

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Determination****Supplementary Guidance (SG)
Wind Energy Development****Table of Contents of Screening Determination****1. Introduction****2. Record of SEA Determination and Publicity Requirement****3. SEA Screening Report**

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1. Introduction

This statement sets out West Lothian Council's determination in accordance with Section 10(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 on whether or not a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required for Supplementary Guidance (SG) - Wind Energy Development.

Screening is the first stage in the SEA process. The purpose of screening is to establish whether or not a Plan, Programme or Strategies (PPS) will have significant environmental effects. Screening takes the form of a formal submission, where the responsible authority (the Council) seeks the views of the following Consultation Authorities on whether a PPS is likely to have significant environmental effects and therefore whether a SEA is required:

- ◆ Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
- ◆ NatureScot, and
- ◆ Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)

As well as consulting the above bodies, responsible authorities are required to take into account the criteria set out in Schedule 2 of the 2005 Act when determining whether or not the plan is likely to have significant effects. The details of this process are contained within the [Screening Report](#).

If the responsible authority and the consultation authorities agree that the plan or programme is unlikely to have significant environmental effects, the responsible authority is required to make a determination to that effect under section 8(1) of the 2005 Act.

2. Record of SEA Determination and Publicity Requirements

Title of Plan, Programme or Strategy:	Supplementary Guidance (SG) - Wind Energy Development
Responsible Authority:	West Lothian Council

Record of SEA Determination:

In accordance with section 9(1) of the 2005 Act, West Lothian Council submitted to the Consultation Authorities a screening report summarising its views as to whether West Lothian Local Development Plan Supplementary Guidance (SG) - Wind Energy Development will have significant environmental effects.

In formally determining under Section 8(1) of the Act whether a SEA is required, the Council has taken account of the views of the three Consultation Authorities; Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Environment Scotland which were issued through the SEA Gateway on 21 May 2021.

West Lothian Council and the Consultation Authorities are in agreement that the West Lothian Local Development Plan Supplementary Guidance (SG) - Wind Energy Development is not likely to have significant environmental effects and the Council has therefore determined that an SEA will not be required for the plan under Regulation 13(1) of the 2005 Act.

CONSULTATION AUTHORITY	LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS
Historic Environment Scotland	No
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	No
NatureScot	No
OVERALL VIEW ON LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS	No

* As previously informed by the SEA Gateway, SEPA is unable to comment on SEA consultations at this time and the council has been directed by the SEA Gateway to the SEA topic guidance notes for soil, water, material assets, climatic factors and human health provided on SEPA website at Strategic Environmental Assessment | Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). The council has had regard to these and has concluded that in respect of SEPA's main areas of interest (air, water, soil, human health, material assets (of which it has a specific interest in waste) and climatic factors) the Supplementary Guidance is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

Formal Determination	Statement of Reason
28 May 2021	West Lothian Council's reasoning for determining that there are no overall likelihood of significant environmental effects is as follows:

	<p>West Lothian Council has prepared a Local Development Plan to replace the West Lothian Local Plan 2009 (WLLP 2009) in accordance with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended by the Planning (Scotland) etc. Act 2006.</p> <p>The new West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted on 4 September 2018 and is consistent with the Strategic Development Plan for Edinburgh and South East Scotland (SDP).</p> <p>The LDP focuses on providing for, and managing, future land use change across the council area in line with SESplan and SDP requirements. The LDP comprises a development strategy for the period to 2024 and a detailed policy framework to guide future land use in a way which best reflects the SDP vision, strategic aims and objectives.</p> <p>The West Lothian Local Development Plan Supplementary Guidance (SG) - Wind Energy Development sets out a framework that West Lothian Council will use to assess relevant planning applications for proposals in the West Lothian council area. The full title of the SG is Wind Energy Development: Spatial framework and assessment criteria for on-shore wind energy development in West Lothian. Specifically, the guidance conforms to Table 1: Spatial Frameworks as set out in Scottish Planning Policy.</p> <p>The role of the West Lothian Local Development Plan Supplementary Guidance (SG) - Wind Energy Development is simply to help interpret and provide further detail in respect of policies that are already set out in the adopted West Lothian Local Development Plan which was the subject of a full Strategic Environmental Assessment and which will also be reviewed in the Post Adoption Strategic Environmental Assessment phase of the LDP.</p>
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Publicity Requirements for the Determination:

In accordance with section 10(1) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, 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 Scottish Government SEA Gateway and the three Consultation Authorities.

In accordance with section 10(2) of the 2005 Act, within 14 days of the determination having been made, a copy of the determination, along with the Screening Report, shall be provided for inspection by the public. The current Coronavirus emergency prevents physical copies being made for inspection at West Lothian Council's principal office at the West Lothian Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, EH54 6FF but they can instead be requested by email from wlldp@westlothian.gov.uk.

The determination shall also be published in the West Lothian Courier and Linlithgow Journal & Gazette newspapers to notify the public and will be available to view at www.westlothian.gov.uk from 3 June 2021. A copy of the statutory notice is provided as Appendix 2.

Signature:	Craig McCorrison, Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration
Date:	28 May 2021

3. SEA Screening Report

Cover Note

Part 1

To:

SEA.Gateway@gov.scot

or

SEA Gateway
Scottish Government
2-H (South)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Part 2

An SEA Screening Report is attached for the plan, programme or strategy (PPS) entitled:

Supplementary Guidance (SG) - Wind Energy Development

The Responsible Authority is:

West Lothian Council

Complete Part 3 or 4 or 5

Part 3

Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our view is that:

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.

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.

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

Part 4

The PPS does not require a SEA under the Act. However we wish to carry out a SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that because the 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:

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Part 6

Contact Name: Sarah Collings

Job Title: Planning Officer – Trees / Landscape

Contact Address: c/o Civic Centre, Howden South, Livingston, EH54 6FF

Contact Phone: 01506 282429

Contact email: sarah.collings@westlothian.gov.uk

Part 7

Signature: Sarah Collings

Date: 28 May 2021

Key Facts

West Lothian Council has undertaken screening of Supplementary Guidance (SG) - Wind Energy Development with regard to the requirements of section 9 of the Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

The Screening Report has been submitted to the Scottish Government SEA Gateway, setting out the views of West Lothian Council on the likelihood of the significant environmental effects of Supplementary Guidance (SG) Wind Energy Development with regard to the requirements of section 9 of the Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the potential for requiring a SEA.

Responsible Authority:	West Lothian Council
Title of PPS:	Supplementary Guidance (SG) - Wind Energy Development

<p>Purpose of PPS:</p>	<p>The purpose of this Supplementary Guidance (SG) is to support Local Development Plan policies NRG 3 (Wind Energy Development) and ENV 1 (Landscape Character and Special Landscape Areas). Together, these policies seek to provide a framework for assessment of wind energy development but always in circumstances where any potentially negative impacts can be satisfactorily addressed.</p> <p>In particular, this SG further defines the terms used in the policies and explains and interprets other matters necessary for the implementation of the policy and provides general planning criteria applicable to any proposals forthcoming.</p>
<p>What promoted the PPS: (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)</p>	<p>The council recognises the need to ensure that planning guidance is up to date and reflective of the most current policies and practices.</p> <p>West Lothian Council adopted the West Lothian Local Development Plan on 4 September 2018 after Scottish Ministers confirmed the council could do so. It now forms part of the Development Plan for West Lothian along with the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for Edinburgh and South-east Scotland.</p> <p>The Council has a programme to prepare a suite of new guidance to support the recently adopted West Lothian Local Development Plan.</p> <p>Specifically, Wind Energy Development has been written with the intention of becoming statutory Supplementary Guidance (SG).</p>
<p>PPS Subject: (e.g. transport)</p>	<p>The policies assist with assessment of proposed wind turbines and farms in the West Lothian area as they relate to landscape character and a range of other factors including aviation and Ministry of Defence. The policies support and address the transition to renewable energy supply to meet the requirements of climate change.</p>
<p>Period covered by the PPS:</p>	<p>Anticipated date of adoption August 2021 onwards.</p>
<p>Frequency of updates:</p>	<p>Supplementary Guidance will ordinarily be reviewed and updated every 5 years, but sooner if circumstances require.</p>

Area Covered by the PPS:	This SG covers the West Lothian Local Development Plan area. It applies equally to proposal sites in both the countryside and, occasionally within settlements, and the effect and impact of such development will ordinarily be of a localized nature.
Summary of nature/content of PPS:	<p>A Local Development Plan (LDP) is prepared by the local planning authority, in this case West Lothian Council. It sets out a local interpretation of the requirements of national and strategic policy. In particular it must conform to the approved Strategic Development Plan (SDP) which has been prepared by the strategic planning authority (SESplan) and its purpose is to implement requirements on a more detailed site-specific basis than exists within the SDP.</p> <p>The LDP comprises a written statement detailing a spatial strategy, including policies and proposals together with a Proposals Map.</p> <p>LDPs are intended to provide the vision and strategy for how communities will grow and develop in the future and also to provide certainty for communities and prospective investors about where development should take place and where it should not. LDPs also identify detailed policies and proposals which are the basis for decision making on future planning applications.</p> <p>The guidance sets out detailed criteria to assist the development and assessment of proposals for development across the plan area and specifically supports policies NRG 3 (Wind Energy Development) and ENV 1 (Landscape Character and Special Landscape Areas). Together, these policies seek to provide a framework for assessment of wind energy development but always in circumstances where any potentially negative impacts can be satisfactorily addressed.</p>
Are there any plan objectives?	No
Copy of PPS attached	Yes
Date:	28 May 2021

Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment

The Council has considered the likely significance of effects on the environment of Supplementary Guidance (SG) - Wind Energy Development with regard to the requirements of section 9 of the Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The screening was undertaken with references to the criteria in Schedule 2 of the 2005 Act and is set out in Table 1 (below).

Table 1: Likely Significance of Effects on the Environment

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment <i>[The paragraph numbers in the table 1(a), 1(b), 2(a), 2(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.]</i>	Likely to have significant environmental effects? (Yes / No)	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
The characteristics of plans and programme		
<p>1(a): The degree to which the PPS sets a framework for the projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>It is the adopted Local Development Plan which sets a framework for assessing applications for new development and this SG contributes to that assessment.</p> <p>The SG does not seek to change or amend policies contained in the LDP or to identify new ones.</p> <p>The implementation of the Supplementary Guidance is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects that are additional to those previously identified when Policies ENV 1 and NRG 3 underwent SEA assessment as part of the adopted Local Development Plan.</p>

<p>1(b): The degree to which the PPS influences other PPS including those in the hierarchy.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Supplementary Guidance (SG) - Wind Energy Development provides background guidance to policy within the adopted Local Development Plan and does not seek to directly influence other programmes and strategies.</p> <p>The guidance sets out detailed criteria to assist the development and assessment of proposals for development across the plan area and specifically supports policies</p> <p>The guidance sets out detailed criteria to assist the development and assessment of proposals for development across the plan area and specifically supports policies NRG 3 (Wind Energy Development) and ENV 1 (Landscape Character and Special Landscape Areas). Together, these policies seek to provide a framework for assessment of wind energy development but always in circumstances where any potentially negative impacts can be satisfactorily addressed.</p> <p>It is at the same time consistent with the wider objectives of the overarching West Lothian Local Development Plan which has itself already undergone SEA.</p>
<p>1(c): The relevance of the PPS for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The core purpose of this SG is to protect the environment and address the drivers of climate change i.e. de-carbonising the energy supply.</p> <p>The full title of the SG is Wind Energy Development: Spatial framework and assessment criteria for on-shore wind energy development in West Lothian.</p> <p>Specifically, the guidance conforms to Table 1: Spatial Frameworks as set out in Scottish Planning Policy.</p> <p>The SG will serve to help integrate environmental considerations and promote sustainable development in a supportive role.</p>

		<p>Adherence by developers to the guidance is anticipated to have a generally positive effect on the environment by providing an additional layer of scrutiny of proposals and affording protection from potentially unacceptably damaging development.</p> <p>The general premise of policies that govern new wind energy proposals (and reinforced by the SG) is that development will only be permitted in circumstances which do not adversely affect the environment and which the SG assists in further defining.</p>
1(d): Environmental problems relevant to the PPS	No	<p>The West Lothian Local Development Plan has regard to the multitude of environmental issues which have the potential to affect the natural heritage of West Lothian.</p> <p>The SG is one of a series which are designed to help protect and safeguard its environmental assets.</p> <p>The SG does not introduce any new policy considerations and consequently no negative environmental consequences are foreseen as being directly attributable to the SG.</p>
1(e): The relevance of the PPS for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example PPS linked to waste management or water protection)	No	<p>None identified. The SG does not introduce any new policy considerations and would not be directly relevant to this issue. If subsequently applicable, however, this could be considered in the assessment of individual planning applications.</p>

The characteristics of the effects and the area likely to be affected		
2(a): The probability, duration frequency and reversibility of the effects	No	<p>There are no significant environmental effects that can be attributed to the SG.</p>
2(b): The cumulative nature of the effects	No	<p>There are no significant environmental effects that can be attributed to the SG.</p> <p>The SG recognises and promotes development which is sensitive to landscape character and local biodiversity and to encourage best practice and thereby reduce and minimise any significant adverse effects on the environment in cumulative terms.</p>

		Adherence to the SG should, if anything, have a positive effect on the environment of West Lothian.
2(c): Trans-boundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects on other EU Members States	No	No trans boundary effects have been identified. The SG is in itself unlikely to have significant environmental impact beyond West Lothian, but that is not to diminish the positive value of the policy in a local context.
2(d): The risks to human health or the environment (for example due to accidents)	No	No significant effects have been identified. The SG will, if anything, have a benign effect and will generally facilitate more environmentally sensitive developments which can only be beneficial to human health and wellbeing. Proposals will in any event be assessed in detail as and when planning applications are submitted.
2(e): The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of population likely to be affected)	No	There are no significant effects identified. The SG will support other relevant policies in the LDP which will be relied upon to help determine the acceptability of new development but the SG only applies to development that takes place within the administrative area of West Lothian and its effect is invariably constrained.
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; <u>or</u> (iii) Intensive land use	No	The SG seeks to protect natural heritage assets from the effects of inappropriate and detrimental development and will have only positive effect in a localised area. The overarching SEA for the LDP has previously considered any potential significant environmental effects and provided mitigation measures where necessary. It is considered that adherence to the requirements of the SG will be of negligible consequence and will not in any event adversely affect the value and vulnerability of the criterion.

<p>2(g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Any development will also need to comply with the development plan which includes a range of policies to ensure the cumulative impact of development does not adversely affect designated landscapes and the principal landscape character/type of the area. There will be no implications for this PPS.</p> <p>The overarching SEA for the LDP has previously considered potential effects. It is considered that adherence to the requirements of the SG will be of negligible consequence and will not in any event adversely affect the value and vulnerability of the criterion.</p>
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Summary of Environmental Effects

The Council has considered the likely significance of effects on the environment of Supplementary Guidance (SG) - Wind Energy Development and these are set out below.

Table 2: Summary of Environmental Effects

Supplementary Guidance (SG) - Wind Energy Development sets out detailed criteria to assist the development and assessment of proposals for development across the plan area and specifically supports policies NRG 3 (Wind Energy Development) and ENV 1 (Landscape Character and Special Landscape Areas). Together, these policies seek to provide a framework for assessment of wind energy development but always in circumstances where any potentially negative impacts can be satisfactorily addressed.

The guidance provides further detail on the circumstances in which development will be permitted within the West Lothian Local Development Plan area and sets out general planning criteria to be applied in decision-making.

The West Lothian Local Development Plan has itself already undergone an extensive SEA examining its policies, proposals and land use allocations. They demonstrate West Lothian Council's commitment to environmentally sensitive development and the addition of Supplementary Guidance (SG) - Wind Energy Development is considered to strengthen and reinforce this position.

The SG does not propose new development but instead forms part of a framework for considering and assessing applications for development.

Development always has the potential to have adverse environmental consequences and the guidance therefore encourages and requires (where appropriate to do so) additional care to be exercised, firstly to ascertain and predict impacts through a range of technical assessments, and then to eliminate or ameliorate them. The specific policies referenced in the guidance will also not be applied in isolation; there are other environmental protection policies included in the Local Development Plan which will additionally be applied in the assessment of planning applications.

The council considers it unlikely that Supplementary Guidance (SG) - Wind Energy Development will have any significant environmental effects as it will provide only information for decision makers, the public and other stakeholders and will primarily serve as a management tool in relation to the impact of new development on the environment.

Overall, it is considered that Supplementary Guidance (SG) - Wind Energy Development is a qualifying plan or programme that will not have significant environmental effects and that, as part of a wider policy framework, significant environmental effects arising from new development permitted under the terms of the adopted Local Development Plan and associated guidance will be avoided.

It is for this reason that West Lothian Council believes that Supplementary Guidance (SG) - Wind Energy Development does not require to be the subject of a separate Strategic Environmental Assessment. However, should a particular instance arise where adherence to the SG was considered to be potentially detrimental to the environment, the Development Management process [conforming to the considerations set out in paragraph 169 of Scottish Planning Policy and taken forward into the SG] would be expected to have regard to such matters and to apply appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures through planning conditions on any planning permissions released by the council.

4. Responses from Consultation Authorities

CONSULTATION AUTHORITY	LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS
Historic Environment Scotland	No
NatureScot	No
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	No (see note page 3*)
OVERALL VIEW ON LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS	No

- SEA GATEWAY
- HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND
- NATURE SCOT
- SEPA

5. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Supplementary Guidance (SG) – Wind Energy Development

Appendix 2 - Statutory Notice

T: 0131-244 5036
E: SEA.Gateway@gov.scot

West Lothian Council

01639 Screening - West Lothian Council - Wind Energy Development

Good afternoon,

With reference to the Screening document you submitted on 23rd April 2021.

The Consultation Authorities have now considered your screening request as per **Section 9(3)** of the **Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005**. I have attached the individual letters from the Consultation Authorities, outlining their views and opinions.

Please note, these are the views and opinions of the Consultation Authorities on the likelihood of significant environmental effects arising from the plan or programme and not a judgement on whether an SEA is required. It is therefore for the Responsible Authority to determine whether an SEA is required in the circumstances. Where possible the Consultation Authorities may have offered supplementary information and/or advice for you to consider, which you should find helpful.

As the Consultation Authorities have now notified you of their views, you should now refer to the 2005 Act to consider your next step. You should of course take into account the advice offered by the Consultation Authorities.

You should note, as per Section 10 of the 2005 Act, that within 28 days of your determination about whether an SEA is required or not, a copy of the determination and any related statement of reasons must be passed to the Consultation Authorities. This may be done via the SEA Gateway.

If you have any queries or would like me to clarify any points, please call me on 0131 244 5036.

Kind regards,

Melissa Shields
SEA Gateway Administrator



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

By email to: sea.gateway@gov.scot

Steve Lovell
Principal Planning Officer
Development Planning & Environment
West Lothian Council
West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
Livingston
EH54 6FF

Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

Enquiry Line: 0131-668-8716
Switchboard: 0131 668 8600
HMConsultations@hes.scot

Our case ID: 300020246
Your ref: 01639
20 May 2021

Dear Steve Lovell

[Environmental Assessment \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#)
[01639 Screening - West Lothian Council - Wind Energy Development Supplementary Guidance](#)

Screening Report

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 23 April 2021 about the above screening report. We have reviewed this report in our role as a Consultation Authority under the above Act, in accordance with the requirements of Section 9(3). In doing so we have used the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of the effects on the environment.

Historic Environment Scotland's view

In light of the information and reasoning set out within the screening report, we **agree** with your view that there are **unlikely to be significant environmental effects for the historic environment**.

Historic Environment Scotland's comments

We understand that the Supplementary Guidance (SG) sets out detailed criteria to assist the development and assessment of proposals for development across the plan area and specifically supports policies NRG 1 (Climate Change and Sustainability) and NRG 3 (Wind Energy Development). The parent policies have been subject to SEA as part of the LDP process, and you do not consider that the SG will have any additional significant environmental effects. On the basis of the information provided, we agree that significant effects on the historic environment are unlikely.

Next steps

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires you as the Responsible Authority to determine whether an environmental assessment is required. You must then notify the Consultation Authorities within 28 days of making this determination. This may be done via the SEA Gateway (sea.gateway@gov.scot).

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH

Scottish Charity No. **SC045925**

VAT No. **GB 221 8680 15**



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

We hope our advice is helpful to you in making this determination. Please feel welcome to contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is Virginia Sharp who can be contacted by phone on 0131 668 8704 or by email on Virginia.Sharp@hes.scot.

Yours sincerely

Historic Environment Scotland

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH

Scottish Charity No. **SC045925**

VAT No. **GB 221 8680 15**

Sarah Collings
Planning Officer
West Lothian Council

Sent via: sea.gateway@gov.scot

17 May 2021

Our ref: CEA162835

Dear Sarah,

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005: SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE – WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT SCREENING DETERMINATION

I refer to your screening consultation submitted on 05 May 2021 via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway in respect of the above plan. In accordance with Section 9(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, we have considered your screening report using the criteria set out in Schedule 2 for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.

We understand that the supplementary guidance provides more detail in support of Local Development Plan (LDP) Policy NRG3 – Wind Energy Development. It does not propose development or other changes beyond those already assessed in SEA of the LDP. On that basis, we agree that the above guidance is not likely to have significant environmental effects.

Please note that this consultation response provides a view solely on the potential for the plan or programme to have significant environmental effects. We cannot comment on whether or not the plan or programme meets other criteria determining the need for SEA as set out in the Act. Should you wish to discuss this screening determination, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0131 316 2644 or via our SEA Gateway at sea.gateway@nature.scot.

Yours sincerely,

Vivienne Gray
Planning Advisor
Supporting Good Development Team