

**SCOTTISH  
NATURAL  
HERITAGE**



DUALCHAS  
NADAIR  
NA H-ALBA

**STRATHCLYDE  
AND AYRSHIRE**

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*Please quote our reference number on all  
correspondence*

Ms Fiona Ross  
Environment Strategy Officer  
South Ayrshire Council  
Sustainable Development Team  
Burns House  
Burns Statue Square  
AYR  
KA7 1UT

Your Ref: PF 221/07-08

Our Ref: PF 221/07-08  
CNS/SP/AYR/LBAP and  
DB46154

Date: 3 July 2009

Dear Madam

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005  
PF 221/07-08: AYRSHIRE LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN REVIEW SEA  
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

I refer to your Environmental Report, sent to the Scottish Executive SEA Gateway on 17 January 2008. In accordance with Section 15(2) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, I have reviewed the report on behalf of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) in its role as a Consultation Authority under the above Act.

In our response to the scoping report (ref. our letter of 23 October 2006), we recommended clarification on the level of detail to be included within the Environmental Report (ER) and provided a number of issues which should be addressed. We are now content that the ER and the final draft Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (draft ALBAP) have provided this and our comments below reflect the information submitted at this stage.

**Whether or not the current state of the environment and key trends have been correctly identified**

Additional/

Additional sources of baseline information worth inclusion are the Scottish Semi-Natural Woodland and Ancient Woodland Inventory. Appendix C of the ER should be updated to include the Renfrewshire Heights SPA, Glen App and Galloway Moors SPA, and Merrick Kells SAC. Contemporary data on designated natural

heritage sites is available publicly through the SNH website. The SNHi section contains Interactive Facts and Figures, which allows the latest position to be monitored on a monthly basis.

**Does the ER identify the potential significant effects of the ALBAP on the natural heritage?**

Although the ER identifies a range of potentially significant effects of the ALBAP on the natural heritage, non-native invasive species is of particular environmental importance in Ayrshire and should be included.

**Whether or not the assessment of likely significant effects on the environment is satisfactory.**

We are content with the assessment of likely significant effects resulting from the implementation of the ALBAP. However, we refer to the additional environmental issue identified (i.e. non-native invasive species); it would be helpful to assess this issue and identify mitigation measures where appropriate.

**Whether any measures could prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects on the environment when implementing the plan or programme.**

We are pleased with the proposed mitigation measures as outlined in the ER.

**Whether the proposals for monitoring are adequate**

We are happy with the proposed monitoring methods.

Please/

Please note that the comments provided at this stage are in connection with the adequacy of the ER and are without prejudice to comments that may be made by SNH on the plan itself.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dorothy Simpson', written in a cursive style.

Dorothy Simpson  
Operational Manager  
Strathclyde and Ayrshire

cc SEA Gateways SNH, SEPA, Historic Scotland