

Determination under Section 8.1 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005: Screening

ClimatEvolution: Climate Resilience Zone Strategy and Action Plan (sent to SEA Gateway under its former name “Climate Change Park Vision and Action Plan”)

Under East Lothian Councils Standing Orders, authority to issue Screening Opinions under the above Act has been delegated to the Head of Development, Douglas Proudfoot. This authority has been further delegated by him to Keith Dingwall, Planning Service Manager. This determination constitutes the Screening Opinion for the Climate Change Park Vision and Action Plan.

Signed



Keith Dingwall, Planning Service Manager

Dated25 May 2020.....

A Screening determination has been made under Section 8.1 of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Act 2005 in respect of the Climate Change Park Vision and Action Plan (ClimatEvolution).

A Strategic Environmental Assessment is required in respect of this plan.

The Council has consulted with the Consultation Authorities Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES) as required by Section 9.2 of the Act. Their responses are as follows:

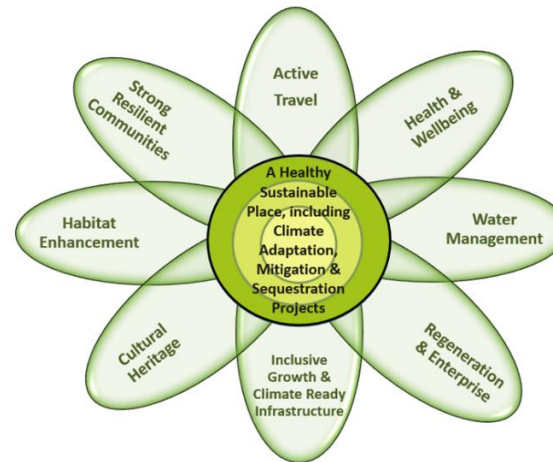
Consultation Authority	Considers the plan is likely to have significant effects?
Scottish Natural Heritage	Yes
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency	Yes
Historic Environment Scotland	Yes

Their responses to the consultation have been taken into account in reaching this Screening Determination. The following information comprises the Statement of Reasons.

CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

Context of the Plan:

East Lothian Council recently adopted the East Lothian Local Plan 2018 (ELLDP). The ELLDP provides up-to-date development plan coverage for the area in conformity with the first Strategic Development Plan (SDP1) for Edinburgh and South East Scotland (2011). Considerable land for housing, employment and infrastructure delivery has been allocated by the ELLDP, including at Tranent, Musselburgh, Prestonpans and at the former Cockenzie Power Station site and new settlement site, namely the Blindwells Development Area. It also continues to identify land for the Edinburgh Green belt, which protects the setting, character and identity of Edinburgh and the neighbouring settlements, including Musselburgh, Wallyford and Whitecraig. In addition, for the first time, the ELLDP designates 'Countryside Around Town' areas. These have similar objectives to the Green Belt as regards landscape setting, preventing the coalescence of settlements, and where it can, enhancing green and blue networks as well as providing the opportunity for opportunities for recreation, health and wellbeing. East Lothian Council has recently adopted a Green Network Strategy as supplementary planning guidance, which identifies the Western Sector of East Lothian as a priority for the Green Network. The Council wishes to ensure built development is balanced with environmental improvements and enhancement to the landscape, habitat, biodiversity and recreational offer in the area. Provision of mitigation and adaptation measures to climate change will also be central to the delivery of the development strategy and the Climate Resilience Zone Vision, the emerging themes for which are set out in the diagram below.



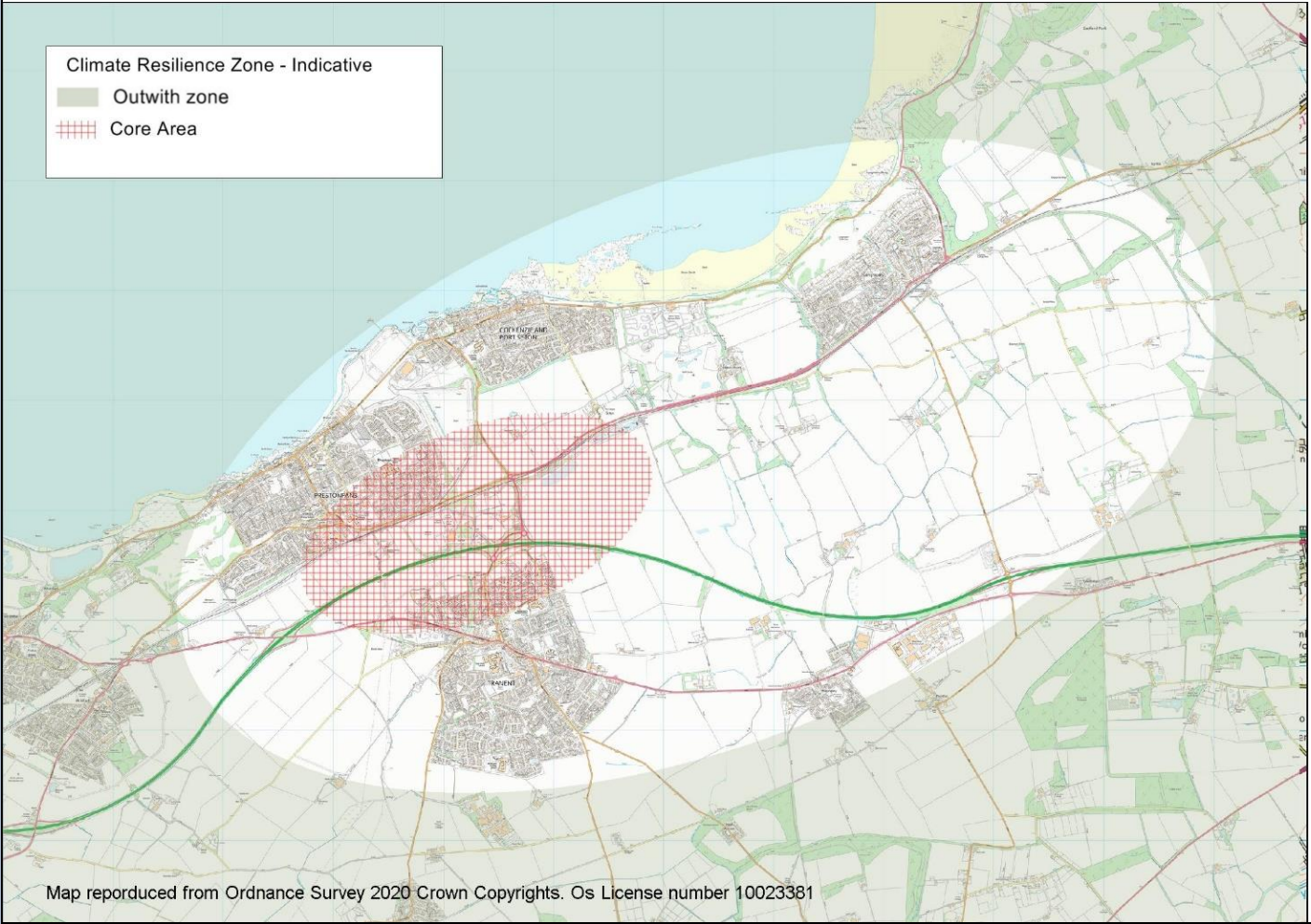
Description of the Plan:

The indicative area of the Climate Resilience Zone is based around the Countryside Around Town designation between Tranent/Prestonpans/ Cockenzie-Port Seton, and includes parts of the former Cockenzie Power Station site and Blindwells Development Area and neighbouring settlements, as shown indicatively on the map below. The purpose of this plan is to provide a vision, strategy and action programme for this Climate Resilience Zone. This will promote a linked set of attractors rooted in the area's history and natural resources, and seek to turn the areas challenges into opportunities. The intention is that this plan will be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance by the Council.

Climate Resilience Zone - Indicative

■ Outwith zone

▨ Core Area



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Key components of the plan

The plan is being produced by OPEN consultants, informed by input from the Council, Consultation Authorities and a wider range of other stakeholders. The plan will also be subject to public consultation and will be amended to take account of this as appropriate. The plan is not one of fixed, exact proposals, but of an inspiration, an exploration of possibilities and a guide to a coherent strategy. The plan is intended to articulate a vision for shared green, blue, active travel and low and zero carbon infrastructure networks that responds positively to place, resonating with its natural, cultural and historical assets and traditions, to reinforce local identity within a vision that best serves future generations. At the core of this vision must be a positive response to the challenges and opportunities of the area in terms of seven key themes:

- Climate Change
- Water Management
- Health and Well-being
- Inclusive Growth, including infrastructure
- Active Travel
- Cultural Heritage
- Habitat Enhancement

Previous SEA work for components of the plan

The policies and proposals of the East Lothian Local Development Plan 2018 have been considered through SEA, as has the East Lothian Local Transport Strategy, which includes an Active Travel Improvement Plan, both of which are higher tier plans which provide a framework for this strategy.

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**POTENTIAL 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		
Vision	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	The strategy will provide a context for development consent within the framework set by the East Lothian Local Development Plan 2018, with potential for improvements to habitat and biodiversity (though also potential for adverse impact on Firth of Forth SPA); positive impact on population through the regeneration of disadvantaged areas and improved health and wellbeing, education and skills development as well as employment; potential for adverse impact on soil through loss of agricultural land but also positive effects through remediation of contamination; improved management of water in particular surface water, treated mine water, and improving the overall water environment including the potential for de-culverting watercourses;	Potential for significant effects identified, given the scale of the area and the proposal, the number and type of sensitive designations there. Many of these impacts are expected to be positive.

											potential for emissions to air from traffic from travel, but also opportunities to provide for and encourage sustainable modes of transport thereby minimising emissions and effects on climate; potential for positive impact on climate through use of renewable heat resource and/or others identified by the study, including geothermal energy; potential positive impacts on material assets through the provision of new facilities, networks and systems, including low carbon infrastructure and active travel networks, as well as the protection of material assets through adaptation and flood risk management; potential for both positive and negative impact on aspects of the cultural heritage and landscape.	
Action Plan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	As above.	As above

STATEMENT OF THE FINDINGS OF SCREENING UNDER SECTION 8.1

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.)

The impact (positive and negative) of the proposed strategy on biodiversity is potentially significant due to the area covered, its nature and its location. There are potential indirect (positive and negative) impacts on the Firth of Forth SPA; impacts (positive and negative) on human health are potentially significant due to the scale of the project; loss of prime agricultural land could be significant due to the size of the area and the importance of the resource, although these proposals do form part of the settlement strategy; impacts (positive and negative) on the water environment could be significant due to the scale of the area and the complexity of the water environment there. Effects (positive and negative) on air could be significant due to proximity to an Air Quality Management area and monitoring area and the possibility that development within the zone could encourage traffic movement especially in

combination with other development in the area; the cultural heritage impacts could be significant (positive and negative) due to the number of nationally designated buildings and sites in the area; landscape impacts (positive and negative) could be significant due to the scale of the area and the nature of the proposal. The Council therefore considers that there are likely to be significant (positive and negative) environmental effects from the proposed strategy.