



SCREENING REPORT

PLANNING GUIDANCE – ON THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

STEP 1 – DETAILS OF THE PLAN

Responsible Authority:

West Lothian Council.

Title of the plan:

Planning Guidance on the Historic Environment.

What prompted the plan:

(e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

The West Lothian Local Development Plan gives an undertaking to produce guidance in relation to a variety of planning policy topics including the protection of the natural environment from inappropriate development.

The guidance sets out detailed criteria to assist the preparation and assessment of planning applications across the plan area and specifically supports policies:

- ENV 23 - Conservation Areas (Designations);
- ENV 24 - Conservation Areas (Demolitions);
- ENV 25 - Linlithgow Palace, Peel & High Street Rigs;
- ENV 26 - Hopetoun Estate and Abercorn Village;
- ENV 27 - Areas of Built Heritage and Townscape Value;
- ENV 28 - Listed Buildings;
- ENV 29 - Unoccupied and Threatened Listed Buildings;
- ENV 30 - Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes;
- ENV 31 - Historic Battlefields: Battle of Linlithgow Bridge;
- ENV 32 - Archaeology; and
- ENV 33 - Scheduled Monuments.

of the adopted LDP.

There is no current Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) related to the historic environment in West Lothian. As a consequence there is recognition of the need to ensure that the council's planning guidance arising from the local development plan adopted in 2018 is up to date and reflective of the most current LDP policies and best practice.

Plan subject:

(e.g. transport)

Town and Country Planning

Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Based on Boxes 3 and 4, our view is that:

An SEA is required, as the environmental effects are likely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)



An SEA is NOT required, as the environmental effects are unlikely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within



Section 5(3)



Section 5(4)

Contact details:

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Date:

5 January 2021

STEP 2 – CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

Context of the Plan:

The West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted on 4 September 2018.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment - Environmental Report was published in August 2014, which set out the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the strategy for the development contained within the LDP and is the primary means by which development sites are allocated. Each site allocated for development within the LDP has been subject to an individual site assessment.

The principal Report of Examination was issued on 11 December 2017 (augmented with an additional Report of Examination dealing with a single site issue issued on 8 January 2018).

The West Lothian Council Executive committee on 22 March 2018, resolved to accept all of the modifications recommended in the Report of Examination, and agreed to adopt the Local Development Plan (as modified). This was notified to Scottish Ministers on 5 April 2018. At the same time, the council made a determination under Section 8(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that the modifications proposed by the DPEA to the West Lothian Local Development Plan were unlikely, overall, to have any major significant negative environmental effects and that a further SEA was not required.

Planning Guidance – Planning Guidance on the Historic Environment is required to support the understanding and delivery of ten policies e.g. ENV 23 – ENV 33 in the adopted West Lothian Local Development Plan (2018).

The PG will expand on the principles of these policies and will provide detailed guidance to help achieve the outcomes expected from related historic development proposals across West Lothian.

While the proposed Planning Guidance provides some location specific guidance, it supports consistent interpretation and application of policies related to the historic environment through the development management process.

The guidance identifies good practice in-line with the related policies and other similar guidance provided by Historic Environment Scotland.

Description of the Plan:

The proposed Planning Guidance expands on the principles set out in the policies outlined in the section above and provides detailed guidance to help achieve the outcomes expected from planning applications related to historic environment proposals across West Lothian.

The planning guidance is intended for use by anyone considering this sort of development within West Lothian including:

- Applicants who are proposing alterations and changes to a range of historic properties and landscapes;
- Agents working for their clients on such proposals;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development Management Officers assessing planning proposals, as well as Historic Environment Scotland officers;• Elected Members representing constituents and making decisions on related planning applications; and• Members of the public with an interest in these types of historic environment development proposals within their local community. <p>The Planning Guidance will be reviewed at least every 5 years in line with the statutory review of the West Lothian Local Development Plan (or as required by emerging legislation).</p>
What are the key components of the plan?	<p>The Planning Guidance will provide further guidance to support the application of the various historic environment policies detailed in the section above, under Context.</p>
Have any of the components of the plan been considered in previous SEA work?	<p>Yes. The document is produced to support a number of policies in the West Lothian Local Development Plan which was adopted on 4 September 2018. An Environmental Assessment has previously been undertaken in respect of policies and related proposed land allocations in the West Lothian LDP.</p> <p>The Environmental Assessment undertaken in respect of these policies concluded that they would have no significant environmental implications. Any impacts of the policies were considered to be largely positive e.g.; in that they promoted good practice for securing sustainable development related to the historic environment.</p> <p>In order to ensure compliance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, a Screening Opinion for this Planning Guidance is required.</p>
In terms of your response to Boxes 7 and 8 above, set out those components of the plan that are likely to require screening:	<p>The proposed Planning Guidance will expand on the principles set out in the aforementioned policies and provide detailed guidance to help achieve the outcomes expected from historic environment development proposals in locations across West Lothian.</p> <p>The guidance will support consistent interpretation and application of policy through the development management process. The guidance will at the same time encourage good practice in-line with policies and other similar guidance arising from Historic Environment Scotland.</p> <p>The potential environmental effects of any proposed development considered under the terms of the policies can however only be fully assessed at the planning application stage when the specific site and development details are known.</p>

STEP 3 – IDENTIFYING INTERACTIONS OF THE PLAN WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONSIDERING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF ANY INTERACTIONS

Plan Components	Environmental Topic Areas										Explanation of Potential Environmental Effects	Explanation of Significance
	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Material assets	Cultural heritage	Landscape	Inter-relationship issues		
Planning Guidance – on the Historic Environment		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<p>The PG brings together all of the elements that help contribute towards minimising environmental impact and achieving sustainable development in the historic environment.</p> <p>It provides a clear set of guidance and standards to explain what the council will expect from such new developments and identifies what information is required as part of a planning application.</p> <p>It also provides contact details for various Council Services and other organisations with an interest in the historic environment.</p>	<p>The SEA for the LDP considered any potential effects.</p> <p>The Planning Guidance on the Historic Environment is not considered to have any additional significant negative environmental effects.</p>

In common with other planning guidance prepared by West Lothian Council, it has been subject to internal and external consultation, in this case with council service providers Historic Environment Scotland and community councils, planning consultants and developers as well as local interested organisations and regard has been had to the responses and feedback which has been received and present to elected members to consider.

In conclusion, the Planning Guidance on the historic Environment will result in no, or minimal, environmental effects and therefore it is concluded a SEA is **NOT** required.

The guidance sets out detailed criteria to assist the development and assessment of proposals for development across the plan area and specifically supports historic environment policies: ENV 23 – ENV 33 of the adopted LDP which collectively seek to prevent and minimize visually and environmentally intrusive development and to reduce energy use and carbon emissions related to the historic built and natural environment.

When completed send to: SEA.gateway@scot.gov or to the SEA Gateway, Scottish Government, Area 2H (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.