



Strategic Environmental Assessment

Screening Determination

Invasive Species Strategy

October 2013

Contents of screening report

	Page
SEA screening report.....	4
1. Key facts	4
5 September 2013 ² . Consideration of the likely significant environmental effects	5
2. Consideration of the likely significant environmental effects	6
3. Summary of environmental effects	9
Record of comments from consultation authorities.....	10
Scottish Environment Protection Agency.....	10
Scottish Natural Heritage	10
Historic Scotland (The Scottish Ministers)	10
Record of determination and post screening action	11
Record of determination	11
Publicity requirements for the determination.....	11

Cover note

Part 1

To: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
or
SEA Gateway
Scottish Government
Area 1H (Bridge)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

Part 2

An SEA Screening Report is attached for the Plan, entitled:

Invasive Species Strategy

The responsible Authority is:

South Lanarkshire Council

Complete part 3 or 4 or 5

Part 3

Please tick the appropriate box

an SEA is required because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects or

an SEA is required because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects or

an SEA is not required because the PPS is unlikely to have significant environmental effects

Part 4

The PPS does not require an SEA under the Act. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, because this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 28 days timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed

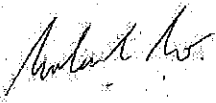
Part 5

None of the above apply
We have prepared this screening report because:

Part 6

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Part 7

Signature (electronic signature is acceptable)	
Date	5 th September 2013

SEA screening report

South Lanarkshire Council has undertaken screening for the proposed Invasive Species Strategy (ISS) with regard to the requirements of section 9 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The Screening Report has been submitted to the Scottish Government's SEA Gateway, setting out the views of South Lanarkshire Council on the likelihood of significant environmental effects for the proposed Invasive Species Strategy and the potential for requiring an SEA.

1. Key facts

Responsible authority

South Lanarkshire Council

Title of Strategy

Invasive Species Strategy – 2014 - 2019

Purpose of Strategy

Invasive, non-native species are one of the main factors causing biodiversity loss, both in the UK and elsewhere. Some invasive species may also have significant economic impacts through damage to infrastructure and impacts upon human health and wellbeing. This aim of this strategy is to minimise the risks and reduce the negative impacts caused by invasive, non-native species in South Lanarkshire. It is intended to provide a strategic framework to inform and guide action and through which mitigation measures taken by South Lanarkshire Council and other stakeholders can be co-ordinated and targeted to make best use of limited resources.

What prompted the Strategy

There is increasing public concern about invasive, alien species and their impact upon the natural and built environment. Some species, especially Japanese knotweed, can affect built infrastructure and associated property values and relevant legislation and liabilities are often poorly understood. The cost of treatment can be considerable, in terms of both money and staff time and a clear, systematic approach is required to ensure that control initiatives are well targeted and cost effective.

Strategy subject

A Strategic overview of the factors to be considered in dealing effectively with invasive, alien species, including:

- Information on invasive species, impacts and priorities for action
- Legislative framework, issues and liabilities
- Mapping and data management
- Mitigation, control and best practice

South Lanarkshire Council Invasive Species Strategy
Strategic Environmental Assessment - Screening Report and Determination

- Financial management
- Public awareness and dissemination of information

Period covered by the Strategy

The Strategy is for 5 years from 2014 until 2019.

Frequency of updates

The ISS action plan will be annually reviewed and the ISS will be renewed in 2019.

Area covered by the Strategy

The Strategy covers the whole geographic area of South Lanarkshire – 1,772 km².

Summary of nature/content of the Strategy

The Invasive Species Strategy sets out how the Council and its partners can ensure that the environmental impacts of invasive alien species in South Lanarkshire are properly evaluated and that mitigation measures and remedial actions are appropriate, targeted and cost effective. The strategy is being developed by the Council's Grounds Service but is intended to inform and guide action by other Council departments as well as other public and private land managers, developers, and private householders.

Proposed Strategy

The Invasive Species Strategy is in an early stage of development. However, key objectives can be set out as follows:

Objective 1: To ensure compliance with relevant legislation and manage the Council's liabilities.

Objective 2: To establish a comprehensive, regularly updated database of the distribution of priority invasive, non-native species in South Lanarkshire.

Objective 3: To minimise and manage the negative impact of established invasive, non-native species in a cost effective manner.

Objective 4: To provide information and guidance to Council staff, developers, householders and other stakeholders on minimising the negative impacts of invasive, non-native species.

Date

5 September 2013

2. Consideration of the likely significant environmental effects

Our determinations regarding the likely significance of effects of the Invasive Species Strategy on the environment of South Lanarkshire are set out below. The screening was undertaken with reference to the criteria in Schedule 2 of the 2005 Act.

Title of plan/programme/strategy		
Invasive Species Strategy		
Responsible authority		
South Lanarkshire Council		
Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (para numbers refer to Schedule 2 of the Act)	Likely to have significant environmental effects? (Yes/No)	Summary of significant environmental effects (positive and negative)
The characteristics of plans and programmes		
1(a): The degree to which the Strategy sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	Yes	Positive effects The Strategy will establish a framework for prioritising action, based upon compliance with legislation, impacts upon environment and infrastructure, systematic management, comprehensive data, and optimal use of financial and staff resources.
1(b): The degree to which the Strategy influences other PPS including those in a hierarchy	Yes	Positive effects The Strategy will be a key delivery mechanism for objectives under section 10 of the South Lanarkshire Biodiversity Strategy. It supports delivery against CBD Aichi Target 9, the 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity and the Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy for Great Britain.
1 (c): The relevance of the Strategy for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	Yes	Positive effects The Invasive Species Strategy will influence decisions in a range of activities, including biodiversity protection, Access, Grounds Maintenance, land asset management, roads, development control and environmental protection. Encouraging Public participation will be a core part of Strategy Objective 4 and will contribute to ongoing initiatives to promote environmental volunteering, citizen science, and raise awareness of sustainability issues.

South Lanarkshire Council Invasive Species Strategy
Strategic Environmental Assessment - Screening Report and Determination

1(d): Environmental problems relevant to the Strategy	Yes	<p>Positive effects Some invasive non-native species are having a significant, direct impact on the health of priority habitats and their associated species. Others have a negative impact upon landscape, and accessibility, as well as biodiversity. A few are harmful to human health, impact upon the built environment or lead to issues of soil contamination.</p>
1(e): The relevance of the Strategy for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, PPS linked to waste management or water protection)	Yes	<p>This strategy has relevance to EU Directive 2000/60/EC (The Water Framework Directive) by improving water quality. It also relates to EU Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive) by improving the status of Special Areas for Conservation.</p>
Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected		
2(a): The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Unknown Potentially positive	<p>Positive effects The aim of the ISS is to improve and direct the short to long term management of priority invasive non-native species. This is an ongoing process and it is difficult to gauge the probability, frequency and duration of these effects. The effects will only be quantified as a result of long term monitoring. The effects may be reversible if not associated with longer term monitoring and follow up treatment.</p>
2(b): The cumulative nature of the effects	Yes	<p>Positive effects The remediation of sites will have an overall positive cumulative effect across South Lanarkshire as a whole. This will be particularly marked in the area of biodiversity, human health and water quality protection.</p>
2(c): Trans-boundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects on other EU Member States)	No	<p>The localised nature of invasive species issues, coupled to the geographic location of South Lanarkshire indicates that long-range trans-boundary effects are unlikely. The possibility of short-range trans-boundary effects is possible due to the widespread distribution of infected sites along the Clyde and other water courses in the South Lanarkshire Council area and neighbouring local authorities.</p>
2(d): The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	No	<p>Risks to human health from contact with invasive non-native species are generally low. A few species, notably giant hogweed, can be harmful but actual instances of harm are low.</p> <p>Negative effects Inappropriate treatment of invasive non-native species may sometimes contribute to their spread or cause harm to the person concerned. These risks can be mitigated through effective</p>

South Lanarkshire Council Invasive Species Strategy
Strategic Environmental Assessment - Screening Report and Determination

		guidance to operational staff and the wider public.
2(e): The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Yes	Positive effects The Invasive Species Strategy is South Lanarkshire wide, however joint approaches with neighbouring Local Authorities and other external stakeholders will be developed where required. While some species may be highly localised others (e.g. Japanese knotweed) have a wide distribution across Central Scotland.
2(f): The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land use.	Yes	Positive effects i) The ancient woodlands of the Clyde Valley are vulnerable to rhododendron ponticum, introduced conifers and other non-native plants. Significant lengths of the River Clyde and its tributaries are affected by Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and other non-natives. Non-native animal species such as signal crayfish and American mink are also impacting watercourses to the detriment of native species and habitats. ii) Affected areas include the Clyde Valley Woodlands SAC, and a number of SSSIs. The presence of invasive non-native species has a negative impact upon assessments of their site condition. iii) Some of the most significant infestations of Japanese knotweed are along urban watercourses and in public open spaces. This is impacting upon built structures, land management (e.g. cemeteries and parks) and property values.
2(g): The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Yes	Positive effects Areas affected by invasive non-native species include the Clyde Valley SAC, SSSIs, Local Nature Reserves and Community Woodlands. The designed landscapes surrounding Hamilton Palace and the Falls of Clyde are also affected, the latter being also part of a World Heritage Site.

3. Summary of environmental effects

The Invasive Species Strategy will set out how the Council and its partners will deal with invasive alien species in South Lanarkshire. It is intended to inform and guide action across the Council and with other public and private land managers, developers and private householders.

It is anticipated that the Strategy will have significant, long term, positive effects on the environment in the immediate South Lanarkshire area and potentially further afield. There is scope to enhance these effects by integration, within existing and future South Lanarkshire Council and partnership plans, policies and strategies and national initiatives.

Record of comments from consultation authorities

Title of plan, programme or strategy

Invasive Species Strategy

Responsible authority

South Lanarkshire Council

Summary of consultation authority comments

Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Date comments received	Significant environmental effects	If Yes, note SEA topics/ issues here
27 September 2013	Yes	Having reviewed the Screening Report, we consider that in respect of our main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health, material assets (of which we have a specific interest in waste) and climatic factors) the strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects. Based on the information available to date we consider that significant effects are most likely with respect to water.

Scottish Natural Heritage

Date comments received	Significant environmental effects	If Yes, note SEA topics/ issues here
19 September 2013	Yes	We agree that the above Plan (ISS) is likely to have significant environmental effects.

Historic Scotland (The Scottish Ministers)

Date comments received	Significant environmental effects	If Yes, note SEA topics/ issues here
1 October 2013	No	I agree there is potential for some positives for the historic environment as a result of implementation of the Strategy. However, I consider that these will not be significantly directly positive but rather indirectly beneficial through the removal of invasive species from areas with cultural heritage features bringing benefits to the overall quality and visitor experience. There is some potential for negative impacts to the historic environment as a result from implementation of the Strategy.... I am of a view that physical works implemented through Strategy are unlikely to have strategically significant negative effects on the historic environment. In light of this and other information contained within the screening report I would be content for the historic environment to be screened out of the assessment.

Record of determination and post screening action

Title of plan, programme or strategy

Invasive Species Strategy

Responsible authority

South Lanarkshire Council

Record of determination

In accordance with section 9(1) of the 2005 Act South Lanarkshire Council submitted for consultation a screening report summarising its views as to whether the Invasive Species Strategy will have significant environmental effects. In formally determining whether an SEA is required, the Council has taken into account the views of the Consultation Authorities. South Lanarkshire Council and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage are in agreement that the Invasive Species Strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects.

Formal determination	Statement of reason	Date
The above strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects and therefore an SEA will be undertaken	The Invasive Species Strategy will set out a framework to inform and guide action that aims to minimise the risks and reduce the potential impacts caused by invasive and alien species in the South Lanarkshire area. Implementation of the Strategy is likely to have significant positive and long term effects.	28/10/13

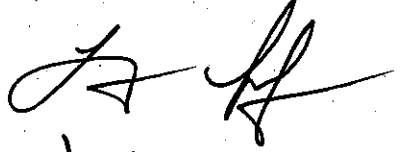
Publicity requirements for the determination

In accordance with section 10(1) of the 2005 Act, within 28 days of the determination having been made, the Council will send a copy of the formal determination and related statement of reasons (prepared in accordance with section 8(2)(b)) to the Consultation Authorities.

Have the above requirements been undertaken? **Yes**

In accordance with section 10(2) of the 2005 Act, within 14 days of the determination having been made, the Council will make available to the public a copy of the determination and related documents (this must include; a copy publicly available at the principal office, a copy displayed on the Council's website and a notice secured in at least one newspaper circulated in the area relating to the PPS).

Have the above requirements been undertaken? **Yes**

Signature: 

Date: 28/10/13
