

# **SCREENING REPORT**

## STEP 1 – DETAILS OF THE PLAN

**Responsible Authority:**

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)

**Title of the plan:**

SNH Corporate Plan 2018-2022

**What prompted the plan:**

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

SNH is required to publish a Corporate Plan that has been approved by Scottish Ministers. The current corporate plan (2015-18) was refreshed earlier in 2017, balancing our activities to reflect prevailing priorities and available resources. A more thorough approach has been taken to preparing the 2018-22, to reflect on existing and forthcoming challenges and opportunities.

**Plan subject:**

(e.g. transport)

Scotland's Natural Heritage

**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)

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**Date:**

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017

## STEP 2 – CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

### Context of the Plan:

The plan will set out the strategic direction that SNH will take from 2018-2022. An Annual Business Plan will be developed to convey in greater detail what we will deliver based on the resources available to us. This will also provide a two-year forward look section (i.e. the 2018-19 Business Plan will provide some forward look to 2021).

### Description of the Plan:

The plan will describe SNH's overall vision, key priorities and associated outcomes for the plan period, and provide some major principles of how we will go about our work (i.e. working in partnership to bring nature and people together). The plan is for 2018-22 but aims to set us on a path to achieve a longer-term vision. The plan will remain high-level. It will not explicitly cover everything SNH does, focussing instead on a small number of high-level priorities, key actions and measures of success. The plan content is founded on existing legislation, policy or targets established by the Scottish and/or UK Governments.

### What are the key components of the plan?

The plan will set strategic outcomes and priorities, and our approach to achieving these in supporting the Scottish Government's purpose. It will state the key areas of work for SNH to play a leading part in, reflecting our particular strengths and the long-term needs of nature and people in Scotland. It will also articulate a shared agenda for nature across Scotland's public, private and third sector organisations, emphasising that there is a role for both SNH and others in improved partnerships for better outcomes. Measures of success will monitor our progress in implementing the plan.

### Have any of the components of the plan been considered in previous SEA work?

Yes, this is a high-level plan that sits within an existing framework of policies, plans and strategies that have been subject to SEA. Any new policy requirements would be subject to separate development and appraisal with partners.

Priorities and outcomes relate to:

- People enjoying and benefitting from nature
- Improving the health and resilience of Scotland's nature
- Investment in Scotland's natural capital
- Transforming how we work

This plan, including the above themes for priorities and outcomes, reflects how SNH will contribute to the delivery of existing policies and strategies that have previously been considered in SEA work, including:

- Scottish Biodiversity Strategy 2020
- Scotland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020
- Scottish Government Land Use Strategy 2016-2021
- National Planning Framework 3 & Scottish Planning Policy
- National Marine Plan
- Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Programme
- EU Habitats, Birds, Flood, Water Framework and Marine Strategy Framework Directives

The plan will reaffirm our existing Portfolios of work:

1. Caring for the natural world
2. Enriching people's lives
3. Promoting sustainable economic growth
4. Delivering a high-quality public service

**In terms of your response to Boxes 7 and 8 above, set out those components of the plan that are likely to require screening:**

The content of the draft plan will be very high level, presenting broad outcomes, direction & priorities. These are, in themselves, unlikely to result in significant environmental effects beyond the existing policy framework, which has already been subject to an appropriate level of SEA. For example, activities, such as those under delivering the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, have already been considered in other SEAs. The plan will seek ways to implement existing policy rather than create new policy.

**STEP 3 – IDENTIFYING INTERACTIONS OF THE PLAN WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND  
CONSIDERING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF ANY INTERACTIONS (Error! Reference source not found.)**

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		
Component 1											N/A	
Component 2											N/A	
Component 3											N/A	
Etc.												
Example: Revision of standards for replacement of windows	x	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	x	x	Potential for noise reduction, improved energy efficiency, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, likely effects for building owners/tenants and potential impacts on properties with value for cultural heritage.	Potential for significant effects identified, particularly given the national and human health focus of the proposal. Potential for significant cumulative effects (positive and negative) also noted for several topic areas, including human health.

**STEP 4 – STATEMENT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE SCREENING**

**Summary of interactions with the environment and statement of the findings of the Screening:**  
(Including an outline of the likely significance of any interactions, positive or negative, and explanation of conclusion of the screening exercise.)

SNH’s Corporate Plan 2018-2022 is strategic. The plan works within a policy framework that has already been subject to SEA, such as the delivery of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. We conclude, therefore, that there are no new significant environmental effects arising from SNH’s Corporate Plan for 2018-2022.

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

