

Cover Note

PART 1

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Or

SEA Gateway
Scottish Executive
Area 1H (Bridge)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh

PART 2

A post-adoption SEA statement is attached for the PPS entitled:

Dams to Darnley Country Park Supplementary Planning Guidance

The Responsible Authority is:

East Renfrewshire Council

PART 3

Contact name

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Post adoption SEA statement for:

Dams to Darnley Country Park Supplementary Planning Guidance

Adopted on:

25 June 2015

Responsible Authority:

East Renfrewshire Council

Introduction

This document (referred to here as the post-adoption SEA statement) has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) 2005 Act.

Availability of Documents

Website

The Supplementary Planning Guidance as adopted along with the Environmental Report and post-adoption SEA Statement are available on East Renfrewshire Council's website at:

East Renfrewshire Council Local Development Plan - Supplementary Planning Guidance

www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/spg

Strategic Environmental Assessment Local Development Plan - Supplementary Planning Guidance SEA

www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/sea

Office address

They may also be inspected free of charge at the principal office at the Responsible Authority.

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Times at which the document may be inspected or a copy obtained

9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday (except public holidays)

Key Facts

Name of Responsible Authority

East Renfrewshire Council

Title of PPS

Dams to Darnley Country Park Supplementary Planning Guidance

Purpose of the PPS

The Dams to Darnley Country Park Supplementary Planning Guidance aims to identify the priority enhancements that East Renfrewshire Council wishes to support in order for the Country Park to realise its full potential as a visitor and community facility.

What prompted the PPS (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

Legislative and regulatory provision

Subject (e.g. transport)

Visitor facilities, access, natural and built heritage and promotion and management

Period covered

2015 - 20

Frequency of updates

5 Years

Area of PPS (e.g. geographical area)

Dams to Darnley Country Park area within East Renfrewshire Council Boundary

Summary of nature/content of PPS

The Supplementary Planning Guidance identifies priority enhancements that the Council wishes to support in order for the Country Park to realise its full potential as a visitor and community facility.

Date adopted

25 June 2015

Officer contact details

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Date

2 October 2015

Strategic Environmental Assessment Process

East Renfrewshire Council has prepared Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) associated with Dams to Darnley Country Park, which forms part of the East Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (June 2015). The SPG has been subject to a process of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

The SEA process has included the following activities:

- As part of the preparation of a Draft Dams to Darnley Country Park Plan, East Renfrewshire Council compiled an SEA Screening Report (April 2014), as required under the Act. This sought to determine whether the plan should be subject to an SEA. The Screening Report noted that in most cases the environmental effects of the actions to be contained within the plan were not considered significant. The actions with the greatest potential impact were those associated with the creation of new Country Park visitor facilities. The Screening Report noted that the preferred locations of visitor facilities were not identified within the plan; these would be confirmed in subsequent Dams to Darnley Country Park SPG. As a result it could not be said that the plan was likely to have significant environmental effects. The preparation of the SPG would utilise available environmental data as part of an SEA, to be undertaken in parallel. The SEA would guide and influence the preparation of the SPG, including the preferred locations of facilities.
- The Screening Report established the Council's view that the Country Park Plan was not likely to have significant environmental effects and that as a result it should not be subject to the SEA process under the Act. The Council sought the opinions of the three consultation authorities (Historic Scotland, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage) following completion of the Screening Report in April 2014. All three consultation authorities were similarly of the view that the plan was not likely to have significant environmental effects. Following the consideration of the responses, the Council published notification of the above determination, as required under the Act, in June 2014.
- Given that the Screening Report confirmed the intention to undertake an SEA in parallel with the preparation of Dams to Darnley Country Park SPG, the Council did not consider it necessary to carry out an initial SEA Screening Report in relation to the SPG.
- The compilation of an SEA Scoping Report (November 2014), undertaken as part of the preparation of the Proposed Dams to Darnley Country Park Supplementary Planning Guidance, therefore followed as the next step required of the Council under the Act. The Scoping Report defined the necessary level of detail required within the SEA and set out the consultation timescale. Specifically the Scoping Report also identified existing baseline data and information associated with a set of Environmental Objectives. These Objectives were based upon a number of Environmental Issues, derived from Schedule 3 of the Act and Appendix 5 of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2005). As required under the Act the views of the three Consultation Authorities were sought on the report in November 2014.
- The responses of the Consultation Authorities informed the completion of an SEA Environmental Report (December 2014) which considered the enhancements set out in the

Proposed Country Park SPG. In preparing the Environmental Report the following information was considered:

- Existing environmental issues and objectives associated with the SPG.
 - Links between the SPG and other relevant strategies, policies, plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives.
 - Baseline data relating to the current state of the Country Park's environment.
 - An assessment of the likely environmental impacts (positive and negative) arising from the SPG.
 - Enhancement and mitigation measures designed to prevent, reduce and offset identified negative environmental impacts.
 - How the SEA process has influenced the preparation of the SPG.
 - Monitoring measures to ensure that any unforeseen significant environmental effects will be identified at an early stage, allowing appropriate remedial action to be taken.
- The proposed SPG, together with the associated Environmental Report, was submitted to the Consultation Authorities and for public consultation in January 2015. As a result of the consultation process a number of alterations were made to the proposed guidance and Environmental Report. Revised SPG and Environmental Report documents were approved by the Council in March 2015. The Dams to Darnley Country Park Supplementary Planning Guidance was submitted to Scottish Ministers for approval in March 2015 and adopted by the Council as part of the East Renfrewshire Local Development Plan on 25 June 2015.

How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Supplementary Planning Guidance and how the Environmental Report has been taken into account

The SPG identifies the priority enhancements that the Council wishes to support in order for the Country Park to realise its full potential as a visitor and community facility. The SPG details enhancements based upon four themes:

- Access
- Facilities
- Natural and built heritage
- Promotion and management

Environmental considerations have been integrated into each of these themes in a number of ways. The SEA Environmental Report has similarly been taken into account.

Environmental Considerations and findings from the Environmental Report	How Environmental Considerations have been integrated into the Supplementary Planning Guidance and how the Environmental Report has been taken into account
<p>The potential impact of access and visitor facility proposals upon Local Biodiversity Sites and priority Local Biodiversity Action Plan habitats, identified within the Environmental Report.</p>	<p>Careful planning, design, construction and maintenance will aim to remove or minimise the impact of access and visitor facility proposals contained within the SPG upon priority sites and habitats identified within the Environmental Report.</p> <p>New and existing paths will aim to manage the impact of access and increased visitor numbers upon priority sites and habitats.</p> <p>The SPG includes an objective to implement habitat enhancements focused upon priority biodiversity habitats and themes across the Country Park. This will include enhancements associated with access and visitor facility proposals identified within the SPG.</p> <p>Specific biodiversity improvements linked to the creation of new wildflower, woodland and wetland habitats will be progressed in order to enhance the suitability of the environmental education base, proposed within the SPG, as an outdoor learning resource. These enhancements will focus upon priority Local Biodiversity Action Plan habitats.</p> <p>The SEA process enabled indicative path routes identified within SPG associated with Barrhead South, which the Council has also prepared as part of the Local Development Plan, to be examined in more detail. This resulted in minor but important changes to the indicative routes associated with the Barrhead South Green Network at Lyoncross, which were then included within the Country Park SPG. These changes aimed to avoid or reduce the impact of access proposals upon biodiversity by routing a section of path along the edge of the Local Biodiversity Site. The SEA also led to further consideration of a proposed path link between Barrhead South and Waulkmill Glen Reservoir. A route along the north side of Littleton Reservoir had been previously identified within the Country Park Plan. The Environmental Report identified that this route would have had potentially more significant environmental impact upon wetland bird species associated with the fringes of the reservoir. As such, it would also impact upon a number of Local Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats, including standing open water and unimproved grassland. An alternative route to the north was assessed as likely to have less impact and was included in the SPG as an access proposal.</p>
<p>The potential impact of access and</p>	<p>Careful planning, design, construction and management will</p>

<p>visitor facility proposals upon species protected under EU and/or UK legislation and priority Local Biodiversity Action Plan species, identified within the Environmental Report.</p>	<p>aim to remove or minimise the impact of access and visitor facility proposals contained within the SPG upon protected and priority species identified within the Environmental Report.</p> <p>Where appropriate, ecological surveys will determine whether proposals will impact upon protected species and whether mitigation measures are appropriate or required.</p> <p>Construction and vegetation clearance will take place out with the breeding season for wild birds as far as possible, to avoid the potential for disturbance. If works take place during the season it will be essential to confirm that no nesting birds are present.</p> <p>The SPG includes an objective to carry out surveys and maintain records of the Country Park’s biodiversity assets. Existing biological records identified within the Environmental Report will provide a baseline that supports future monitoring of the impact of proposals upon protected and priority species, assisting to highlight potential problems should they arise.</p> <p>New and existing paths will aim to manage the impact of access and increased visitor numbers upon protected and priority species.</p> <p>Proposals to enhance the Country Park Countryside Ranger Service will assist in future monitoring and the promotion of responsible access through the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.</p>
<p>The high ornithological value of Balgray Reservoir and the potential significant impact of the proposed wake park upon nesting and wintering birds. The development of watersports activities is likely to lead to some increases in noise levels and disturbance.</p>	<p>An opinion will be sought on the requirement to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment associated with the proposed Balgray Wake Park.</p> <p>The SPG includes an objective to manage other Country Park uses in relation to safeguarding its natural heritage. A management plan will be put in place as part of the development and operation of Balgray Wake Park. The plan will identify potential environmental impacts and detail appropriate enhancement and mitigation measures.</p> <p>Specific biodiversity enhancements, associated with open water habitats, will be identified and implemented within the Country Park. Enhancements will include new floating islands, measures to sustain healthy fish populations and aquatic life and marginal scrub vegetation and grassland habitat enhancement and creation. These enhancements will assist to compensate for the potential loss in localised habitat value associated with future recreational activities at Balgray Reservoir, as promoted within</p>

	<p>the SPG.</p> <p>The zoning of watersports activities to a relatively small area will offer a potential mitigation measure. Data contained within the Environmental Report identifying locations of greatest biodiversity value associated with Balgray Reservoir enabled a preferred site for the wake park to be identified within the SPG.</p>
<p>New safe walking and cycling routes will have positive secondary environmental impacts in terms of promoting health and well-being. In delivering sustainable transport options, access proposals will also contribute to a reduction in noise and vibration, air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and energy use.</p>	<p>The SPG includes proposals to deliver a number of key path routes to and within the Country Park.</p>
<p>Proposed Country Park facilities will provide significant benefits in terms of the development of recreational, training, volunteer and educational opportunities, together with the promotion of health and well-being.</p>	<p>In addition to cable wakeboarding, the SPG promotes Balgray Wake Park in terms of delivering recreational, training, competition and event opportunities in relation to open water swimming, angling and triathlon. The proposed environmental education base will also provide basic facilities promoting outdoor learning, supporting school visits, health walks, events and volunteer opportunities.</p>
<p>Construction activities associated with access and visitor facility proposals will lead to short-term localised increases in noise, vibration and energy use.</p>	<p>Careful planning, design, construction and management will aim to minimise the short-term impact of construction.</p>
<p>The potential impact of access and visitor facility proposals upon the key cultural heritage features contained within the Country Park, as identified within the Environmental Report.</p>	<p>Mitigating the impact of access proposals upon the cultural heritage setting associated with the Victorian infrastructure of Balgray Reservoir will be an essential element of the design process.</p> <p>Detailed consideration of path routes will ensure that they do not impact upon cultural heritage features associated with Lyoncross, as identified within the Environmental Report.</p> <p>The SPG includes objectives to manage other Country Park uses in relation to safeguarding its cultural heritage and to protect and enhance sites of historical importance.</p>
<p>The potential impact of access and visitor facility proposals upon</p>	<p>Detailed designs associated with access and visitor facility proposals will have to take careful consideration of how</p>

sensitive landscape areas contained within the Country Park, as identified within the Environmental Report.

proposals sit within their landscape. Utilising existing woodland and hedgerow species will assist to sympathetically set proposals into their surrounding landscape. Ensuring that existing agricultural landscape elements, in particular stone walls and hedgerows, are retained and enhanced will also be essential. Boundary features such as hedgerows are a priority habitat within the Glasgow Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

A comprehensive landscape plan will be part of major access and visitor facility proposals. Planting will help to screen proposals where appropriate and set them within their landscape setting.

The Barrhead South SPG details a green space and landscape framework that aims to integrate the development within the wider countryside, including the Country Park. The framework will be key in mitigating the landscape impact of access and visitor facility proposals within Lyoncross.

Key design criteria and issues identified within the SPG on Rural Development, which the Council has prepared as part of the Local Development Plan, will require to be taken into account in relation to visitor facilities. These must ensure that facilities contribute to the landscape through designs that are distinctive and responsive to their settings.

Designing the Country Park visitor centre and associated car park around an enhanced birch woodland fringe that stretches along the north east edge of Balgray Reservoir will be an important element. Scrub woodland is identified as a priority habitat within the East Renfrewshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

The Barrhead South green space and landscape framework will be key to mitigating the landscape impact of the proposed environmental education base. The screening of the base will benefit from the existing woodland block associated with the proposed site. It will be important to enhance this landscape element further. This will in turn support the enhancement of broadleaved and mixed woodland, a priority habitat contained within Local Biodiversity Action Plans. It will also contribute towards off-setting increased carbon emissions.

The SEA process resulted in minor but important changes to indicative path routes within Lyoncross. These aimed to reduce the impact of access proposals upon the Country Park's landscape by re-routing a section of path along a field margin.

<p>Car park and visitor facility proposals will generate an increase in car borne journeys and thus secondary environmental impacts associated with increases in noise and vibration, air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and energy use.</p>	<p>Visitor facilities proposed within the SPG will be connected to each other, their surrounding communities and the planned Barrhead South Rail Station by inclusive path networks, offering sustainable transport alternatives.</p>
<p>Proposed visitor facilities and associated car parks have the potential to increase localised water pollution and flooding. Although motorised watersports are not being proposed at Balgray Reservoir it is likely that a powered rescue craft may require to be positioned on stand-by. The risk of water pollution is likely to increase as a result.</p>	<p>Careful design, construction and management will aim to remove or minimise the risk of localised water pollution and flooding associated with the development and operation of visitor facilities, proposed within the SPG.</p> <p>The SPG highlights that alternative fuels to petrol, such as LPG would reduce the risk of water pollution associated with powered rescue craft. A management plan will be put in place as part of the development and operation of Balgray Wake Park. The plan will identify potential environmental impacts and detail appropriate enhancement and mitigation measures.</p>
<p>The potential impact of access proposals on land management.</p>	<p>Where possible path routes will follow field margins, whilst gates and fencing will be installed as appropriate. New and existing paths will aim to manage the impact of access and increased visitor numbers upon land management.</p> <p>Proposals to enhance the Country Park Countryside Ranger Service will assist in future monitoring and the promotion of responsible access through the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.</p>
<p>The development of access and visitor facility proposals will result in increases in energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. The operation of visitor facilities will lead to additional increases.</p>	<p>Recycled stone will be used in the construction of paths and car parks where appropriate.</p> <p>The design and operation of visitor facilities will meet high standards of energy efficiency, ensuring that it minimises energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, in line with SPG associated with Energy Efficient Design which the Council has prepared as part of the Local Development Plan. There will be opportunities to offset carbon emissions and address and adopt environmental mitigation and sustainability measures from the outset.</p> <p>Measures to reduce waste and promote recycling will be part of the design and operation of all Country Park facilities.</p>

How the opinions expressed during consultation mentioned in Section 16 of the 2005 Act have been taken into account

Organisation	Comment/concern	How addressed within the Environmental Report
Strathclyde Geoconservation Group	The inclusion of geology in the Environmental Assessment (table 1 and sections 6.14.1 and 8.1.3) is commended.	The Council noted the support for the inclusion of geology in the SEA.
Strathclyde Geoconservation Group	The document 'A Geological Audit of the City of Glasgow', carried out and published by the British Geological Survey in 2013, should be referenced in relation to appendix 1 (Soil and Geology), appendix 3 (section 4.3) and appendix 4 (Baseline Data). The Site Assessment of Waulkmill Glen SSSI (GGS 13) contained within the audit provides a more up to date assessment than the SNH report.	The SEA was revised to reference the British Geological Survey audit of 2013. The audit findings were included in the State of the Environment Report (appendix 3, section 4.3). The audit also formed part of baseline geological data, listed in appendix 4. The audit was not listed as a source in appendix 1, as this referred to data used within the previous Scoping Report which had already been completed.
Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)	SNH is happy to concur with the conclusions of the assessment, which assessed the various proposals referred to in the Proposed SPG against those Environmental Objectives that relate to the natural heritage. Where negative environmental impacts were identified, the need for mitigation is stated and suggestions made. Where proposals have been included in the SPG that have been assessed as having likely negative environmental impacts the reasons for their adoption are also explained.	The Council noted that SNH concurs with the conclusions of the SEA.
Historic Scotland (HS)	The assessment provides a clear understanding of the likely significant effects of the Proposed SPG and its reasonable alternatives and HS are content to agree with the findings presented.	The Council noted that HS agreed with the findings of the SEA.
Historic Scotland (HS)	The descriptive approach to the assessment is welcomed and offers a clear consideration of the potential effects of	The Council noted that HS welcomed the descriptive approach to the SEA and the presentation of mitigation and enhancement measures as

	each of the proposals and alternatives on the historic environment baseline. Where effects are identified mitigation and enhancement are suggested as appropriate.	appropriate.
Historic Scotland (HS)	It is particularly welcomed that the findings of the assessment have been reflected in the content of the Proposed SPG, giving greater understanding of the environmental effects of the proposals.	The Council noted that HS welcomed the fact that the findings of the SEA were reflected in the SPG.
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)	SEPA are satisfied that an adequate assessment of the Proposed SPG has been carried out and would agree with the findings of the Environmental Report.	The Council noted that SEPA were satisfied with the adequacy of the SEA and agreed with the findings of the Environmental Report.
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)	As the Proposed SPG is finalised, East Renfrewshire Council as Responsible Authority, will be required to take account of the findings of the Environmental Report and of views expressed upon it during this consultation period. As soon as reasonably practical after the adoption of the Proposed SPG, the Responsible Authority should publish a statement setting out how this has occurred. SEPA normally expect this to be in the form of an "SEA Statement" similar to that advocated in the Scottish Government Guidance. A copy of the SEA statement should be sent to the Consultation Authorities via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on publication.	As required the Council has drafted this Post-adoption SEA Statement following the adoption of the SPG. This statement outlines how the SEA and consultation responses have been taken into account, within the SPG. The statement will be forwarded to the SEA Gateway for circulation to the three Consultation Authorities.
Dams to Darnley Country Park Countryside Ranger Service	Sections 6.2.3, 6.5.3, 6.6.2, 6.7.2, 6.8.3, 6.10.7, 6.11.3 and 6.12.2 state that 'as far as possible' construction will not take place during the breeding season. If work was to take place during the breeding season a licence would be	The Council recognised the position in relation to the disturbance of nesting birds during construction as set out in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). As it is unlikely that a license would be granted in such circumstances the sections of the SEA noted

	required or it would need to be confirmed that no nesting birds were present.	will be re-drafted to indicate that if works were to take place during the season it would have to be confirmed that no nesting birds were present.
Dams to Darnley Country Park Countryside Ranger Service	Sections 6.3.3 and 6.11.3 indicate that increased activity associated with visitor facilities has potential to impact upon biodiversity, at least in the short term. As facilities will be permanent it is suggested that these impacts will be long-term.	The Council noted the suggestion that the impact upon biodiversity associated with facilities is likely to be long-term because of their permanency. It also noted the view that increased activity may have a negative impact upon the biodiversity of the reservoir, in particular in the short-term, prior to any potential acclimatisation by wildlife.
Dams to Darnley Country Park Countryside Ranger Service	Great to read that the birch scrub woodland at Balgray Reservoir will not only be protected, but enhanced.	The Council noted the support for the enhancement of the birch scrub woodland at Balgray Reservoir.
Dams to Darnley Country Park Countryside Ranger Service	In section 6.5.2 there is no mention of the pond in the field to the south east of Balgray Reservoir that the path will pass from Newton Mearns to Balgray. This is well used by birds.	The Council noted the importance of this pond. The revised SEA highlighted that the proposed path route passes close to the pond and that it is well used by birds.
Dams to Darnley Country Park Countryside Ranger Service	There is no mention of surveys to be done for bats. Will this be in with an EIA? There is no mention of bats throughout the Strategic Environmental Assessment. Sections 1.5.3 and 1.6.1 of appendix 3 should include bats as notable species think that bats are notable species. They should also be identified in table 5 of appendix 3.	The Council notes the omission of any reference to bats in the SEA. Bats are not recorded in the available species information associated with the Country Park but as they are present they should be referenced SEA. The revised SEA included references to the presence of bats and their significance as a protected European protected and LBAP species in relation to relevant proposals. The need to carry out relevant surveys was additionally noted. Sections 1.5.3, 1.6.1, 1.9.1, 1.10.1 and 1.11.1 were also updated to include bats as notable species. Bat species found within the Country Park were added to tables 4 and 5 of appendix 3. Finally sections 1.17.6 and 1.17.7 were revised to identify the protection afforded to bats under the Wildlife

		and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and European Habitats Directive.
Dams to Darnley Country Park Countryside Ranger Service	Section 6.10.10 makes specific reference to the potential need for a powered craft to be positioned on stand-by if canoeing is promoted. But wakeboarding is also likely to require one.	The Council noted the comment in relation to the potential need for a motorised rescue boat. The revised SEA omitted the specific reference to canoeing in terms of the requirement for a motorised rescue boat to be positioned on stand-by.
Dams to Darnley Country Park Countryside Ranger Service	In relation to mitigation measures associated with grassland habitat creation it is more likely that such habitats will be enhanced, rather than created.	The Council noted the comment in relation to grassland habitat enhancement. The relevant mitigation measure contained within the SEA was re-drafted to include 'grassland habitat enhancement and creation.'
Dams to Darnley Country Park Countryside Ranger Service	With reference to section 1.2.2 of appendix 3, we have never seen river limpets. Better perhaps to say various species of mayfly nymphs instead as they are found within the Country Park and they are good water quality indicators.	The Council noted the comment in relation to the presence of river limpets. The revised SEA refers to the presence of various species of mayfly nymphs as good indicators of water quality.
Dams to Darnley Country Park Countryside Ranger Service	With reference to section 1.7.1 of appendix 3 the presence of greater butterfly orchid should be noted.	The Council noted the comment in relation to the presence of greater butterfly orchid. The revised SEA refers to their presence.
Dams to Darnley Country Park Countryside Ranger Service	Should cable wakeboarding be referred to as non-motorised? If it is it should at least be explained how it is powered.	The Council noted the query as to whether cable wakeboarding should be described as 'non-motorised'. The Council has used the term 'non-motorised' to describe cable wakeboarding in distinguishing it from motorised activities such as water skiing and jet skiing, which it has no plans to promote.
Clydebirds	The reservoir hosts large numbers of wintering wildfowl including geese and swans. The overhead cables will be	The Council noted the potential hazard of overhead cables on flying birds. The revised SEA highlights the potential additional hazard

	extremely hazardous to flying birds.	caused by wakeboarding cables and the need for specific mitigation measures associated with the design, operation and management of the Wake Park. This issue will be addressed as part of a future proposed planning application.
The Coal Authority	One of the proposed paths (figure 5) will be directly over a recorded mine entry and within the zone of influence of a recorded mine entry. It is recognised that no significant operational development is required as part of the formation of a path, however as the Council is promoting public access to these areas that may not be intensively used at this time, it will be necessary to change the path route slightly to avoid these mining features with regards to public safety.	The Council noted that the indicative route of a path, as detailed in figure 5 of the Strategic Environmental Assessment, is directly over a recorded mine entry. The indicative route of the path shown in figure 5 was adjusted so that it is outwith the zone of influence of the recorded mine entry in the revised SPG and SEA.
Member of the Public	The Wake Park cables would seem to be a hazard to any waterbirds flying from one end of the waterbody to the other, especially tired migrating species arriving at dusk in the autumn. The moulting flocks of tufted ducks resident from June-September, although able to fly, really cannot gain much height and would also be vulnerable to collision with the ropes.	The Council noted the potential hazard of overhead cables on flying birds. The revised SEA was re-drafted to highlight the potential additional hazard caused by wakeboarding cables and the need for specific mitigation measures associated with the design, operation and management of the Wake Park. This issue will be addressed as part of a future proposed planning application.
Scottish Ornithologists' Club (Clyde Branch)	The overhead cables will present a significant hazard to flying birds, inevitably this will lead to potentially fatal collisions; this is of particular concern for large slow flying birds like swans and geese.	The Council noted the potential hazard of overhead cables on flying birds. The revised SEA was re-drafted to highlight the potential additional hazard caused by wakeboarding cables and the need for specific mitigation measures associated with the design, operation and management of the Wake Park. This issue will be addressed as part of a future proposed planning application.

<p>Dams to Darnley Angling Club</p>	<p>The bays proposed for cable wakeboarding are known to be nursery areas for fish due to the large number of sunken trees and other structures within them. As this underwater structure is missing from large parts of Balgray Reservoir, the club believes that these bays are critical for new generations of fish.</p>	<p>The Council noted the critical importance of the bays proposed for wake boarding as nursery areas for fish, and in turn for breeding and wintering bird species. The SEA was revised to highlight the potential impact of the wake park upon fish populations and aquatic ecology, whilst identified mitigation measures were also updated in the adopted SEA and SPG.</p>
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How the results of any relevant consultation under regulation 14 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 2004/1633) have been taken into account

Due to the relatively local scale and nature of the Local Development Plan, no trans-boundary consultations were undertaken or comments received under section 14 of the 2004 Regulations.

The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives considered

The Country Park plays a central role in the Council's priority to support the development of an attractive and sustainable green network as reflected in the East Renfrewshire Local Development Plan. As a key component of the East Renfrewshire green network, the development and management of the Country Park in turn supports the wider Central Scotland Green Network, one of fourteen national elements identified to deliver the spatial development strategy associated with National Planning Framework 3.

The access and visitor facility proposals contained within this SPG are seen as essential if the vision behind Dams to Darnley as a key element of the green network is to be realised and its potential as a regional attraction and valued community resource fulfilled. These proposals will also contribute to broader green network objectives which seek to improve quality of place, address environmental inequalities, enhance health and well-being and support volunteering, education and training.

The SPG also recognises the significant importance of the Country Park in terms of its natural and built heritage. As such it seeks to promote balance between the development of key access and visitor facility proposals and the Country Park's natural and built heritage. The SEA has established a series of proposed enhancement and mitigation measures. These aim to mitigate against the potential negative environmental impacts identified within the SEA, relating to the access and visitor facility proposals contained within the SPG. In addition to access and visitor facility proposals the SPG also contains objectives aimed at protecting, enhancing and managing the Country Park's biodiversity, geodiversity, landscape and built heritage assets.

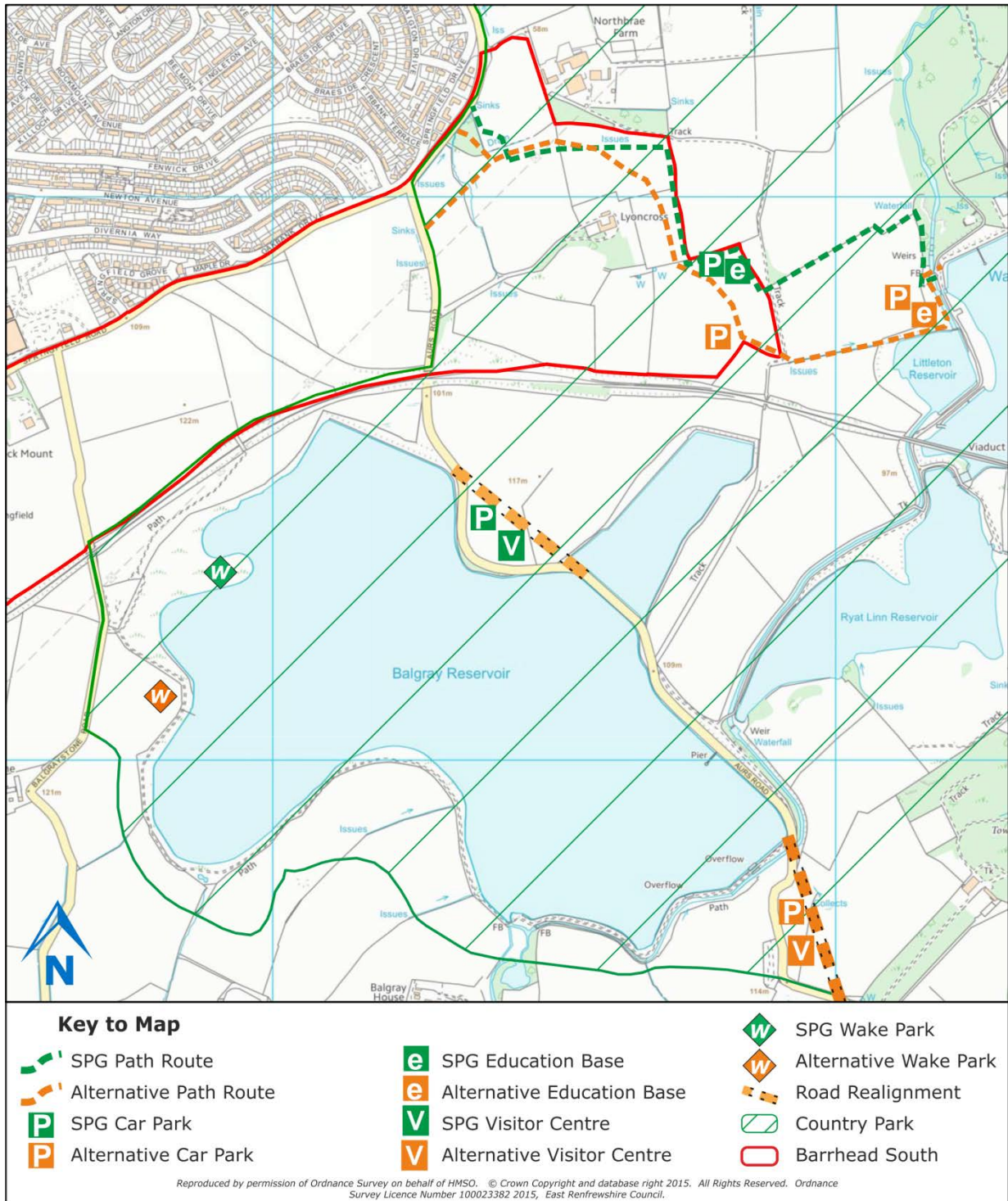
Access proposals

Feasible path routes within the Country Park are significantly limited because of restrictions associated with the current road alignment and adjacent reservoirs, together with landownership. The key path enhancements which aim to improve access from Newton Mearns and Barrhead to the Country Park are long standing aspirations. They are identified within the Country Park Plan, but broadly mirror proposals first identified and approved following consultation within the previous Dams to Darnley Master Plan (2004). They represent the most feasible and deliverable routes. The SEA identified that these routes were not anticipated to have significant environmental impact, whilst also identifying potential mitigation measures.

One alternative access proposal was assessed within the preparation of the SPG, relating to the indicative path routes associated with the Barrhead South Green Network at Lyoncross (figure 1). The SEA process enabled the routes, as identified within the Barrhead South SPG, to be examined in more

detail. This resulted in important changes to the indicative routes included within the Country Park SPG, compared to those identified within the Barrhead South guidance. These changes aimed to avoid or reduce the impact upon biodiversity and landscape setting by routing a section of path along the edge of the Lyoncross Local Biodiversity Site and the field margins to the east.

Figure 1: Alternative Proposal Locations



The SEA process also led to further consideration of the proposed path link from Barrhead South to Waulkmill Glen Reservoir. The Country Park Master Plan proposed a route along the north side of Littleton Reservoir. This route would have provided a path link from an alternative car park proposal, the indicative location of which was identified within the Barrhead South SPG (figure 1). It would also have connected to an alternative location for the environmental education base and associated car park adjacent to Littleton Reservoir to the east, the potential for which was identified within the Country Park Plan (figure 1). The SEA process identified that this route would have had potentially more significant environmental impact upon wetland bird species associated with the fringes of Littleton Reservoir. As such, it would also impact upon a number of priority habitats within the Local Biodiversity Action Plans, including standing open water and unimproved grassland. An alternative route to the north was assessed as likely to have less impact. This route would also connect to the potential location for an environmental education base and car park, included within the Country Park SPG (figure 1).

Visitor facility proposals

The Country Park Plan identified a number of locational options for Country Park visitor facilities and associated car parks. Since the completion of the plan, and as part of the preparation of the Country Park SPG, these options have been considered in more detail.

One alternative wake park location was considered within the Country Park Plan, immediately south of the preferred Balgray Reservoir location, identified within the SPG (figure 1). An initial needs assessment, undertaken on behalf of the Council around the wake park proposal, determined that the feasibility of this site would rely upon using the large sheltered bay in the south-west corner of the reservoir for wakeboarding activities. The SEA noted that this bay was recorded as being of greatest biodiversity value, in terms of habitat and levels of use. There was also a greater likelihood that these impacts will be longer-term and hence more permanent in nature than those associated with the preferred location. As a result, this site was assessed as having the potential to have considerably greater environmental impact upon biodiversity and was not as a result identified in the SPG as the preferred wake park location.

An alternative visitor centre location and car park was also identified within the Country Park Plan, associated with the realignment of Aurs Road, west of Barrhead (figure 1). The site overlooks the south-east corner of Balgray Reservoir, but separated from the water's edge by a spillway. Following further consideration the site was not taken forward as the Council's preferred location site, primarily in relation to suitability and feasibility.

The location would potentially have had less impact upon the reservoir's biodiversity in terms of short-term disturbance, as it would have required to be set back from the reservoir edge given the spillway. A visitor centre at this site would not benefit to the same degree from sustainable transport options, being considerably more distant from the proposed Barrhead South Rail Station.

Finally, the County Park Plan identified three potential alternative sites for an environmental education base. Only one of these locations, adjacent to Littleton Reservoir, was within East Renfrewshire and considered for inclusion within the SPG (figure 1). As with the proposed path, a visitor facility at this location would have had the potential for considerably more environmental impact upon the biodiversity associated with the fringes of Littleton Reservoir. A facility, and in particular its required access road and car park, would also have had greater impact upon the Country

Park's landscape. The potential location identified within the SPG to the north within Lyoncross, would not impact upon the biodiversity associated with the reservoir. It will also benefit from screening provided by an existing tree belt and from opportunities to enhance it.