habitats within South Lanarkshire</li> <li>Area and condition of ancient and semi-natural woodland within South Lanarkshire</li> </ul>
		Maintain prime agricultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area and function of prime agricultural land</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>			
Prevent deterioration in water quality.	Prevent deterioration and where appropriate enhance the ecological status of the aquatic ecosystem.	Maintain and improve the condition of water bodies and associated habitats. Enhance the water environment through appropriate restoration projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total length of river network achieving Good (and above) water quality status</li> <li>Total length of surface water achieving Good (and above) ecological quality status</li> <li>Total area and quality of standing water bodies</li> </ul>
		Minimise the potential for water pollution incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of water pollution incidents</li> </ul>
		Promote sustainable water use Minimise the potential for flooding Maintain and improve the function of wetlands and natural floodplains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of flood incidents within urban areas</li> <li>Area of naturally functioning floodplains</li> <li>Area and condition of peatland</li> <li>Area of wetland habitats</li> </ul>
<b>Air, noise and light</b>			
Prevent deterioration in air quality.	Prevent deterioration in local air quality and minimise the impacts of noise pollution	Maintaining good air quality status Consider impacts on designated and/or potential Local Air Quality Management Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and area of designated LAQMA's</li> </ul>
		Consider the impacts associated with increase local environmental noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of noise complaints associated with mineral activity</li> </ul>
		Consider any issues associated with increased light pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of light pollution complaints associated with mineral activities</li> </ul>

cont'd

Draft SEA Objectives in the Scoping Report	Revised SEA Objectives used in the Assessment	Assessment Criteria Indicators	Potential Indicators
<b>Material Assets</b>			
Minimise impacts on the essential infrastructure of communities.	Minimise impacts on the essential infrastructure of communities.	To reduce the level of peat extraction across South Lanarkshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of planning consents that impact on peatland</li> <li>• Number and area covered by peat extraction licences</li> <li>• Number of planning consents that impact on peatland</li> <li>• Area covered by extraction licences.</li> </ul>
Protect known mineral deposits from sterilisation.	Protect known mineral deposits from sterilisation.	Consider the impacts upon biodiversity and ecosystem function and integrating appropriate measures within planning and development and land use change where appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of planning consents relating to mineral extraction activities</li> <li>• Number and area covered by of mineral extraction.</li> <li>• Development of the Biodiversity SPG</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>			
Preserve and protect heritage assets, archaeological sites and culturally important features.	Preserve and protect heritage assets, archaeological sites and culturally important features.	Consider the potential for loss and/or damage to historic and archaeological features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Schedules Ancient Monuments in Lanarkshire</li> </ul>
		Consider the indirect effect on historic setting through mineral extraction processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and status of historic and Listed Buildings in Lanarkshire</li> </ul>
		Maintain Conservation Area and WHS settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and size of Conservation Areas</li> </ul>
		Maintain the areas of Historic and Designed Landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and areas of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Lanarkshire</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>			
Protect local landscape designations.	<b>Maintain local landscape designations.</b>	Consider the potential impacts on the landscape in relation to biodiversity projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas of designated landscape and sensitive landscapes across South Lanarkshire</li> <li>• Areas of designated landscape and sensitive landscapes across South Lanarkshire</li> </ul>
Prevent undermining of identified landscape characteristics.	Prevent undermining of identified landscape characteristics.	Consider the potential impacts on the landscape in relation to biodiversity projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area of designated and sensitive landscapes across South Lanarkshire</li> </ul>

## Assessment of alternative spatial strategies for the Minerals LDP

SEA Environmental Issues									
Spatial Policy Alternatives	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Population and Human Health	Soils and Geology	Water	Air	Material Assets	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Overall Score
<b>1. Constrain new workings (sites) but protect reserves for the future</b>	✓ / ✗	✓ / ✗	✓	✓	✓ / ✗	✓	✓	✓ / ✗	✓ ✓ / ✗
Comments - Although this offers the greatest potential for environmental protection, it does not deliver the Scottish Government's minerals policy commitment and will reduce the capacity to meet minerals demand from indigenous supplies. This approach could potentially result in greater importation of minerals, thus impacting on environmental issues across a wider geographical area.	Provides protection to biodiversity through the fact that no new site would exist, therefore no additional impacts beyond current site boundaries. Enhancement measures should be introduced to increase habitat connectivity and biodiversity through existing site restoration.	Offers protection to human health through the fact that no new sites would exist. There remains issues with the potential for continual impacts on wellbeing associated with a variety of environmental factors through existing operational sites.	With no new extraction sites granted then the existing soil network system would remain unaffected through mineral extraction, however soil enhancement measures should be introduced through restoration programmes.	There would be no further resource pressures on the water environment through no additional extraction sites, with potential effects from current operational sites protected via existing legislation and working practise.	Air pollution in the vicinity of existing mineral extraction sites are within current air quality limits for environmental and human protections. There is the potential that air quality in other sensitive areas may be affected due to increased import of minerals from outside South Lanarkshire to meet local demand.	There would be no additional impact on material assets, with mineral deposits out with current sites protected.	There would be no additional loss in cultural heritage and no additional visual impacts associated with mineral activities.	There would be limited addition to current landscape issues as there would be no new mineral extraction sites however issues would still exist from existing sites, with enhancement only addressed through appropriate restoration measures.	
KEY : ✓ Positive Environmental Effect : ✗ Negative Environmental Effect : ○ No Environmental Effect : ? Effect Uncertain									

cont'd

## SEA Environmental Issues

Spatial Policy Alternatives	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Population and Human Health	Soils and Geology	Water	Air	Material Assets	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Overall Score
<b>2. Allow new working anywhere subject to a range of operational controls</b>	✘	✘ / ✔	✘	✘ / ✔	✘ / ✔	✘	✘	✘	✘✘ / ✔
Comments - This alternative option affords the least level of protection towards all aspects of the environment. Environmental protection would only be delivered through legislative and operation control measures with no selection criteria employed for future mineral site identification.	There is a strong potential for impacts on biodiversity, habitat destruction and disturbance in connectivity, particularly for those areas and species that are out with international and national protection.	There is the potential for human health impacts particularly with cumulative/multiple site issues. Protection would only be via legislative site specific operational controls.	There is the potential for greater deterioration and loss in soils, particularly sensitive soils without any control measures through screening for site location etc.	There is the potential for impacts on the water environment, particularly through cumulative impacts on specific water bodies with multiple sites. Legislative controls may limit the extent of such impacts for individual sites.	There is the potential for impacts on air quality and noise, particularly through cumulative impacts at specific localities with high mineral deposits. Legislative controls may limit the extent of such impacts on a individual site basis.	There would be less control for maintaining mineral assets for future across the area, with other assets further affected through uncontrolled mineral extraction locations.	Less control in identifying and allowing future mineral extraction would potential impact on cultural heritage, particularly through the loss of buried heritage sites and the setting of designated sites/buildings.	Without identifying extractable mineral sites and allowing extraction where minerals are deposited could have a negative impact on the visual landscape of the area.	

KEY : ✔ Positive Environmental Effect : ✘ Negative Environmental Effect : ○ No Environmental Effect : ? Effect Uncertain

cont'd

**SEA Environmental Issues**

<b>Spatial Policy Alternatives</b>	<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	<b>Population and Human Health</b>	<b>Soils and Geology</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Air</b>	<b>Material Assets</b>	<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>Landscape</b>	<b>Overall Score</b>
<b>3. Identify an area for extraction and encourage fast working and completion</b>	✓ / ✗	✗ / ✓	✓ / ✗	✓ / ✗	✗ / ✓	✗ / ✓	✓	✓ / ✗	✗✗ / ✓ ✓
Comments - There is a level of environmental protection afforded through this alternative approach, particularly through the identification of areas appropriate for mineral extraction. The identification approach can include environmental constraints, such as buffer zones around sensitive areas. However the intense extraction approach has a greater potential to impact on more localised environmental issues, particularly upon sensitive receptors.	The identification of extraction areas could provide protection for high biodiversity value site not covered by international protection. High intensity extraction could impact on mobile species.	High intensity working practice would have a significant impact on human health, whilst the identification process could provide buffer areas to minimise local impacts.	Sensitive soils could be identified and appropriate buffer zones in place to control extraction site impacts. Intense extraction could result in poor restoration of working sites.	There is the potential to introduce buffer zones in relation to sensitive water bodies etc. However, there is an increased added potential for either pollutant incidents or flooding within high intensity working areas.	Faster working and shorter completion practices would encourage greater transport volume for minerals extraction thus potentially deteriorating local air quality. There is the potential for greater noise pollution from such sites.	Mineral assets would be depleted over a shorter time scale and therefore would not be present to meet future demands.	High intensity working areas and faster extraction practices could potentially result in a greater loss of buried archaeological heritage. Although there is the potential to identify buffer zones to safeguard known heritage.	High intensity working areas would have a significant impact on visual landscape, particularly across sensitive character zones, with partial recovery possible at site completion.	

KEY : ✓ Positive Environmental Effect : ✗ Negative Environmental Effect : ○ No Environmental Effect : ? Effect Uncertain

cont'd

**SEA Environmental Issues**

<b>Spatial Policy Alternatives</b>	<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	<b>Population and Human Health</b>	<b>Soils and Geology</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Air</b>	<b>Material Assets</b>	<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>Landscape</b>	<b>Overall Score</b>
<b>4. Phase extraction across South Lanarkshire and ensure that no further development is allowed for a period of time following completion</b>	✓ / ✗	✓ / ✗	✓ / ✗	✓ / ✗	✓ / ✗	✓ / ✗	✓ / ✗	✓ / ✗	✓ ✓ / ✗✗
Comments - Phased extraction allows some degree of environmental protection through identification of extraction sites. However such approach would not allow for full recovery before extraction in the area commenced again. In addition, there is the potential for greater localised cumulative effects over the extraction periods.	Potential to identify / protect sensitive habitats through buffer zones, with long-term deterioration due to phased extraction reducing potential habitat/species recovery.	Although there is the potential to improve human wellbeing through non-extraction periods, the knowledge and fact that mineral extract will be back within the area could be just as detrimental.	Although a phased extraction approach may limit the impacts on sensitive soils it will not deter the potential for impacts on upland peat with underlying mineral deposits.	Potential to allow for recovery however full recovery may not be achieved.	Although there is the potential for quiet periods when mineral extraction is reduced/stopped, increased transport from other extraction areas could be detrimental to air quality.	Although mineral supply would be extended, there is the potential for areas that are easily extractable to be depleted first.	Although this has the potential to afford protection across many culturally important sites there is the potential for some concentrated extraction areas	The impact on regional landscape could be reduced/minimised however the potential for localised impacts would be greatly enhanced.	

KEY : ✓ Positive Environmental Effect : ✗ Negative Environmental Effect : ○ No Environmental Effect : ? Effect Uncertain

cont'd

**SEA Environmental Issues**

<b>Spatial Policy Alternatives</b>	<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	<b>Population and Human Health</b>	<b>Soils and Geology</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Air</b>	<b>Material Assets</b>	<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>Landscape</b>	<b>Overall Score</b>
<b>5. Identify specific areas of search/sites across South Lanarkshire</b>	✓	✓	✓ / ✗	✓ / ✗	✓	✓ / ✗	✓	✓ / ✗	✓ ✓ / ✗
Comments - This approach can allow optimal long-term mineral extraction over the entire South Lanarkshire area, whilst at the same time providing optimal environmental protection through the identification of appropriate areas of search. This approach also allows the extraction of minerals to match demand and supply, whilst identifying and maintaining future reserves.	This provides the ability to identify sensitive habitats and areas to allow maximum protection across biodiversity.	Allows the identification of extraction sites with sensitive population areas to minimise and mitigate against potential impacts, allowing greater control on local extraction activity.	Provides the opportunity to identify sensitive soils areas and minimise impacts however there is still the potential to lose areas of upland peat that have underlying mineral deposits.	The identification of sensitive water bodies and ecological systems would limit the potential for localised impacts.	Potential to identify AQMAs and provide protection in future deterioration of local air quality and potential accumulated noise pollution.	Provides a controlled mineral extraction to deliver local/national demand.	Sensitive cultural and historical areas can be identified with buffer zones to minimise cultural settings.	There is the potential to minimise region impacts on landscape through identification of sensitive landscape areas / characteristics, with impacts more confined to localised areas.	

KEY : ✓ Positive Environmental Effect : ✗ Negative Environmental Effect : ○ No Environmental Effect : ? Effect Uncertain

## Compatibility analysis of Minerals LDP Aims and/or Objectives and SEA Objectives

SPG Renewable Energy Objectives	SEA Objectives													
	To prevent the risk of loss and maintain the quality of international, national and locally protected sites and species of natural importance.	Protect and avoid irreversible loss of biodiversity.	Ensure a high standard of site restoration to enhance biodiversity and the value of the wider environment.	Protect existing levels of amenity.	Minimise potential environmental impacts on the population.	Minimise the loss of protect sensitive soils - prime quality agricultural land, ancient woodland, peatland.	Prevent deterioration and where appropriate enhance the ecological status of the aquatic ecosystem.	Prevent deterioration in local air quality and minimise the impacts of noise pollution.	Minimise impacts on the essential infrastructure of communities	Protect known mineral deposits from sterilisation.	Preserve and protect heritage assets, archaeological sites and culturally important features.	Maintain local landscape designations.	Prevent undermining of identified landscape characteristics.	Summary Score
To safeguard resources	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	✓	○	○	○	○
To meet society's needs	x/✓	x	○	x/✓	x/✓	x/✓	x/✓	x/✓	x	✓	x/✓	x	x	xx/✓
To minimise effects on communities	○	○	✓	✓	✓	○	○	✓	✓	○	○	○	○	○/✓
To protect the environment	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	○	○	✓	✓	✓	✓
To minimise impacts on infrastructure	○	○	○	✓	○	○	○	○	✓	○	○	○	○	○/✓
To encourage excellence in working practices and restoration	✓	✓/x	✓	✓	✓	✓/x	✓/x	✓	✓	○	✓	○	✓	✓
Summary Score	✓/○	○/✓/x	○/✓	✓	✓	✓/x/○	✓/x/○	✓/○/x	✓/○	○/✓	✓/○	○	✓/○	

KEY : ✓ SPG Objective is supportive of SEA objectives : ✗ Potential conflict between SPG Objective and SEA objectives :  
 ○ SPG Objective has no identified conflict or support for SEA objectives : ? Uncertain whether SPG Objective conflicts with or supports the SEA objectives

## Evaluation of preferred policy options

SEA Objectives	Preferred Options (see section 8 for details)								
	Preferred Option 2	Preferred Option 3	Preferred Option 4	Preferred Option 7	Preferred Option 8	Preferred Option 9	Preferred Option 10	Preferred Option 11	Summary Score
To prevent the risk of loss and maintain the quality of international, national and locally protected sites and species of natural importance.	?/+	?/+	?	+ M-L	?	++ S-M-L	+ M-L	0	++/?
Protect and avoid irreversible loss of biodiversity.	?/+	?/+	?	++ M-L	?/+	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	?/+	++/?
Ensure a high standard of site restoration to enhance biodiversity and the value of the wider environment.	?	0	?	+ L	?	+ M-L	?	?/+	?/+
Protect existing levels of amenity.	?	+ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	?/+	+ M-L	+ M-L	?	0	++
Minimise potential environmental impacts on the population.	+/-	++ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	?	+ M-L	+/?	?/+	0	++/?
Minimise the loss of sensitive soils - prime quality agricultural land, ancient woodland, peatland.	+/-	0	?	++ M-L	+ M-L	+ M-L	+ M-L	?/+	++/?
Prevent deterioration and where appropriate enhance the ecological status of the aquatic ecosystem.	+/-	0	?	+ M-L	?	+ M-L	++ S-M-L	?/+	++/?
Prevent deterioration in local air quality and minimise the impacts of noise pollution.	+/-	++ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	?	0	0	?	0	+/0
Minimise impacts on the essential infrastructure of communities	+/-	+ S-M-L	++ S-M-L	?	?	?/+	?	0	++/?
Protect known mineral deposits from sterilisation.	++ L	?	?	+ L	0	0	?/+	?/+	++/?
Preserve and protect heritage assets, archaeological sites and culturally important features.	?/+	0	+ S-M-L	+ M-L	+ M-L	?	?/+	0	++/?
Maintain local landscape designations.	?/+	?	?	+ M-L	++ M-L	?/+	?/+	?/+	++/?
Prevent undermining of identified landscape characteristics.	?/+	?	?	?/+	++ M-L	?/+	?	?/+	?/++
<b>Summary Score</b>	<b>++/?/-</b>	<b>++/0/?</b>	<b>?/++</b>	<b>++/?</b>	<b>++/?</b>	<b>++/?</b>	<b>++/?</b>	<b>?/+/0</b>	

**Key** ++ Major positive + Minor positive 0 Neutral - Minor Negative -- Major Negative +/- etc. Mixed ? Uncertain S Short term effects M Medium term effects L Long term effects

# Evaluation of alternative policy options

SEA Objectives	Alternative Options (see section 8.0 for details)								
	Alternative Option 2	Alternative Option 3	Alternative Option 4	Alternative Option 7	Alternative Option 8	Alternative Option 9	Alternative Option 10	Alternative Option 11	Summary Score
To prevent the risk of loss and maintain the quality of international, national and locally protected sites and species of natural importance.	?/+	?/-	?	- M-L	?		- M-L		?/-
Protect and avoid irreversible loss of biodiversity.	?/+	?/-	?	- S-M-L	?		- M-L		?/-
Ensure a high standard of site restoration to enhance biodiversity and the value of the wider environment.	?	?	0	?/-	?/-		?		?/-
Protect existing levels of amenity.	?	- S-M-L	-/?	?	?		?		?/-
Minimise potential environmental impacts on the population.	?/+	-- S-M-L	-/+	0	?		- M-L		-/?/+
Minimise the loss of sensitive soils - prime quality agricultural land, ancient woodland, peatland.	?/+	?/-	0	-- S-M-L	?/-		- M-L		-/?
Prevent deterioration and where appropriate enhance the ecological status of the aquatic ecosystem.	?	?	0	- M-L	?/-		+/-		?/-
Prevent deterioration in local air quality and minimise the impacts of noise pollution.	+ M-L	-- S-M-L	-/+	0	0		0		0/-/+
Minimise impacts on the essential infrastructure of communities	+ M-L	-- S-M-L	- S-M-L	0	?		?/-		-/?
Protect known mineral deposits from sterilisation.	++ L	?	0	- L	0		?/-		0/-/?
Preserve and protect heritage assets, archaeological sites and culturally important features.	?	- S-M-L	- S-M-L	?/-	?		-/?		-/?
Maintain local landscape designations.	?	-- S-M-L	?	- M-L	?/+		?/-		?/-
Prevent undermining of identified landscape characteristics.	?	?/-	?	?	?		?		?
<b>Summary Score</b>	<b>?/--</b>	<b>-/?</b>	<b>-/?/0</b>	<b>--/?</b>	<b>?/-</b>		<b>--/?</b>		

**Key** ++ Major positive + Minor positive 0 Neutral - Minor Negative -- Major Negative +/- etc. Mixed ? Uncertain S Short term effects M Medium term effects L Long term effects

Environmental Report Ref	Consultee Comment	SLC Response
<b>Scottish Environment Protection Agency</b>		
<b>General Comments</b>	We are satisfied that an adequate assessment of the plan has been undertaken and that issues arising from the SEA process have been taken into account...	Noted.
<b>Environmental Baseline</b>	The Significant Water Management Issues (SWMI) report available on SEPA's website includes information on water bodies at risk from point source pollution from mining and quarrying.	Ground water is covered within "Policy MIN 5 Water Environment" with the Ground water maps illustrating status added to the baseline information in the finalised ER.
<b>Mitigation and Monitoring</b>	We welcome the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures where potential environmental effects have been identified.	Noted.
	<p>We also support the use of indicators to monitor the plan however we would offer the following advice.</p> <p><i>Water Quality</i></p> <p>The water quality indicators... recommend that the indicators only refer to ecological status.</p> <p>We would suggest the following as possible water quality indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of water bodies achieving good or high ecological status</li> <li>2. Number of water bodies protected from deterioration in status as a result of the plan</li> <li>3. Number of watercourses requiring alteration or likely to deteriorate as a result of the plan</li> <li>4. Number of water pollution incidents</li> </ol> <p><i>Air Quality</i></p> <p>It might therefore be more useful to use the concentration of particulates PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The recommended water quality indicators have been incorporated in to the monitoring plan.</p> <p>The monitoring of air, dust, noise and vibration are covered under MIN 15, with monitoring considered on a site-by-site basis. Air quality will be monitored in areas were there is an identified risk associated with the site, particularly around sites close to sensitive receptors to ensure standards are within the National Air Quality limits.</p>

Environmental Report Ref	Consultee Comment	SLC Response
<b>Scottish Natural Heritage</b>		
<b>Identification of environmental issues/concerns and key trends</b>	<p>While section 4.0 of the ER provides only a broad summary, we note that the full environmental baseline is provided in the 2009 State of the Environment report. As such, we suggest that it would be beneficial if this document was provided as an appendix to the ER, on the CD accompanying the MIR or an internet link to the document given.</p> <p>We also suggest that including Table 2 from the Scoping Report in the ER would reflect the advice given in the SEA Toolkit (Annex A, Guidance Note 7).</p>	<p>Noted. The SoE is too large to be added to each SEA the Council submits, the link to the internet will be added in future.</p> <p>As suggested the SEA Toolkit is there for advice and consideration, including Table 2 from the Scoping Report would just be duplication without adding any benefit to the actual assessment process.</p>
	<p>We welcome the tabular presentation of the baseline data...</p> <p>In order to make the identification of current status and trends more transparent, it would be beneficial to provide details of what baseline data the 2009 State of the Environment report information has been assessed against...</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted as above.</p>
	<p>In order to aid the understanding of the report, we suggest that summarising the key existing environmental problems may be helpful. This could be done in a simple table...</p>	<p>The current baseline data provided, provides a summary, status and current trend for a range of environmental issues across South Lanarkshire. The example table provided in the SNH comments suggest a target status, which is out with the scope of this plan and would therefore not benefit the overall assessment.</p>
<b>Assessment of likely significant effects on the environment</b>	<p>Planning Advice Note 1/2010 <i>Strategic Environmental Assessment of Development Plans</i> notes that the SEA should assess the environmental effects arising from the vision of the LDP. At present this is not included within the ER and we therefore recommend that this is addressed.</p>	<p>The Minerals LDP does not have a separate Vision the overall Vision is taken directly from the Local Development Plan (which has been SEA'd) as set out in the Scottish Circular 1 on Development Planning.</p>
	<p>Appendix 3 of the ER provides an assessment of the</p>	<p>Noted. As indicated in the ER the SEA does not cover</p>

Environmental Report Ref	Consultee Comment	SLC Response
	<p>environmental effects associated with the alternative spatial strategies considered in relation to the LDP... <i>The proposed option...</i> has the potential to give rise to potentially negative impacts on both protected habitats and species interests which will require to be addressed at the detailed application stage.</p>	<p>issues that will be covered within site specific EIAs, therefore as noted the potential impacts will be covered on a site by site basis through appropriate EIAs.</p>
<p><b>Preferred and alternative policy options</b></p>	<p>...overall we agree that the preferred options... However we note that the duration of impacts is not always indicated and would therefore query whether the matrices are incomplete in this respect.</p>	<p>The assessment considered the alternatives inline with the requirements set out in Schedule 3 as detailed in the Scoping Report. The table presented in the ER is complete and further commentary text has been added to the ER where appropriate.</p>
	<p>The report would also benefit from a clearer indication of how the issues of secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects associated with the preferred and alternative options have been assessed.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p><b>General comments</b></p>	<p>Whilst the assessments presented in Appendices 3, 5a and 5b identify where positive, negative, mixed, neutral or uncertain environmental effects are likely (i.e. impact prediction), no explicit reference is made to which of these are considered 'significant', nor to how this has been judged in the assessments (i.e. impact evaluation). We recommend that this should be addressed as a priority, as it is important to both the understanding of the results of the SEA and for developing proposals for mitigation and monitoring that any significant adverse environmental effects are clearly identified.</p>	<p>The methods set out in Schedule 2 for determining significance and the level of significance are inherently subjective, using background information to inform judgment. SLC are content with the criteria applied through the assessment process, which was set out in the Scoping Report and those identified within the Tables as positive or negative are done so in accordance with the Act and are therefore considered significant. Within the table there may be areas where there are mixed results and these have been recorded as such, in accordance with the SEA Toolkit without cancelling either out but presented in comparable levels hence one before the other. SLC would appreciate any further guidance SNH could offer in determining the level of significance for effects other than those supported within this assessment process and the SEA Toolkit.</p>
	<p>In addition, explanation of <i>all</i> the symbols used in the assessment (we are, for example, not clear on what</p>	<p>As above, the symbols represent the level of significance and further clarification will be provided in</p>

Environmental Report Ref	Consultee Comment	SLC Response
	<p>the significance of a double tick or double cross in Appendix 3 or the meaning of ‘++/?/-’, ‘??/++’ or ‘++/??/0’ in Appendices 5 and 5b are) and how the summary scores have been calculated would be beneficial.</p>	<p>the final ER. We appreciate that within the matrix approach the provision of the Summary Scoring can lead to some confusion. The Summary Score provides an overall assessment on the potential cumulative effects of the policy etc. which inherently leads to mixed results across such policies. We will consider the Scoring methods for future SEAs and simplify the overall score for this assessment where appropriate.</p>
	<p>We also note that in the assessment of Alternative Option 2 presented in Appendix 5b, symbols used to indicate a negative impact are mixed with colours used to indicate positive impacts.</p>	<p>This is a typo and will be corrected in the finalised ER.</p>
<p><b>Measures to prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse effects on the environment</b></p>	<p>Section 9.0 of the ER provides details of proposed mitigation and enhancement measures. However, allied to the comments above in respect of the issue of ‘significance’, we consider that further clarification is needed in respect of these measures. Paragraph 9.1 notes that “the SEA demonstrated that the preferred options outlines in the MIR should prevent significant negative impacts upon the environment”, but then goes on to say that “the assessment identified proposed actions to ensure the promotion, prevention, reduction and offset of any significant effects on the environment”. It is therefore unclear as to whether the measures proposed in Table 5 are required to prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse effects or whether they have been identified to prevent, reduce or offset non-significant adverse impacts associated with implementing the LDP.</p> <p>In addition, we question the use of the word ‘promote’ in relation to the effect these actions have on adverse impacts.</p>	<p>The SEA demonstrated that the preferred option did not result in significant negative effects, however there were still potential negative effects which were addressed through the mitigation measures proposed, these potential effects were not considered significant. Text has been added to the finalised ER to clarify the above.</p> <p>SLC are not sure what is meant by this comment, the term ‘promote’ is used within enhancement measures to promote good practice through the identified enhancement measures, therefore the terminology</p>

Environmental Report Ref	Consultee Comment	SLC Response
<b>Monitoring measures</b>	<p>Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act requires ERs to include a description of monitoring measures. The ER notes, at section 10.0, that a monitoring plan is to be developed once the LDP has been adopted. While we welcome the commitment to producing such a plan, we recommend that further consideration is given to the timing of its production to ensure that the requirements of the Act are sufficiently reflected in the ER.</p>	<p>remains in the finalised ER.</p> <p>The monitoring programme will be developed within the finalised ER after consideration of changes undertaken through the consultation phase within the LDP and ER.</p>
	<p>Appendix 2 of the ER presents assessment criteria and environmental indicators which will be used as a measure by which the environmental impacts of the LDP can be assessed. We have two main comments in relation to this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We would welcome further clarification of the role of the ‘assessment criteria indicators’...</li> <li>• The ‘potential indicators’ require further consideration to ensure they are appropriate for assessing the impacts of the plan. For example, the number, area and condition of designated sites could be affected by a number of factors unrelated to the Minerals LDP and thus this may not be a sufficiently specific indicator. In addition, consideration should be given to the resource implications associated with the indicators (it is unclear, for example, how the condition of non-designated habitats such as ancient woodland will be determined or by whom) and to ensuring that indicators are</li> </ul>	<p>The environmental indicators were used to consider both the baseline data in which to test the plan against whilst also providing the initial indicators for consideration in developing the monitoring framework for the LDP.</p> <p>Further consideration will be given to the potential indicators in relation to the monitoring of the LDP. See comments above.</p>

Environmental Report Ref	Consultee Comment	SLC Response
	developed for all aspects of the SEA objectives (the lack of any species specific indicator being a notable example – the results of local and national surveys may be useful in this regard).	
<b>Historic Scotland</b>		
<b>Non Technical Summary</b>	The Non Technical Summary provides an accurate overview of the environmental assessment...	Noted.
<b>Relationship to other plans, programmes and policies</b>	At scoping stage we recommended further up to date historic environment policies that would assist with the environmental assessment process. I am pleased to note that the ER has taken these into account...	Noted.
<b>Baseline</b>	<p>At scoping stage we made some recommendations for the consideration of gardens and designed landscapes that were listed both under the historic environment and landscape topic. I am pleased to note that gardens and designed landscapes are now listed solely under the historic environment topic.</p> <p>The tables set out for each of the SEA topics in this section also provide useful information on current status and identify data gaps for each SEA topic in the council area as well as the ‘trend’ direction. This will be a useful tool for setting indicators when you are developing your monitoring framework.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. The monitoring programme will aim to include those relevant indicators set out within the Council’s State of the Environment report, to maintain a Council-wide monitoring framework at the same time as creating a minerals specific monitoring programme.</p>
	I note that battlefields are one of the key areas of the historic environment that has recorded ‘L’ status (Limited Data)... Future proposals are being developed to improve the non-designated inventory to include such sites.	Noted.
<b>Development of the Assessment Criteria – Revised SEA objectives</b>	Appendix 2 sets out clearly the refinement process of the SEA objectives. I am content with the revised SEA objectives and the Assessment Criteria Indicators.	Noted.

Environmental Report Ref	Consultee Comment	SLC Response
	<p>The Potential Indicators column should also include consideration of local archaeological sites on the Sites and Monuments Record.</p> <p>As you will be aware, when monitoring the effects of the plan it will be important that the indicators chosen for the historic environment not only reflect the actions to be taken within the Minerals LDP, but also the potential impacts that have been identified in the course of the SEA. You may wish to consider how Potential Indicators reflect not only the numbers of historic environment assets within the council area, but also those numbers of sites that are directly and indirectly affected by minerals developments...</p>	<p>The indicator has been added to the 'Potential Indicators' with the appropriate data considered.</p> <p>Further consideration will be given through the minerals monitoring programme.</p>
<b>Developing Strategic Alternatives for the Minerals LDP</b>	Appendix 3 sets out in detail the assessment of alternative spatial strategies. Although I am content with the overall conclusion that option 5 is the best environmental option, alternative 3 for the historic environment might be better recorded as an uncertain/positive effect rather than positive.	The assessment results have been considered in view of the comments received by Historic Scotland, with suggested amendments undertaken.
<b>Assessment of the Minerals LDP Objectives and Evaluating the potential environmental effects associated with the Minerals LDP</b>	Option 1 is not included in the matrix tables at Appendix 5a and 5b because I assume that these have already been assessed fully in Appendix 3? It might be clearer to provide a brief overview at the start of Section 8 in the ER...	These have been assessed within Appendix 3. Additional text has been incorporated in to Section 8 to illustrate the strategic alternative taken forward within the assessment.
	I note that both preferred policy option 5 and option 6... are not presented in the assessment Table 5...	Additional text has been added to the ER to expand on the alternatives taken forward for assessment.
	For Table 5a Option 9 I would prefer if the score recorded was ? rather than ?/+ because it is difficult to ascertain at this point if improvements to local biodiversity and key habitat types would benefit the overall setting of historic environment features.	The assessment table and the assessment of Option 9 as been altered to take in to consideration Historic Scotland comments.

# Evaluating LDP Policies

SEA Objectives	Evaluating LDP Policies (see section 10 for details)									
	Policy MIN2	Policy MIN3	Policy MIN4	Policy MIN5	Policy MIN6	Policy MIN7	Policy MIN9	Policy MIN10	Policy MIN12	Summary Score
To prevent the risk of loss and maintain the quality of international, national and locally protected sites and species of natural importance.	++ S-M-L	+ M-L	+ L	+ M-L	- M-L	0	0	0	0	++/0
Protect and avoid irreversible loss of biodiversity.	+ S-M-L	+ M-L	+ L	+ M-L	-/+	+ S-M-L	+/-	0	0	++
Ensure a high standard of site restoration to enhance biodiversity and the value of the wider environment.	?	?	++ L	?	-/+	0	+ M-L	?	0	?/+
Protect existing levels of amenity.	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	0	+ M-L	+/-	++ S-M-L	?	?	?/-	++/?
Minimise potential environmental impacts on the population.	+/?	++ S-M-L	0	?	?	++ S-M-L	+/-	+/-	-/+	++/-
Minimise the loss of sensitive soils - prime quality agricultural land, ancient woodland, peatland.	+/-	+ M-L	?	0	- M-L	?/+	0	?/-	0	-/+
Prevent deterioration and where appropriate enhance the ecological status of the aquatic ecosystem.	+/-	+ M-L	+/-	++ S-M-L	?	+ S-M-L	0	?	0	+/-
Prevent deterioration in local air quality and minimise the impacts of noise pollution.	+/?	++ S-M-L	0	0	?/-	+ S-M-L	- S-M	-- S-M	- S-M-L	++/?
Minimise impacts on the essential infrastructure of communities	?	++ S-M-L	0	?	0	+ S-M-L	- S-M	- S-M	-/+	-/+
Protect known mineral deposits from sterilisation.	0	?	?	?	-/+	0	?	?	0	+/-
Preserve and protect heritage assets, archaeological sites and culturally important features.	+/-?	+ S-M-L	?	?	+/-	+ S-M-L	+/-	?/-	-/+	?
Maintain local landscape designations.	+ S-M-L	+ S-M-L	?/+	?/+	+/-	?/+	?	?	0	++/?
Prevent undermining of identified landscape characteristics.	+/?	+ M-L	?/+	?/+	+/-	?	+/?	0	0	++/?
<b>Summary Score</b>	++/?	++	++/?	++/?	-/+	++/?	+/-	?/-	0/-/+	

**Key** ++ Major positive + Minor positive 0 Neutral - Minor Negative -- Major Negative +/- etc. Mixed ? Uncertain S Short term effects M Medium term effects L Long term effects

## **South Lanarkshire Proposed Minerals Local Development Plan**

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