

On-shore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance

Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report

August 2012



**On-shore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance
Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report
COVER NOTE**

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PART 2

An Environmental Report is attached for:

Onshore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance

The Responsible Authority is:

The Highland Council

PART 3

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PART 4

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Date

23rd August 2012

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Non-technical summary

This is an Environmental Report for the On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance (including Small Scale Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance) and is not intended to compare and contrast the environmental impact of different types of renewable energy or consider the environmental impacts of other regional, national or international energy policy.

This Environmental Report will be available for public comment and comment from the Consultation Authorities between 23rd August 2012 and 4th October 2012. All comments must be received by 5pm on 4th October 2012.

You can make comment on the Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report by:

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What is the Purpose and/or objectives of the On-shore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance?

The Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP) sets the strategic planning policy context for renewable energy developments. The On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance fills in the detail to ensure that the policy is well understood and is consistently applied across Highland.

The On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance will replace certain elements of the Highland Renewable Energy Strategy that relate to on-shore wind energy.

It has a relationship with a number of other plans but those which are most relevant include:

- The Highland-wide Local Development Plan;
- Highland Single Outcome Agreement 2; and
- The Highland Renewable Energy Strategy.

What is the state of the current environment?

General

The Highland Council area (including all islands at low water) is 26,484 square kilometres. This is 33% of Scotland and 11.4% of Great Britain. It is 10 times larger than Luxembourg, 20% larger than Wales, and nearly the size of Belgium. This supplementary guidance covers all of Highland except that part falling within the Cairngorms National Park Authority.

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

Natural heritage designations cover a range of habitats in Highland. In Designated sites there are:

Designation	Number of Sites	Area covered (Hectares)
Site of Special Scientific Interest	363	558046.7
Special Area of Conservation	91	611796.2
Special Protection Area	51	786414.9
National Nature Reserve	24	99449.8
Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance	171	3114.5
Local Nature Reserve	1	55.3
RAMSAR	13	197.1

Source: SNH Site Link December 2011

In addition the Cairngorms National Park lies partly within the authority of the Highland Council.

There are also a number of forestry features in Highland including ancient woodland and long established woodland which covers approximately 15% of Highland, including over 300,000 hectares of commercial forest. While many of these forested areas are not covered by statutory designations, it does highlight these areas as potentially high value ecological habitat.

Population

The current population of Highland is 220,490 and between 1999 and 2009 has grown 5.9%. The population density is 8.6 people per square kilometre. The latest General Register Office - Scotland (GROS) population projection for Highland states that by 2028, the population of Highland will be 251,953 (a 14.8% increase from 2008).

Human Health

Information from the census is one of the best and simplest methods we have of health of our population. In Highland the percentage of total with a long term limiting illness is 18.4% which is below the 20.3% average in Scotland as a whole.

It is considered that additional noise and shadow flicker can be factors related to some on-shore wind development. There is currently no baseline available on the current level of amenity impact that these have in Highland.

Soil

Given the scale of Highland and the diversity of its land there are a wide range of different soil types in Highland. Map 6 of the Land use Strategy for Scotland shows that the depth of peat in Highland especially around Sutherland and Caithness is deeper than most other parts of Scotland, however there is limited peat to be found around the Moray Firth. Peat is important in terms of its carbon storage properties and the habitats (many of which are water dependant) which it provides.

Water

The quality of the freshwater environment is recognised internationally for its importance as a spawning ground for wild salmon and use by whisky distilleries. The many lochs and rivers that characterise the local area are important for local economies and provide the scenic backdrop that encourages so many tourists to the area. The River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) Area Management Plans provide valuable baseline information on the quality of water in Highland. There are four RBMP Area Management Plans covering Highland: [Argyll and Lochaber](#), [North East Scotland](#), [North Highland](#), and [West Highland](#).

Air

Highland is not as effected by air pollution from extensive road networks and heavy industries as the rest of Scotland. The Highland Council undertake annual air quality reviews of their areas to ensure that the national air quality objectives will be achieved. The pollutants that require to be assessed by the local authority are:

- Benzene
- Carbon monoxide
- 1,3-butadiene
- lead
- nitrogen dioxide
- sulphur dioxide
- fine particles

Highland at present does not have any Air Quality Management Areas as the pollutant levels are below the national objective values. The 2010 Air Quality Progress Report for the Highland Council Area is available to view [online](#).

Climate Change

In Highland one of the main contributors to climate change is transportation due to the geography of the area and the need for travel to access facilities. High levels of CO₂ and other “greenhouse gases” in the atmosphere are thought to accelerate the Earth’s natural warming. Warming is predicted to have a variety of environmental consequences including increased frequency and severity of storm events, as well as rises in sea level. Changes in rainfall patterns could lead to increased erosion and pollution associated with surface water run-off.

Material Assets

For the purposes of this Environmental Report waste, access and transport are considered to be material assets. In terms of waste it is considered that the materials and management of waste as a result of development is a key consideration when assessing planning applications for on-shore wind energy given the location and scale of these types of development.

In terms of access to the outdoors The Highland Council Access Strategy 2008-2011 provides the key information on this valuable material asset including the level of access infrastructure as set out in the table below:

Access Resource	Distance (km)	%
Rights of Way	3362	11.6
Promoted	3959	13.6
Other Paths	8331	28.7
Roads	13401	46.1
Total	29053	100

The Highland area has a diverse transportation network encompassing one of the longest road networks in Scotland. Generally the transport infrastructure comprises of:

- 6730km/4182 miles of locally adopted road;
- 1400 bridges (span greater than 3 metres) and 700 structural culverts (up to 3 metres);
- 951km of trunk road;
- 108 harbours, slipways and piers; and
- 2 airports

Cultural Heritage

There are a number of cultural and built heritage features in Highland. These are set out in the table below:

Designation	Number of Sites
Schedule Monuments	1237
Listed Buildings	A - 186 B - 1667 C(S) – 1161
Entry in Inventory of Gardens Designed Landscapes	51
Conservation Areas	30
Entry in Inventory of Historic Battlefields	6

The Highland Historic Environment Record includes 53677 records of all known archaeological sites, historic buildings and historic landscapes that make up the archaeological and historical heritage of the Highland area.

Landscape

This guidance covers the whole of Highland and therefore it can be expected the landscape varies significantly across the area. Seven Landscape Character Assessments cover the Highland Council area and describe the changes in landscape from the rolling farmland around the Inner Moray Firth Coast to the rocky undulating plateaus of Skye and Lochalsh. The Munros, Corbetts and other hills and mountains are key features in the landscape and attract visitors to the area year after year. There are a number of landscape designations across Highland, these are detailed below:

Designation	Number of Sites	Area covered (Hectares)
National Scenic Areas	16	738058.9
Special Landscape Areas	28	620344.2

Wild areas are key features of the Highland landscape and this is recognised by its inclusion within Policy 57 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan as a feature of Local Importance. The detailed mapping of Wild Areas is not available as yet however when it becomes available it will be used to update the baseline and due regard will be had to it in the On-shore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance.

What might happen if the On-shore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance was not implemented?

Without the guidance, the approach taken would be to rely on the policy in the Highland-wide Local Development Plan and the Highland Renewable Energy Strategy (HRES). HRES is now significantly out of date and conflicts with national planning policy with regard to on-shore wind energy developments. While the Highland-wide Local Development Plan contains a number of general policies in relation to the strategic protection and safeguarding of the environment, the supplementary guidance is key to ensuring that the policy approach is consistently interpreted and applied across Highland.

What are the current environmental problems?

A number of problems have been identified and are contained in the body of the report however they can be summarised as:

- The potential exists for European protected species and other protected species to be effected.
- Risk of habitat loss and fragmentation.

- Amenity impact from on-shore wind energy developments.
- Effects on the natural, built and cultural heritage.
- Effects on the landscape from wind farms individually and cumulatively.

Assessing the options

For the purposes of this Strategic Environmental Assessment the guidance has been broken down into 4 sections:

- Spatial Framework
- Development Guidelines
- Additional Guidance
- Appendix 1 – Landscape and Visual.

Each of these sections and their reasonable alternatives have been assessed. The results of this are summaries in the Environmental Report and can be found in full in Appendix 3. The guidance has also been assessed as a whole to look at the effects the guidance will have when it is applied as a whole rather than each part individually this is called the cumulative assessment. This is summarised in the Environmental Report but can be found in full in Appendix 4.

Following discussion with the Consultation Authorities we have assessed each of these options against the following SEA objectives:

1. Maintain and enhance designated wildlife sites, biodiversity, valuable habitats and protected species, avoiding irreversible losses.
2. Provide opportunities for people to come into contact with and appreciate nature/natural environments.
3. Protect and enhance human health.
4. Reduce impacts on peatland and safeguard soil quality and quantity.
5. Avoid impact to and where possible enhance the water environment
6. Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change and address the carbon balance of on-shore wind energy development.
7. Increase the proportion of energy from renewable sources.
8. Promote the sustainable use of natural resources.
9. Protect and where appropriate enhance the cultural heritage.
10. Value and protect the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscapes.

Below we have identified the significant effects before any mitigation is carried out:

It is anticipated that the **Spatial Framework** may have a significant positive effect on landscape. No significant negative effects are anticipated.

It is anticipated that **Development Guidelines** may have significant positive effects on climatic factors. No significant negative effects have been identified.

It is anticipated that both of the approaches assessed for **Appendix 1** may have significant positive effects on landscape.

No other approach (or alternative) is anticipated to have a significant effect either positive or negative.

How can these significant effects be minimised or maximised?

To minimise the significantly negative effects and maximise the significantly positive effects we have proposed mitigation measures. These are borne out of the assessments in appendices 3 and 4, as well as through other changes to the guidance which may have been made for reasons outwith the scope of this SEA. The changes are largely promoted as changes to the guidance and these changes have been summarised from page 74.

Why have these options been assessed?

To ensure the strategic environmental assessment of the on-shore wind energy supplementary guidance is practical and proportionate a scoping exercise was carried out to determine which parts of the guidance should be subject to SEA individually. This was included in the Scoping Report and comments sought from the Consultation Authorities. The reasonable alternatives for these proposals are also set out within the table.

How will we monitor its effectiveness?

The effect on the environment will be assessed alongside the overall monitoring of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan. We have suggested that all SEA topics scoped into this assessment be monitored however we have not identified a monitoring indicator for Soil as yet. The monitoring will be undertaken using existing expertise in The Highland Council.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of this Environmental Report and key facts

As part of the preparation of On-Shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance, The Highland Council is carrying out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA is a systematic method for considering the likely environmental effects of certain Plans, Programmes and Strategies (PPS). SEA aims to:

- integrate environmental factors into PPS preparation and decision-making;
- improve PPS and enhance environmental protection;
- increase public participation in decision making; and
- facilitate openness and transparency of decision-making.

SEA is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The key SEA stages related to this document are:

Scoping	deciding on the scope and level of detail of the Environmental Report, and the consultation period for the report – this is done in consultation with Scottish Natural Heritage, The Scottish Ministers (Historic Scotland) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Environmental Report	publishing an Environmental Report on the PPS and its environmental effects, and consulting on that report
Adoption	providing information on: the adopted PPS; how consultation comments have been taken into account; and methods for monitoring the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the PPS
Monitoring	monitoring significant environmental effects in such a manner so as to also enable the Responsible Authority to identify any unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and undertake appropriate remedial action.

The purpose of this Environmental Report is to:

- provide information on On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance
- identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance and its reasonable alternatives;
- provide an early and effective opportunity for the Consultation Authorities and the public to offer views on any aspect of this Environmental Report.

Key Facts

The key facts relating to this PPS are set out below:

Name of Responsible Authority

The Highland Council

Title

On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance

What prompted the Guidance

Scottish Planning Policy indicates that planning authorities should set out in the development plan a spatial framework for onshore wind farms of over 20 MW generating capacity. Authorities may incorporate wind farms of less than 20 MW generating capacity in their spatial framework if considered appropriate. A specific methodology has been set out by Scottish Government for preparing that spatial framework. It first appeared in Scottish Planning Policy 6 - Annex A in 2007 (which has been replaced by Scottish Planning Policy 2010) and the approach was detailed in Planning Advice Note 45 – Annex 2 in 2008. The Council has therefore prepared this version of its Supplementary Guidance with reference National Policy and Guidance. Scottish Government has reviewed PAN45 and its Annexes and published replacement national guidance and advice; any implications for this Supplementary Guidance document will be considered by the Council bringing forward the final version of this documentation.

Whilst the prospective development zoning in HRES which was derived from the Renewable Energy Resource Assessment (RERA) remains a view on development potential based on an analysis of certain constraints and opportunities, the names given to those zones and the policies applying to them, including the sequential approach set out, for planning purposes do not comply with the approach set out in Scottish Planning Policy (2010) and are therefore to that extent superseded by the approach in the Highland-wide Local Development Plan. Also the analysis of constraints and opportunities on which the new planning policy and guidance is based differs in some respects from that in HRES.

Subject

Town Planning

Period covered by Guidance

2011 onwards

Frequency of updates

The Supplementary Guidance will be updated as required and at least every 5 years inline with the Highland-wide Local Development Plan.

Area covered by Guidance

The guidance will be applicable to all planning applications, and applications under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for on-shore wind energy developments in the Highland Council area (excluding the Cairngorms National Park as shown on the map below).



Purpose and/or objectives of Guidance

The purpose of the guidance is to provide a spatial framework and guidance for assessing applications for On-shore wind energy developments as a supplement in particular to Policy 67 – Renewable Energy of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan.

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SEA activities to date

Table 1 summarises the SEA activities to date in relation to On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance

Table 1. SEA activities to date

SEA Action/Activity	When carried out	Notes (e.g. comment on data availability, particular issues or any advice from the Consultation Authorities that has now been taken into account)
screening to determine whether the PPS is likely to have significant environmental effects		This was not carried out as it was determined that the document falls under Section 5(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.
scoping the consultation periods and the level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report	July 2011	
Outline and objectives of the PPS	July 2011	
relationship with other PPS and environmental objectives	July 2011	
environmental baseline established	July 2011	
environmental problems identified	December 2011	
assessment of future of area without the PPS	December 2011	
alternatives considered	December 2011	
environmental assessment methods established	December 2011	
selection of PPS alternatives to be included in the environmental assessment	December 2011	
identification of environmental problems that may persist after implementation and measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects	December 2011	
monitoring methods proposed	December 2011	
consultation timescales <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timescale for Consultation Authorities • Timescale for public 	August 2012	The consultation period for both members of the public and the consultation authorities will be 6 weeks
notification/publicity action	August 2012	

Outline and objectives of On-Shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance

Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that the Environmental Report includes “*an outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme*”. The purpose of this section is to explain the nature, contents, objectives and timescale of the PPS.

Consultation authorities will be aware that a draft of the document has already been made available for comment. A summary of its contents is below and the draft guidance is available on the following link:

http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/5CA09D99-3DE4-49C0-AA48-B535C3184AFF/0/DraftSG_WindEnergy_April2011_REDUCED.pdf

- Introduction
 - This included an introduction to the guidance and an explanation of the need for the guidance
- Planning for Onshore Wind Energy
 - Context for the guidance
 - Approach to the creation of a spatial framework
- The Guidance
 - Categories of wind energy development
 - Development of a spatial framework (following PAN 45 Annex 2)
 - Stage 1 – Areas to be afforded significant protection
 - Stage 2 – Identify other constraints and policy criteria
 - Stage 3 – Refining areas of no significant constraint
 - Stage 4 – Identify Broad areas of search
 - Policy approach
- Development Guidelines
 - This provided advice on the following areas in relation to on-shore wind energy developments:
 - Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage
 - Other Species and Habitat Interests
 - Public Health and Safety
 - Landscape and Visual Impact
 - Community Amenity
 - Safety and Amenity of Individuals and Individual Properties
 - The Water Environment
 - Safety of Airport, Defence and Emergency Service Operations
 - The Operational Efficiency of Other Communications
 - The Quantity and Quality of Public Access
 - Other Tourism, Recreation and Film Industry Interests
 - Traffic and Transport Interests
- Additional Guidance
 - This provided guidance on some of the other considerations when determining planning applications for on-shore wind energy developments. This will include:
 - Community renewable energy developments;
 - Design and layout of windfarms
 - Forestry

- Peat
 - Electricity Transmission Cables and Lines
 - Gas Transmission Underground Pipelines
 - Impacts of other proposed developments on existing or consented windfarms
 - Site restoration
 - Mitigation
- Appendix 1: Spatial Framework – Landscape and Visual Guidance
 - This section of the guidance provided an overview of the landscape and visual guidance contained within the guidance and include two pilot areas studies, one for the Caithness area and one for the Monadhliath area.
- Appendix 2: Advice on Process
 - This generally set out further information/advice on issues regarding the planning process and on-shore wind energy developments including
 - Community Benefit
 - Pre-application consultation
 - Pre-application advice
 - Environmental Impact Assessment
 - Habitats Regulations Appraisal
 - Development close to the border with adjoining Planning Authorities
 - Construction Environmental Management Plans
 - Information on Constraints.

A glossary, list of useful references and additional reference maps was also included.

The purpose of the guidance is to guide development of on-shore wind development to the right locations based upon a spatial framework in order to comply with Scottish Planning Policy.

In carrying out an SEA of the On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance and acknowledging the previous consultation on the guidance the Council have decided that an SEA should be carried out on the draft supplementary guidance which has been out to public consultation to ensure the SEA can be focussed, practical and proportionate. The Environmental Report for the On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance will be subject to consultation prior to the adoption of the On-shore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance as a statutory part of the development plan. This is in tandem with an appendix to the supplementary guidance related to Small Scale Wind Energy Development. The SEA was carried out between the consultation on the draft version in 2011 and the version of the On-shore Wind Energy Interim Supplementary Guidance which was agreed by Planning, Environment and Development Committee in March 2012. It was carried out at this point to inform the development of the version of the guidance which has been agreed by the Planning, Environment and Development Committee in March 2012. Nevertheless, any issues arising from consultation at this time and leading to any need to consider possible amendments (together with any necessary modifications following Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) will be considered prior to final statutory adoption.

Relationship with other PPS and environmental protection objectives

Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that the Environmental Report includes an outline of the PPS relationships with other relevant PPS, and how environmental protection objectives have been taken into account in the PPS preparation. This section covers these issues and describes the policy context within which the PPS operates, and the constraints and targets that this context imposes on the PPS.

Table 2 summarises how the On-Shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance effects, and is effected by, other relevant PPS and environmental objectives.

Table 2. Relevant plans, programmes and strategies (PPS) and environmental protective objectives, and their relationship with On-Shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance

No.	Name of PPS / Environmental protection objective	Objective/Requirements of Plan/Programme	How it effects, or is effected by Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance in terms of SEA issues at Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005
International			
1	EC Directive on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC)	The objective of this Directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. Aims to identify and mitigate significant environment effects arising from certain plans and programmes.	The Directive requires that an SEA be carried out on qualifying PPS and an Environmental Report produced.
2	European Climate Change Programme (2005)	The European Commission's main instrument to discuss and prepare the further development of the European Union's climate policy. To identify and develop all the necessary elements on an EU strategy to deliver the EU Kyoto Protocol commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 8% below 1990 levels by 2008-2012.	The guidance should promote choice and raise awareness of the need for change; encourage the development of renewables, and aim to reduce the need to travel.
3	EC Directive establishing a framework for Community action in the Field of Water Policy Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	The Water Framework Directive is designed to integrate the way we manage water bodies across Europe. It aims to protect and enhance our water environment, promote sustainable water consumption, reduce water pollution and lessen the effects of floods and droughts.	The Strategic Environmental Assessment will seek to ensure flooding is a key consideration.
4	EU Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	The main aim of this Directive is to provide a common basis for tackling the noise problem across the EU. Provides a strategic approach to controlling environmental noise. It requires Strategic Noise Maps to be drawn along major roads, major railways and major airports. Action plans also have to be prepared to manage noise issues.	The guidance should take account of the implications of noise resulting from on-shore wind energy developments.
5	The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)	Principles of international commitment to sustainable development reaffirmed. Aims to strengthen and improve Government at all levels to fulfil commitment to sustainable development.	The guidance will take into consideration the principles of sustainable development and seek to reflect these within the overarching objectives of the

			strategy and individual projects.
6	Agenda 21(1992)	Agenda 21 underlines the growing awareness of the need to adopt a balanced and integrated approach to environment and development issues. Agenda 21 contains a broad range of qualitative objectives that relate to sustainable development. These include a requirement for countries to adopt integrated strategies to ensure compliance with legislation relating to sustainable development, to promote the use of renewable energy systems and to build public environmental awareness.	The guidance will reflect the principles of sustainable development, by directly addressing the provision of renewable energy development.
7	EC Directive On Public Access to Environmental Information (2003/4/EC)	Enforces the right of the public to view environmental information held by public authorities.	The Highland Council is required to ensure that all environmental information relating to the guidance is made available to the general public.
8	The Lisbon Agenda Established 2000	A ten year European strategy designed to spur economic growth throughout the EU. Targets are wide ranging and ambitious. They include achieving 3% average economic growth, 70% employment and the creation of 20 million jobs across Europe by 2010.	Promoting innovation and regional investment in the area can encourage economic growth in the region in alignment with the goals set out in the Lisbon Agenda.
9	UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. 'The Aarhus Convention' Adopted June 1998	Acknowledges the need for public participation in environmental issues and grants the public rights to access to justice and information on the environment.	Public involvement in the formulation of the guidance should be actively facilitated. Consultations should incorporate the views and suggestions of local residents, business groups, council representatives and government.
10	The Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	International commitment to maintaining the world's biodiversity. Three main goals established – the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources. Requirement for each country who has signed the declaration to develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	Adequate consideration of impacts effecting biodiversity with support for more detailed assessment at the local level where appropriate will be recommended.
11	The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat 'The Ramsar Convention' Adopted February 1971	An international treaty that provides the framework for national and international co-operation for the conservation of wetlands primarily to provide a habitat for birds.	The guidance must recognise the legal status of any 'Ramsar' protected site and reflect its ecological importance in its biodiversity objectives.
12	EU Soil Thematic Strategy (Consultation stage)	The emerging Soil Strategy aims to reduce soil pollution, erosion, compaction and sealing of soil. It also aims to protect the role of soil in storing CO2, avoiding water pollution and preserving biodiversity. Protection of the sustainable production of food and renewable resources is a further aim.	The Strategy highlights soil protection as an issue and implicates soil degradation as a forthcoming issue in relation to land use.
13	European Landscape Convention (2000)	Promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues.	The Convention directs the way in which landscape issues should be taken into consideration.
14	Energy Services Directive	This requires each member state to introduce a mandatory target for the annual amount of energy to be saved in the public sector attributable to energy services, energy efficiency programs and other energy efficiency measures. Article five of the	The guidance will work with the Highland-wide Local Development Plan and the Corporate Plan which seeks to reduce greenhouse gas

		directive requires the public sector to fulfill an exemplary role, including the purchase of equipment and vehicles based on a list of energy-specific product specifications.	emissions. The Bill will influence the targets and delivery of the Corporate Plan objectives and it will effect the development of the Sustainable Resource Plan for Highland Council.
15	EC Air Quality Framework Directive	Sets new air quality standards for previously unregulated air pollutants. Includes sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, lead and ozone pollutants.	Guidance should take a strategic approach to air quality in Highland working with the corporate plan which seeks to reduce pollutants by promoting active travel and better waste management.
16	European Biodiversity Framework	Promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, emphasising education, training and awareness raising, species identification, monitoring and exchange of information.	The guidance should have regard to the Biodiversity Duty that is stated in the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.
17	European Framework on Sustainable Development	Promotes coherent and cost-effective policy making; technological innovation; stronger involvement in civil society; and business in policy formation. Strategies for Sustainable Economic support progress in respect of the local environment.	The guidance will promote the development of renewable energy in the right locations.
18	European Spatial Development Perspective	Emphasises the importance of achieving, equally throughout the EU, economic and social cohesion, as well as the conservation and management of natural resources and cultural heritage. It stresses more balanced competitiveness of the European Community.	This will influence the delivery of all of the guidance.
19	Kyoto Protocol (1992)	United Nations international treaty on climate change. The Protocol entered into force in February 2005. Developed countries that have ratified the Protocol are committed to reducing their emissions of greenhouse gases. Commitment signed by 38 countries (plus the EU) to introduce legally binding targets to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 5% of 1990 levels in the period 2008-2012. The UK has committed to an 8% reduction.	The guidance will take account of targets for reducing CO2 emissions.
20	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	The Water Framework Directive is designed to integrate the way we manage water bodies across Europe. It aims to protect and enhance our water environment, promote sustainable water consumption, reduce water pollution and lessen the effects of floods and droughts.	The guidance will consider the implications for the water environment in terms of on-shore wind energy development.
21	1992 OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic	The OSPAR Convention is the current legal instrument guiding international cooperation on the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic.	The guidance will give due consideration for the marine environment in terms of on-shore wind energy development.
22	EU Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution (2005)	It establishes objectives for air pollution and proposes measures for achieving them by 2020: modernising the existing legislation, placing the emphasis on the most harmful pollutants, and involving to a greater extent the sectors and policies that may have an impact on air pollution.	The guidance will give due consideration to the impact of the guidance on the measures for Air pollution as set out in the strategy.
23	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)	Achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic	The guidance will have due regard to the provisions of the convention and how this has

		interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.	been interpreted locally.
24	EC Birds Directive (2009)	The Directive provides a framework for the conservation and management of, and human interactions with, wild birds in Europe. It sets broad objectives for a wide range of activities, although the precise legal mechanisms for their achievement are at the discretion of each Member State.	The guidance will take the directive into account in when creating the spatial framework.
25	EC Habitats Directive (1992)	The main aim of the Habitats Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species listed on the Annexes to the Directive at a favourable conservation status, introducing robust protection for those habitats and species of European importance.	The guidance will have due regard to the provisions of the directive.
National			
26	SEA Good Practice Guidelines (ODPM) 2005	The guidelines are designed to assist practitioners responsible for plans and programmes requiring SEA, explain the role of the Environment Agency in the process and promote good practice approaches.	The Council will use these guidelines to inform how best to carry out an environmental assessment on qualifying plans and programmes, such as the guidance.
27	UK Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future – Creating a Low Carbon Economy (2003)	Defines a long-term vision for energy policy combining environmental, security of supply, competitiveness and social goals. Four key goals within the White Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to cut the UK's carbon dioxide emissions, the main contributor to global warming, by 60% by about 2050 with real progress by 2020; - To maintain the reliability of energy supplies; - To promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond, helping to raise the rate of sustainable economic growth and to improve our productivity; and - To ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated. 	The guidance should recognise the significance of energy consumption by the transport sector and the corresponding contribution to CO2 emissions.
28	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2000 – amended 2003)	The UK Government has identified climate change as the most serious environmental problem facing the world today and one that will inevitably become more serious in the short to medium term. This programme outlines the UK's contribution to the global response to climate change - to deliver the UK's commitment of a 12.5% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2008-2012. The programme sets out a strategic, far reaching package of policies and measures across all sectors of the economy to achieve the targets set. These are also designed to move the UK towards its domestic target of 20% reduction in 1990 levels of CO2 emissions by 2010.	It is imperative that the guidance will take account of the strategic implication of this document.
29	The Future of Air Transport (2003) White Paper	Sets out a strategic framework for the development of airport capacity in the UK over the next 30 years, against the wider context of the air transport sector. It does not itself authorise or preclude any particular	The guidance should take account of current and future air transport proposals and the effect on-shore wind energy can have

		development, but sets out a policy framework which will inform decisions on future planning applications, and against which the relevant public bodies, airport operators and airlines can plan ahead.	on these interests.
30	Forestry Commission (2004) The UK Forestry Standard: The Government's Approach to Sustainable Forestry	The two central aims of the Standard are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The sustainable management of our existing woods and forests; and - A steady expansion of tree cover to increase the many diverse benefits that forests provide. 	The guidance will seek to safeguard and improve areas of semi-natural and amenity woodland where appropriate.
31	Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended)1981	This Act is the principle mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain. The Local Plan will aim to protect designated areas, protected species and priority habitats from development influences.	There are a number of SSSIs in the guidance area. The guidance should recognise their statutory importance and strive to ensure they are adequately protected.
32	UK Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996	Offers protection for rare wild mammals throughout the UK, including species such as red squirrels, bats and otters.	The guidance will make provision for incidents concerning wildlife conservation if protected species are discovered in areas designated for development.
33	UK The Protection of Badgers Act 1992	UK legislation offering specific protection to badgers and their setts. It is an offence to wilfully kill, injure or mistreat a badger. Their setts are also protected from obstruction, destruction, damage and, when active, disturbance. Any work within 30 metres of a badger sett may require a licence from SNH, and if destruction of the sett is unavoidable, a licence will definitely be required from SNH beforehand.	The guidance will be aware of the implication of this Act.
34	Climate Change Act 2008	An Act to set a target for the year 2050 for the reduction of targeted greenhouse gas emissions; to provide for a system of carbon budgeting; to establish a Committee on Climate Change; to confer powers to establish trading schemes for the purpose of limiting greenhouse gas emissions or encouraging activities that reduce such emissions or remove greenhouse gas from the atmosphere; to make provision about adaptation to climate change; to confer powers to make schemes for providing financial incentives to produce less domestic waste and to recycle more of what is produced; to make provision about the collection of household waste; to confer powers to make provision about charging for single use carrier bags; to amend the provisions of the Energy Act 2004 about renewable transport fuel obligations; to make provision about carbon emissions reduction targets; to make other provision about climate change; and for connected purposes.	The guidance will take a strategic approach to how land uses in Highland can play their part in reducing carbon emissions.
35	Scotland and UK Energy Policy	A number of issues present in the UK Energy White Paper will have implications for Scotland. In particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where we will use our own powers in different ways to achieve more for Scotland • Where we will use our own powers to complement UK measures The overall objectives agreed upon are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to reduce carbon emissions, and so tackle climate change • The need to ensure security of energy supplies by fostering a vibrant, diverse and 	The guidance will take into consideration the implications of the national policy when developing highland specific policies on developments regarding on shore wind energy developments.

		<p>competitive energy sector that is rooted here in Scotland</p> <p>The need to deliver energy at an affordable price for both individuals and businesses Ensuring that energy policy allows the energy sector to continue to make its vital contribution to economic growth</p>	
36	UK Biodiversity Action Plan 1995 and 1999	It is the UK Government's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity signed in 1992. It describes the UK's biological resources and commits the government to a detailed plan for the protection of these resources. It currently has 391 Species Action Plans, 45 Habitat Action Plans and 162 Local Biodiversity Action Plans with targeted actions, a major review of the Priority Species and Habitats are underway, and will be completed in late 2008.	The guidance should be implemented with regard to the Biodiversity Duty that is stated in the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
Scotland National			
37	The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	The Act ensures that during the preparation of a qualifying plan or programme, there will be the carrying out of an environmental assessment. The SEA process that should be followed by a responsible authority is also outlined.	The Council will follow the procedure outlined in the Act when carrying out an environment assessment on a plan or programme.
38	Scottish Executive et al (2005) Securing the Future. The UK's shared framework for sustainable development	<p>Sets out the guiding principles that have to be adhered to in order to achieve the goal of sustainable development.</p> <p>The following principles set out the framework for all sustainable development policy within the UK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Living within environmental limits - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society - Achieving a sustainable economy - Promoting good governance - Using sound science responsibly 	The guidance will adhere to the five principles in order that all policies are sustainable. The emphasis within the strategy is on balancing all aspects of sustainability, and this should be considered within the guidance
39	Scottish Executive: Choosing Our Future Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)	This document sets out the action that will be taken in Scotland to turn the shared priorities set out in the UK Framework for sustainable development into action. It has six key priorities; sustainable consumption and production, climate change and energy, natural resource protection and environmental enhancement, sustainable communities, learning to live differently and delivery.	The guidance will take account of objectives relating to sustainable development.
40	Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003	<p>Part 1 of the Act introduces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - statutory right of responsible access; - reciprocal obligation on owners to manage their land responsibly; - places a duty on local authorities to uphold access rights and to maintain core paths; <p>Part 2 introduces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - community's right to buy <p>Part 3 introduces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - crofting community right to buy 	The guidance needs to be aware of community land ownership and liaise with communities in order to assess if there are any allocations that may be required for the community's benefit. The guidance will also take into account the views from paths that need to be maintained and safeguarded from onshore wind energy development.
41	Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006	Act of the Scottish Parliament to make further provision relating to town and country planning; to make provision for business improvement districts; national scenic areas and for connected purposes.	The guidance will be produced using the guidance set out in this Act and also the secondary legislation of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) (Development Planning) Regulations 2009
42	Scottish Outdoor Access Code (2003)	The Scottish Outdoor Access Code, which aims to support the access provisions of the Land Reform	The guidance should consider the provisions of the outdoor

		Act, is based on three key principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - respect the interests of other people - care for the environment - take responsibility for your own actions 	access code
43	Scottish Executive (2000) Rural Scotland : A New Approach	Provides strategic confirmation of key issues such as establishing National Parks, Land Reform Act (ownership and access), water quality, planning and farming and notes their contribution to environmental quality. The main environmental objectives are to maintain the quality and diversity of Scotland's natural and cultural heritage.	The guidance should seek to maintain and enhance water quality, and safeguard amenity woodland and important croft land in order to protect the local landscape and maintain the natural heritage of an area.
44	Scottish Executive (2006) Rural Development Programme for Scotland 2007-2013 The Strategic Plan	The consultation paper sets out key themes and priorities for the Rural Development Strategy for Scotland. The Strategy will guide the use of European Union Funds and other resources for rural development in the 2007-13 Scotland Rural Development Programme. The Strategy will form part of a UK National Strategy Plan which must be submitted to the European Commission. The three proposed themes for the strategy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - underpinning performance and quality in the agriculture food processing and forestry sectors - enhancing rural landscapes and the natural heritage - promoting a more diverse rural economy and thriving communities. 	The three themes of the strategy support SEA objectives through the promotion of rural economic development and communities, natural heritage and landscape enhancement. The guidance will seek to acknowledge the need to maintain the local landscape and will plan for maintaining the natural heritage of the region.
45	Scotland's Biodiversity (2004) It's In Your Hands. A Strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland	Vision: 'It's 2030: Scotland is recognised as a world leader in biodiversity conservation. Everyone is involved; everyone benefits. The nation is enriched' Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conserve what we have - sustain healthy ecosystems - create networks and connections - engage more people - promote sustainable development The strategy also underlines the need to promote understanding and appreciation of natural heritage.	Sets out the overall approach to biodiversity conservation and enhancement which the guidance should contribute towards.
46	Scottish Historic Environment Policy (2008) (HS)	The Scottish Historic Environment Policy sets out Scottish Ministers' policies, providing direction for Historic Scotland and a policy framework that informs the work of a wide range of public sector organisations.	Guidance will take into consideration the SHEP when formulating policies on the built and cultural heritage of Highland.
47	Scottish Executive(2001) A Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture	The Strategy sets out the national vision for the agricultural and land management sector, responding positively to contextual change and providing a more viable future for the industry. It aims to make the industry more prosperous by establishing better connections with the market. It views agriculture as an integral part of rural development and emphasises the importance of environmental stewardship.	The guidance should take account of the concerns and opinions of local crofters, farmers, estate managers and landholders in the provision of new development.
48	Scottish Executive (2004) Framework for Economic Development in Scotland	The Vision of the Framework is 'to raise the quality of life of the Scottish people through increasing the economic opportunities for all on a socially and environmentally sustainable basis.' Key objectives include economic growth, regional	The guidance should reflect and build on the emphasis for environmentally sustainable ways of developing business.

		development and closing the opportunity gap. Sustainable development is also a key aim, the framework focuses on more efficient and profitable production, using fewer raw materials; adding more value to products with less pollution and waste in the process; and more consumer needs fulfilled with less energy, water or waste.	
49	The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)	Under the Regulations, competent authorities i.e. any Minister, government department, public body, or person holding public office, have a general duty, in the exercise of any of their functions, to have regard to the EC Habitats Directive with regard to European sites and European protected species..	The guidance will have regard to the regulations and the EC Habitats Directive.
50	Scottish Executive (2003) Securing a future: Scotland's Renewable Energy	Notes the Scottish Executive's target of achieving 18% of electricity generation in Scotland from renewables by 2010. Includes a commitment to biomass generation in Scotland and discusses opportunities arising from biomass initiatives, including short rotation coppice and co-products from timber operations and agriculture.	The guidance will give due regard to this important paper on the future of renewable energy in Scotland and aim to make a contribution towards the targets contained within.
51	Scottish Executive (2001) Potential Adaptation Strategies for Climate Change in Scotland	Identifies a full range of potential adaptation strategies for Scotland, including those specifically relating to agriculture, forestry, fishing and biodiversity.	Emphasises the importance of flexible resource management and the need to move on from defining conservation objectives on the basis of single species or fixed locations as these may no longer be achievable.
52	Forestry Commission Scotland (2005) Scottish Forestry Grants Scheme	The aim of the Scottish Forestry Grants Scheme (SFGS) is to help deliver the Scottish Forestry Strategy (SFS) by encouraging the creation and management of woods and forests to provide economic, environmental and social benefits.	The guidance supports the aim of managing existing woodland and enhancing it to maximise biodiversity, landscape, community and recreation objectives.
53	Forestry Commission Scotland (2004) Framework Document for Forest Enterprise Scotland	The purpose of Forest Enterprise Scotland is to manage the national forest estate to deliver economic, environmental and social objectives of the Scottish Forestry Strategy. Guiding principles include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sustainable forest management - delivering the Scottish Forestry Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helping to deliver other Scottish Executive agendas • efficiency and effectiveness 	The guidance and the SEA process will take account of the principles outlined, in relation to particular issues concerning community access to forests for recreational purposes and the transportation of timber.
54	Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) and SNH (2003) Habitat Networks for Wildlife and People	Aims to enrich the natural heritage of Scotland by the creation of woodland networks through linking woodlands, old and new, to form a more continuous woodland cover. This benefits wildlife by providing wider and more sustainable habitats and should enhance opportunities for people who live near, work in or simply enjoy woodlands. Proposes methods by which woods and forests can be linked and suggests woodland should be viewed as an integral part of the wider landscape rather than as individual stands of trees.	The guidance should aim to complement this strategy along with other policies of the Highland Council.
55	Groundwater Protection Policy for Scotland SEPA Environmental Policy 19 (2003)	Groundwater is a valuable resource in Scotland, essential for irrigation in some agriculturally productive areas, and is vital to the maintenance of the ecology and biodiversity of other habitats. As groundwater is not visible, it is often poorly understood and its value underestimated as a	The guidance will seek to avoid negative impact on ground water, and will advocate a contaminated land assessment and appropriate remedial work if necessary.

		<p>consequence.</p> <p>Groundwater should be managed in a sustainable way to maintain and enhance its contribution to social, economic and environmental welfare. However, the resource can be damaged by pollution and over-abstraction, sometimes irreversibly.</p>	
56	Policy on the culverting of Watercourses (policy26) SEPA (1998) (SEPA)	This policy aims to prevent the unnecessary damage to river channels as a result of culverting schemes which are proposed for reasons of convenience.	The guidance will advise on the culverting of water courses.
57	Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 (WEWS)	<p>The Act translates the EC Water Framework Directive into the Scottish context. It includes a number of key commitments relating to Scotland's water environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establishing River Basin Management districts; - preparing River Basin Management Plans - regulation of controlled activities (including those likely to cause pollution to the water environment, those involved in abstraction, and those from construction on or near water). <p>The Act aims to prevent further deterioration of water quality and has given Scottish Ministers powers to introduce regulatory controls over activities in order to protect and improve Scotland's water environment. That is, wetlands, rivers, lochs, transitional waters (estuaries and saline lagoons), coastal waters and water under the ground (groundwater).</p>	The guidance will reflect the Act in the development of adequate drainage systems. Future expansion of local water provision or abstraction and wastewater handling to cope with expected population increases will require close consultation with SEPA and Scottish Water.
58	The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (CAR)	<p>Brings into effect the regulation of the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • abstractions from surface and groundwater; • impoundment of rivers, lochs, wetlands and transitional waters; • groundwater recharge; - engineering in rivers, lochs and wetlands; - engineering activities in the vicinity of rivers, lochs and wetland which are likely to have a significant adverse impact upon the water environment; - activities liable to cause pollution; - direct or indirect discharge of certain substances to groundwater; and • any other activities which directly or indirectly are liable to cause a significant impact upon the water environment. 	The Regulations apply across the water environment to provide a holistic approach to pollution control and protection of the water environment. Any activities that may fall within the remit of these regulations will require close consultation with SEPA and the receipt of appropriate licences.
59	Flood Prevention and Land Drainage (Scotland) Act 1997 and the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009	<p>The introduction of these acts instigated changes to the responsibilities and duties of Local Authorities in Scotland.</p> <p>In respect of this Act the flooding referred to is the flooding of land, not being agricultural land. Flooding of agricultural land falls out with the requirements of the Act. The implications on The Highland Council of this Act impose the following additional requirements:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Assessment of watercourses, from time to time for the purpose of ascertaining whether any such watercourse is in a 	The guidance should take account of flood plains and areas at risk of flooding from SEPA's flood risk maps. Development proposals should avoid flood plains in the first instance, should this not be possible, adequate flood prevention or attenuation measures should be included.

		<p>condition likely to flood.</p> <p>b) A duty to maintain watercourses, which are in a condition likely to cause flooding, or where works would substantially reduce the likelihood of such flooding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of Local Authorities out with the area. Where it appears to The Highland Council that any watercourse in the area is in a condition which is likely to cause flooding, out with the area, the Council shall notify the local authority for the area in which the land is situated. • Reports shall be published, at two year intervals. 	
60	Passed to the Future (2002) Historic Scotland Policy for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment	<p>Sets out the Scottish Executive's policy for the sustainable management of the historic environment. It notes the irreplaceable nature of historic environment features, but also sets out the following key principles to guide the parameters in which change can take place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recognising value – in terms of quality of life and as a means of meeting social, environmental and economic needs - good stewardship – taking into account capacity for change and the sustainable use of resources • assessing impact – following the precautionary principle where impact is not clear • working together – to reduce damage, resolve conflict and maximise benefit 	The guidance should recognise the important role of the historic environment and acknowledge the need to work together with others to consider a balance between social, economic and environmental needs.
61	Forestry Commission Scotland: Scottish Forestry Strategy, 2006	<p>This document sets out a framework for taking forestry through the first half of this century. It sets out a vision for a forestry sector that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • diverse and strong • in tune with the environment • employing many people in a wide range of enterprises • providing the many other services and benefits that people need, now and for the future. 	The guidance should take account of forestry issues.
62	SEPA Policy 27 (Addendum)	<p>This document looks at the reduction and control of water pollution. SEPA is responsible for ensuring that licences granted for discharges are compliant with relevant regulations. It looks at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • urban waste water • nitrates directive • bathing waters • shellfish waters • freshwater fisheries • surface waters abstracted for public supply • dangerous substances • discharges to groundwater • integrated pollution prevention and control • Natura 2000 sites • Water framework directive • OSPAR. 	The guidance should take account of possible sources of water pollution.
63	Scottish Executive Trunk Road Biodiversity Action Plan (TRBAP)	<p>Sets the Scottish Executive's commitment to protecting Scottish biodiversity on the trunk road network. The purpose of the document is twofold:</p>	The guidance should take account of any recommendations and actions outlined within the

	(2000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to assist in the delivery of biodiversity targets and objectives as set down in the Scottish Local Biodiversity Action Plans. - to raise awareness of biodiversity in all engineers, managers, planners, designers and ecologists working on the Scottish Trunk Road network. 	Trunk Road Biodiversity Action Plan.
64	SNH Wildness in Scotland's Countryside – A Policy Statement	This sets out SNH's policy on Wildness in Scotland	guidance will take this into consideration when making recommendations on Wildness.
65	Scotland's Scenic Heritage (1978) Countryside Commission for Scotland	This report sets out the results of a review conducted to identify areas of unsurpassed attractiveness which must be conserved as part of our national heritage.	The guidance will take this into consideration when working toward the Highland-wide Local Development Plan objectives.
66	Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009	The aim of the Act is to establish a framework to enable more actions to reduce Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.	The guidance will take into consideration the provisions of the Act.
67	Historic Scotland's Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.	<p>This is the document to which all planning authorities are directed by Scottish Office Development Department Circular No.13/1998 in their consideration of conservation and listed building consent matters.</p> <p>The Memorandum aims to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • present the principles and policies upon which the legislation is based • offer clear guidance which will help both applicants and planning officers to determine whether they are following those principles and policies and achieving what is best for the site. 	The guidance should recognise the importance of the historic environment and acknowledge the need to work together with others to consider a balance between social, economic and environmental needs.
68	Meeting the Needs, Priorities, Actions and Targets for Sustainable Development in Scotland (2002)	Prioritises responsible resource use; Encourages energy conservation and promotes use of power from renewable sources; Ensures the provision of better land use planning, alternative service delivery and sustainable transport systems.	The guidance will have due regard to the ways in which it can contribute to the outcomes of this strategy.
69	Scottish Executive Policy Statement for Scotland - Designing Places	Sets out the Scottish Government's Policy to encourage well designed places throughout Scotland	Guidance will take the provisions of Designing Places into consideration when formulating policy to enable good design to be encouraged and promoted throughout Highland.
70	Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	Sets out a series of measures which are designed to conserve biodiversity and to protect and enhance the biological and geological natural heritage of Scotland. Places a general duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity.	The guidance will take into consideration the measures proposed in the Act.
71	Scotland's National Transport Strategy	<p>Sets out the long term vision for transport, together with objectives, priorities and plans. It focuses on three strategic outcomes which will set the context for transport policy making for the next twenty years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve journey times and connections between our cities and towns and our global markets to tackle congestion and provide access to key markets. • Reduce emissions to tackle climate change • Improve quality, accessibility and affordability of transport, to give people the choice of public transport and real alternatives to the car. 	The guidance will take into consideration the National Transport Strategy and support its aims and objectives in line with other documents including National Planning Framework 2 and the Strategic Transport Projects Review.

72	Scottish Executive Marine Coastal Framework (2005)	Seeks to provide clean, healthy, safe, productive and biological diverse marine and coastal environments, which are managed to meet the long-term needs of nature and people. Seeks to provide a strategic analysis of existing marine activities; better understanding of environmental capacity, spatial planning issues, current pressures and how the marine environment can be managed in the future.	Guidance should be implemented with regard to the Biodiversity Duty that is stated in the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
73	Scottish Biodiversity Action Plan 2005-8 and 2008-2011	Its aim is to conserve biodiversity for the health, enjoyment and wellbeing of the people of Scotland now and in the future. It will do this by a number of measures; 1. Species & Habitats: To halt the loss of biodiversity and continue to reverse previous losses through targeted action for species and habitats, 2. People: To increase awareness, understanding and enjoyment of biodiversity, and engage many more people in conservation and enhancement, 3. Landscapes & Ecosystems: To restore and enhance biodiversity in all our urban, rural and marine environments through better planning, design and practice, 4. Integration & Co-ordination: To develop an effective management framework that ensures biodiversity is taken into account in all decision making, 5. Knowledge: To ensure that the best new and existing knowledge on biodiversity is available to all policy makers and practitioners.	The guidance should be implemented with regard to the Biodiversity Duty that is stated in the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
74	Priorities to Achieve Economic Growth	Purpose is to focus government and public services on creating a more successful country, with the opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish through increasing, sustainable economic growth.	The guidance will seek to increase economic growth while minimising impacts on the environment through on-shore wind energy development.
75	River Basin Management Plan for the Scotland River Basin District (2008)	The river basin management plans (below) will ensure that statutory agencies, private organisations, public sector bodies and individuals work together to create a final plan that addresses all aspects of water management.	Guidance will make sure that the recommendations and findings of the RBMP will be taken into consideration in relation to the impact of on-shore wind energy development on the water environment.
76	The Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations (2000)	These regulations encourage environmental problems to be addressed in an integrated way.	This will be taken into consideration when formulating the guidance.
77	Changing our Ways - Scotland's Climate Change Programme (2006)	The Scottish Executive is committed to playing its full part to tackle climate change. Key elements of this programme are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - presenting a vision for Scotland and how we are to move forward - quantifying Scotland's 'equitable contribution' in carbon terms - setting a Scottish target for carbon emission reductions - demonstrating Scotland's achievements so far - setting out new actions and future directions across the main sectors - responding to the inevitable consequences of climate change 	The guidance will seek to promote the development of on-shore wind energy development in the appropriate locations.
78	Building a Better Scotland Infrastructure Investment Plan: Investing in the Future	The strategy is intended to ensure that the nation's infrastructure is improved; that public services are modernised; that investment planning takes a long-term view; that the allocation of resources is linked	This will be taken into consideration when looking at proposed nationally important infrastructure in Highland.

	of Scotland (2005)	to the achievement of objectives and targets; and that the public sector disposes of surplus assets.	
79	Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967	Part of this Act has been updated by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. The Act makes provision for outdoor access, places a general duty on all public bodies to have regard to the desirability to conserving the natural heritage of Scotland and other countryside related issues.	The guidance will pay due regard to the provisions of the act.
80	Natural Heritage (Scotland) Act 1991	The Act deals with many natural heritage issues and has specific provisions related to irrigation and flooding	The guidance will pay due regard to the provisions of the act which may have an effect on vulnerability to climate change.
81	Marine (Scotland) Act 2010	The main measures introduced by Act 2010 include Marine Planning, Marine Licensing, Marine Conservation, Improved Seal conservation and Improved Enforcement.	The guidance will have due regard to the provisions of the act in formulation of the guidance
82	A Five Year Species Action Framework: Making a Difference for Scotland's Species (SNH)	This document presents a list of species that SNH believe new, focused effort and resources over the next five years by SNH and its partners could make the most difference to biodiversity.	The guidance will have due regard to this document when advising on the relationship between species, habitats and biodiversity and on-shore wind energy development.
83	European Protected Species, Development Sites and the Planning System, Interim guidance for local authorities on licensing arrangements (2001)	This guidance clarifies the interim licensing arrangements which apply in cases where European protected species are present on any site which is the subject of a development proposal.	The guidance will pay due regard to this guidance. This will be covered in more detail by the HRA.
84	Scottish Government's Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessment Guide (2007)	The Peat Hazard and Risk Assessment Guide provides best practice methods to identify, mitigate and manage peat slide hazards and associated risks in respect of consent applications for electricity generation projects in Scotland.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents of this document.
85	Scottish Government/Community Energy Scotland's Community Renewable Energy Toolkit	The toolkit has been produced to help community groups to develop renewable energy projects.	The toolkit will be considered when advising on community benefit in relation to on-shore wind energy development.
86	Calculating Carbon Savings from Wind Farms on Scottish Peatlands – A New Approach (2008 – Calculator updated 2011)	A New Approach has been developed to calculate the impact of wind farm developments on the soil carbon stocks held in peats. This provides a transparent and easy to follow method for estimating the impacts of wind farms on the carbon dynamics of peat lands.	The methodology will be a consideration when formulating the guidance.
87	Control of Woodland Removal Policy	The Aims of this document are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a strategic framework for appropriate woodland removal. • To support the maintenance and expansion of forest cover in Scotland. • To contribute towards achieving an appropriate balance between forested and non-forested land in Scotland. • To support climate change mitigation and adaptation in Scotland. • To provide a sound basis for Scotland's participation in the global debate and 	The guidance will have due regard to the provisions of this policy.

		<p>actions on deforestation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a clear understanding of the nature and extent of future woodland removal in Scotland. 	
88	Scottish Forest Strategy (2006)	<p>The Scottish Forestry Strategy is the Scottish Executive's framework for taking forestry forward through the first half of this century and beyond. It sets out a vision of a forestry sector that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> diverse and strong; in tune with the environment; employing many people in a wide range of enterprises; and providing the many other services and benefits that people need, now and for the future. 	The guidance will have due regard to the provisions of the strategy.
89	SNH's Windfarm Footprint Map	Regularly updated map to give an overview of wind farm development in Scotland.	The guidance will have cognisance of the contents of the document.
90	SNH's Publication Renewable Trends in Scotland 2010	Research series which sets out the trends in renewable energy development in Scotland.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents of the most up to date document.
91	SNH Special Qualities Report for National Scenic Areas	In 2007 & 2008 Scottish Natural Heritage surveyed all the NSAs and, for each one, produced an up-to-date list of the landscape qualities that make each one special.	The guidance will give due regard to the special qualities of the NSAs in Highland.
92	SNH Interim Guidance on Assessing the Impacts on Wild Land	The document sets out general principles for assessing the potential adverse and beneficial impacts on areas where wildness is best expressed (wild land), including an assessment methodology.	The guidance will have due regard to the general principles in the guidance (but it is understood that SNH mapping of wild land may become available shortly and the Council will have due regard to that).
93	SNH Guidance on Bird Impact Assessment for Wind Farms	Guidance to help the assessment of impact of wind energy development on birds.	The guidance will have due regard to the general principles in the guidance.
94	SNH Guidance on Bats and Wind Turbines	Guidance to help the assessment of impact of wind energy development on bats.	The guidance will have due regard to the general principles in the guidance.
95	SNH Guidance on Siting and Designing Windfarms in the Landscape (2009)	Helps to guide windfarms towards those landscapes best able to accommodate them and advises on how windfarms can be designed to best relate to their setting and minimise landscape and visual impacts	The guidance will have due regard to the general principles in the guidance.
96	SNH Guidance for the Preparation of an Outdoor Access Plan	Guidance to help in the preparation of an outdoor access plan.	The guidance will have due regard to the general principles in the guidance.
97	2020 Routemap for Renewable Energy in Scotland	The Routemap for Renewable Energy in Scotland 2011 is an update and extension to the Scottish Renewables Action Plan 2009. This updated and expanded Routemap reflects the challenge of Scottish Government's new target to meet an equivalent of 100% demand for electricity from renewable energy by 2020, as well as its target of 11% renewable heat.	The guidance will have due regard to the strategy and targets set out in this document.
98	Cumulative Effects of Windfarms (SNH-2005)	provides guidance on the issue of cumulative effects of windfarms for use by staff when responding to consultations on proposed developments, either in the Town & Country Planning system or electricity licensing consultations under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989.	The guidance will have due regard to the guidance contained within this document.

99	Blue Seas - Green Energy A Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy in Scottish Territorial Waters	The Plan contains proposals for offshore wind energy development in Scottish Territorial Waters at the regional level up to 2020 and beyond.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents of the plan given the potential for cumulative impact with on-shore wind energy developments.
100	Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011	The Act includes provisions in respect of protected species (e.g. water voles in relation to wind farms) and invasive non-native species.	The guidance will give due consideration to the provisions of the Act.
101	Bird Sensitivity Map to provide locational guidance for onshore wind farms in Scotland (RSPB/SNH)	A bird sensitivity map to aid location of onshore wind farms in Scotland has been created, based on distributional data for a suite of sensitive bird species.	The guidance will have due regard to the map and the associated report.
102	Strategic Locational Guidance For Onshore Wind Farms In Respect Of The Natural Heritage (SNH)	The policy statement sets out a number of principles which should guide the location of renewables so as to minimise effects on the natural heritage. In particular, SNH considers it important that renewable electricity targets are met by a mix of renewable energy types, including those in the marine environment.	The guidance will give consideration to the contents of this strategic location guidance.
103	Scottish Soil Framework	It is aimed at Scottish Government policy leads, delivery partners, environmental and business NGOs, research organisations and other key stakeholders with an interest in soils. It describes key pressures on soils, particularly climate change, relevant policies to combat those threats, and identifies the future focus for soil protection, key soil outcomes, and actions across a range of sectors.	The guidance will give due consideration to the contents of the framework.
104	Getting the best from our land – A land use strategy for Scotland	Sets a vision and objectives for land use in Scotland	The guidance will have due regard to the provisions of this important strategy for Scotland.
Scottish National Planning Policy Tier			
105	National Planning Framework for Scotland 2 (2008)	This is the governments land use element of its economic strategy and sets out how each part of Scotland can play its part in making Scotland the best small country in the world.	The guidance must take into account the information within NPF2 and build it into the guidance.
106	Scottish Planning Policy (2009)	This sets out national policy, the purpose of the planning system and the objectives for core parts of the planning system	The guidance will have regard to the SPP to ensure the guidance meets with the Scottish Governments view on the purpose of the planning system.
107	PAN 33 Development of Contaminated Land	Advice on national planning policy matters related to the development of contaminated land.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
108	PAN 42 Archaeology - The Planning Process & Scheduled Monument Procedures (994)	Advice on national planning policy matters related to the relationship between the planning process and schedule monument procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
109	Specific Advice Sheet – Onshore Wind Turbines	Advice on national planning policy matters related to onshore wind turbines.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the specific advice note.
110	PAN 45 Annex 1- Planning for Micro Renewables: Annex to Renewable Energy Technologies	Advice on national planning policy matters related to micro renewables.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
111	Specific Advice Sheet – Process for Preparing Spatial Frameworks for Wind Farms	Advice on national planning policy matters related to production of supplementary guidance for wind farms.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the specific advice note.

112	PAN 47 Community Councils and Planning (1996)	Advice on national planning policy matters related to the inter-relationship between community councils and planning.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
113	PAN 51 Planning, Environmental Protection and Regulation (1997)	Advice on national planning policy matters related to the relationship between planning and environmental protection regulations.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
114	PAN 1/2011 Planning and Noise	Advice on national planning policy matters related to noise issues and development.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
115	PAN 58 Environmental Impact Assessment (1998)	Advice on national planning policy matters related to undertaking environmental impact assessment.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
116	PAN 60 Planning for Natural Heritage (2000)	Advice on national planning policy matters related to the natural heritage.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
117	PAN 61 Planning and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (2001)	Advice on national planning policy matters related to sustainable drainage systems.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
118	PAN 66 Best Practice in Handling Planning Applications Effecting Trunk Roads (2003)	Advice on national planning policy matters related to trunk roads.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
119	PAN 68 Design Statements (2003)	Advice on national planning policy matters related to the requirement for design statements.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
120	PAN 69 Planning and Building Standards Advice on Flooding (2004)	Advice on national planning policy matters related to flooding.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
121	PAN 71 Conservation Area Management (2004)	Advice on national planning policy matters related to the relationship between planning and conservation area management.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
122	PAN 73 Rural Diversification (2005)	Advice on national planning policy matters related to rural diversification.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
123	PAN 75 Planning for Transport (2005)	Advice on national planning policy matters related to transport planning.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
124	PAN 79 Water and Drainage (2006)	Advice on national planning policy matters related to water and drainage.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
125	PAN 82 Local Authority Interest Developments (2007)	Advice on national planning policy matters related to developments in which the local authority has an interest i.e. development on local authority owned land.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
126	PAN 1/2010 Strategic Environmental Assessment of Development Plans (2010)	Advice on how to undertake SEA of Local Development Plans.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
127	PAN 3/2010 Community Engagement (2010)	Advice on national planning policy matters related to community engagement in the modernised planning system.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
128	Circular 9/1987 - Development Control in National Scenic Areas	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
129	Circular 02/2010 The Town and Country Planning (General	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.

	Permitted Development) (Domestic Microgeneration) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2010 (2010)		
130	Circular 01/2010 Planning Agreements (2010)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
131	Circular 10/2009 Planning Enforcement (2009)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
132	Circular 09/2009 Withdrawal and Replacement of the Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas (2009)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
133	Circular 07/2009 Schemes of Delegation and Local Reviews (2009)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
134	Circular 06/2009 Planning Appeals (2009)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
135	Circular 05/2009 Hierarchy of Developments (2009)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
136	Circular 04/2009 Development Management Procedures (2009)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
137	Circular 02/2009 The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Domestic Microgeneration) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2009 (2009)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
138	Circular 01/2009 Development Planning (2009)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
139	Circular 1/2009: Development Planning Appendix 1: The Habitats Regulations (2009)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
140	Circular 08/2007 The Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 1999	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
141	Addendum to 08/2007 The Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 1999	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
142	Circular 07/2007 Consultation on and Notification of Planning	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.

	Applications for Outdoor Sports Facilities and Open Space 2007 (2007)		
143	Circular 04/2007 The Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2007 (2007)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
144	Circular 30/2007 The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 (Consequential Provisions) Order 2007 (2007)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
145	Circular 02/2006 Transport Act 2000 (Consequential Amendments) (Scotland) Order 2006 (2006)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
146	Circular 01/2005 Notification of Planning Applications Development Effecting Trunk Roads and Special Roads (2005)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
147	Circular 02/2004 Strategic Environmental Assessment for Development Planning; The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (2004)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
148	Circular 04/2003 Title Conditions (Scotland) Act 2003: Consequential Amendments to Planning and Compulsory Purchase Legislation (2003)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
149	Circular 03/2003 Environmental Impact Assessment (Water Management) (Scotland) Regulations 2003 (2003)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
150	Circular 02/2003 Safeguarding of Aerodromes, Technical Sites and Military Explosives Storage Areas (2003)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
151	Circular 08/2002 Control of Development in Airport Public Safety Zones (2002)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.

152	Circular 01/2000 Code Of Practice For Planning Appeals And Other Planning Cases Determined By Written Submissions (2000)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
153	Circular 10/1999 Planning & Noise (1999)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
154	Circular 25/1998 Review of Old Mineral Permissions and Environmental Impact Assessment Notes for Guidance (1998)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
155	Circular 20/1998 The Town and Country Planning (Notification of Applications) (Scotland) Amendment (No.2) Direction 1998 Notification of Planning Applications (1998)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
156	Circular 15/1998 Town and Country Planning (Notification of Applications) (Scotland) Amendment Direction 1998 Notification of Planning Applications (1998)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
157	Circular 07/1998 Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) (Scotland) Amendment Order 1998 (1998)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
158	Circular 04/1998 Addendum Model Planning Conditions (1998)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
159	Circular 04/1998 The Use of Conditions in Planning Permissions (1998)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
160	Circular 01/1998 The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) (Scotland) Order 1997 (1998)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
161	Circular 43/1997 The Town and Country Planning (Notification of Applications) (Scotland) Amendment Direction 1997 Notification of Planning Applications (1997)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
162	Circular 17/1997 Environmentally Sensitive Areas (1997)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
163	Circular 05/1997 Town	Scottish Government policy on the implementation	The guidance will have due

	and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Scotland) Amendment Order 1997: Consultation of Planning Applications for Roadside Facilities and Developments Effecting Playing Fields (1997)	of legislation or procedures.	regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
164	Circular 10/1996 The Town and Country Planning (Development Contrary to Development Plans) (Scotland) Direction 1996 (1996)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.
165	Good Practice During Wind Farm Construction	This guidance seeks to identify Good Practice, not necessarily Best Practice, which is evolving constantly.	The guidance will have due regard to the good practice in this guidance.
166	Calculating carbon savings from windfarms on Scottish peat lands – A New Approach	Provides a revised methodology for estimating the impacts of this type of development on carbon dynamics of peat lands	The guidance will have due regard to the approach outlined in this guidance.
167	SEPA's Regulatory Position Statement – Developments on Peat	The aim of this statement is to set out SEPA's position on the waste management issues arising from the generation of waste peat as a result of developments on peat.	The guidance will have due regard to the SEPA position on this issue.
Regional			
168	A Smart, Successful Highlands and Islands (Highlands and Islands Enterprise, 2005)	This is an enterprise strategy for the Highlands and Islands. Its central aim is to realise the populations' full potential on a sustainable basis, and outlines the strategic objectives of strengthening communities, developing skills, growing businesses and making global connections. In particular it addresses the issues of remoteness, affordability of housing, unique cultural and natural assets, lower than average incomes, increasing rural populations and balancing growth, and increasing business development.	The guidance will reflect the need to build communities' prospects for a sustainable future, through protecting and enhancing natural and built heritage, and encouraging (where appropriate) the use of renewable energy.
169	Sustainable Design Guide: Supplementary Guidance	This is a guidance note in support of sustainable design. It offers advice on designing in a sustainable way to maximise the benefits which new development can provide while aiming to reduce the carbon footprint that this will create.	The guidance will make cross reference to this where appropriate.
170	Highland Renewable Energy Strategy and Planning Guidelines (2006) (currently being reviewed and will be in part replaced with SG for On-Shore Wind Energy Developments)	The Highlands have extensive renewables through hydro, wind, tide and bio-fuel energy. Developing ways to harness these are being explored. The drive for using energy from renewable sources comes from the recognition that global warming is related to greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide which arise largely from energy production. The document offers a 'Vision for Renewables Development in Highland' and offers information on what infrastructure is required to develop the national electricity grid.	Certain content of the sections related to on-shore wind energy development is to be superseded by the onshore wind energy supplementary guidance. HRES continues to provide overarching strategy, information on constraints, considerations and targets for renewable energy by technology.
171	Highland Council Local Transport Strategy (2010)	The Highland Council prepare a Local Transport Strategy and implement the policies, plans and projects to improve and manage the Highland transport system.	This document is utilised by the Development Plan team in order to help enable and encourage transport improvements.

172	Fisheries Development Strategy	This strategy identifies action which should be taken by the Council with regards to: fishing and processing; aquaculture; sport fishery; and natural environment.	The guidance will need to ensure that it considers the actions in this strategy.
173	The Council's Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (2001)	The contaminated land regime brought into force with the Contaminated Land (Scotland) Regulations 2000 requires Local Authorities to identify and secure the remediation of contaminated land in their area.	The guidance should take account of strategy..
174	Regional Transport Strategy for the Highlands	Transport Strategies produced by HITRANS which will enhance economic well being; promote safety, social inclusion and equal opportunity; plan for a sustainable transport system; and integrate across boundaries with other Partnerships. This Strategy takes account of future needs and sets priorities for transport development and improvement.	This will be taken account of when advising on issues regarding access.
175	Highland Audit of Greenspace	Sets out the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space in Highland	Due regard should be had to findings of the audit.
176	A96 Growth Corridor Framework	An implementation scheme covering the overall phasing, infrastructure, funding, developer contributions protocol and deliver mechanisms for expansion and development eastwards of Inverness to the border with Moray.	Due regard should be had to the proposed development in the A96 corridor.
177	Highland Climate Change Strategy	A requirement of being a signatory to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration, the Climate Change Strategy will set out Highland Councils actions to mitigate the causes of Climate Change and adapt to its likely impacts. The Strategy will be developed during the term of this administration.	The guidance should pay due regard to the findings of the strategy which can be directly influenced by the policies of this guidance.
178	Badenoch and Strathspey Local Plan (As Continued in Force)	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment in the Badenoch and Strathspey area.	The guidance will have due regard to the continued in force land allocations and general policies in the local plan.
179	Inverness Local Plan (As Continued in Force)	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment in the Inverness area	The guidance will have due regard to the continued in force land allocations and general policies in the local plan.
180	Ross and Cromarty East Local Plan (As Continued in Force)	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment in the Ross and Cromarty area	The guidance will have due regard to the continued in force land allocations and general policies in the local plan.
181	Wester Ross Local Plan (As Continued in Force)	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment in the Wester Ross area	The guidance will have due regard to the continued in force land allocations and general policies in the local plan.
182	Sutherland Local Plan (As Continued in Force)	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment in the Sutherland area	The guidance will have due regard to the continued in force land allocations and general policies in the local plan.
183	Caithness Local Plan (As Continued in Force)	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment in the Caithness area	The guidance will have due regard to the continued in force land allocations and general policies in the local plan.
184	West Highland & Islands Local Plan (As Continued in Force)	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment in the West Highland and Islands area	The guidance will have due regard to the continued in force land allocations and general policies in the local plan.
185	Nairnshire Local Plan(As Continued in Force)	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment in the Nairnshire area	The guidance will have due regard to the continued in force land allocations and general policies in the local plan.

186	Highland-wide Local Development Plan	Sets the strategic vision, strategy and general policies for the whole of the Highlands.	The guidance will have due regard to the land allocations and general policies in the Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP). With effect from 5 th April 2012 the HwLDP supersedes the majority of general policies and some land allocations in the the adopted Local Plans. This information is contained in appendix 7 of the HwLDP and contained in the Town and Country Planning (Continuation in Force of Local Plans) (Highland) (Scotland) Order 2012.
187	Highland Access Strategy	Aims to address the needs and aspirations of people of all ages and abilities to deliver a wide range of recreational and enjoyment of the environment benefits for walkers, cyclists, equestrians and paddlers. Thereby contributing to social inclusion, health improvements, sustainable transport and improvement to the overall quality of life by unlocking this potential and guiding the way in which the Council and its partners can take forward plans for access throughout the Highland Council area.	Due regard should be had to the provisions of the Access strategy.
188	Inner Moray Firth Ports and Sites Strategy	Produced in 2006 this integrated Strategy sets out a long term vision (2050) for the ports and major sites in the Inner Moray Firth. It has four main purposes: to shape future collaboration by the parties; to help steer public sector investment priorities; to maximise regional development potential, and to identify key implementation actions.	The guidance will have due regard to the provisions in the strategy.
189	Highland Area Tourism Strategy (partnership strategy)	Produced in 2006 by the Highland Area Tourism Partnership sets out a Strategy (until 2015) and Action Plan (3 year) which sets out how Highland tourism could be developed to achieve the Government's 50% growth target by 2015.	The guidance should give consideration to this document when looking at the impact of on-shore wind energy development on tourism/
190	Highland Forest and Woodland Strategy	This document sets out the Council's aspirations for forestry and woodland in the Highlands. It provides guidance for developers and a focus for the Council's engagement with the private sector, the Forestry Commission and Forest Enterprise, in its role as consultee on forestry applications.	This will influence the approach to woodland in the guidance.
191	Housing in the Countryside: Interim Supplementary Guidance	Sets out policy guidance on how the current housing in the countryside policy should be applied.	The guidance will make have regard to the contents of the supplementary guidance.
192	Peatlands of Caithness and Sutherland Management Strategy	This strategy aims to enhance and promote the special values of the peatlands of Caithness and Sutherland through the promotion of sustainable land management, the encouragement of sustainable community and economic development, and through co-ordinated action.	The guidance will pay due regard to the peatlands management strategy.
193	Caithness Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Considers the habitats and species present in Caithness, lists the main issues, and highlights some projects that are already working to improve the biodiversity of the area. The Plan then identifies some opportunities for future projects that could	The guidance will have due regard to the provisions of the LBAP and will support their delivery through policies. The area Local Development Plans

		help conserve and enhance the biodiversity of Caithness in the next five to ten years.	may be best placed to deliver more localised targets.
194	Sutherland Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Considers the habitats and species present in Sutherland, lists the main issues, and highlights some projects that are already working to improve the biodiversity of the area. The Plan then identifies some opportunities for future projects that could help conserve and enhance the biodiversity of Sutherland in the next five to ten years.	The guidance will have due regard to the provisions of the LBAP and will support their delivery through policies. The area Local Development Plans may be best placed to deliver more localised targets.
195	Wester Ross Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Considers the habitats and species present in Wester Ross, lists the main issues, and highlights some projects that are already working to improve the biodiversity of the area. The Plan then identifies some opportunities for future projects that could help conserve and enhance the biodiversity of Wester Ross in the next five to ten years.	The guidance will have due regard to the provisions of the LBAP and will support their delivery through policies. The area Local Development Plans may be best placed to deliver more localised targets.
196	Ross and Cromarty East Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Considers the habitats and species present in Ross and Cromarty, lists the main issues, and highlights some projects that are already working to improve the biodiversity of the area. The Plan then identifies some opportunities for future projects that could help conserve and enhance the biodiversity of Ross and Cromarty in the next five to ten years.	The guidance will have due regard to the provisions of the LBAP and will support their delivery through policies. The area Local Development Plans may be best placed to deliver more localised targets.
197	Skye and Lochalsh Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Considers the habitats and species present in Skye and Lochalsh, lists the main issues, and highlights some projects that are already working to improve the biodiversity of the area. The Plan then identifies some opportunities for future projects that could help conserve and enhance the biodiversity of Skye and Lochalsh in the next five to ten years.	The guidance will have due regard to the provisions of the LBAP and will support their delivery through policies. The area Local Development Plans may be best placed to deliver more localised targets.
198	Lochaber Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Considers the habitats and species present in Caithness, lists the main issues, and highlights some projects that are already working to improve the biodiversity of the area. The Plan then identifies some opportunities for future projects that could help conserve and enhance the biodiversity of Caithness in the next five to ten years.	The guidance will have due regard to the provisions of the LBAP and will support their delivery through policies. The area Local Development Plans may be best placed to deliver more localised targets.
195	Inverness and Nairn Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Considers the habitats and species present in Inverness, lists the main issues, and highlights some projects that are already working to improve the biodiversity of the area. The Plan then identifies some opportunities for future projects that could help conserve and enhance the biodiversity of Inverness in the next five to ten years.	The guidance will have due regard to the provisions of the LBAP and will support their delivery through policies. The area Local Development Plans may be best placed to deliver more localised targets.
196	Badenoch and Strathspey Biodiversity Action Plan	Considers the habitats and species present in Badenoch and Strathspey, lists the main issues, and highlights some projects that are already working to improve the biodiversity of the area. The Plan then identifies some opportunities for future projects that could help conserve and enhance the biodiversity of Badenoch and Strathspey in the next five to ten years.	The guidance will have due regard to the provisions of the LBAP and will support their delivery through policies. The area Local Development Plans may be best placed to deliver more localised targets.
197	Caithness and Sutherland Landscape Character Assessment (1998)	LCA provides baseline information that can be used to guide landscape change - by feeding into development plans, decisions on development proposals, land management plans, indicative forestry strategies and agri-environment schemes.	The guidance will have regard to the principles of the LCA when considering issues related to landscape.
198	Ross and Cromarty Landscape Character Assessment (1999)	LCA provides baseline information that can be used to guide landscape change - by feeding into development plans, decisions on development proposals, land management plans, indicative	The guidance will have regard to the principles of the LCA when considering issues related to landscape.

		forestry strategies and agri-environment schemes.	
199	Inverness Landscape Character Assessment (1996)	LCA provides baseline information that can be used to guide landscape change - by feeding into development plans, decisions on development proposals, land management plans, indicative forestry strategies and agri-environment schemes.	The guidance will have regard to the principles of the LCA when considering issues related to landscape.
200	Skye and Lochalsh Landscape Character Assessment	LCA provides baseline information that can be used to guide landscape change - by feeding into development plans, decisions on development proposals, land management plans, indicative forestry strategies and agri-environment schemes.	The guidance will have regard to the principles of the LCA when considering issues related to landscape.
201	Lochaber Landscape Character Assessment (1998)	LCA provides baseline information that can be used to guide landscape change - by feeding into development plans, decisions on development proposals, land management plans, indicative forestry strategies and agri-environment schemes.	The guidance will have regard to the principles of the LCA when considering issues related to landscape.
202	Ben Alder, Ardverikie, Creag Meagaidh Landscape Character Assessment 199)	LCA provides baseline information that can be used to guide landscape change - by feeding into development plans, decisions on development proposals, land management plans, indicative forestry strategies and agri-environment schemes.	The guidance will have regard to the principles of the LCA when considering issues related to landscape.
203	Inner Moray Firth Landscape Character Assessment (1997)	LCA provides baseline information that can be used to guide landscape change - by feeding into development plans, decisions on development proposals, land management plans, indicative forestry strategies and agri-environment schemes.	The guidance will have regard to the principles of the LCA when considering issues related to landscape.
204	Moray and Nairn Landscape Character Assessment (1998)	LCA provides baseline information that can be used to guide landscape change - by feeding into development plans, decisions on development proposals, land management plans, indicative forestry strategies and agri-environment schemes.	The guidance will have regard to the principles of the LCA when considering issues related to landscape.
205	North Western Seaboard (including 2009 update) - Natural Futures Series	Natural Heritage Futures guides the management of Scotland's nature and landscapes towards 2025.	The guidance will have regard to the vision for natural heritage set out in the document.
206	The Peatlands of Caithness (including 2009 update) - Natural Futures Series	Natural Heritage Futures guides the management of Scotland's nature and landscapes towards 2025.	The guidance will have regard to the vision for natural heritage set out in the document.
207	Western Seaboard (including 2009 update) - Natural Futures Series	Natural Heritage Futures guides the management of Scotland's nature and landscapes towards 2025.	The guidance will have regard to the vision for natural heritage set out in the document.
208	Northern Highlands (including 2009 update) - Natural Futures Series	Natural Heritage Futures guides the management of Scotland's nature and landscapes towards 2025.	The guidance will have regard to the vision for natural heritage set out in the document.
209	Western Highlands (including 2009 update) - Natural Futures Series	Natural Heritage Futures guides the management of Scotland's nature and landscapes towards 2025.	The guidance will have regard to the vision for natural heritage set out in the document.
210	Central Highlands (including 2009 update) - Natural Futures Series	Natural Heritage Futures guides the management of Scotland's nature and landscapes towards 2025.	The guidance will have regard to the vision for natural heritage set out in the document.
211	North East Glens (including 2009 update) - Natural Futures Series	Natural Heritage Futures guides the management of Scotland's nature and landscapes towards 2025.	The guidance will have regard to the vision for natural heritage set out in the document.
212	East Lochaber (including 2009 update) - Natural Futures Series	Natural Heritage Futures guides the management of Scotland's nature and landscapes towards 2025.	The guidance will have regard to the vision for natural heritage set out in the document.
213	Orkney and North Caithness (including 2009 update) - Natural Futures Series	Natural Heritage Futures guides the management of Scotland's nature and landscapes towards 2025.	The guidance will have regard to the vision for natural heritage set out in the document.

214	Single Outcome Agreement 2 (2009)	Identifies areas for improvement and to deliver better outcomes for the people of the Highlands and Scotland, through specific commitments made by the Council, its community planning partners and the Scottish Government.	Guidance will facilitate delivery of the land use based elements of the SOA 2.
215	Highland Council Ward Profiles (2009)	These give important information on each of the wards including population data and other statistics	These will facilitate the guidance in understanding the more people based issues related to the guidance.
216	RSE Inquiry into the Future of Scotland's Hill and Island Areas - Highland Council Response	RSE established a Committee of Inquiry into the future of Scotland's hill and island areas. The inquiry was prompted by concern at the consequences of changes to the Common Agricultural Policy and the threat to the future of some communities, but it was also to examine relevant economic, environmental and social matters.	This will influence the guidance in relation to upland areas as part of the strategy.
217	HIE Operating Plan 2008 - 2011	This set out how HIE was going to put the Scottish Government's Economic Strategy into Practice.	This will influence the sections of the guidance related to economic growth.
218	HIE Area Economic Profiles 2007	These provide information and analysis on the socio-economic profile of key areas in the Highlands and Islands. Information is available on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ recent population trends ▪ age structure ▪ unemployment by area and gender ▪ income ▪ gross value added ▪ employment by sector and gender ▪ employment by company size ▪ business starts ▪ e-business adoption ▪ educational attainment ▪ school leaver destinations ▪ house prices 	These will facilitate the guidance in understanding the more "people-based" issues related to the guidance.
219	Review of Tourism Spend 2009	A Report was commissioned in order to give the Council a stronger evidence base on which to base decisions on the future allocation of its tourism development resources. This report details the findings of the review, and gives recommendations as to how the Council might allocate its tourism development budget in the future.	This will be considered when advising on the impact of on-shore wind energy development on tourism.
220	Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Strategy 2006 and subsequent updates	This strategy set out key priorities for the Caithness and North Sutherland Area.	This will influence formulation of the spatial framework.
221	Cairngorm National Park Local Plan and related supplementary guidance related to on-shore wind energy developments.	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment in the Cairngorms National Park Authority area	We will take this into consideration as they are a neighbouring authority but it will have limited influence over the development of the guidance.
222	Moray Council Local Plan and related supplementary guidance related to on-shore wind energy developments.	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment in the Moray Council area	We will take this into consideration as they are a neighbouring authority but it will have limited influence over the development of the guidance.
223	Orkney Council Local Plan and related	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the	We will take this into consideration as they are a

	supplementary guidance related to on-shore wind energy developments.	environment in the Orkney Council area	neighbouring authority but it will have limited influence over the development of the guidance.
224	Western Isles Council Local Plan and related supplementary guidance related to on-shore wind energy developments.	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment in the Western Isles Council area	We will take this into consideration as they are a neighbouring authority but it will have limited influence over the development of the guidance.
225	Shetland Isles Local Plan and related supplementary guidance related to on-shore wind energy developments.	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment in the Shetland Council area	We will take this into consideration as they are a neighbouring authority but it will have limited influence over the development of the guidance.
226	Argyll and Bute Council Local Plan and related supplementary guidance related to on-shore wind energy developments.	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment in the Argyll and Bute Council area	We will take this into consideration as they are a neighbouring authority but it will have limited influence over the development of the guidance.
227	Council Area Population Projections 2006 to 2031	Statistical analysis of how the Highland population is projected to grow up to the year 2031.	These will facilitate the guidance in understanding the more people based issues related to the guidance.
228	Moray Firth SAC Management Scheme (2009)	Provides a list of generic and specific actions that relevant authorities have agreed to implement in order to safeguard and enhance the bottlenose dolphin and sub-tidal sandbank interests of the Moray Firth SAC	On-shore wind energy can have an impact on SACs therefore due consideration will be given to the management scheme..
229	Highland Wind Farm Activity Map	Updated every three months, the document shows the current level of wind farm development/proposed development in Highland	The Guidance will consider the current level of wind farm activity when formulating the spatial framework
230	The Highland Council's Programme "Working together for the Highlands"	Sets out the Council's objectives until 2017	The guidance will consider the role on-shore wind energy will have in meeting the corporate objectives of the Council.
231	Assessment of landscape Sensitivity to Wind Turbine Development in Highland (2010)	This document was commissioned to inform the guidance.	The guidance will give due consideration to the findings of the assessment.
232	Special Landscape Areas – Citations	Provides a description of each of the Special Landscape Areas in Highland	The guidance will have due regard to the citations
233	Inverness and Nairn Core Path Plan	This document identifies the key strategic links which will provide for a system of paths and waterways ("core paths") sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area and to the wider access resource	The guidance will have due regard to recreational interests and the location of paths contained within the core path plans.
234	Sutherland Core Path Plan	This document identifies the key strategic links which will provide for a system of paths and waterways ("core paths") sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area and to the wider access resource	The guidance will have due regard to recreational interests and the location of paths contained within the core path plans.
235	Caithness Core Path Plan	This document identifies the key strategic links which will provide for a system of paths and waterways ("core paths") sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area and to the wider access resource	The guidance will have due regard to recreational interests and the location of paths contained within the core path plans.
236	Lochaber Core Path Plan	This document identifies the key strategic links which will provide for a system of paths and waterways ("core paths") sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout	The guidance will have due regard to recreational interests and the location of paths contained within the core path

		their area and to the wider access resource	plans.
237	Ross and Cromarty Core Path Plan	This document identifies the key strategic links which will provide for a system of paths and waterways ("core paths") sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area and to the wider access resource	The guidance will have due regard to recreational interests and the location of paths contained within the core path plans.
238	Skye and Lochalsh Core Path Plan	This document identifies the key strategic links which will provide for a system of paths and waterways ("core paths") sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area and to the wider access resource	The guidance will have due regard to recreational interests and the location of paths contained within the core path plans.
239	Highland Council Policy on Community Benefit	Sets out the Council's approach to Community Benefit.	The guidance will make cross reference to this corporate policy.
240	Highland Council/Highlands and Islands Enterprise Community Toolkit	Toolkit for helping local communities secure community benefit.	The guidance will make cross reference to this toolkit.
241	Highland Historic Environment Record	Sets out all records related to the Historic Environment in Highland.	The features identified in the record will form a key part of the spatial framework.
242	Protected Species: Interim Supplementary Guidance	Sets out additional guidance to the protected species policy of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan.	The guidance will have due regard to the guidance and cross refer if appropriate.
243	Council's Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Developments	Visualisation standards have been produced to enable the Council to verify that photomontages submitted in support of planning applications and contained within Environmental Statements are accurate and clearly understood depictions of proposals so that the public and decision makers can make informed opinions and decisions. While these standards have been produced with wind energy development in mind, the principles contained could apply to all submissions where panoramic photomontages are submitted.	The guidance will make cross reference to the standards. It should be noted that these are different to the SNH standards.
244	Woodland, Trees and Development: Interim Supplementary Guidance	Aims to bring together national policy and provide guidance for applicants and agents who are proposing development in relation to trees and woodland.	The guidance will have due regard to the guidance and cross refer if appropriate.
245	Guidance Note on Construction Environmental Management Process for Large Scale Projects	This guidance is designed to assist with environmental management in large scale construction projects, meeting in full the policy requirements as set out in the Highland Council's Development Plan.	The guidance will cross refer to this guidance note.
246	Green Networks: Interim Supplementary Guidance	Sets out detailed guidance and general principles for a Highland Green Network.	The guidance will have due regard to the guidance and cross refer if appropriate.
247	Background Paper to the Highland Council's Draft Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance, April 2011	One of the considerations for wind energy developments is the impact of such development on landscape and views, including cumulative impacts. The Council has therefore undertaken work to develop policy and guidance content on landscape and visual matters. The background paper outlines the work undertaken.	The guidance will bring together the findings of the background paper and work to date.
248	The Special Qualities of the National Scenic Areas. SNH	This document produces an up to date list of the landscape qualities that make each National Scenic Area Special.	The guidance will consider this report when approaching the spatial framework.

	Commissioned Report No. 374 (2010)		
249	Wildness Quality Map	A map has been produced to show the relative wildness of Scotland. This has also been broken down into 4 maps reflecting the 4 physical attributes of wildness: Perceived naturalness, ruggedness, remoteness from public road and ferries and absence of modern artifacts.	The guidance will have due regard to this mapping.
250	Wildness in Scotland's Countryside (including Search area for Wild Land mapping)	This policy describes the main pressures leading to the loss of wildness, and considers how to identify and care for wild land in Scotland. The mapping shows where the main areas of wild land in Scotland are likely to be found.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents of the policy and the search areas.

* Biodiversity, flora, fauna, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage), landscape, inter-relationship between these issues; secondary and cumulative effects.

By carrying out the assessment of the relevant international, national, regional and local plans, programmes and strategies it has been possible to scope in and have due consideration to it in preparation of the second consultative draft of the guidance.

Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment

Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that the Environmental Report includes a description of “the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme”, and “the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly effected”. This section aims to describe the environmental context within which the PPS operates and the constraints and targets that this context imposes on the PPS.

The purpose of this section is to provide enough environmental baseline data to:

- support the identification of environmental problems;
- support the process of assessing the environmental effects; and
- provide a baseline against which future monitoring data can be compared.

General

The Highland Council area (including all islands at low water) is 26,484 square Kilometres. This is 33% of Scotland and 11.4% of Great Britain. It is 10 times larger than Luxembourg, 20% larger than Wales, and nearly the size of Belgium. This supplementary guidance covers all of Highland except that part falling within the Cairngorms National Park Authority. This section of the Environmental Report is split by SEA Topic as defined by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. A table and maps showing baseline data can be found in Appendix 1.

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

Natural heritage designations cover a range of habitats in Highland. In Designated sites there are:

Designation	Number of Sites	Area covered (Hectares)
Site of Special Scientific Interest	363	558046.7
Special Area of Conservation	91	611796.2
Special Protection Area	51	786414.9
National Nature Reserve	24	99449.8
Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance	171	3114.5
Local Nature Reserve	1	55.3
Ramsar	13	197.1

Source: SNH Site Link December 2011

In addition the Cairngorms National Park lies partly within the authority of the Highland Council.

There are also a number of forestry features in Highland including ancient woodland and long established woodland which covers approximately 15% of Highland, including over 300,000 hectares of commercial forest. While many of these forested areas are not covered by statutory designations, it does highlight these areas as potentially high value ecological habitat.

The following habitats occur in Highland and are priority habitats in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK):

Ancient and/or species rich hedgerows	Maerl beds
Blanket bog	Martime cliffs and slopes
Blue mussel beds	Mestotrophic lakes
Calaminarian grasslands	Mountain heaths and willow scrub
Carbonate mounds	Mud habitats in deep water
Cereal field margins	Mudflats
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	Native pinewood

Coastal saltmarsh	Oligotrophic and dystrophic lochs
Coastal sand dunes	Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land (brownfield sites)
Coastal vegetated shingle	Ponds
Deep sea sponge communities	Purple moor grass and rush pasture
Estuarine rocky habitats	Reedbeds
Eutrophic standing waters	Rivers
Fens	Saline lagoons
File shell beds	Seagrass beds
Fragile sponge & anthozoan communities of subtidal rocky habitats	Seamount communities
Inland rock outcrops and scree habitats	Sheltered muddy gravels
Intertidal boulder communities	Tidal rapids
Limestone pavements	Traditional orchards
Lowland calcareous grassland	Upland calcareous grassland
Lowland dry acid grassland	Upland flushes, fens and swamps
Lowland heathland	Upland hay meadows
Lowland meadows	Upland heathland
Lowland wood pasture and parkland	Upland mixed ashwoods
Machair	Upland oakwood
	Wet woodland

The following species are known to occur or could occur in Highland and are priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan:

Brown algae	Mason Bee	Deptford Pink
Wig Wrack or Sea-loch egg	Lesser Searcher	Eyebright <i>Euphrasia heslop-harrisonii</i>
Wrack		Eyebright <i>Euphrasia marshallii</i>
Brown Alga	Zircon Reed Beetle	Eyebright <i>Euphrasia ostentfeldii</i>
Red Seaweed	Oxbow Diving Beetle	Eyebright <i>Euphrasia rotundifolia</i>
Coral Maërl	Violet Oil-beetle	Purple Ramping-fumitory <i>Fumaria purpurea</i>
Common Maërl	Northern Brown Argus Butterfly	Field Gentian <i>Gentianella campestris</i>
Slender Stonewort	Pearl-bordered Fritillary Butterfly	Hawkweed <i>Hieracium insigne</i>
Wilson's Pouchwort	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Butterfly	Hawkweed <i>Hieracium kennethii</i>
Joergensen's Notchwort	Chequered Skipper Butterfly	Hawkweed <i>Hieracium leptodon</i>
Bog paw-wort	Small Heath Butterfly	Hawkweed <i>Hieracium notabile</i>
Pitted Frillwort	Large Heath Butterfly	Wild Candytuft <i>Iberis amara</i>
Northern Prongwort	Small Blue Butterfly	Juniper
Long-leaved Flapwort	Mountain Ringlet Butterfly	Twinflower <i>Linnaea borealis</i> Y
Atlantic lejeunea	Dingy Skipper Butterfly	Floating Water Plantain
Arctic Rustwort	Marsh Fritillary Butterfly	Curved Wood-rush
Petalwort	Grayling Butterfly	Grass-poly
Carrington's Scalewort	Wall Butterfly	Small Cow-wheat
Snow Rock-moss	Sea-fan Anemone	Pennyroyal
Carrion-moss	Scarce Tube-dwelling Anemone	Mountain Sandwort
Scottish Beard-moss	Tall Sea Pen	One-flowered Wintergreen
Matted bryum	Stalked Jellyfish <i>Halicystus auricula</i>	Yellow Bird's-nest
Round-leaved Bryum	Stalked Jellyfish <i>Lucernariopsis campanulata</i>	
Knowlton's Thread-moss	Fireworks Anemone	Grape-hyacinth
Baltic Bryum	Northern Sea Fan	Slender Naiad
Saltmarsh Thread-moss	Deep-sea Shrimp	Lesser Butterfly-orchid
Sea bryum	White-clawed freshwater crayfish	Wavy Meadow-grass
Green Shield-Moss	Amphipod Shrimp	Glaucous Meadow-grass
Irish Daltonia Y	Crayfish, Crawfish or Spiny Lobster	Whorled Solomon's-seal
Waved Fork-moss	Pine Hoverfly	Shetland Pondweed
Rusty Fork-moss	Fonseca's Dune Fly	Rock Cinquefoil
Elegant Feather-moss	Aspen Hoverfly	Small-white Orchid

Lesser Squirrel-tail moss	Scottish Yellow Splinter Fly	Corn Buttercup
Aspen bristle-moss	Flies Northern Yellow Splinter	Wooly Willow
Blunt-leaved Bristle-moss	Flies Large Birch Lance Fly	Downy Willow
Blunt-leaved Thread-moss	Flies River-shore Crane fly	Whortle-leaved Willow
Scottish Pohlia	Flies Mountain Dance-fly	Prickly Saltwort
Brown Mountain	Mayflies Iron Blue Mayfly	Drooping Saxifrage
Rugged Collar-moss	Molluscs Fan Mussel	Tufted Saxifrage
Slender Gland-moss	Molluscs Freshwater pearl mussel	Yellow Marsh Saxifrage
Tooth fungus	Molluscs Native Oyster	Annual Knawel
Black Falsebolete	Narrow-mouthed Whorl snail	Small-flowered Catchfly
Lilac Domecap	Round-mouthed Whorl Snail	Irish Lady's-tresses Marsh Stitchwort
Blackening Chanterelle	Geyer's Whorl Snail	Common Toad
Big Blue Pinkgill	Cross Whorl Snail	Great Crested Newt
Dark-purple Earthtongue	Grey Dagger Moth	Sky Lark
Tooth fungus <i>Hydnellum aurantiacum</i>	Knot Grass Moth	Tree Pipit
Tooth fungus <i>Hydnellum caeruleum</i>	Flounced Chestnut Moth	Greater
Tooth fungus <i>Hydnellum concrecens</i>	Brown-spot Pinion Moth	Lesser Redpoll
Tooth fungus <i>Hydnellum ferrugineum</i>	Beaded Chestnut Moth	Common Linnet
Tooth fungus <i>Hydnellum peckii</i>	Green-brindled Crescent Moth	Twite
Tooth fungus <i>Hydnellum scrobiculatum</i>	Ear Moth	Corn Crake
Velvet Tooth	Mouse Moth	Common Cuckoo
Ascomyte Fungus	Small Dark Yellow Underwing Moth	Corn Bunting
Earth-Tongue	Dusky Brocade Moth	Yellowhammer
Tooth fungus <i>Phellodon confluens</i>	Garden Tiger Moth	Reed Bunting
Tooth fungus <i>Phellodon melaleucus</i>	Centre-barred Sallow Moth	Black-throated Diver
Black Tooth	Dark Brocade Moth	Red Grouse
Tooth fungus <i>Phellodon tomentosus</i>	Minor Shoulder-knot Moth	Herring Gull
Conifer Scalycap	Mottled Rustic Moth	Black-tailed Godwit
Medusa Brittlestem	Haworth's Minor	Common Grasshopper Warbler
Lousewort Rust	The Crescent Moth	Scottish Crossbill
Alpine Rust	The Streak Moth	Common Scoter
Tooth fungus <i>Sarcodon glaucopus</i>	Broom-tip Moth	Spotted Flycatcher
Tooth fungus <i>Sarcodon scabrosus</i>	Latticed Heath Moth	Eurasian Curlew
Scaly Tooth	Goat Moth	House Sparrow <i>Passer</i>
Conifer Roundhead	Brindled Ochre Moth	Eurasian Tree Sparrow
Robust Knight	Small Square-spot Moth	Grey Partridge
Stalked Puffball	Small Phoenix Moth	Wood Warbler
<i>Alectoria ochroleuca</i>	September Thorn Moth	Hedge Accentor
<i>Anaptychia ciliaris subsp. ciliaris</i>	Grey Mountain Carpet Moth	Balearic Shearwater
<i>Arthonia atlantica</i>	Galium Carpet Moth	Common Bullfinch
<i>Arthonia cohabitans</i>	Autumnal Rustic Moth	Arctic Skua
<i>Arthonia patellulata</i>	The Spinach Moth	Common Starling
<i>Arthothelium dictyosporum</i>	Garden Dart Moth	Black Grouse
<i>LArthothelium macounii</i>	Double Dart Moth	Western Capercaillie
Lichen <i>Aspicilia melanaspis</i>	Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth	Song Thrush
Lichen <i>Bacidia circumspecta</i>	Small Emerald Moth	Ring Ouzel
Lichen <i>Bacidia incompta</i>	Ghost Moth	Northern Lapwing
Lichen <i>Bacidia subincompta</i>	The Rustic Moth	Common sturgeon
Lichen <i>Biatoridium monasteriense</i>	Rosy Rustic Moth	Allis Shad

Lichen <i>Brodoa intestiniformis</i>	Brindled Beauty Moth	Twaité Shad
Forked hair-lichen <i>Bryoria furcellata</i>	Netted Mountain Moth	Lesser Sandeel
Lichen <i>Buellia violaceofusca</i>	V-moth	European eel
Lichen <i>Calicium diploellum</i>	Dot Moth	Portuguese dogfish
Lichen <i>Caloplaca flavorubescens</i>	Broom Moth	Basking Shark
Lichen <i>Caloplaca lucifuga</i>	Rosy Minor Moth	Herring
Lichens Orange-Fruited Elm-lichen	Shoulder-striped Wainscot Moth	Kitefin shark
Lichens a Lichen <i>Candelariella superdistans</i>	Pied Tineid Moth	Common skate
Lichen <i>Catillaria alba</i>	Scarce Long-horn Moth	Cod
Lichen <i>Chaenotheca gracilentata</i>	Lunar Yellow Underwing Moth	Tope Shark
Stump Lichen <i>Cladonia botrytes</i>	Oblique Carpet Moth	Long-snouted Seahorse
Lichens River Jelly Lichen <i>Collema dichotomum</i>	Powdered Quaker Moth	Porbeagle Shark
Lichen <i>Collema fasciculare</i>	Dark Spinach Moth	River lamprey
Lichen <i>Collema fragile</i>	Grass Rivulet Moth	Sandy Ray Sea Monkfish
Lichen <i>Collema fragrans</i>	Cousin German Moth	Whiting
Lichen <i>Diplotomma pharcidium</i>	Argent and sable Moth	Blue Whiting
Lichen <i>Fuscopannaria ignobilis</i>	Shaded Broad-bar Moth	Ling
Lichen <i>Fuscopannaria sampaiana</i>	White Ermine Moth	Sea lamprey
Lichen <i>Gomphillus calycioides</i>	Buff Ermine Moth	Plaice
Lichen <i>Graphis alboscripta</i>	The Anomalous Moth	Blue shark
Elm gyalecta	Hedge Rustic Moth	Atlantic salmon
Lichen <i>Gyalidea roseola</i>	Feathered Gothic Moth	Brown/Sea trout
Lichen <i>Hypogymnia vittata</i>	Pale Eggar Moth	Arctic charr
Lichen <i>Lecania chlorotiza</i> Y	Barred Tooth-striped Moth	Mackerel
Lichen <i>Lecanographa amylacea</i>	The Cinnabar Moth	Sole
Tarn lechanora (Lichen)	Dusky-lemon Sallow Moth	Spiny Dogfish
Lichen <i>Lecanora cinereofusca</i>	The Sallow Moth	Blue-fin Tuna
Lichen <i>Lecanora quercicola</i>	Red Carpet Moth	Water Vole
Lichen <i>Lecidea erythrophaea</i>	Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet Moth	Minke Whale
Lichen <i>Leptogium brebissonii</i>	Heath Rustic Moth	Sei Whale
Lichen <i>Leptogium cochleatum</i>	Northern Dart Moth	Fin Whale
Lichen <i>Leptogium hibernicum</i>	Neglected Rustic Moth	Common Dolphin
Lichen <i>Leptogium saturninum</i>	Sword-Grass Moth	West European Hedgehog
Lichen <i>Megalospora tuberculosa</i>	Slender Scotch Burnet Moth	Wildcat
Arctic kidney-lichen	Foliage spider	Long-finned Pilot Whale
Lichen <i>Parmeliella testacea</i>	Mesh-webbed spider <i>Dictyna pusilla</i>	Risso's Dolphin
Matt felt lichen	Money-spider <i>Monocephalus castaneipes</i>	Northern Bottlenose Whale
Lichen <i>Peltigera venosa</i>	Money-spider <i>Notioscopus sarcinatus</i>	Atlantic White-sided Dolphin
Lichen <i>Pertusaria velata</i>	Crab spider	White-beaked Dolphin
Lichen <i>Phaeophyscia endococcina</i>	Money-spider <i>Saaristoa firma</i>	Brown Hare
Lichen <i>Polychidium dendriscum</i>	Money-spider <i>Semljicola caliginosus</i>	Mountain Hare
Lichen <i>Porina hibernica</i>	Money-spider <i>Silometopus incurvatus</i>	Otter
Lichen <i>Pseudocyphellaria intricata</i>	Northern February Red Stonefly	Pine Marten
Ragged pseudocyphellaria (Lichen)	Marsh Clubmoss Fern	Humpback Whale
Lichen <i>Pseudocyphellaria norvegica</i>	Pillwort Fern	Sowerby's Beaked Whale
Lichen <i>Pyrenula dermatodes</i>	Holly-fern	Polecat
Lichen <i>Pyrenula hibernica</i>	Oblong Woodsia	Noctule
Lichen <i>Ramonia chrysophaea</i>	Pyramidal Bugle	Killer Whale

Lichen <i>Ramonia dictyospora</i>	Arctic Sandwort	Eastern Atlantic harbour seal/ common Seal
Lichen <i>Rinodina isidioides</i>	Norwegian Mugwort	Harbour Porpoise
Lichen <i>Schismatomma graphidioides</i>	Purple Milk-vetch	Sperm Whale
Lichen <i>Sclerophora pallida</i>	Scottish Small-reed	Soprano Pipistrelle
Lichen <i>Stereocaulon delisei</i>	Narrow Small-reed	Brown long-eared bat
Lichen <i>Stereocaulon symphycheilum</i>	Rampion Bellflower	Red Squirrel
Lichen <i>Sticta canariensis</i>	Curved Sedge	Striped Dolphin
Lichen <i>Toninia sedifolia</i>	Caraway	Bottlenosed Dolphin
Lichen <i>Umbilicaria spodochroa</i>	Cornflower	Cuvier`s Beaked Whale
Lichen <i>Usnea florida</i>	Narrow-leaved Helleborine	Slow-worm
Lichen <i>Vulpicida pinastris</i>	Arctic Mouse-ear	Loggerhead Turtle
Lichen <i>Wadeana dendrographa</i>	Chamomile	Leatherback Turtle
Lichen <i>Wadeana minuta</i>		Adder
Tormentil Mining Bee	Basil Thyme	Common Lizard
Great Yellow Bumblebee	Mountain Scurvy-grass	
Moss Carder-bee	Scottish scurvygrass	
Narrow-headed Ant	Frog Orchid	
Shining Guest Ant	Northern Hawk`s-beard	

Population

The current population of Highland is 220,490 and between 1999 and 2009 has grown 5.9%. The population density is 8.6 people per square kilometre. The latest General Register Office - Scotland (GROS) population projection for Highland states that by 2028, the population of Highland will be 251,953 (a 14.8% increase from 2008).

Human Health

Information from the census is one of the best and simplest methods we have of health of our population. In Highland the percentage of total with a long term limiting illness is 18.4% which is below the 20.3% average in Scotland as a whole.

It is considered that additional noise and shadow flicker can be factors related to some on-shore wind development. There is currently no baseline available on the current level of amenity impact that these have in Highland.

Soil

Given the scale of Highland and the diversity of it's land there are a wide range of different soil types in Highland. A map in Appendix 1 shows a map produced by the Macaulay Institute (now James Hutton Institute showing the different types of soils in Scotland. It can be seen from this map that there a number of different types of peat based soils and a large areas of peatland. This information is supplemented by Map 6 of the Land use Strategy for Scotland the depth of peat in Highland especially around Sutherland and Caithness is deeper than most other parts of Scotland, however there is limited peat to be found around the Moray Firth. Peat is important in terms of its carbon storage properties and the habitats (many of which are water dependant) which it provides.

Water

The quality of the freshwater environment is recognised internationally for its importance as a spawning ground for wild salmon and use by whisky distilleries. The many lochs and rivers that characterise the local area are important for local economies and provide the scenic backdrop that encourages so many tourists to the area. The River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) Area Management Plans provide valuable baseline information on the quality of water in Highland. There are four RBMP Area Management Plans covering Highland: [Argyll and Lochaber](#), [North East Scotland](#), [North Highland](#), and [West Highland](#).

Air

Highland is not as effected by air pollution from extensive road networks and heavy industries as the rest of Scotland. The Highland Council undertake annual air quality reviews of their areas to ensure that the national air quality objectives will be achieved. The pollutants that require to be assessed by the local authority are:

- Benzene
- Carbon monoxide
- 1,3-butadiene
- lead
- nitrogen dioxide
- sulphur dioxide
- fine particles

If the objective for a pollutant is exceeded or predicted to be exceeded by the required date for compliance, the local authority must declare the effected area an Air Quality Management Area. The authority must then draw up and implement an Action Plan to reduce pollution levels in the specified area. The Highland Council monitor air quality either manually or automatically in the following locations:

- Telford Street, Inverness
- Fort William
- Strath Viach
- Union Street, Inverness
- Academy Street, Inverness
- Queensgate, Inverness
- Wyvis Terrace, Dingwall
- Station Road, Dingwall
- Kintail Place, Dingwall
- Burns Crescent, Dingwall

Highland at present does not have any Air Quality Management Areas as the pollutant levels are below the national objective values. The 2010 Air Quality Progress Report for the Highland Council Area is available to view [online](#).

Climate Change

In Highland one of the main contributors to climate change is transportation due to the geography of the area and the need for travel to access facilities. High levels of CO₂ and other “greenhouse gases” in the atmosphere are thought to accelerate the Earth’s natural warming. Warming is predicted to have a variety of environmental consequences including increased frequency and severity of storm events, as well as rises in sea level. Changes in rainfall patterns could lead to increased erosion and pollution associated with surface water run-off.

As mentioned earlier in this section there is a significant amount of Peat in Highland and this has carbon storage qualities. The removal and disturbance of peat can mean the stored carbon is released and may contribute to climate change.

Material Assets

For the purposes of this Environmental Report waste, access and transport are considered to be material assets. In terms of waste it is considered that the materials and management of waste as a result of development is a key consideration when assessing planning applications for on-shore wind energy given the location and scale of these types of development.

In terms of access to the outdoors The Highland Council Access Strategy 2008-2011 provides the key information on this valuable material asset including the level of access infrastructure as set out in the table below:

Access Resource	Distance (km)	%
Rights of Way	3362	11.6
Promoted	3959	13.6
Other Paths	8331	28.7
Roads	13401	46.1
Total	29053	100

The Highland area has a diverse transportation network encompassing one of the longest road networks in Scotland. Generally the transport infrastructure comprises of:

- 6730km/4182 miles of locally adopted road;
- 1400 bridges (span greater than 3 metres) and 700 structural culverts (up to 3 metres);
- 951km of trunk road;
- 108 harbours, slipways and piers; and
- 2 airports

Cultural Heritage

There are a number of cultural and built heritage features in Highland. These are set out in the table below:

Designation	Number of Sites
Scheduled Monuments	1237
Listed Buildings	A - 186 B - 1667 C(S) – 1161
Entry in Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes	51
Conservation Areas	30
Entry in Inventory of Historic Battlefields	6

The Highland Historic Environment Record includes 53677 records of all known archaeological sites, historic buildings and historic landscapes that make up the archaeological and historical heritage of the Highland area.

Landscape

This guidance covers the whole of Highland (except that area covered by the Cairngorms National Park Authority and therefore it can be expected the landscape varies significantly across the area. Seven Landscape Character Assessments cover the Highland Council area and describe the changes in landscape from the rolling farmland around the Inner Moray Firth Coast to the rocky undulating plateaus of Skye and Lochalsh. The Munro's, Corbett's and other hills and mountains are key features in the landscape and attract visitors to the area year after year. There are a number of landscape designations across Highland, these are detailed below:

Designation	Number of Sites	Area covered (Hectares)
National Scenic Areas	16	738058.9
Special Landscape Areas	28	620344.2

Wild areas are key features of the Highland landscape and this is recognised by its inclusion within Policy 57 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan as a feature of Local Importance. The detailed mapping of Wild Areas is not available as yet however when it becomes available it will be used to update the baseline and due regard will be had to it in the On-shore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance.

The key facts and the baseline information collated for this environmental report has helped us to identify some environmental problems in the Highland area. Environmental problems that affect the area are identified in Table 2 below. Some of the negative trends highlighted in this table are likely to continue if no on-shore wind energy guidance is brought forward.

Gaps/Unreliability of Baseline Data

Much data and information was available through the Consultation Authorities, the Scottish Government and there was a wealth of information on offer to the Highland Council to inform the baseline data for this Environmental Report. However, there are a number of factors which can limit the validity of this data:

- Some parts of Highland have been studied more widely than others. Therefore, the quality and accuracy of information for some areas will be greater than for others;
- Collation of data has predominantly been gathered at a Highland wide basis, including the Cairngorms National Park, therefore it proved difficult to disaggregate these to information that covers the Highland Council (planning authority) area; and
- The data relevant to this Report is held in different forms. If information is held in databases and Geographic Information Systems it can be more easily queried than information which is only in the printed form in reports, books or even on websites.

Environmental problems

Schedule 3 paragraph 4 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that the Environmental Report includes a description of existing environmental problems, in particular those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance. The purpose of this section is to explain how existing environmental problems will effect or be effected by On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance and whether the supplementary guidance is likely to aggravate, reduce or otherwise effect existing environmental problems.

Environmental problems were identified through discussions with the Consultation Authorities and an analysis of the baseline data. Relevant environmental problems are summarised at **Table 3**.

Table 3. Environmental problems relevant to On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance

SEA Issue	Potential Environmental Impact resulting from On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance	Implications for On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance
Biodiversity, flora, fauna	Dependant on proposals for wind energy coming forward, less stress on biodiversity and loss of habitat resulting from on-shore wind energy development as they will be steered away from areas where there would be significant constraints. Renewable energy development can reduce green house gases and in turn vulnerability of rare and endangered flora and fauna to changes in climate should be reduced in the longer term. Impact on birds through potential disturbance to breeding or roosting/feeding areas and potential collision risk.	The guidance needs to ensure that it aims for protection and enhancement of Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna. Sites of specific importance should be included in the mapping exercise of the spatial framework. It is likely that there will be a significant impact on this SEA issue.
Population	Population potentially given greater opportunity to access the outdoors through improved access (or at least safeguarding existing access) which may be brought forward through on-shore wind energy development guidance.	On-shore wind farm development can provide opportunities to come into contact with the natural environment through better recreational access. It is likely that in time there will be a significant impact on this SEA issue.
Human health	Potential for additional noise, shadow flicker and other risks associated with on-shore wind farm developments.	The guidance will seek to ensure that amenity impact of wind farms is taken into consideration during the consideration of planning application for on-shore wind energy developments.
Soil	Any on-shore wind energy development will have some impact on soil and geology however this is likely to vary across areas where more significant features are present (i.e. peat).	The guidance will seek to guide developments away from areas where there are valuable features which are likely to be significantly negatively impacted by on-shore wind energy development.
Water	Development of on-shore wind energy is likely to have some impact on water. The guidance has a role to play in	The guidance will highlight the need to protect and where possible enhance the water environment where ever possible,

	promoting early consideration of the issue.	
Air	No impact is expected.	No implications for the guidance.
Climatic factors	On-shore wind energy development can significantly contribute to the targets for proportion of energy demand to be met from renewable sources.	The guidance will provide a framework for the development of on-shore wind energy in Highland, guided by principles in Scottish Planning Policy helping identify capacity for more wind farms.
Material assets	Development may have an effect (both positive and negative depending on the location/scale of development) on material assets including access to the outdoors, transport and forestry.	The guidance will aim to guide development to areas where there will be limited negative impact and attempt to deliver positive impact on material assets.
Cultural heritage	Reduced risk of impact on the setting for cultural heritage features.	The spatial framework should generally steer development from areas which may have an adverse effect on cultural heritage features.
Landscape	Avoid the degradation of local and regional landscape character which may occur through the development of on-shore wind energy developments and maintain local distinctiveness. This may include impacts on wildland, areas with limited landscape capacity, designated landscape areas, settlements and the cumulative impact on these issues.	The guidance should be used as a positive tool to steer on-shore wind energy developments to areas where they will not have a significant adverse impact on the local and regional landscape character and local distinctiveness.

The above has aided the Council in understanding the need for, the level of detail and scope of the guidance and the environmental report.

Likely evolution of the environment without On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance

An alternative approach to the guidance as a whole is to not prepare guidance on on-shore wind energy developments and rely solely on the policy contained within the Highland-wide Local Development Plan and the existing supplementary planning guidance (Highland Renewable Energy Strategy).

This approach may lead to conflicts with national policy and the policy set out in the Highland-wide Local Development Plan. In turn this may have an adverse impact on the biodiversity, cultural heritage and landscape of the area and on environmental amenity for those who live or work here. Given that the approach to on-shore wind energy developments in the current supplementary planning guidance is contrary to the approach set out by Scottish Government and there is also potential that it is contrary to the new policy approach brought forward in the Highland-wide Local Development Plan then this is not considered a reasonable alternative and will not be subject to SEA.

Assessment of environmental effects and measures envisaged for prevention, reduction and offset of any significant adverse effects

The baseline information from the previous sections are applied to consider whether the Onshore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance and its alternatives are likely to have significant environmental effects (positive and negative).

Outline of reasons for selecting alternatives

To ensure the strategic environmental assessment of the on-shore wind energy supplementary guidance is practical and proportionate a scoping exercise was carried out to determine which parts of the guidance should be subject to SEA individually. This was included in the Scoping Report and comments sought from the Consultation Authorities. This position has now been updated following these comments and is included in Table 4 below. The reasonable alternatives for these proposals are also set out within the table.

While this is the case it should be noted that all elements of the guidance will be taken into consideration when the guidance is being cumulatively assessed as a whole.

Table 4 – Scoping sections of the guidance for SEA

Section of Guidance	Will it be subject to SEA?	Justification
Introduction	N	This section is for background information only and in itself will have no effect on the environment.
Planning for On-shore Wind Energy	N	This section is context for the guidance and in itself will have no effect on the environment.
About this version of the guidance	N	This section is for background information only and in itself will have no effect on the environment.
The Guidance	N	This section is context for the guidance and in itself will have no effect on the environment.
Types of wind energy development	N	It is considered that setting a threshold for what type of development is classed as small/medium/large is necessary to ensure the appropriate level of guidance for each particular level of development. The definitions of each type of wind energy are derived from national advice and guidance and therefore is not considered that it will have an environmental effect.

Alternative to introduction to guidance

We have not identified any reasonable alternatives to this section of the guidance and this will not be subject to SEA.

Section of Guidance	Will it be subject to SEA?	Justification
The Spatial Framework		This section will be assessed as a whole however certain elements may not be assessed; the justification for this is set out below.
Stage 1	Y	Scottish Planning Policy gives a very strong steer

		on what is included at this stage. However it is recognised that the contents of this stage will have an environmental effect.
Stage 2	Y	This section will set out what has and has not been included at each stage, changes to what is or is not included at this stage may have an environmental effect. Please note non-environmental issues will not be subject to SEA for this stage this includes: Aviation and Defence Interests and Broadcasting Installations.
Stage 3	Y	This section will set out what has and has not been included at each stage, changes to what is or is not included at this stage may have an environmental effect. Please note non-environmental issues will not be subject to SEA for this stage this includes Project Viability.
Policy – Areas to be Afforded Significant Protection	Y	This section will set out the policy approach to be applied in areas to be afforded significant protection and is likely to have a significant environmental effect

Alternative approach to the Spatial Framework section of the guidance

It is possible that by including additional/fewer considerations in the spatial framework or moving around at which level the consideration is brought in (i.e Stage 2, 3 or 4) that there may be a significantly different impact on the environment, therefore it is appropriate to consider and document how changes to the sieving can have an effect on the environment.

Section of Guidance	Will it be subject to SEA?	Justification
Development Guidelines		This section will be assessed as a whole however certain elements may not be assessed; the justification for this is set out below.
Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage	Y	This will set the context for the assessment of on-shore wind energy development against this important environmental feature. It is likely that this element of the guidance will have a significant environmental effect.
Other Species and Habitats Interests	Y	This will set the context for the assessment of on-shore wind energy development against this important environmental feature. It is likely that this element of the guidance will have a significant environmental effect.
Public Health and Safety	Y	This will set the context for the assessment of on-shore wind energy development against this important feature which has an environmental dimension. It is likely that this element of the guidance will have a significant environmental effect.
Landscape and Visual Impact	Y	This will set the context for the assessment of on-shore wind energy development against this important environmental feature. It is likely that this element of the guidance will have a significant environmental effect.
Community Amenity	Y	This will set the context for the assessment of on-

		shore wind energy development against this important environmental feature. It is likely that this element of the guidance will have a significant environmental effect.
Safety and Amenity of Individuals	Y	This will set the context for the assessment of on-shore wind energy development against this important feature which has an environmental dimension. It is likely that this element of the guidance will have a significant environmental effect.
The Water Environment	Y	This will set the context for the assessment of on-shore wind energy development against this important environmental feature. It is likely that this element of the guidance will have a significant environmental effect.
Safety of Airport and Emergency Service Operations	N	This will set the context for the assessment of on-shore wind energy development against features for which it is unlikely that there would be a significant environmental effect as the feature is man made and the only effect may be commercial.
The Operational Efficiency of Other Communications	N	This will set the context for the assessment of on-shore wind energy development against features for which it is unlikely that there would be a significant environmental effect as the feature is man made and the only effect may be commercial.
The Quantity and Quality of Public Access	Y	This will set the context for the assessment of on-shore wind energy development against this important feature which has an environmental dimension. It is likely that this element of the guidance will have a significant environmental effect.
Other Tourism, Recreation and Film Industry Interests	N	This will set the context for the assessment of on-shore wind energy development against features for which it is unlikely that there would be a significant environmental effect as the feature is man made and the only effect may be commercial. It is recognised that this has links to landscape, visual amenity, and access but these are adequately covered elsewhere in the SEA.
Traffic and Transport Interests	Y	This will set the context for the assessment of on-shore wind energy development against this important infrastructure feature which may have a significant effect on the water environment through new/strengthened bridges and potentially increased surface water run-off through soil sealing from new hard surfacing required.

Alternative approach to the Development Guidelines section of the guidance

It is possible to take different approaches to the environmental development guidelines which have been included in the guidance i.e. change in standards applied or assumptions made. This may have a different effect on the environment and therefore it is appropriate to consider and document how changes to the standards applied/assumptions made can have an effect on the environment.

Section of Guidance	Will it be subject to SEA?	Justification
Additional Guidance		This section will be assessed as a whole however certain elements may not be assessed; the justification for this is set out below.
Community Renewable Energy Developments	N	This section will set out guidance on community renewable energy schemes which at a high level will have no effect on the environment, however, individual community energy projects may have an effect but this is outwith the scope of this guidance.
Design and Layout of Windfarms	Y	This will set out guidance on the way the design and layout of a wind farm can have a mitigating effect on a number of factors therefore it is likely there will be a significant environmental effect.
Forestry	Y	This section will relate to the commercial operation of forestry and not the biodiversity benefits of it which is out with the scope of this guidance. However, it is recognised that if new on-shore wind energy developments can not be “key-holed” into forestry then the site may be clear felled which may have waste management implications and limit capacity for re-planting
Peat	Y	The location of wind farms on peat land can have a significant effect therefore this section is likely to have a significant effect as it will set out potential mitigation.
Electricity Transmission Cables and Lines	N	This section will set out the requirements of electrical transmission operators in relation to wind farm development. This is purely operational requirements and it is unlikely that the inclusion of this guidance will have a significant environmental effect.
Gas Transmission Underground Pipelines	N	This section will set out the requirements of gas transmission operators in relation to wind farm development. This is purely operational requirements and it is unlikely that the inclusion of this guidance will have a significant environmental effect.
Impacts of other proposed developments on existing or consented windfarms	N	This section will set out the effect one on-shore wind farm can have on another and the effect on other types of development. This is purely in a commercial sense and does not deal with cumulative visual impact etc which is dealt with elsewhere in the guidance.
Site Restoration	Y	The restoration of a site post operation can have a significant effect on the environment, through restoration of habitats etc. This section will be solely concerned with guidance on how the Council will ensure this takes place (i.e. financial guarantees).
Mitigation	Y	This section will set out that the Council will ensure that any mitigation proposed can be

		delivered to be effective through the life of the wind turbine development and that this can be funded. It is considered that the mitigation may have significant environmental effect.
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Alternative approach to the Additional Guidance section of the guidance

It is possible to take different approaches to the additional guidelines which have been included in the guidance i.e. change in standards applied or assumptions made. This may have a different effect on the environment and therefore it is appropriate to consider and document how changes to the standards applied/assumptions made can have an effect on the environment.

Section of Guidance	Will it be subject to SEA?	Justification
Appendices		
Appendix 1 – Spatial Framework Landscape and Visual Guidance	Y	This section will set out further information on the assessment of the visual and landscape impact of wind farms, particularly cumulative impact for two pilot areas and the way in which areas are categorised may have an environmental impact. It is considered that this section is likely to only have a significant effect on landscape and visual and as such will only be assessed against those related SEA objectives.

Alternative to Appendix 1

It should be recognised that, given the scale of Highland, carrying out spatial framework landscape and visual guidance for the whole of Highland at once would be extremely resource intensive and would ultimately delay the final adoption of the document which is needed in Highland; therefore the approach taken has been to concentrate on the areas of most pressure. Other areas will be completed in due course but at this point a detailed landscape and visual spatial framework for the whole of Highland is not a reasonable approach at this point.

The sub-areas which have been identified in this part of the guidance could be defined differently i.e. at a different scale or more precisely. This could include different considerations for why the sub area has been defined as shown.

Section of Guidance	Will it be subject to SEA?	Justification
Appendices		
Appendix 2 – Advice on process	N	This section purely gives advice on planning process therefore it is not anticipated that this will have an environmental effect.
Appendix 3 – Glossary	N	This section is for information only.
Appendix 4 – Useful References	N	This section is for information only.
Appendix 5 – Additional Reference Maps	N	This section is for information only.
Appendix 6 – Small Scale Wind Turbine Proposals	N	This section purely gives advice on planning process and information requirements for submission of planning applications for small scale wind turbine developments, therefore it is not anticipated that this will have an environmental effect.

Alternative to appendices 2-6

We have not identified reasonable alternatives to these appendices as they are based on process where there is limited opportunities for change.

Methodology for Assessing Environmental Effects

In accordance with Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 the Highland Council has considered whether the environmental effects (positive and negative) of the proposed On-Shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance are likely to be significant. The role of the Strategic Environmental Assessment will be to minimise the negative impacts and maximise the positive impacts that the guidance may have. From the environmental problems listed in Table 3 above, there could be varying challenges relating to certain SEA issues. For this reason we consider the plan is likely to have significant effects (positive and negative) on some environmental issues at a strategic level. A summary of our conclusions is given in Table 5 below.

Table 5. Scoping of SEA issues

SEA issues	Scoped in	Scoped out	If scoped out, why
biodiversity, flora, fauna	X		
population	X		
human health	X		
soil	X		
water	X		
air		X	It is not considered that there will be significant impact on this SEA topic through this guidance. While on-shore wind energy development utilises the air it is not likely that it will have a detrimental effect on air quality, given the policy approach as set out in the Highland-wide Local Development Plan.
climatic factors	X		
material assets	X		
cultural heritage	X		
landscape	X		

Taking the above into consideration and the responses of the Consultation Authorities, the preferred approach and its alternative will be subject to detailed assessment against all the SEA objectives and criteria. The SEA objectives are derived from those used for the Strategic Environmental Assessment on the Highland-wide Local Development Plan but they have been modified to suit this particular guidance following consultation with the Consultation Authorities.

This process will identify as far as possible what level of environmental impact the operation of the guidance will have and any mitigation or improvement which will be required. The assessment will include consideration of the following aspects of possible environmental effects: length/duration; permanency; positive and negative; and cumulative and secondary.

A matrix approach will be used to assess the level of significant impact and the cumulative effects. It has been developed setting out environmental objectives, with indicators and columns for carrying out the appraisal of potential impacts. A sample of the method to be used is shown in Appendix 2.

Table 6. SEA Objectives

SEA Topic	SEA Objective
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	1. Maintain and enhance designated wildlife sites, biodiversity, valuable habitats and protected species, avoiding irreversible losses.
Population	2. Provide opportunities for people to come into contact with and appreciate nature/natural environments.
Human Health	3. Protect and enhance human health.
Soil	4. Reduce impacts on peatland and safeguard soil quality and quantity.
Water	5. Avoid impact to and where possible enhance the water environment
Climatic Factors	6. Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change and address the carbon balance of on-shore wind energy development. 7. Increase the proportion of energy from renewable sources
Material Assets	8. Promote the sustainable use of natural resources.
Cultural Heritage	9. Protect and where appropriate enhance the cultural heritage
Landscape	10. Value and protect the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscapes

Assessment of Appendix 1

In assessing appendix 1 of the guidance it is recognised that it is solely related to landscape and visual issues therefore appendix 1 will only be assessed against the effect that Appendix 1 may have on the SEA objectives related to landscape. This is an approach that was put forward by the Consultation Authorities to ensure that this section of the SEA was reasonable, practical and proportionate.

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Appraisal

When undertaking this Strategic Environmental Assessment, The Council has been conscious of the overlap in work between the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Habitats Regulations Appraisal work which is required to be undertaken. With this in mind SEA objective 1 will be used to inform an initial screening exercise which has been undertaken to help screen which elements of the plan may have an effect on a European designated site either alone or in combination.

A Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record will be produced through partnership working with Scottish Natural Heritage and other relevant agencies and will be published prior to the adoption of the On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance as a statutory part of the Development Plan.

Summary of Assessments

The approaches and alternatives contained within the On-shore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance have been assessed using the framework and methodology described earlier in this Environmental Report. A summary of the assessment findings are shown below, the full findings are shown in Appendix 3.

Spatial Framework

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude	
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional
1	+	+	+	+	+
2	=	=	=	=	=
3	+	+	+	+	=
4	+	+	+	+	+
5	=	=	=	=	=
6	+	+	+	+	+
7	+	+	+	+	+
8	+	+	+	+	+
9	+	+	+	+	+
10	++	+	+	+	+

Conclusions and recommended mitigation: The Spatial Framework provides clear policy protection specific to medium to large scale wind energy proposals through spatial policy which provides the appropriate level of protection to the different features and promotes the remaining less sensitive areas through the Broad Areas of Search. Overall the SEA of this approach is that the Spatial Framework is at least neutral and potentially a positive addition by providing interpretation and also greater certainty as to the sensitivity of areas to medium to large scale wind energy proposals.

The Spatial Framework (within the pilot areas) also protects areas of high landscape and visual sensitivity including those that are sensitive due to the cumulative capacity being reached. However detailed landscape and visual assessment has only been carried within parts of Highland (within the pilot areas) - albeit these are amongst the areas which are currently under greatest pressure from wind energy developments.

In the future before other areas are under significant development pressure there could be an update to the spatial framework after further Landscape and Visual Assessment. Ideally refining and rolling out the pilot landscape and visual work would eventually establish these sensitivities across the whole of Highland allowing us to feed this into the spatial framework providing greater spatial guidance and more certainty on this matter. If this roll out happens and timeously so then the medium to long term impact would be more positive than shown.

Alternative to the Spatial Framework

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude	
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional
1	+	+	+	+	+
2	=	=	=	=	=
3	+	+	+	+	=
4	+	+	+	+	+
5	=	=	=	=	=
6	+	+	+	+	+
7	+	+	+	+	+
8	+	+	+	+	+
9	+	+	+	+	+
10	=	=	=	=	=

Conclusions and recommended mitigation: The Spatial Framework provides clear policy protection specific to medium to large scale wind energy proposals through the provision of a spatial policy which provides the appropriate level of protection to the different features and promotes the less sensitive areas through the Broad Areas of Search. However there are limitations to this Spatial Framework as it does not include landscape and visual sensitivities including cumulative impacts (beyond significant protection of NSA's and some protection of SLA's).

To address this deficiency the assessment of cumulative impact and other landscape and visual sensitivities could be provided by mapping these sensitivities; where it is possible and pragmatic to map them. However alternatively or in addition to this approach mitigation could be provided through additional policy/guidance on these landscape and visual sensitivities.

Development Guidelines

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude	
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional
1	+	+	+	+	+
2	+	+	+	+	+
3	+	+	+	+	+
4	=	=	=	=	=
5	+	+	+	+	+
6	=	=	=	=	=
7	++	++	++	++	++
8	=	=	=	=	=
9	+	+	+	+	+
10	+	+	+	+	+

Conclusions and recommended mitigation: The development guidelines section of the Supplementary Guidance provides a fuller interpretation of the criteria listed in Policy 67 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan. It is envisaged that the interpretation of the criteria will lead to a number of positive effects on SEA objectives 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 10. It is also considered that there may be significantly positive effects on SEA objective 7 as it should provide opportunity to significantly increase the proportion of energy from renewable sources. While the development guidelines are anticipated to have a number of positive effects there may still be localised detrimental impacts of individual proposals, it still ensures though that these are considered at the planning application stage. The development guidelines should not be read or applied in isolation.

Alternative to Development Guidelines

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude	
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional
1	=	=	=	=	=
2
3	=	=	=	=	=
4
5	=	=	=	=	=
6
7	+	+	+	+	+
8	=	=	=	=	=
9	=	=	=	=	=
10	=	=	=	=	=

Conclusions and recommended mitigation: The absence of the development guidelines section of the Supplementary Guidance, providing a fuller interpretation of the criteria listed in Policy 67 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan could have an impact on the SEA objectives as the assessment of any proposals would be made without the extra detail provided by the development guidelines. It is envisaged that relying on the list of criteria in the HwLDP policy without the fuller interpretation available, would lead to a number minimal negative impacts for SEA objectives 2, 4 and 6. It is also considered that there may be no or neutral impacts on SEA objectives 1, 3, 5, 8, 9 and 10. It is also considered that there may be positive effects on SEA objective 7 as it should provide opportunity to increase the proportion of energy from renewable sources.

Additional Guidelines

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude	
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional
1	=	=	=	=	=
2	=	=	=	=	=
3	=	=	=	=	=
4	+	+	+	+	+
5	=	=	=	=	=
6	+	+	+	+	+
7	+	+	+	+	+
8	=	=	=	=	=
9	=	=	=	=	=
10	=	=	=	=	=

Conclusions and recommended mitigation: The additional guidance section of the Supplementary Guidance provides information on a number of other considerations which need to be taken into account in the determination of any planning application for wind energy developments. It is envisaged that the consideration of these additional issues will lead to a number of positive effects of SEA objectives 4, 6 and 7. It is also considered that there may be no or neutral impacts on SEA objectives 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9 and 10. While the additional guidance is anticipated to have a number of positive effects there may still be localised detrimental impacts of individual proposals, it still ensures that these are considered at the planning application stage. The additional guidance should not be read or applied in isolation.

Alternative to Additional Guidance

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude	
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional
1	=	=	=	=	=
2	=	=	=	=	=
3	=	=	=	=	=
4
5	=	=	=	=	=
6
7	=	=	=	=	=
8	=	=	=	=	=
9	=	=	=	=	=
10	=	=	=	=	=

Conclusions and recommended mitigation: The absence of the additional guidance section of the Supplementary Guidance, providing information on a number of other considerations which need to be taken into account in the determination of any planning application for wind energy developments could have an impact on the SEA objectives as the assessment of any proposals would be made without the extra detail provided by the additional guidance. It is envisaged that without the consideration of these additional issues, it would lead to a number of minimal negative impacts for SEA objectives 4 and 6. It is also considered that there may be no or neutral impacts on SEA objectives 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Appendix 1

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude	
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional
10	++	+	+	+	+

Conclusions and recommended mitigation: Within the pilot areas there is protection of areas high landscape and visual sensitivity including those that are sensitive due to the cumulative capacity being reached. However detailed landscape and visual assessment has only been carried out within parts of Highland - albeit these are the areas which are currently under greatest pressure from wind energy developments.

In the future before other areas are under significant development pressure there could be an update to the spatial framework after further Landscape and Visual Assessment. Ideally refining and rolling out the pilot landscape and visual work would eventually establish these sensitivities across the whole of Highland allowing us to feed this into the spatial framework providing greater spatial guidance and more certainty on this matter. If this roll out happens then the medium to long term impact would be more positive than shown.

Alternative to Appendix 1

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude	
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional
10	++	+	+	++	+

Conclusions and recommended mitigation: Additional mitigation could be provided by refining and rolling out the pilot work to map landscape and visual sensitivities across Highland. However if this is to be done at a smaller scale then it means further fieldwork and resources committed to the project. The difference between more detailed mapping and the more generalised areas is not anticipated to show what proposals/planning applications the Council would refuse (or in case of a section 36 application object to Scottish Government on). However it would require additional resources to produce more precise boundaries that hold up to scrutiny at a smaller scale. The positive is that it would give greater certainty to developers. However it is not considered that carrying out this level of assessment would change outcomes as the policy could otherwise be framed towards assessing impact on the reasons for protection of an area. Therefore if through detailed work the developer can establish that there is no or little impact on the reason why we protected that area then this would assess well against that policy.

The risk of this approach is that resources required to carry out this approach are significant and it is possible that the roll out to cover additional areas could take longer and therefore the positive impact of the policy could lessen over time if new areas came under concerted pressure from developers and if this detailed work struggles to be produced quickly enough to keep up.

Assessment of alternatives - cumulative effects

In this section the Council have sought to assess the cumulative effect of the plan as a whole. To do this we have used the SEA objectives (and their key considerations) to look at the effect the guidance will have as a whole. This is summarised below and full detail is provided in Appendix 4.

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude	
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional
1	+	+	+	+	+
2	+	+	+	++	+
3	+	+	+	+	=
4	+	+	+	+	+
5	=	=	=	=	=
6	+	+	+	+	+
7	++	++	++	++	++
8	+	+	+	+	+
9	+	+	+	+	+
10	++	+	+	+	+

Conclusions and recommended mitigation

The Spatial Framework: The Spatial Framework provides clear policy protection specific to medium to large scale wind energy proposals through spatial policy which provides the appropriate level of protection to the different features and promotes the remaining less sensitive areas through the Broad Areas of Search. Overall the SEA of this approach is that the Spatial Framework is at least neutral if not a positive addition by providing interpretation and also greater certainty as to the sensitivity of areas to medium to large scale wind energy proposals.

The Spatial Framework (within the pilot areas) also protects areas of high landscape and visual sensitivity including those that are sensitive due to the cumulative capacity being reached. However detailed landscape and visual assessment has only been carried within parts of Highland (within the pilot areas) - albeit these are the areas which are currently under greatest pressure from wind energy developments.

In the future before other areas are under significant development pressure there could be an update to the spatial framework after further Landscape and Visual Assessment. Ideally refining and rolling out the pilot landscape and visual work would eventually establish these sensitivities across the whole of Highland allowing us to feed this into the spatial framework providing greater spatial guidance and more certainty on this matter. If this roll out happens and timeously so then the medium to long term impact would be more positive than shown.

The Development Guidelines: section of the Supplementary Guidance provides a fuller interpretation of the criteria listed in Policy 67 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan. It is envisaged that the interpretation of the criteria will lead to a number of positive effects of SEA objectives 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 10. It is also considered that there may be significantly positive effects on SEA objective 7 as it should provide opportunity to significantly increase the proportion of energy from renewable sources. While the development guidelines are anticipated to have a number of positive effects there may still be localised detrimental impacts of individual proposals, it still ensures that these are considered at the planning application stage.

The Additional Guidance: The additional guidance section of the Supplementary Guidance provides information on a number of other considerations which need to be taken into account in the determination of any planning application for wind energy developments. It is envisaged that the consideration of these additional issues will lead to a number of positive effects of SEA objectives 4, 6 and 7. It is also considered that there may be no or neutral impacts on SEA objectives 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9 and 10. While the additional guidance is anticipated to have a number of positive effects there may still be localised detrimental impacts of individual proposals, it still ensures that these are considered at the planning application stage.

Alternative approach

The alternative approach here is for the Council to modify the guidance and thus it would comprise of the Spatial Framework of the Interim Supplementary Guidance, plus consideration of some suggestions made to us after consultation on the Draft Supplementary Guidance: Onshore Wind Energy, but with no additional guidance, and no development guidelines section. The results of this assessment can be found below:

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude	
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional
1	+	+	+	+	+
2	-	-	-	-	-
3	=	=	=	=	=
4	-	-	-	-	-
5	=	=	=	=	=
6	-	-	-	-	-
7	+	+	+	+	+
8	=	=	=	=	=
9	=	=	=	=	=
10	=	=	=	=	=

Conclusions and recommended mitigation:

The Spatial Framework: The Spatial Framework provides clear policy protection specific to medium to large scale wind energy proposals through the provision of a spatial policy which provides the appropriate level of protection to the different features and promotes the less sensitive areas through the Areas of Search. However there are limitations to this Spatial

Framework as it does not include landscape and visual sensitivities including cumulative impacts (beyond significant protection of NSA's and some protection of SLA's).

To address this deficiency the assessment of cumulative impact and other landscape and visual sensitivities could be provided by mapping these sensitivities; where it is possible and pragmatic to map them. However alternatively or in addition to this approach mitigation could be provided through additional policy/guidance on these landscape and visual sensitivities.

Development Guidelines: The absence of the development guidelines section of the Supplementary Guidance, providing a fuller interpretation of the criteria listed in Policy 67 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan could have an impact on the SEA objectives as the assessment of any proposals would be made without the extra detail provided by the development guidelines. It is envisaged that relying on the list of criteria in the HwLDP policy without the fuller interpretation available, would lead to a number minimal negative impacts for SEA objectives 2, 4 and 6. It is also considered that there may be no or neutral impacts on SEA objectives 1, 3, 5, 8, 9 and 10. It is also considered that there may be positive effects on SEA objective 7 as it should provide opportunity to increase the proportion of energy from renewable sources.

Additional Guidance: The absence of the additional guidance section of the Supplementary Guidance, providing information on a number of other considerations which need to be taken into account in the determination of any planning application for wind energy developments could have an impact on the SEA objectives as the assessment of any proposals would be made without the extra detail provided by the additional guidance. It is envisaged that without the consideration of these additional issues, it would lead to a number of minimal negative impacts for SEA objectives 4 and 6. It is also considered that there may be no or neutral impacts on SEA objectives 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Assessment of alternatives compatibility with other PPS

There are a number of interrelated documents which are directly relevant to the On-shore wind energy: supplementary guidance. These documents and their compatibility with the guidance are listed below:

Single Outcome Agreement 2 (SOA2)

The Single Outcome Agreement 2 delivers a partnership approach to tackling issues which effect Highland. As part of this there are a number of National and Local Outcomes, the ones relevant to this project are listed below. It is considered that the on-shore wind energy: supplementary guidance is compatible with the SOA2 by helping to deliver the national and local outcomes listed below.

National Outcomes

- We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place to do business in Europe (NO1)
- We realise our full economic potential with more and better opportunities for our people (NO2)
- We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations (NO12)

Local Outcomes

- The impact of the recession is limited and sustainable economic growth is supported. (LO2G) – Specific target related to renewable energy (Increase installed capacity of renewable energy to 1280MW by 2010).
- Our natural heritage is protected and enhanced enabling it to deliver economic, health and learning benefits (LO5)
- Carbon emissions are reduced and communities are protected from the consequences of changing weather patterns (LO6)

Highland-wide Local Development Plan

There is a strong compatibility between the Highland-wide Local Development Plan, particularly in terms of outlining a coherent vision and spatial strategy and delivering a consistent and concise policy on which the on-shore wind energy: supplementary guidance is based.

Highland Renewable Energy Strategy

This document will be partially superseded by the on-shore wind energy: supplementary guidance as far as it relates to on-shore wind energy however some elements still remain relevant to on-shore wind energy development. The rest of the document as it relates to other forms of renewable energy will remain until the time it is updated. It is considered that there is compatibility between these two documents as they provide when read in conjunction with each other the bigger picture as it relates to renewable energy developments. Forward targets for renewable energy have been set for 2015 (2180MW), 2017 (2908MW) and 2020 (4000MW).

Measures envisaged for the prevention, reduction and offsetting of significant adverse effects

It is recognised by the Council that the best form of mitigation can be making changes to the plan, programme or strategy to either reduce negative effects or increase positive effects. This section will focus on the changes that have been brought forward into the guidance from the April 2011 version to the latest version of the guidance (March 2012). While many of these changes were borne out of the strategic environmental assessment there are others which have been brought forward to enable the Council to have a robust framework for decision making.

Table 7 below summarises and explains the changes that have been made to the document and if they have been led by the SEA process or other reasons.

Table 7 – Mitigation in the form of changes to the Guidance

Revision Number	Summary of Revision	Has this revision came about as a result of SEA?	Explanation/Implications
Introduction			
1	Addition of very large category – over 100MW, turbines above 100m hub height or 140m tip height or groupings of 45+ turbines	Y	By having a new category it provides an opportunity to consider relative compatibility of different scales of proposals within the landscape in providing planning guidance. This is anticipated to have a positive effect on the landscape.
2	Clarification that the terms ‘community’ and ‘commercial’ do not imply difference of handling	N	This clarity confirms that community wind farm proposals will not be dealt with to a lesser standard than commercial turbines. However it is noted that there may be potential for a “relaxation” for community schemes in respect of impacts on amenity – this would be dealt with on a case by case basis in line with HwLDP Policy 68.
3	Potential further amendment of categories as outstanding work moves forward	N	This will provide greater clarity in due course
Spatial Framework			
4	Change to the 3-stage approach as per national advice and relying on HwLDP policies	N	By making this change it gives the guidance a greater level of robustness. However, this approach does leave a greater number of considerations which will need to be addressed at a planning application stage but it is

			inline with national policy and guidance.
5	Detail: revised approach to Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes and to small 'point' features e.g. listed buildings	Y	This approach will now demand a detailed check of all of these small point features rather than them being potentially overlooked. It is considered that this will have a positive effect on cultural heritage.
6	More specific areas for Airport Safeguarding	N	This allows for greater robustness in decision making as the safeguarding areas are more accurately defined.
7	Landscape and visual cumulative and other areas not included in this version – pending further consideration – though issues still covered by general plan policies	N	See explanation of revision 20
8	Project viability considerations removed – useful information may be provided separately	N	Consideration of project viability discouraged long access tracks through spatial framework rather than just considering impacts of a specific proposal. This change has been made to ensure accordance with national advice on methodology.
Development Guidelines			
9	Natural, built and cultural heritage and other species and habitat interests – better referencing of legal tests and procedures, interim approach for wild land assessment, reference to RSPB/SNH bird species sensitivity map	Y	This change ensures there is a firm link to the parent policies as set out in the Highland-wide Local Development Plan. This is considered to have positive effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna, as well as, indirectly providing better opportunities for people to come into contact with and appreciate nature.
10	Public health and safety section deleted as per Reporter's recommendations for HwLDP	N	While this has been removed there are still some issues related to noise and amenity covered in the guidance which may have an effect on population and human health.
11	Landscape and Visual impact – added reference to the value of Highland landscape to people and industries, explanation of what our visualisation standards require and clarifying of assessment of impact on the	Y	By modifying this section we are partially reflecting the Reporters' recommendations on HwLDP but we are also seeking to reinforce the standards that require. visuals which are genuinely

	spatial framework.		useful for public, community councils and landscape professionals in coming to a view on proposals. It is considered that in the longer term this will have a positive impact on the landscape.
12	Amenity at sensitive locations – reference to not supporting significant long-term detrimental impact on residential amenity, explaining the Council's practice with respect to noise assessment including interpretation of ETSU-R-97 and referencing our on-going work to develop a technical appendix on noise issues.	Y	The Council is seeking through good planning to achieve/maintain good standards of amenity. Addition of these references is a firm statement of position on protection of amenity. It is considered that this may have a neutral effect on population and human health.
13	The water environment – expanded reference to requirements under the Water Framework Directive and peatland issues	Y	This change ensures there is a firm link to the parent policies as set out in the Highland-wide Local Development Plan. It is considered that this will have a positive effect on the water environment.
14	The quantity and quality of public access – expanded reference to rights of way, improvement of and creation of new access, information for public, maintaining the right of responsible access.	Y	These references help to balance competing interests, safeguard existing accesses, provide opportunities for enhancement as well as creating additional access opportunities. It is considered that this may have a positive effect on human health and material assets.
15	Other tourism and recreation interests – reference to film industry - deleted as per Reporter's recommendations for HwLDP	N	By modifying this section we are partially reflecting the Reporters' recommendations on HwLDP but we are also seeking to reinforce the standards that require. visuals which are genuinely useful for public, community councils and landscape professionals in coming to a view on proposals.
16	Traffic and transport interests – expanded reference to roads requirements including mitigation, need for transport assessment and pre-application discussion	N	This change ensures there is a firm link to the parent policies as set out in the Highland-wide Local Development Plan.
Additional Guidance			
17	Design and layout of wind farms – expanded to better reference	Y	This change ensures there is a firm link to the parent

	considerations and balancing of the cumulative impact, infrastructure, design iteration and SNH Guidance.		policies as set out in the Highland-wide Local Development Plan as well as providing a more robust level of guidance on the subject to remove some subjectivity out of the decision making process. It is considered that in the long term this will deliver a positive effect on the landscape.
18	Peat – expanded to better reference peatland habitat issues expectations for S36 applications, assessment, published peatland mapping and guidance.	Y	This change ensures there is a firm link to the parent policies as set out in the Highland-wide Local Development Plan and provides robustness in the decision making process. It is considered that this will facilitate a positive effect on soil.
19	Electricity Transmission cables and lines and Gas Transmission Underground pipelines – edited together to reference general responsibilities of the developer.	N	This was carried out to help streamline the guidance as there is significant overlap between the issues and reflects concerns that the guidance was trying to address issues covered by other regulatory systems.
Appendix 1 – Landscape and Visual Guidance			
20	The pilot work remain as useful tool but it is not included within the revised guidance.	N	The Council will continue to work on this section with key partners- particularly on the robust identification of areas requiring protection due to cumulative impact, both within and outwith the two pilot areas. Landscape and visual (including cumulative) impacts are in any case a consideration for planning applications under HwLDP policy.

Monitoring

Section 19 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires the Responsible Authority to monitor significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Onshore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance. This must be done in such a way as to also identify unforeseen adverse effects and to take appropriate remedial action.

It is considered good practice for monitoring:

- fit a pre-defined purpose, help to solve problems, and address key issues;
- is practical and is customised to the PPS;
- is transparent and readily accessible to the public;
- is seen as a learning process and a cyclical process relating closely to the collation of the environmental baseline.

For this monitoring to be effective it will need to be linked to both the SEA Objectives and the Plan Objectives. The baseline data set out earlier in this report sets the scene for any monitoring which is to take place. Below is a monitoring framework. However, the table below only considers indicators relevant to the state of the environment.

Note: Items highlighted in grey are longer items which we seek to monitor as and when resources become available.

Table 7 – Proposed Monitoring Framework

SEA Topic	What the plan seeks to achieve	Monitoring Indicator	Responsible for Data Collation	Publication of Monitoring	Remedial Action
Water Quality	Improve Water Quality	Number of designated bathing areas	SEPA	Annually	Review spatial framework and policy in Supplementary Guidance.
		Number of rivers “C” classification or below			
		Number of bathing areas passing bathing water quality			
Biodiversity	Protection and enhancement of biodiversity in Highland	Number of turbines granted permission within Stage 1 areas.	THC (Information and Research)	Annually	Review spatial framework and policy in Supplementary Guidance.
	Protected Species are not significantly disturbed		SNH	Annually	Review spatial framework and policy in Supplementary Guidance.
Climatic Factors	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Human Health	Reduce noise complaints from onshore wind energy development	No. of noise complaints related to on-shore wind energy	THC (Information and Research)	Annually	Review spatial framework and policy in Supplementary Guidance.
Cultural Heritage	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Landscape	Impact on quality of landscape	Number of on-shore turbines granted Planning Permission within NSA and SLA in last 12 months	THC (Information and Research)	Annually	Review spatial framework and policy in Supplementary Guidance.
	Impact on quality of landscape	Number of turbines higher than XXm	THC (Information and Research)	Annually	Review spatial framework and policy

		granted Planning Permission in the last 12 months.			in Supplementary Guidance.
	Cumulative effects of intervisibility of windfarms	Number of wind turbines visible from settlements. (combination of ZTV analysis submitted with planning applications).	THC (Information and Research)	Annually	Review spatial framework and policy in Supplementary Guidance.
Material Assets	Reduction in waste going to landfill	% of total residual waste from construction of onshore wind energy developments in Highland going to landfill	THC (Information and Research) and SEPA	Annually	Review spatial framework and policy in Supplementary Guidance.
	Protection and enhancement of public access	Number of planning applications for onshore wind energy development granted which effect path identified in the core path plan	THC (Information and Research facilitated by access officers)	Annually	Review spatial framework and policy in Supplementary Guidance.

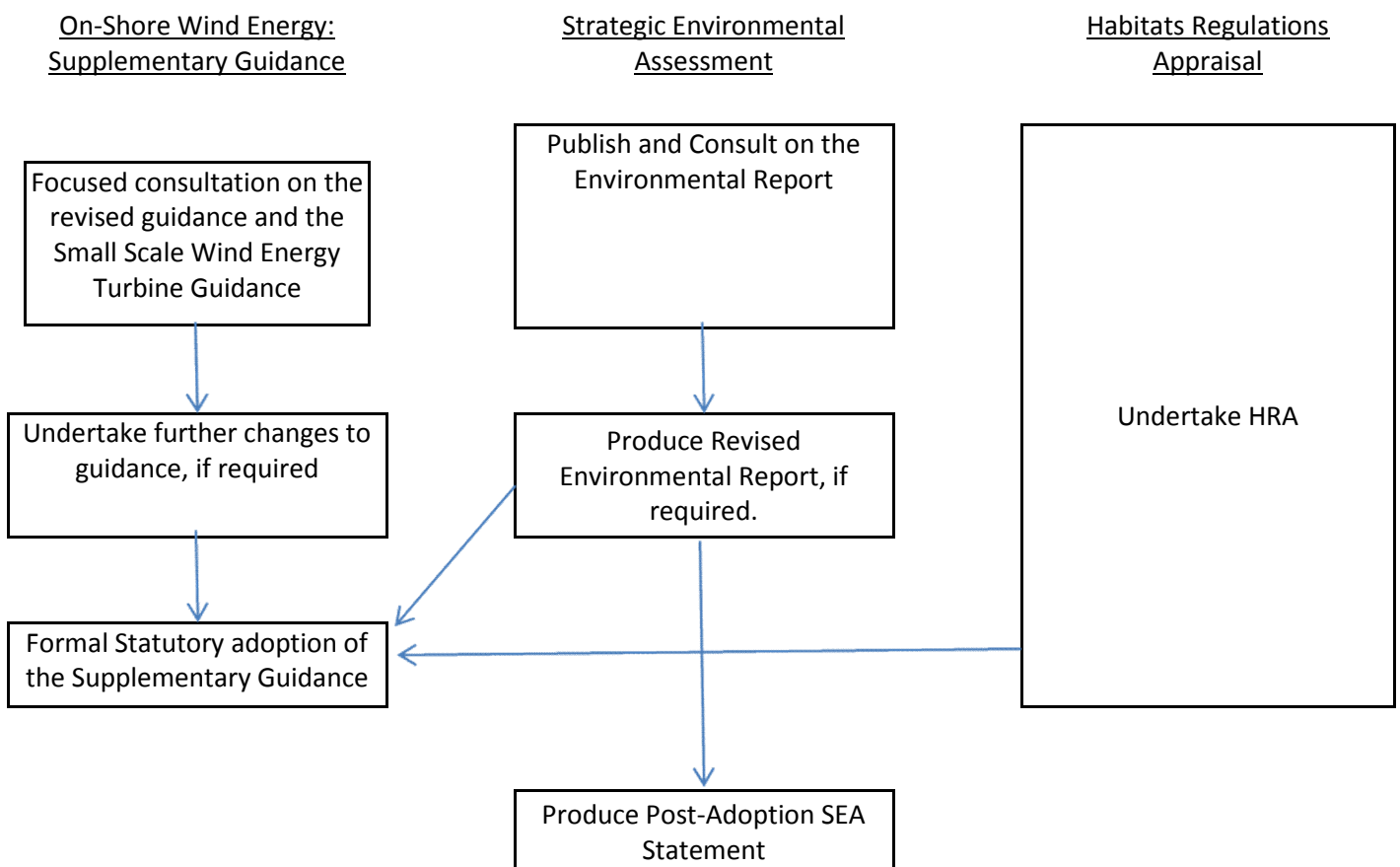
Next Steps

This Environmental Report will be subject to a public consultation between 23rd August 2012 and 4th October 2012, where expressions of opinion on the report will be welcomed. The Environmental Report will be available to view online and at Planning and Development Service Reception, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. Copies will be sent to the SEA Gateway and also to the Consultation Authorities. Any other respondent to the Environmental Report will receive correspondence (where possible via e-mail) to let them know that the Revised Environmental Report has been published.

At this point the March 2012 version of the guidance has been approved by The Highland Council's Planning, Environment and Development Committee as interim guidance however there is still scope to refine the document prior to adoption of the guidance as a statutory part of the Development Plan.

Following this consultation the views will be collated and, where appropriate, alterations will be made to both the guidance and the Environmental Report. It is the intention that the Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance will be adopted as Supplementary Guidance to the Highland-wide Local Development Plan in Autumn 2012.

If appropriate, following any changes to the guidance following consultation, further revisions may be made to the Environmental Report prior to adoption of the guidance. The diagram below explains the steps that will be taken.



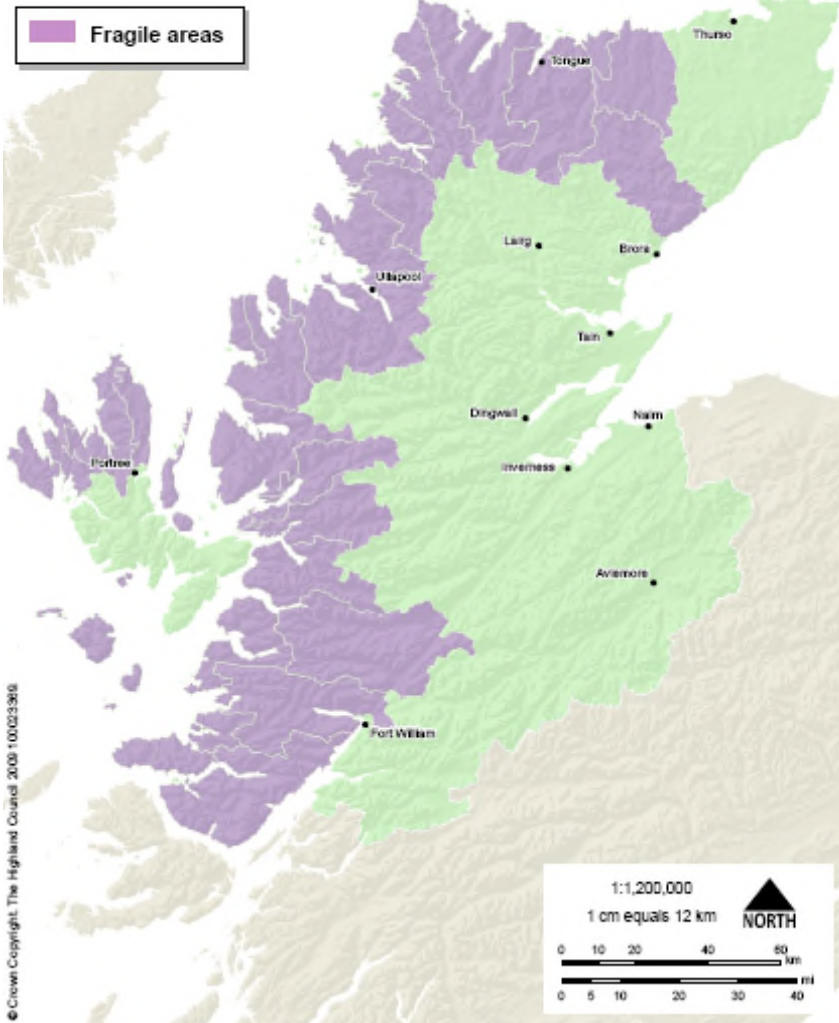
Appendix 1 – Baseline Information and Maps

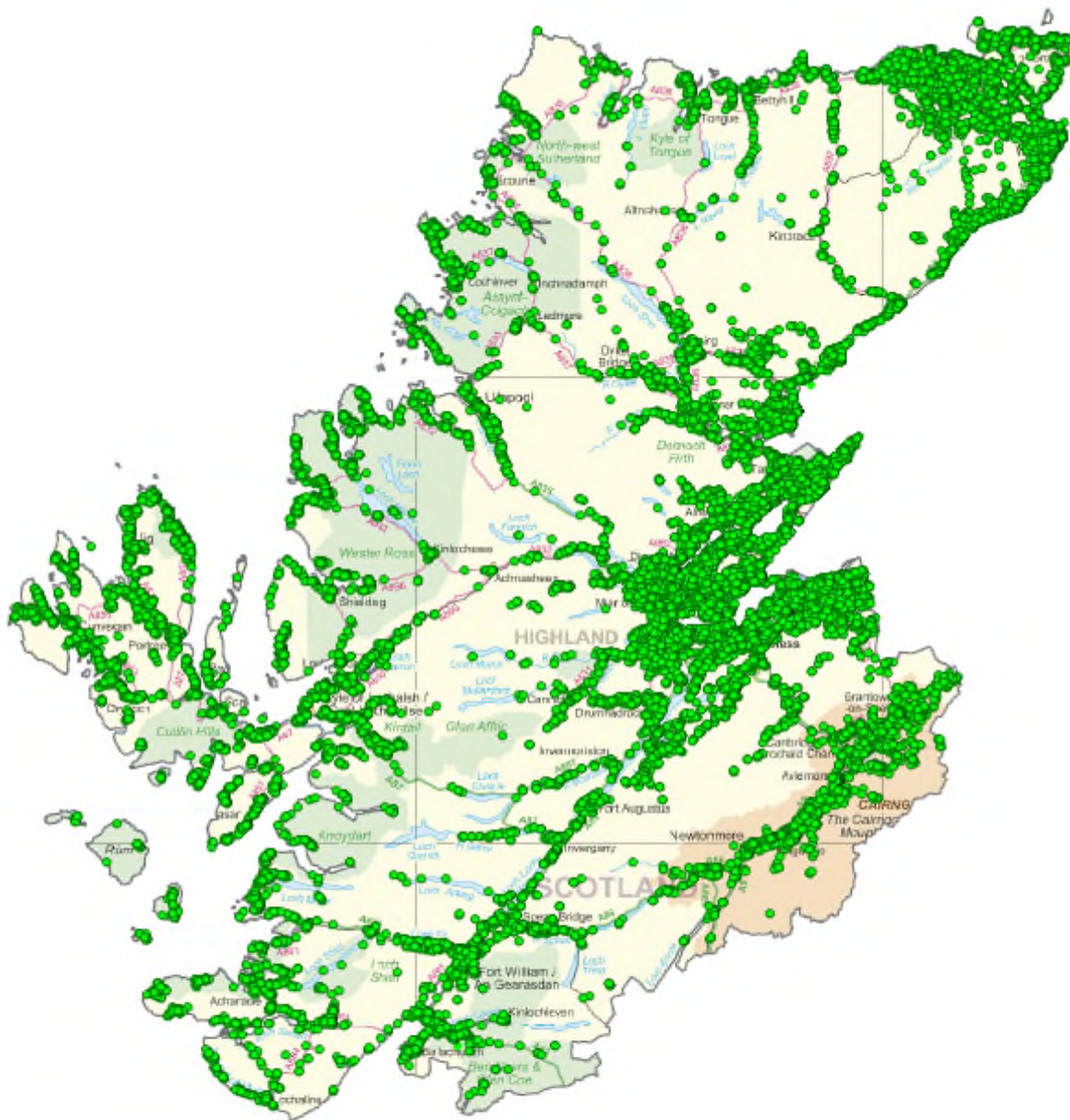
The information and maps in this section represent baseline data at a Highland-wide level. Date of data noted where known, otherwise taken as June 2012.


While some of the information below may not be directly relevant it helped to scope the environmental issues which may be relevant to this guidance.

Key Information	Data Source
Population and Human Health	
82 non-domestic noise complaints received by Highland Council in 2006/7.	www.audit-scotland.gov.uk
11 health-related walking groups operating in PPS area.	www.stepituphighland.org.uk
50% of Highland population walked a least on one day in the past week with the main aim been as a mode of transport (Scotland 53%). 64% walked at least one day in the past week just for pleasure or to keep fit (Scotland 46%).	SHS Transport Across Scotland 2005-2006
208, 914 people living in Highland.	Census 2001 http://195.173.143.171/plintra/iandr/cen/prof_high.htm
Highland's population is projected to increase by 3.6% by 2024. There is expected to be 16, 029 more people of retirement age and 5507 fewer children than in 2004. therefore the population is expected to age.	Highland Council population Projections 2004-2024 http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/20D86A3A-5750-42B3-927D-21000CD24694/0/bn8popproj.pdf
A large proportion of Highland Region is referred to as "Fragile" in terms of remoteness and scarcity of population. An average of 8 people live per sq km, throughout the region, reducing to 2 people per sq km in some parts.	Highland Council Definition of Fragile Rural areas in Highland. http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/267DCD97-B9B0-4BF3-BE1C-15D662186C48/0/fragile_paper.pdf

Highland Wide Local Development Plan *Fragile Areas*



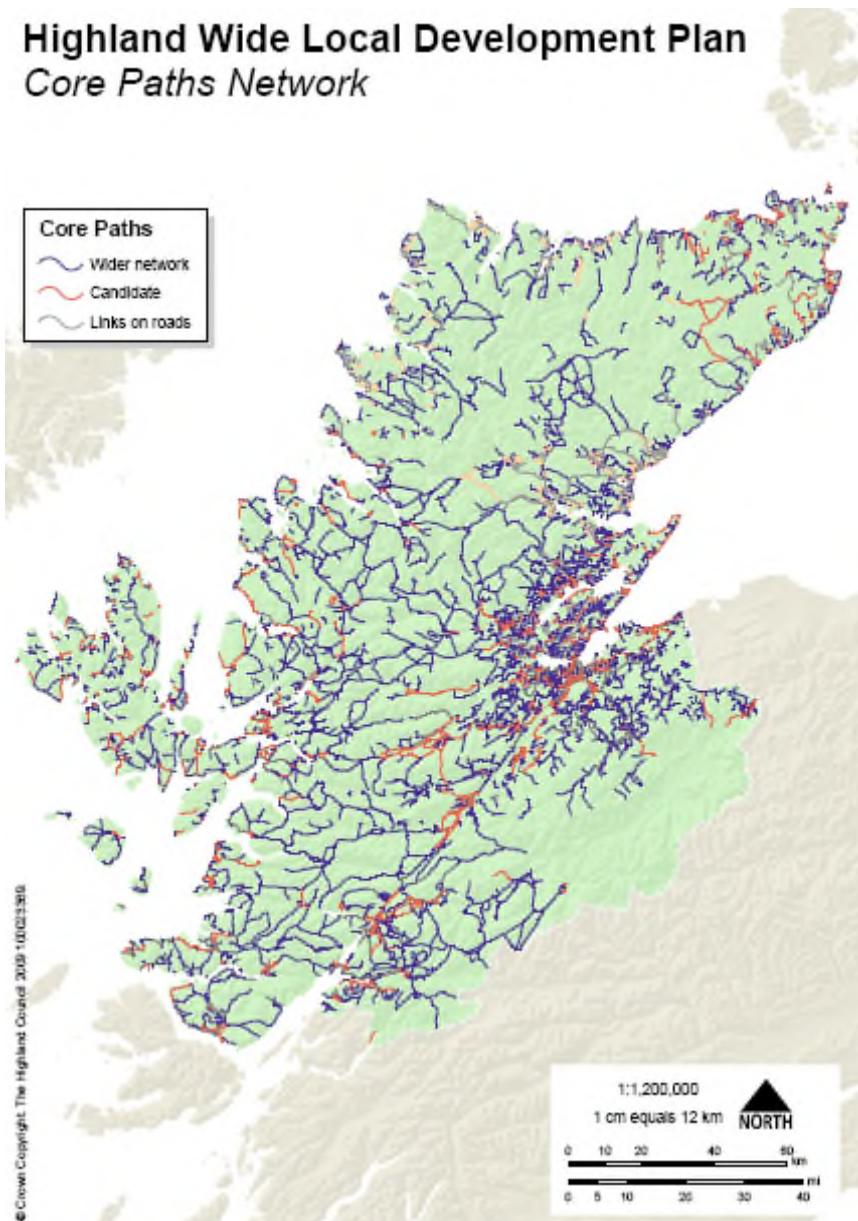


<p>Where People in Highland Live - Houses Registered for Council Tax March 2011</p> <p>©11 Date: 2008/11</p>	<p>1:1,200,000</p> <p>25 12.5 0 25 Kilometers</p> <p>1 cm = 12,000 metres</p> <p>© Crown copyright All rights reserved 100023369</p>	 <p>The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd</p> <p>Highland Council na Gàidhealtachd</p>
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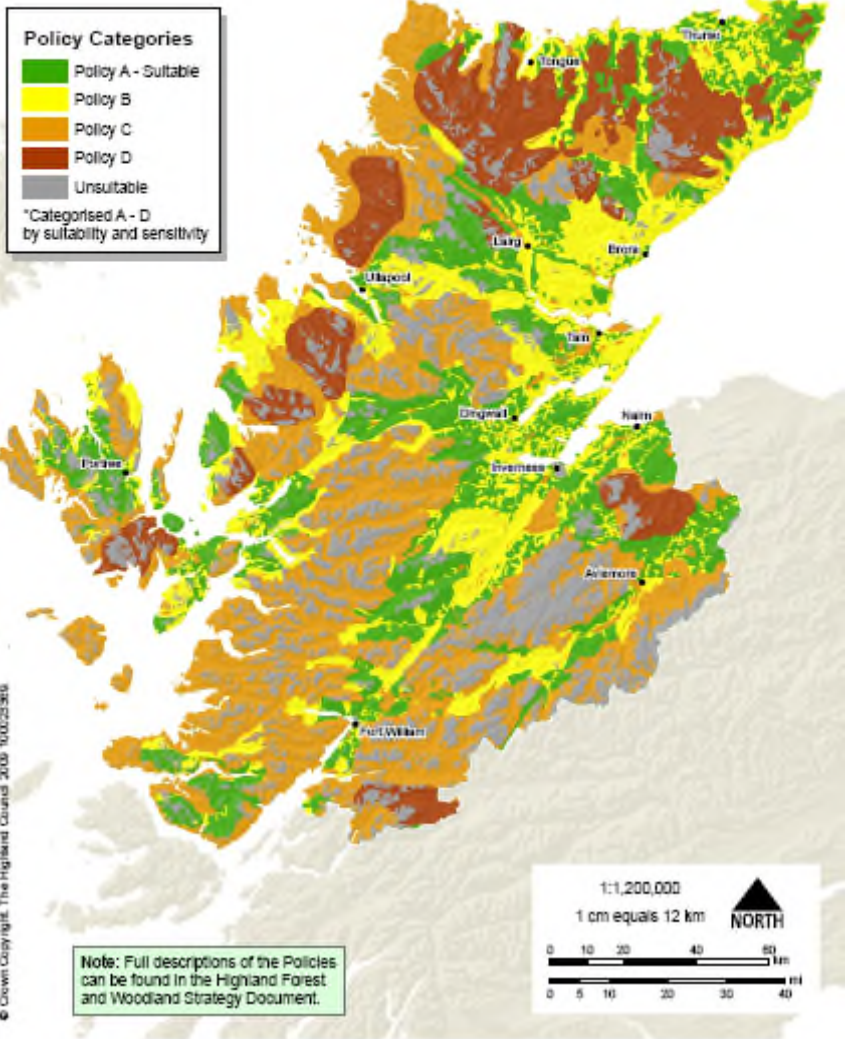
Material Assets	
A quarter of all house sales in Highland are to people from out with the area.	Highland Council Paper – House Sales – What do they tell us about migration in Highland. http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/7C0C7DCA-0AB6-4EAE-B6C6-C33A0E03BA52/0/bn2.pdf
40 establishments containing a library	Highland Council Housing and Property data files
There are 93 211 households in highland region and of these just under 10% are vacant or second/holiday homes.	Highland Council Household Estimates (2004) http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/ADF1B5B3-1C8D-4C34-97AE-F5B3A35DA583/0/bn3.pdf General registrar for Scotland household Estimates 2006: http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/household-estimates-statistics/household-estimates-for-scotland-2006/index.html
Number of degraded dwellings in each building condition category: A - Good - Performing well and operating efficiently B - Satisfactory - Performing adequately but showing minor deterioration C - Poor - Showing major defects and / or not operating adequately D – Bad - Life expired and / or serious risk of imminent failure	Highland Council Housing and Property data files
Supply of Affordable Housing	Highland Council Affordable housing policy: http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/3098EF9A-20A2-46A4-ACD4-B05FEBFCFCBE0/0/dppgaffordablehousing.pdf
Renewable Energy Installation account for 536.25kW of Highland Council Energy use.	Highland Council Energy Management and Performance Plan.
Number of water treatment works in Highland. Investment in future.	Scottish Water Strategic Asset Capacity and Development Plan (2006); http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/portal/page/portal/SW_PAGE_GROUP_PS_ADMIN/SW_PUB_SCHEME_ADMIN_HOLDING/TAB65572/RELEASED%20STRATEGIC%20CAPACITY%20AND%20DEVELOPMENT%20PLAN%20MARCH%202006%20V2.pdf Scottish Water's Vision for Highlands 2010; http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/portal/page/portal/SWE_PGP_INVESTMENT/SWE_PGE_INVESTMENT/SWE_INV_HIGH_2010

Proportion of population living within 200m of a footpath. The plans have only recently been adopted this information will be added to the baseline data when it becomes available.	The Highland Council's Core Path Plan.
Number of designated cycle routes in Highland	Sustrans National Cycle Network Map; http://www.sustrans.org.uk/webfiles/general/sustrans_2008_ncn_map.pdf

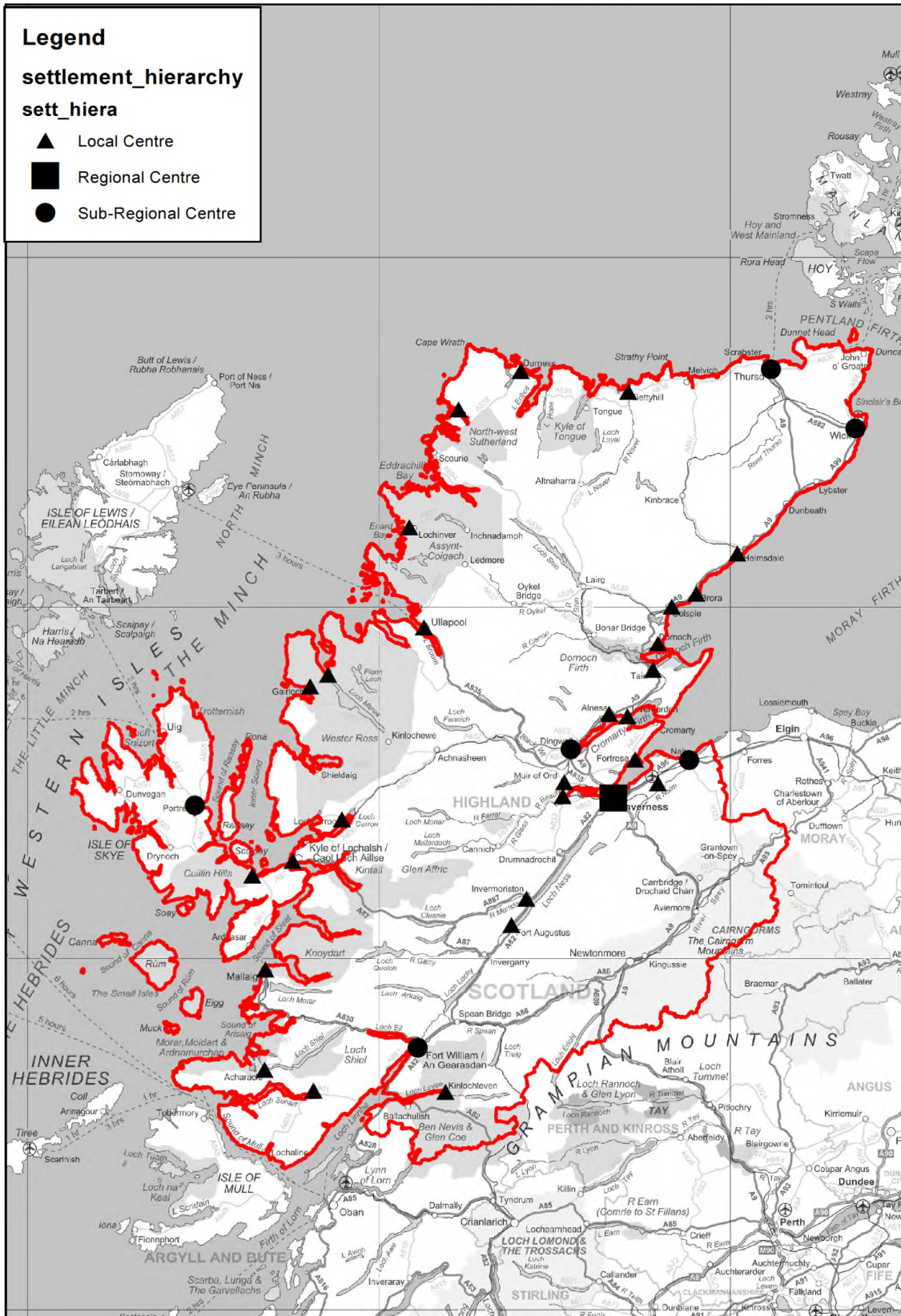
Highland Wide Local Development Plan Core Paths Network



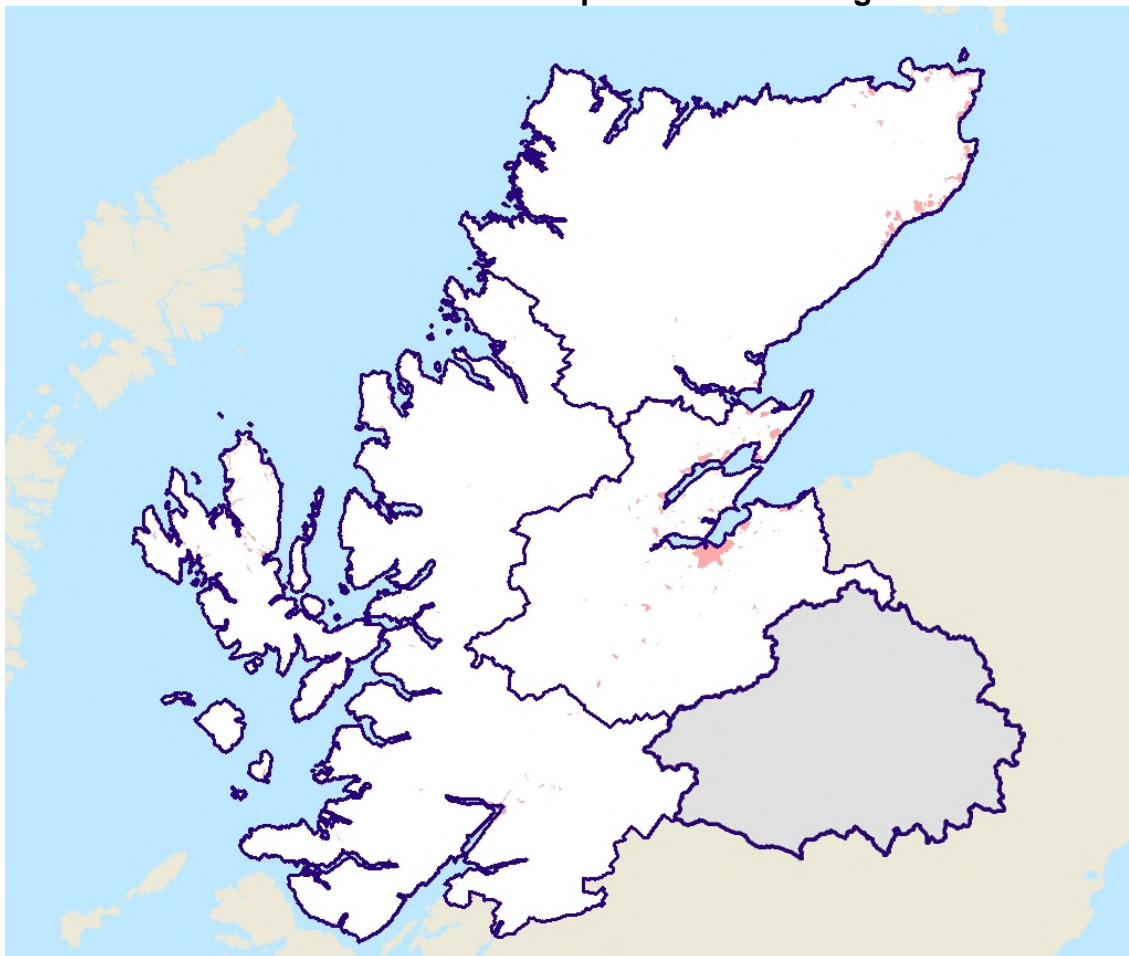
Highland Wide Local Development Plan Highland Forest and Woodland Strategy



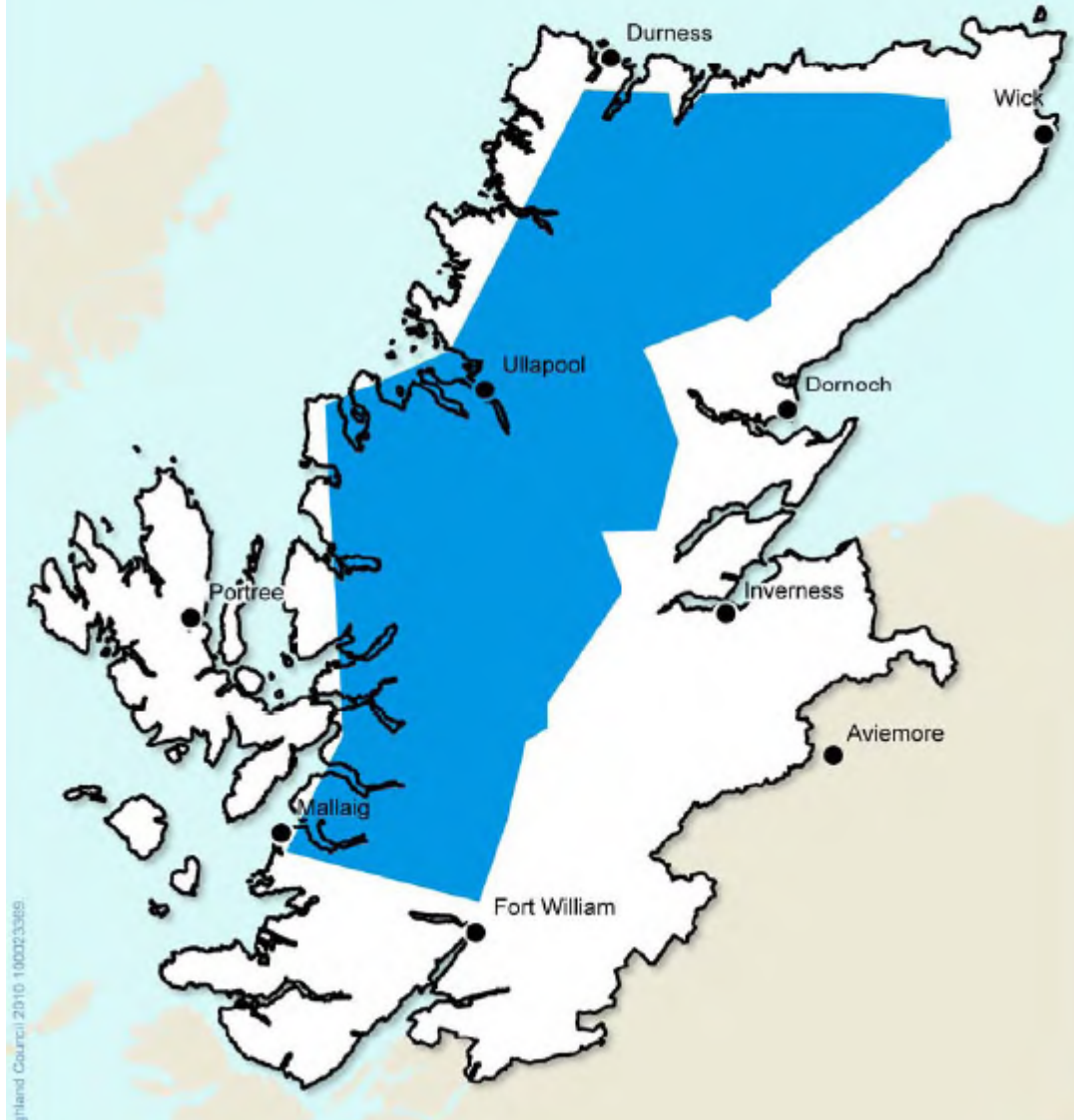
Settlement Hierarchy



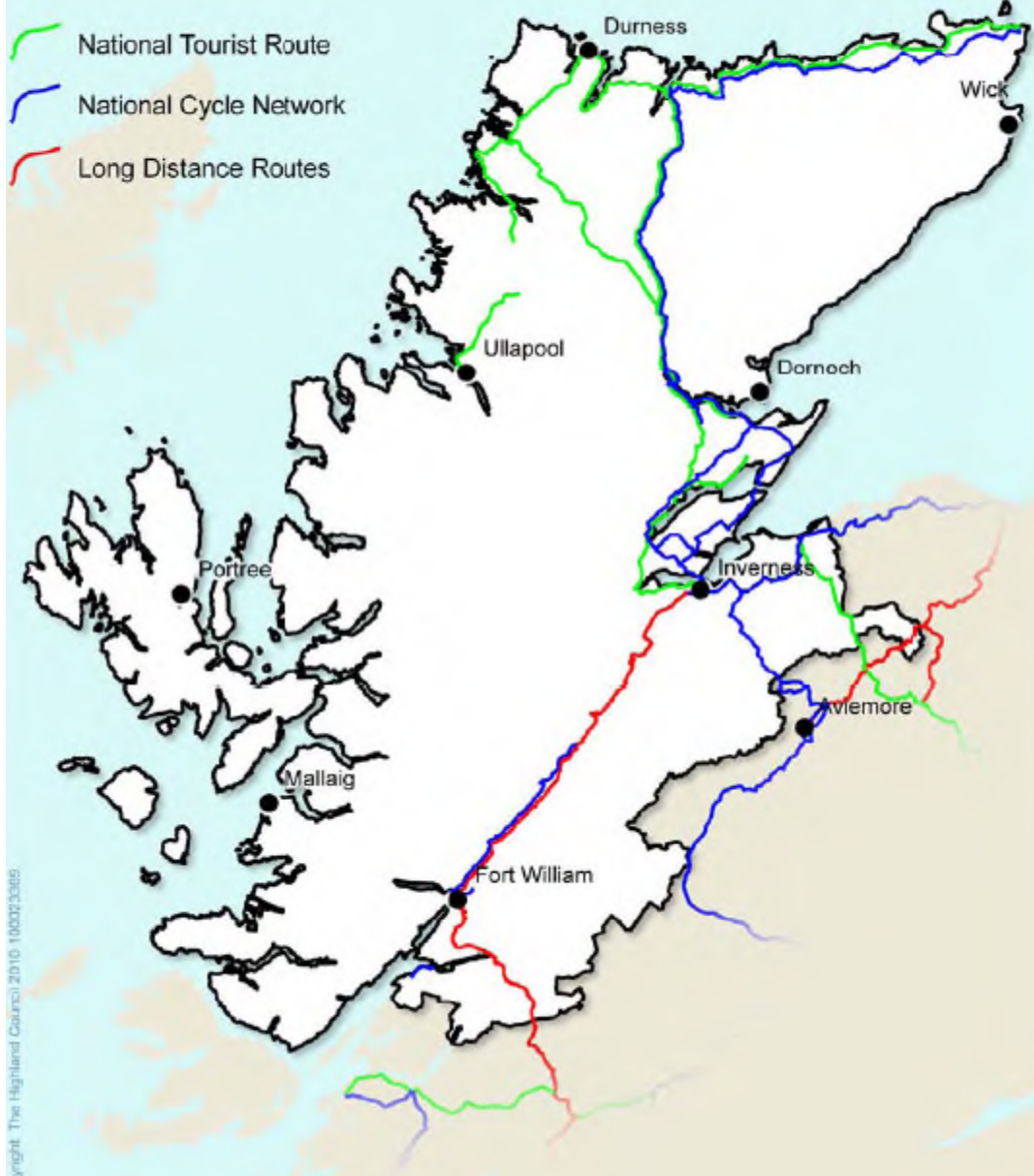
Settlement Development Areas in Highland



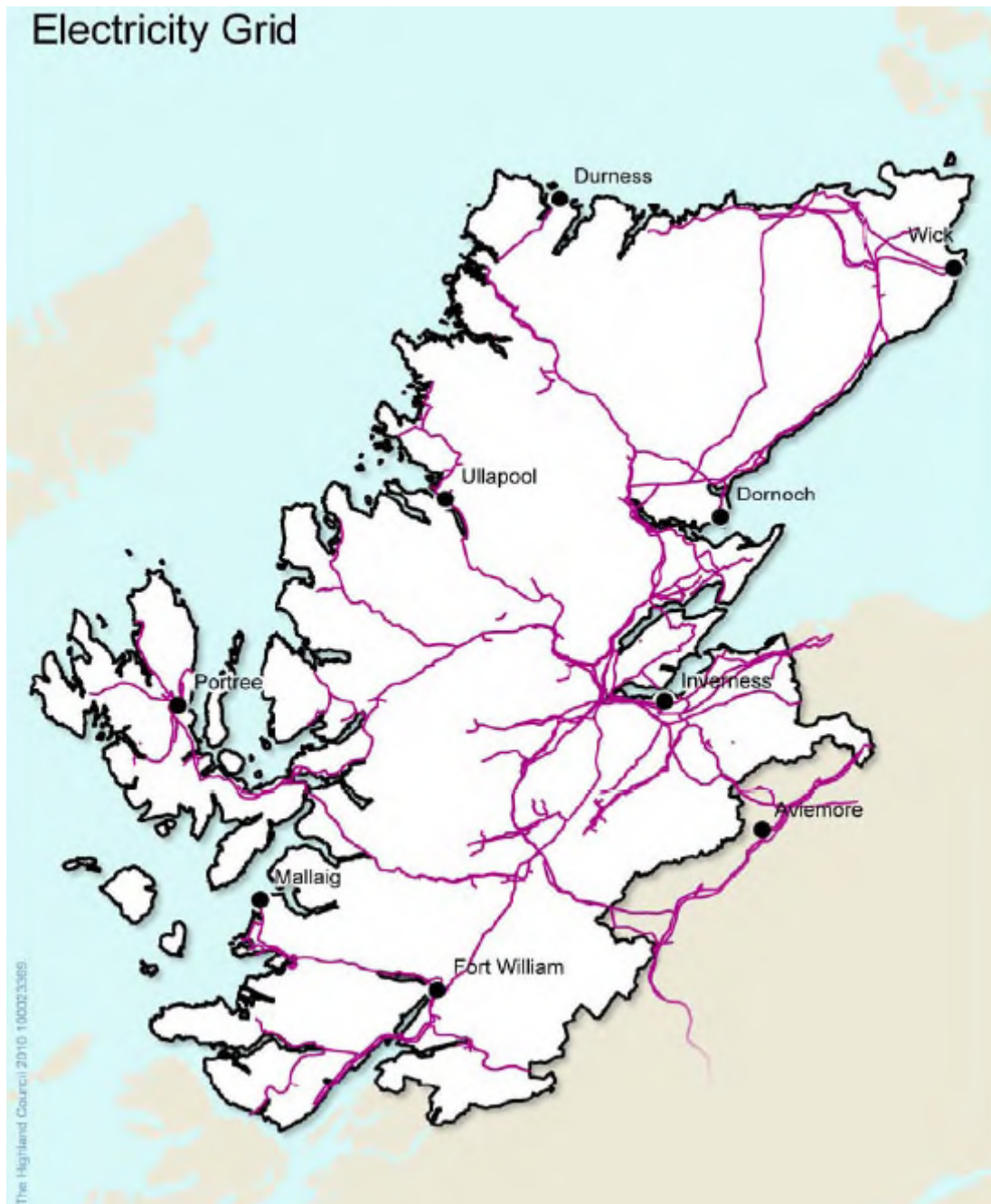
RAF Training Area - Low Flying



Tourist and Recreation Routes



Electricity Grid



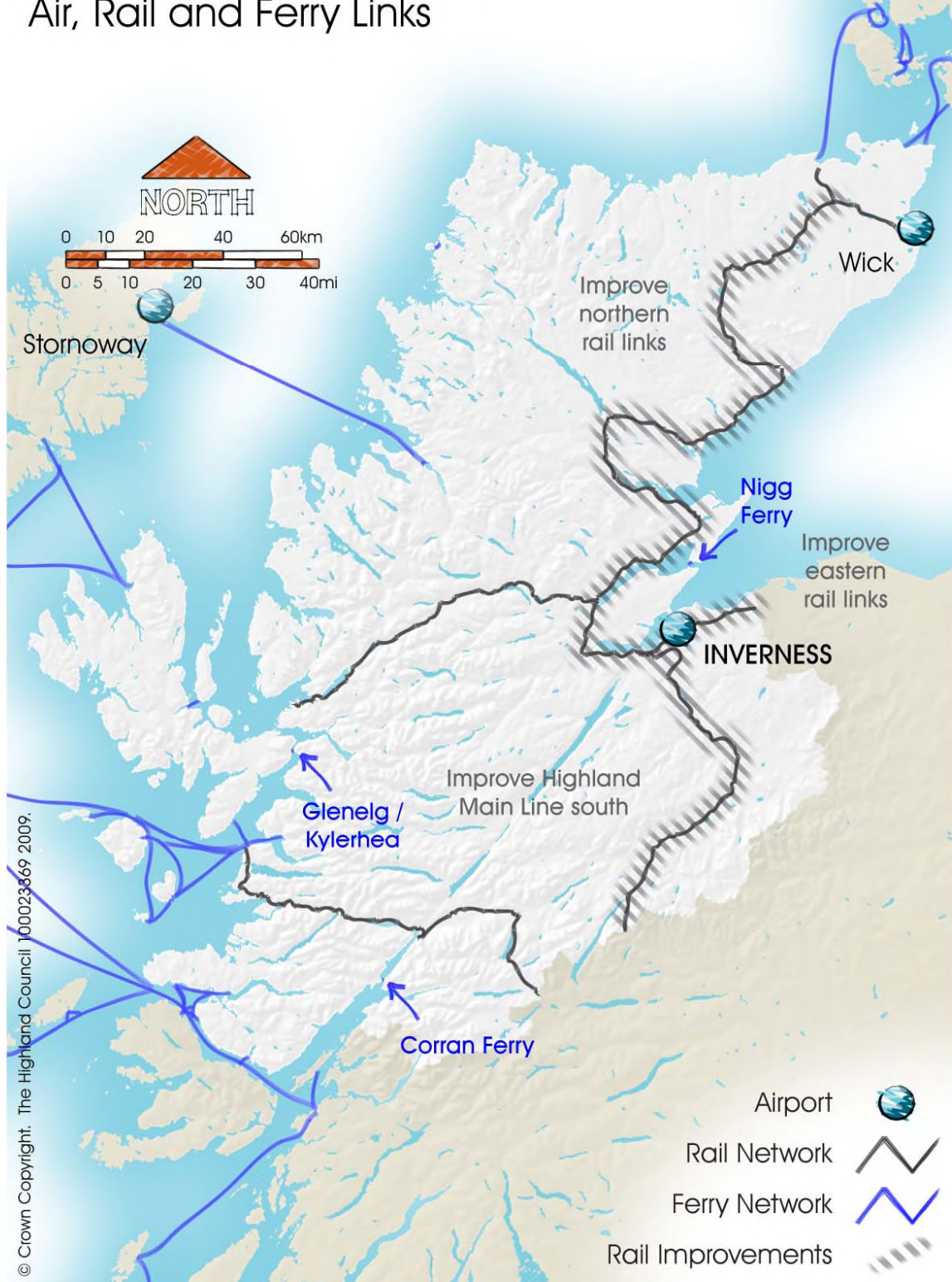
HIGHLAND WIDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Transport Strategy Map

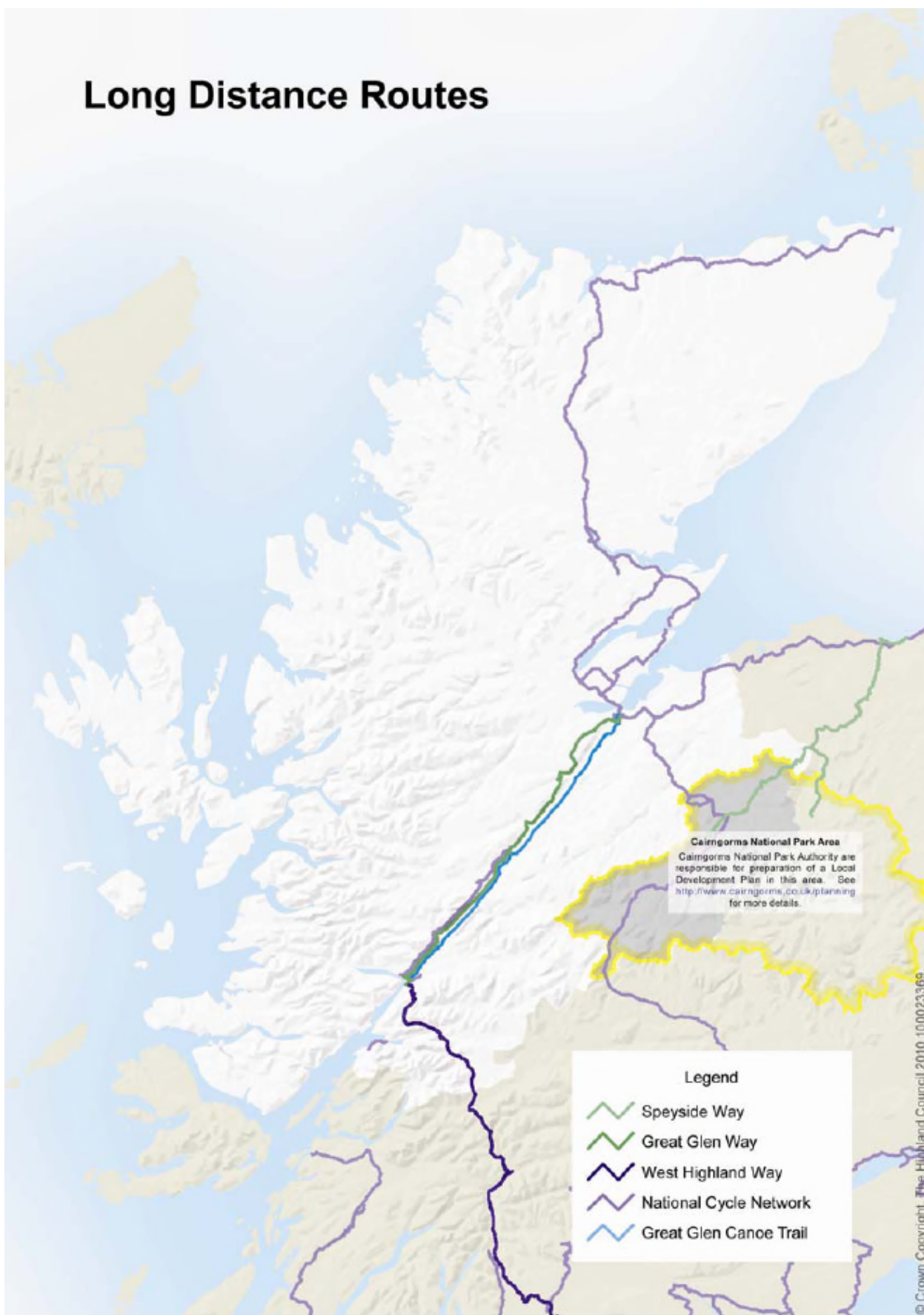


HIGHLAND WIDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Air, Rail and Ferry Links



Long Distance Routes

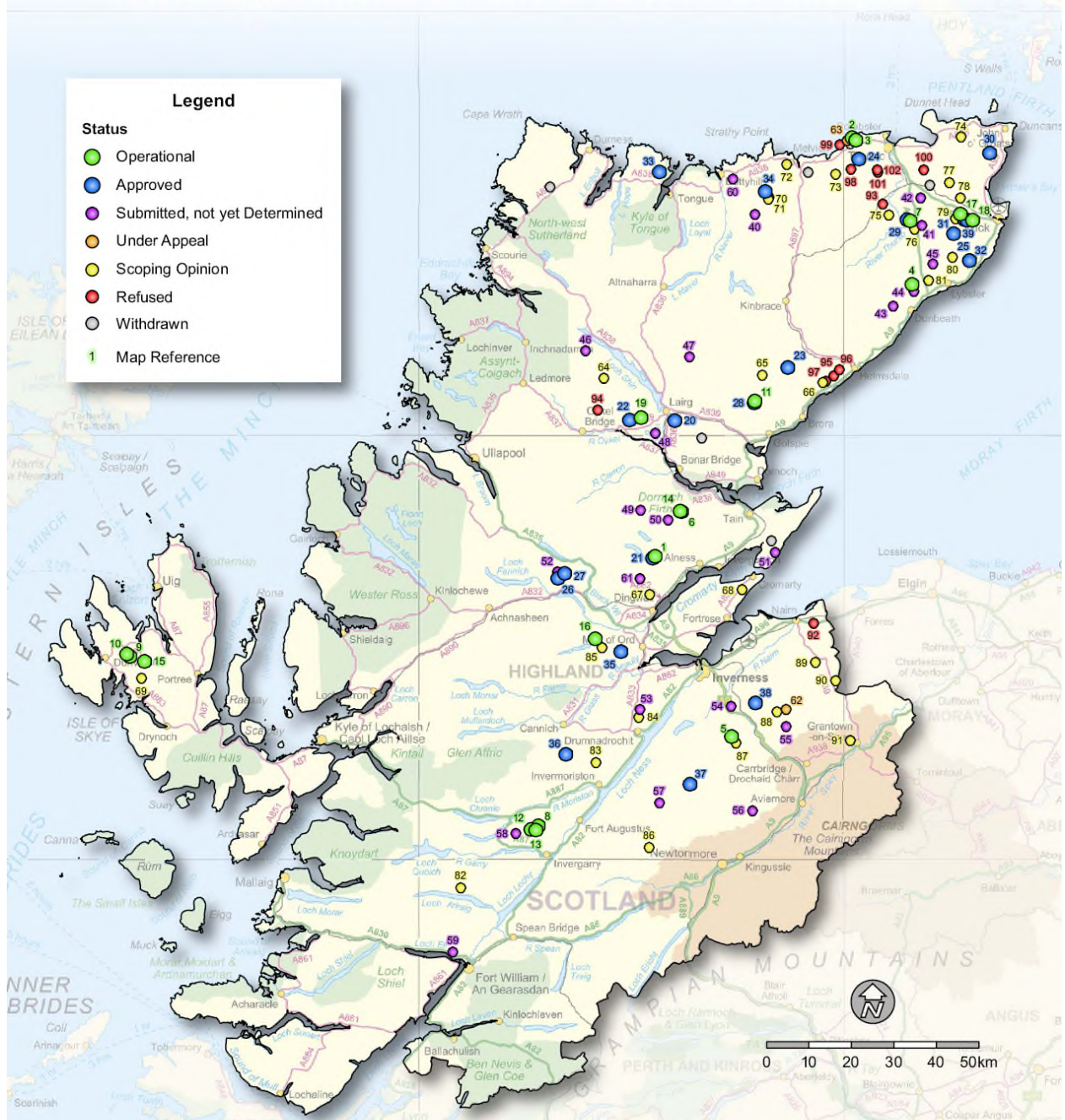


Climatic Factors	
<p>Areas effected by flooding/costs (sea) Areas effected by flooding (river) Priority Species Impact on Natural Resources Impact on Provision of Services/cost to Council</p>	<p>UKCIP08 The climate of the United Kingdom and recent trends. www.ukcip08.org.uk</p> <p>SEPA flood maps www.sepa.org.uk SCCIP pilot project LCLIP. www.sccip.org.uk Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership.</p>
<p>Highland Council Energy Consumption is 22, 250GWH per annum.</p>	<p>Highland Council Energy Management and Performance Plan http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/ronlyres/4EA59619-0EF5-42CC-9889-7EDA9F997E8E/0/emppfeb06.pdf</p>
<p>Carbon Footprint – 11.73-11.99 tonnes CO₂ per capita</p>	<p>Stockholm Environment Institute. <i>Taken from the report “A Right Climate for Change”, (2007) Local Footprints Project and Stockholm Environmental Institute.</i></p> <p>Scottish Climate Change Bill; http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Climate-Change/16327/Climate-Change-Bill</p>
<p>Reduce air pollution to levels that do not damage natural systems, including contribution to climate change.</p> <p>Number of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in Highland - None at present</p>	<p>http://www.scottishairquality.co.uk/</p>
<p>Number of employees travelling by car. Availability of video conferencing material. Staff training and awareness Number of School Travel Plans Number of Office Travel plans</p>	<p>This should be monitored through the Highland Council green travel plan which is currently under development,</p> <p>Local Transport Strategy http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/roadsandtransport/transportplanning/localtransportstrategy.htm</p>
<p>Reduce the need to travel. Number of staff choosing public transport for commuting and business travel. Staff training and awareness. Number of School Travel plans Number of Office Travel Plans</p>	<p>This should be monitored through the Highland Council green travel plan which is currently under development,</p> <p>Local Transport Strategy http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/roadsandtransport/transportplanning/localtransportstrategy.htm</p>
<p>Renewable Energy installations in Highland Council Building is 1200KWh</p> <p>Promotion of renewable energy</p>	<p>Highland Council Energy Management and Performance Plan http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/ronlyres/4EA59619-0EF5-42CC-9889-7EDA9F997E8E/0/emppfeb06.pdf</p>

<p>Progress against HRES Targets.</p>	<p>Highland Council Renewable Energy Strategy http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/planning/energyplanning/renewbleenergy/highlandrenewableenergystrategy.htm</p> <p>Community Benefits from Renewables http://www.highland.gov.uk/livinghere/communityplanning/communitybenefit/</p> <p>Export Onshore Wind, 2012 target - 960 MW and 2017 target is 1280 MW. In terms of progress, as at March 2012 we had reached 1151 MW of windfarms in Highland either Operational or Approved Or Under Construction.</p>
<p>Increase the proportion of energy from renewable sources through Promotion of Sustainable design in the Community.</p>	<p>Sustainable Design Guide: Supplementary Guidance http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/planning/developmentplans/developmentplanpolicyguidance/designingforsustainability.htm</p> <p>Highland Housing Fair: http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/sustainabledevelopment/sharingthegreenagenda/highlandhousingfair.htm</p>

Highland Windfarm Developments – May 2012

Aithisg Tuath Gaoithe – An Cèitean 2012



Legend

Status

- Operational
- Approved
- Submitted, not yet Determined
- Under Appeal
- Scoping Opinion
- Refused
- Withdrawn
- 1** Map Reference

This publication is normally updated quarterly. For more up-to-date information on schemes, please check the Council's [e-planning web access](#) for planning applications and the Scottish Government's [database](#) for energy consent applications. This publication does not show the smallest wind energy schemes. Locations on the map are broadly indicative only and do not represent the actual footprints of schemes.

We endeavour to ensure that the map and table are correct as at the date of production. However, if you spot any errors please [contact us](#).



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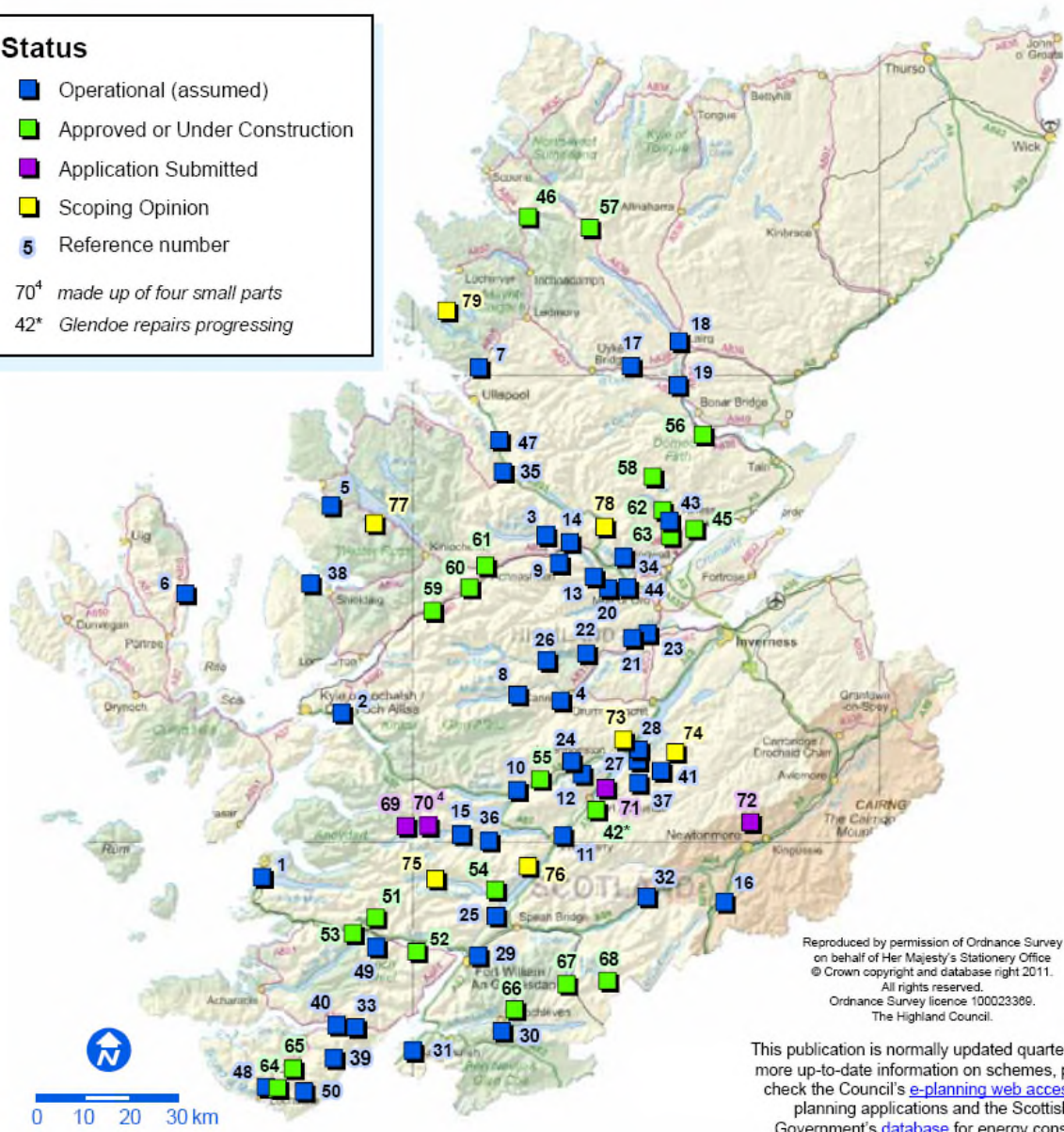
Hydro Power Activity: December 2011

Neart nan Gleann: An Dùbhlachd 2011

Status

- Operational (assumed)
- Approved or Under Construction
- Application Submitted
- Scoping Opinion
- 5** Reference number

70⁴ made up of four small parts
42 Glendoe repairs progressing*



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Hydro News

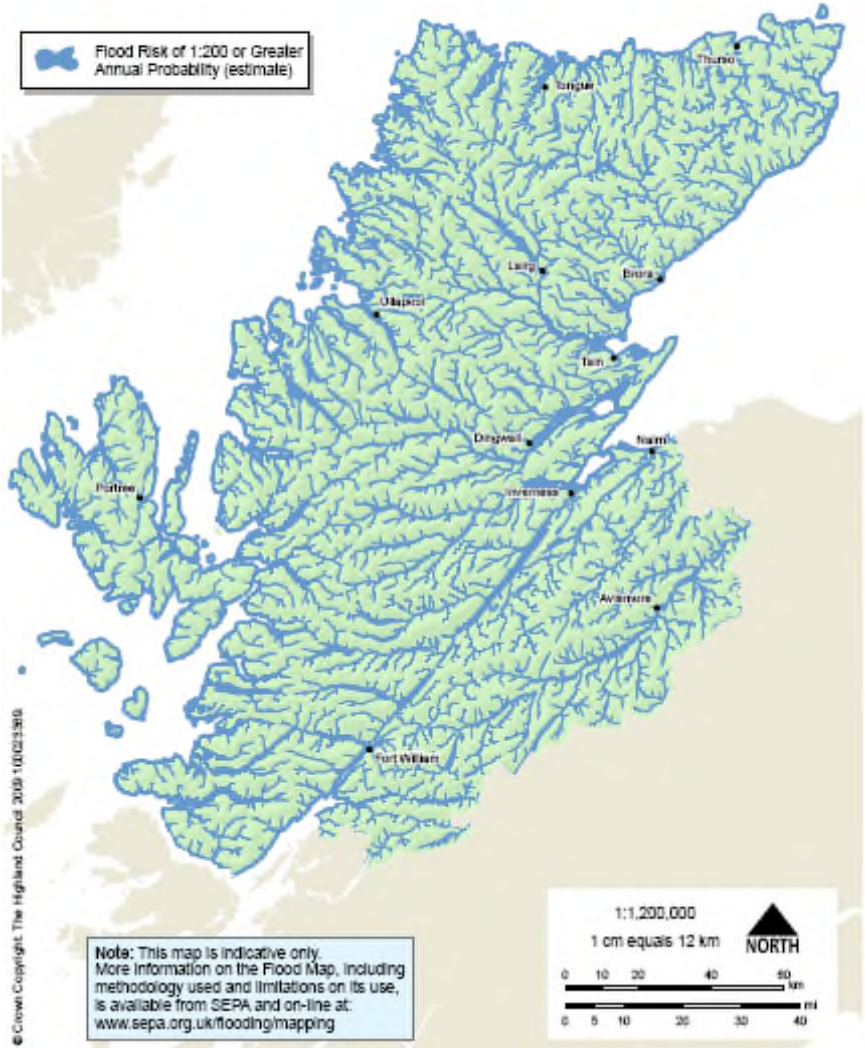
Tunnel repairs are progressing well at Glendoe, if good progress is maintained, re-filling of the reservoir is expected to begin in the spring of 2012 and the power station should be back on stream in the first half of 2012.



Water	
Number of rivers/lochs in good Ecological Condition.	EU Water Framework Directive. Highland Biodiversity Action plan SEPA Scottish Water
Flooding likelihood Vulnerability of Highland's communities to flooding.	Scottish Government: the Future of Flood risk Management in Scotland: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/Flooding/Consultation UKCIP08: www.ukcip08.org.uk
Existing flood defences	Office of Science and technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i> . http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Previous_Projects/Flood_and_Coastal_Defence/Reports_and_Publications/Scotland/final_scotland.pdf
Pumping Stations and Sewage Works	Scottish Water (2006) Strategic Asset Capacity and Development Plan; http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/portal/page/portal/SW_PAGE_GROUP_PS_ADMIN/SW_PUBLIC_SCHEMA_ADMIN_HOLDING/TAB65572/RELEASED%20STRATEGIC%20CAPACITY%20AND%20DEVELOPMENT%20PLAN%20MARCH%202006%20V2.pdf
Water Quality	SEPA Water Quality Classifications: http://www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/data/classification/water_qual_class_2006.pdf Scottish Executives Bathing Water Strategy: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/03/23151924/0 Scottish Executives Statistics Environment: European Directive 76/160/EEC, which sets mandatory bacteriological and other health-related standards for bathing waters in Europe. Biodiversity??
Hydro-power - 80 Hydro-powered stations in Highlands and islands	http://www.hi-energy.org.uk/hydroenergy.html
Ground Water and River Levels	Centre for Hydrology and Ecology. National Water Archive; http://www.ceh.ac.uk/data/NWA.htm
Further detail on issues in relation to the Water Environment are included in the River Basin Management Plan Area Management Plans.	River Basin Management Plan Area Management Plans http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/river_basin_planning/area_advisory_groups.aspx

Highland Wide Local Development Plan

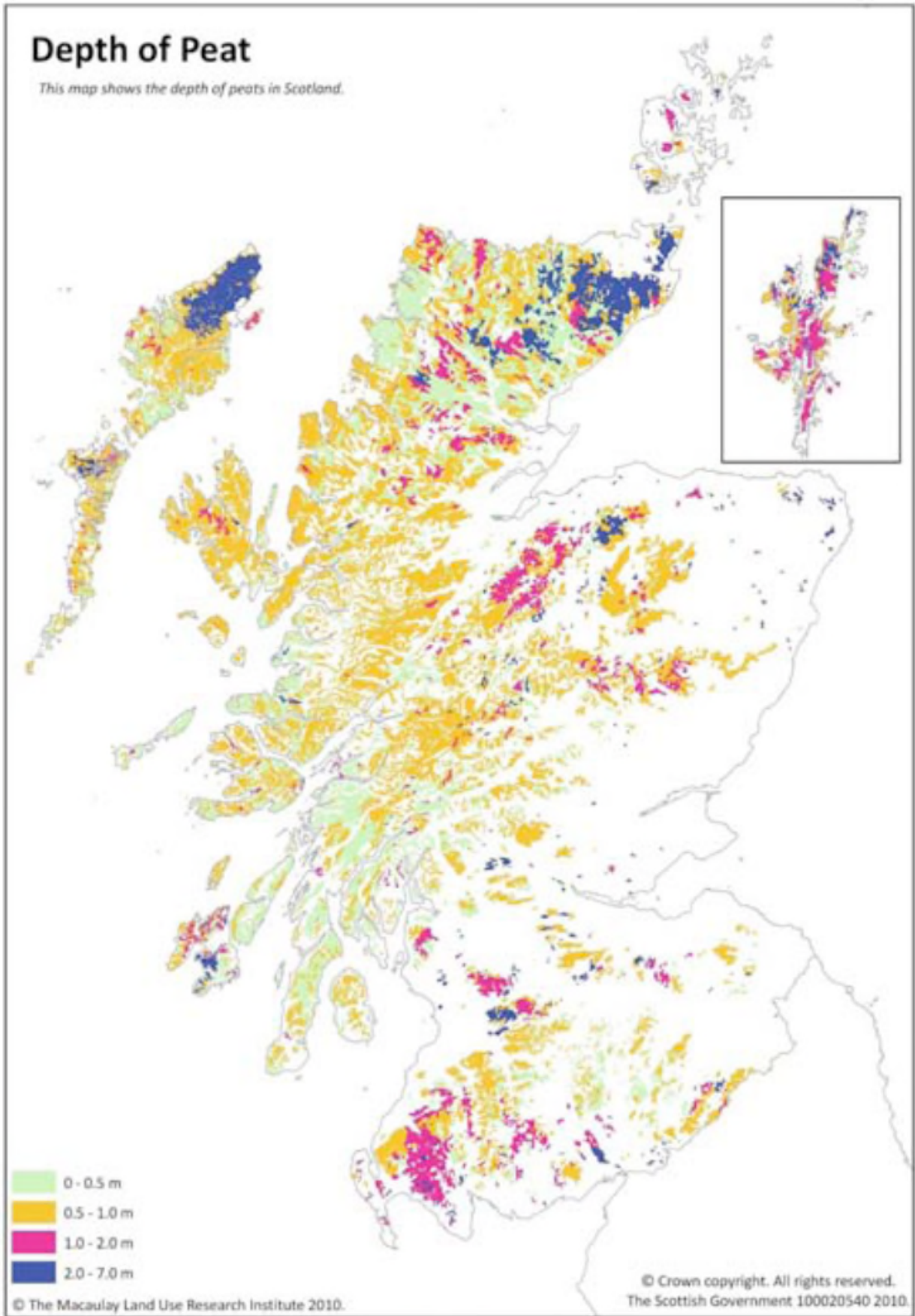
Highland Flood Risk



Soil and Waste	
<p>Minimise waste and re-use or recover it by recycling, composting or energy recovery. Waste into landfill: The proportion of waste in Highland being put into landfill. % of recycling/composting.</p> <p>Currently 183 recycling points in Highland.</p> <p>35% of waste in Highland recycled.</p> <p>77393 tonnes waste to landfill.</p> <p>Target of 40% recycling rates for 2010.</p>	<p>HC Waste Data Report - http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/F6627158-2F0E-4C68-8250-9475DA7B8999/0/20062007AnnualWasteDataReport.pdf</p> <p>SEPA Waste Data Digest Series - http://www.sepa.org.uk/nws/data/data_digest.htm</p> <p>Audit Scotland Annual Statutory Performance Indicators reports - http://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/performance/council</p> <p>The National Waste Strategy: http://www.sepa.org.uk/NWS/guidance/nwp.htm</p>
<p>Erosion - Distance and numbers of path where erosion or poor path construction has or is reducing soil quality and quantity. No data available but possible monitoring of core paths in the future can be used.</p>	<p>The Highland Council Core Paths Plan (to be adopted in summer 2008)</p>
<p>Contaminated Land - Number of sites of Contaminated land in Highland</p> <p>Area of Contaminated Land (ha) in Highland</p>	<p>Highland Council Contaminated Land Database.</p>
<p>Location and depth of peatland</p>	<p>Scottish Soils Strategy http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/273170/0081576.pdf</p> <p>State of Scotland's Soils http://www.sepa.org.uk/land/land_publications.aspx</p> <p>Map 6 of Land Use Strategy for Scotland http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/345946/0115155.pdf</p>

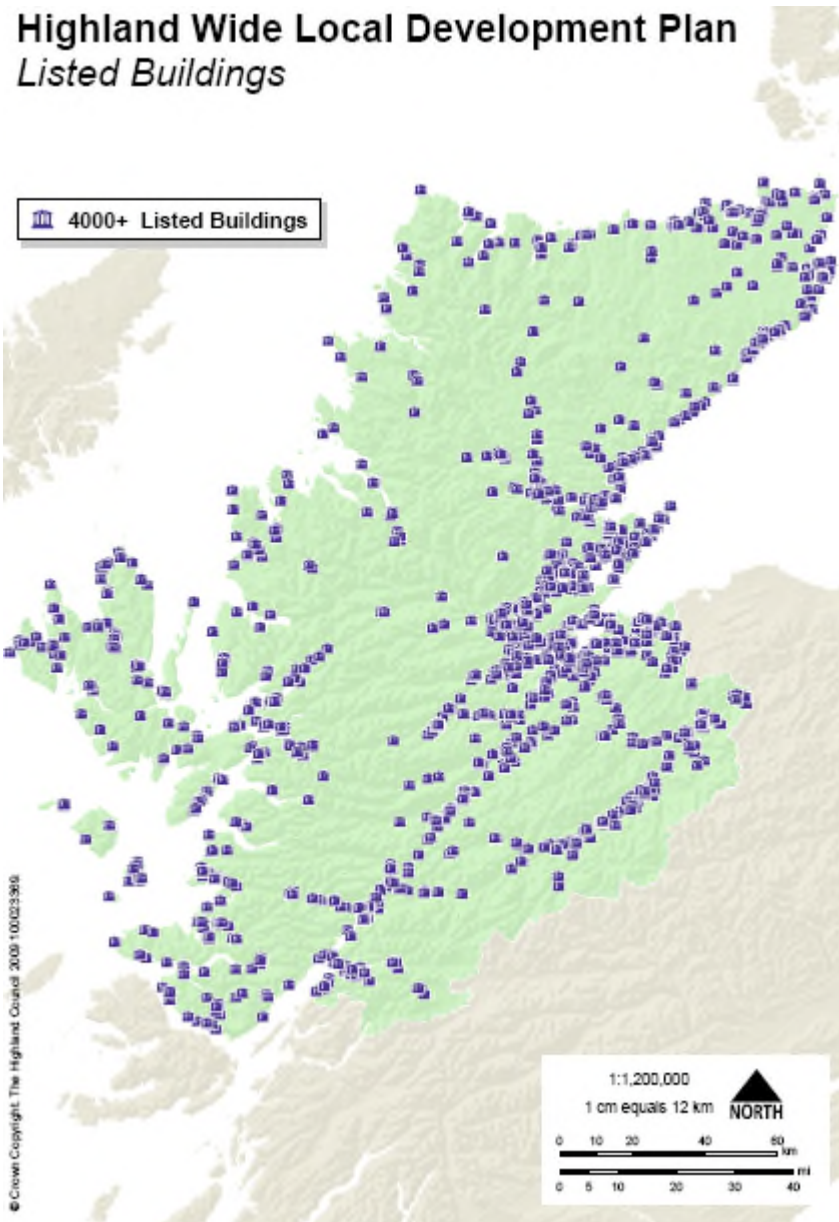
Depth of Peat

This map shows the depth of peats in Scotland.

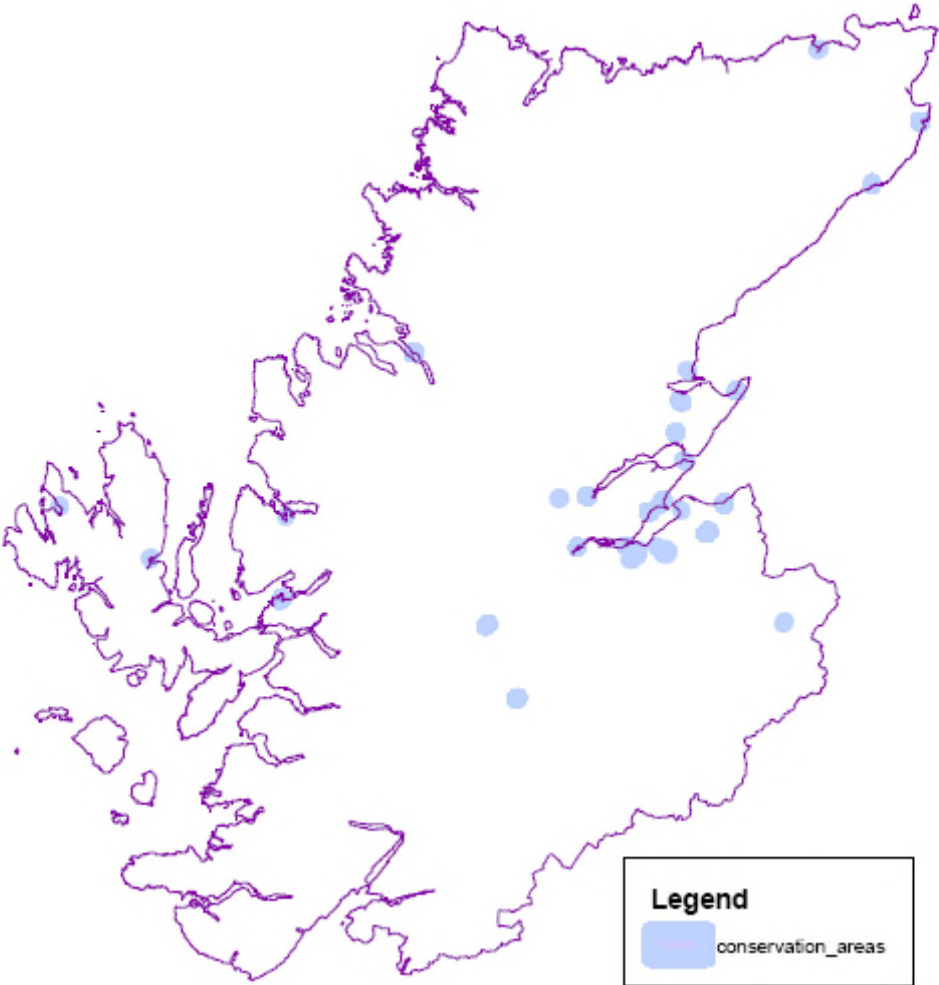


Cultural Heritage	
A Listed - 186 B Listed - 1667 C(S) Listed - 1161	Historic Scotland GIS Dataset
Total Number of Schedule Monuments in Highland is 1237	Historic Scotland GIS Dataset
Total Number of Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes (51)	Historic Scotland GIS Dataset

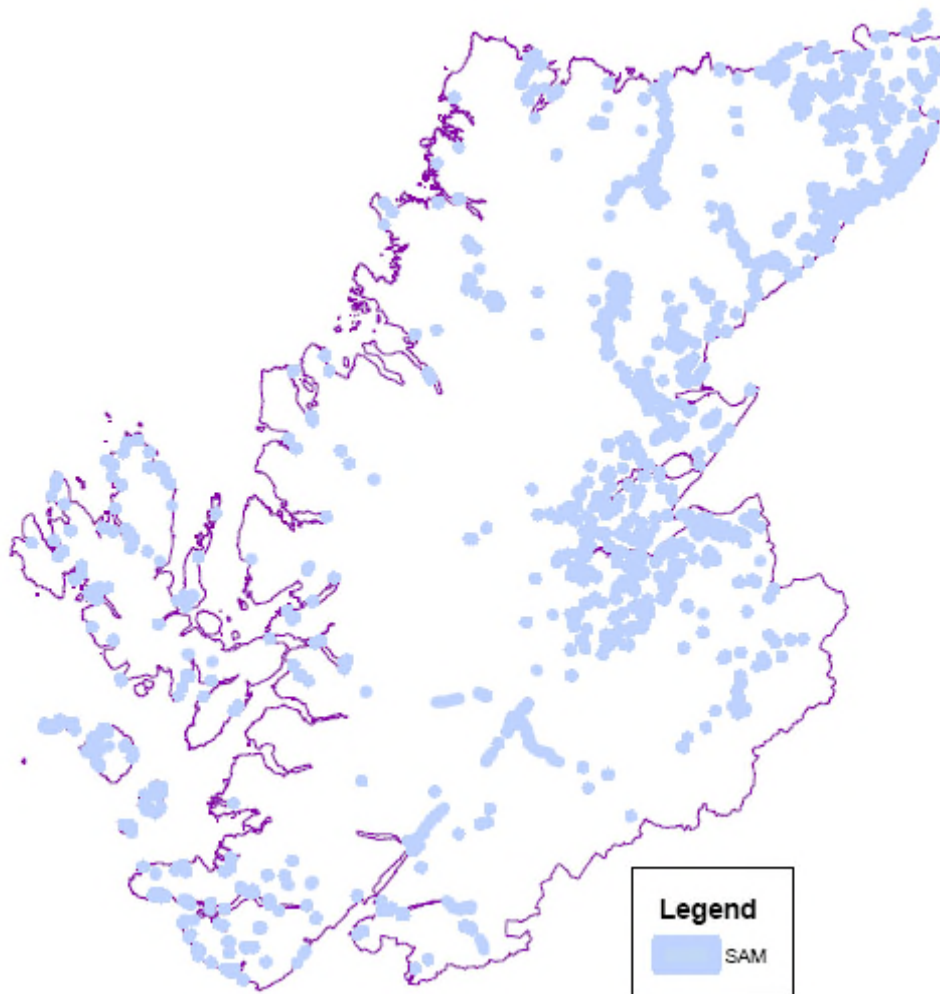
Highland Wide Local Development Plan *Listed Buildings*



Conservation Areas in Highland



Scheduled Ancient Monuments



Records in the Highland Historic Environment Record

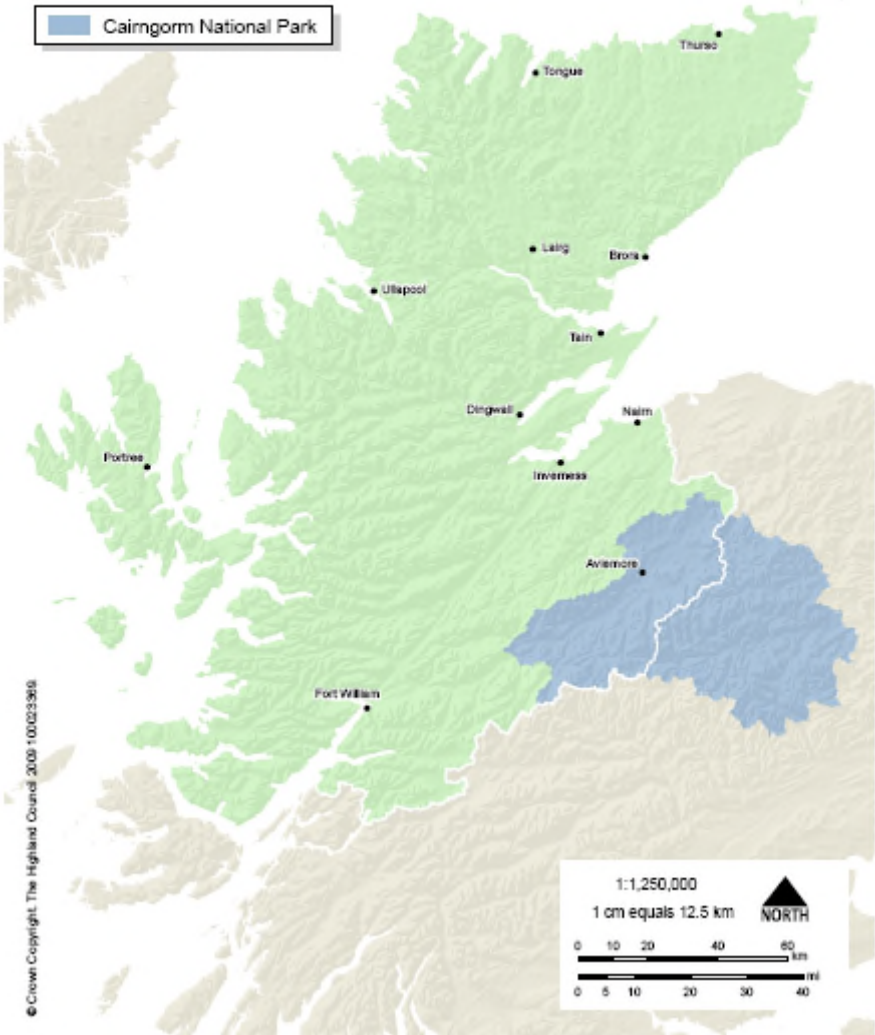


Landscape	
Landscape Character	<p>Scottish Natural Heritage: <u><i>Overview of Scotland's national programme of Landscape Character Assessment (2004)</i></u></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1996) <i>Cairngorms landscape assessment.</i></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) <u><i>Inner Moray Firth Landscape Character Assessment.</i></u></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1999) <u><i>Ben Alder, Ardverikie and Creag Meagaidh Landscape Character Assessment</i></u></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) <u><i>Inverness District Landscape Character Assessment</i></u></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) <u><i>Moray and Nairn Landscape Character Assessment</i></u></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) <i>Caithness and Sutherland Landscape Character Assessment.</i></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1996) <i>Skye and Lochalsh Landscape Character Assessment.</i></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) <i>Lochaber Landscape Character Assessment.</i></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1999) <i>Ross and Cromarty Landscape Character Assessment.</i></p> <p>Special Landscape Area (formerly known as Areas of Great Landscape Value) Citations http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/planning/developmentplans/developmentplanpolicyguidance/Special+Landscape+AreaCitations.htm</p>
Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Turbine Development in Highland – Summary Report (September 2010)	Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Turbine Development in Highland – Summary Report (September 2010)
There are 21 Special Landscape Areas and 16 National Scenic Areas in Highland. The Highland Council area also takes in part of the Cairngorms National Park	<p>SNH GIS Dataset</p> <p>Special Landscape Area (formerly known as Areas of Great Landscape Value) Citations http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/planning/developmentplans/developmentplanpolicyguidance/Special+Landscape+AreaCitations.htm</p> <p>http://www.cairngorms.co.uk</p>

Peatlands - Amount of peat land in Caithness and Sutherland.	SNH http://www.snh.org.uk/scottish/nhighland/PeatlandssofCSI.asp
Forest and Woodland	The Highland Forest and Woodland strategy. http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/agriculturefisheriesandforestry/treesandforestry/highland-forest-and-woodland-strategy.htm Forestry Commission Scotland; http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland
Agricultural Land - Land use, employment and production information. Crofting in Highland	National Farmers Union Scotland; http://www.nfus.org.uk/facts_index.asp Crofters Commission Annual report 2006/07; http://www.crofterscommission.org.uk/documents/croft-englishfinalreport0607.pdf
Coast - Biodiversity Number, type and specification of harbours in Highland. Coastal Classification	Highland Biodiversity Action Plan www.highland.gov.uk http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/roadsandtransport/harbours/ Highland Coastal Development Strategy http://www.highland.gov.uk/developmentplans .

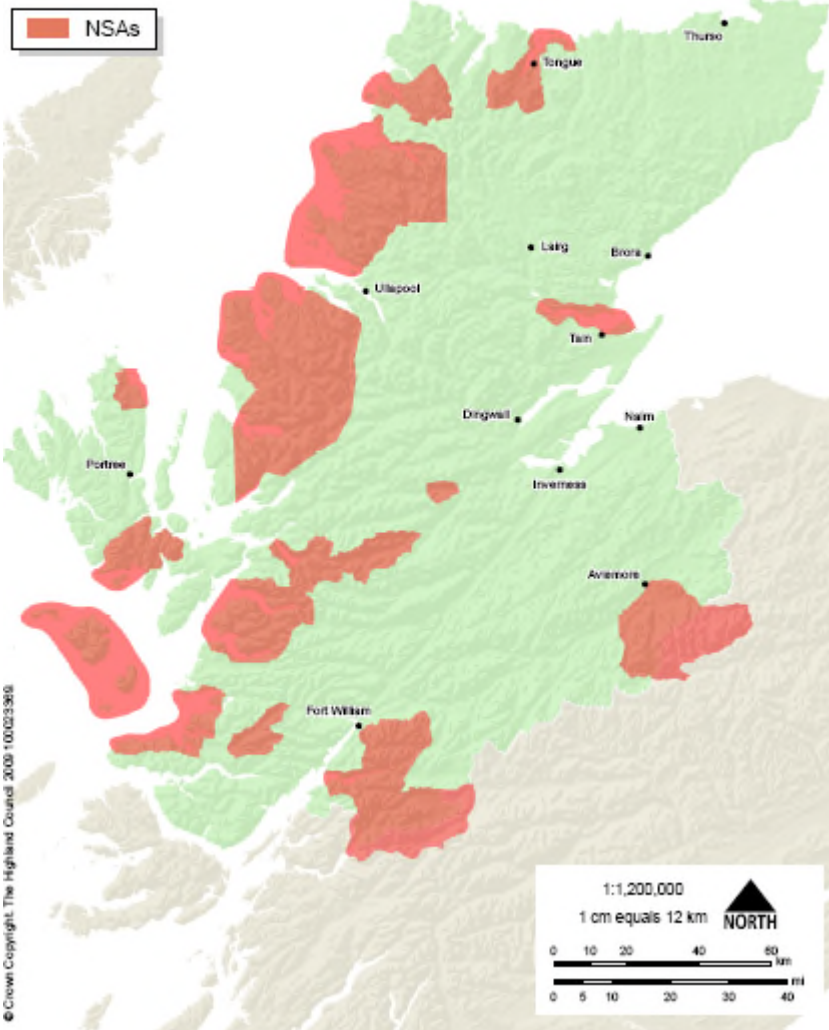
Highland Wide Local Development Plan

Cairngorm National Park

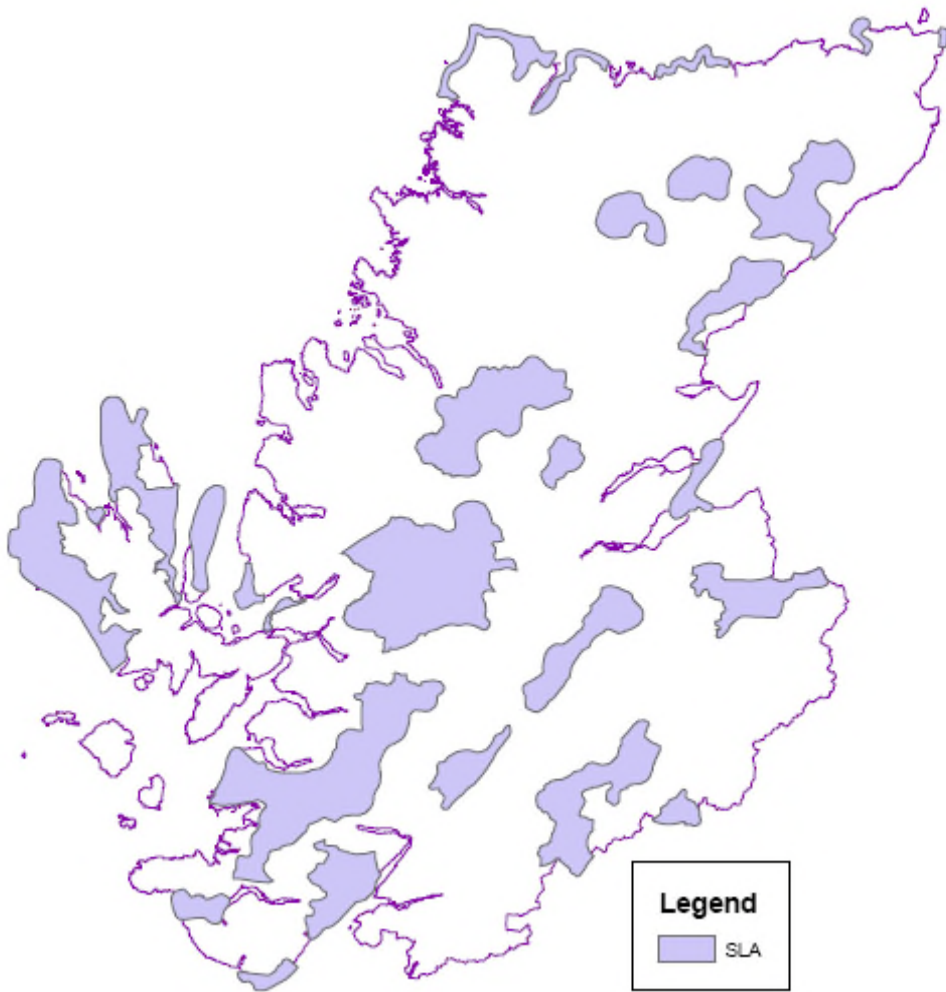


Highland Wide Local Development Plan

National Scenic Areas



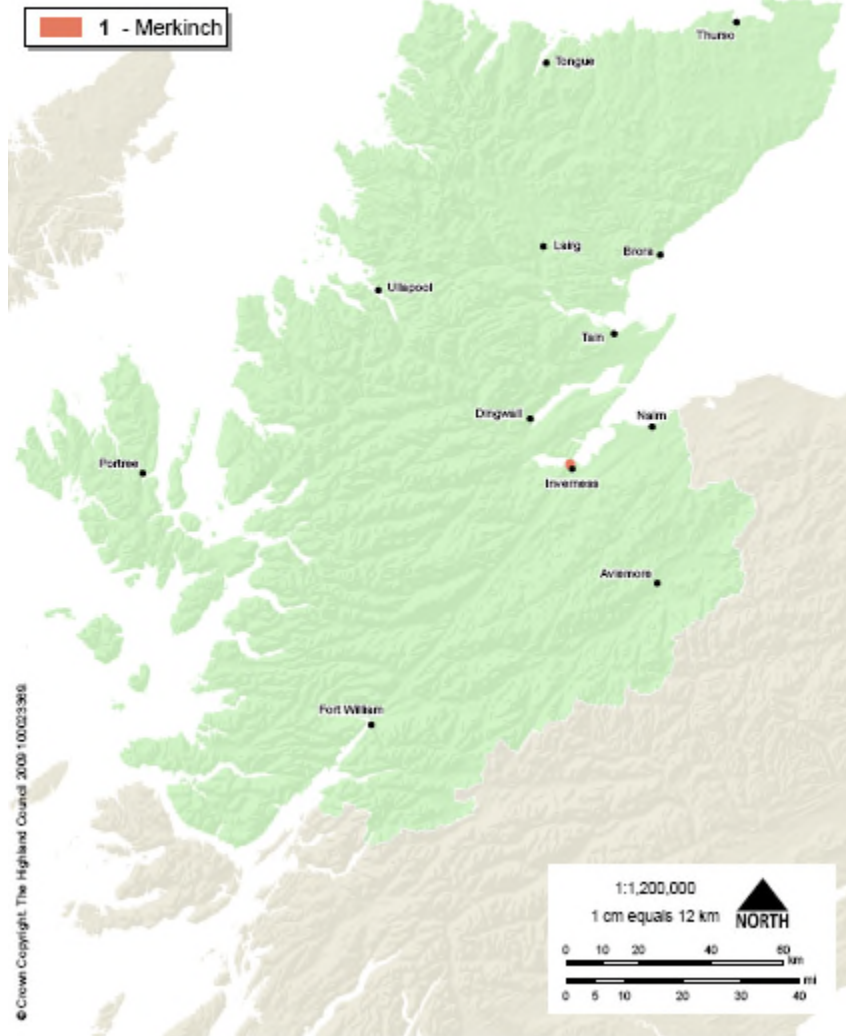
Special Landscape Areas



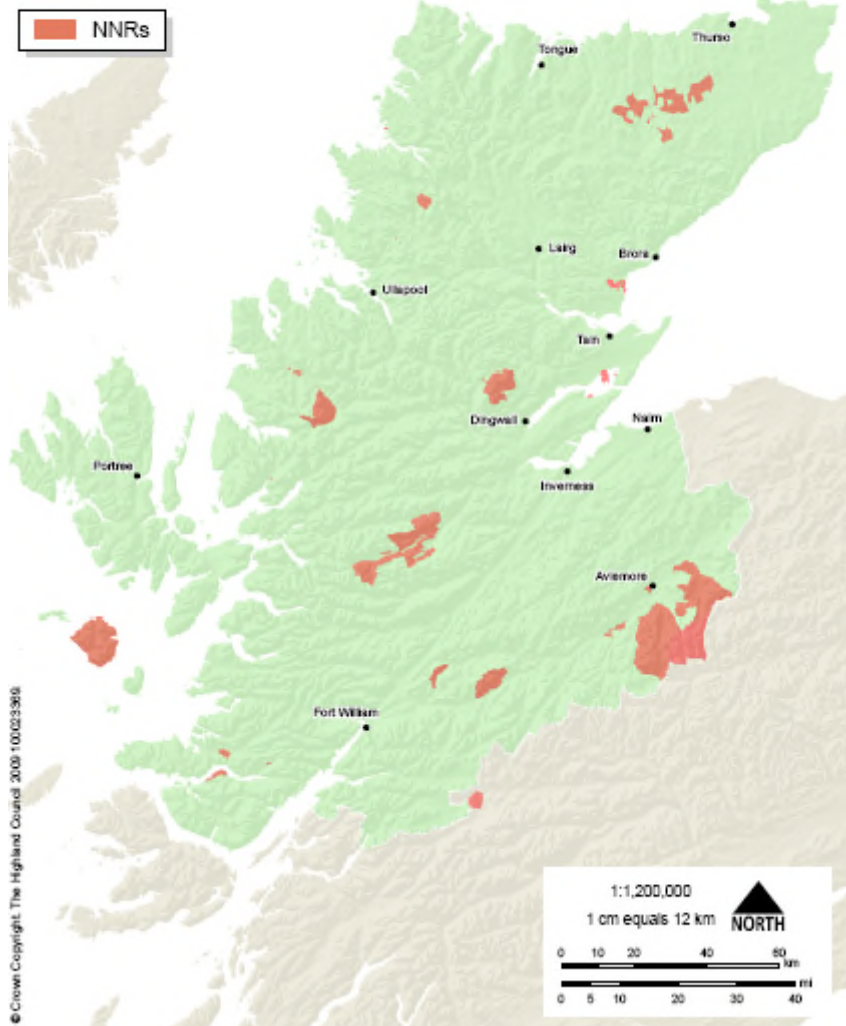
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	
Designated sites - there are currently 12 RAMSAR sites, 90 SAC's, 46 SPA's, 368 SSSI's, 12 NNR's, 1 LNR,	www.snh.org.uk
The Cairngorms National Park extends into Badenoch and Strathspey which is within the Highland Council area and adjacent to the area to be covered by the guidance.	www.cairngorms.co.uk
Improve biodiversity, avoiding irreversible losses - Highland region supports 192 of the 238 priority species in Scotland and 40 of the 42 priority habitats. 455 of the priority species of conservation importance are found in Highland.	Highland Biodiversity Action Plan www.highlandbiodiversity.com Habitat and Birds Directive – Annex 1 http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/sensitivitymapreport_tcm9-157990.pdf http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/sensitivitymap_tcm9-157991.pdf
Site condition monitoring database being produced by SNH will provide information on the condition of designated sites, 2000-2005, including recreational pressures but this database is not yet operational to provide this data.	SNH
Fisheries and Aquaculture - Natural Resources of the Seas around Highland.	http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/agriculturefisheriesandforestry/fisheriesandaquaculture/

Highland Wide Local Development Plan

Local Nature Reserve

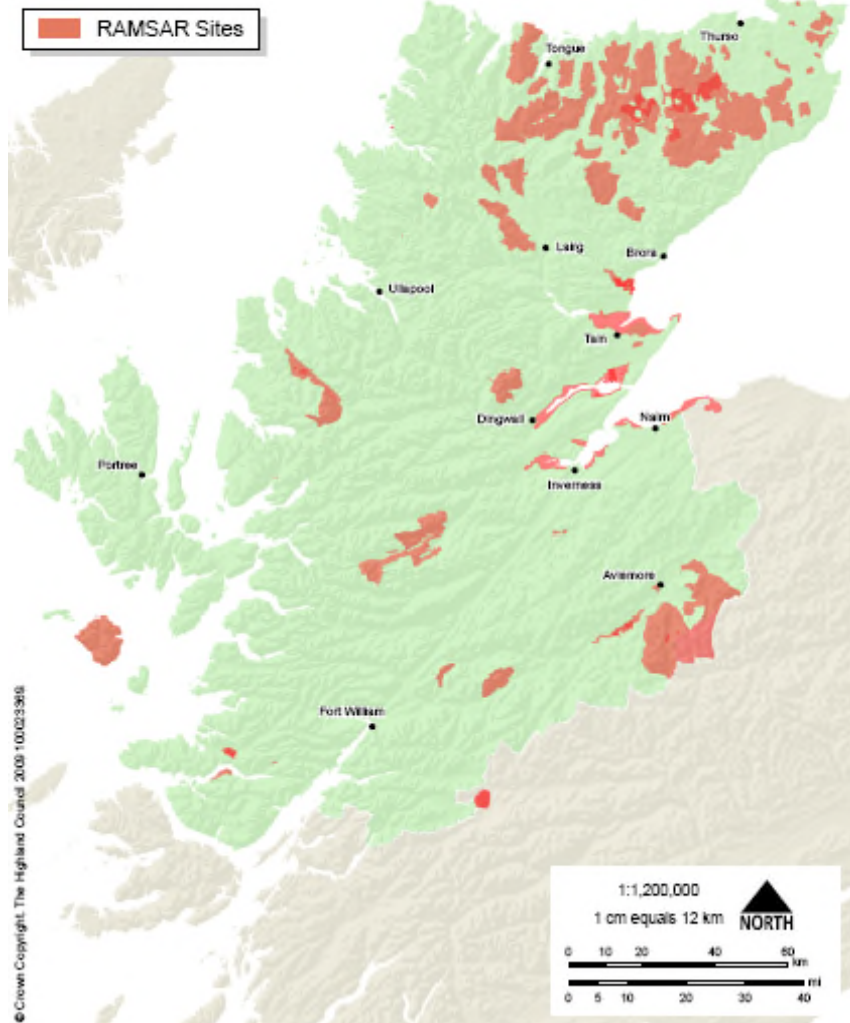


Highland Wide Local Development Plan *National Nature Reserves*

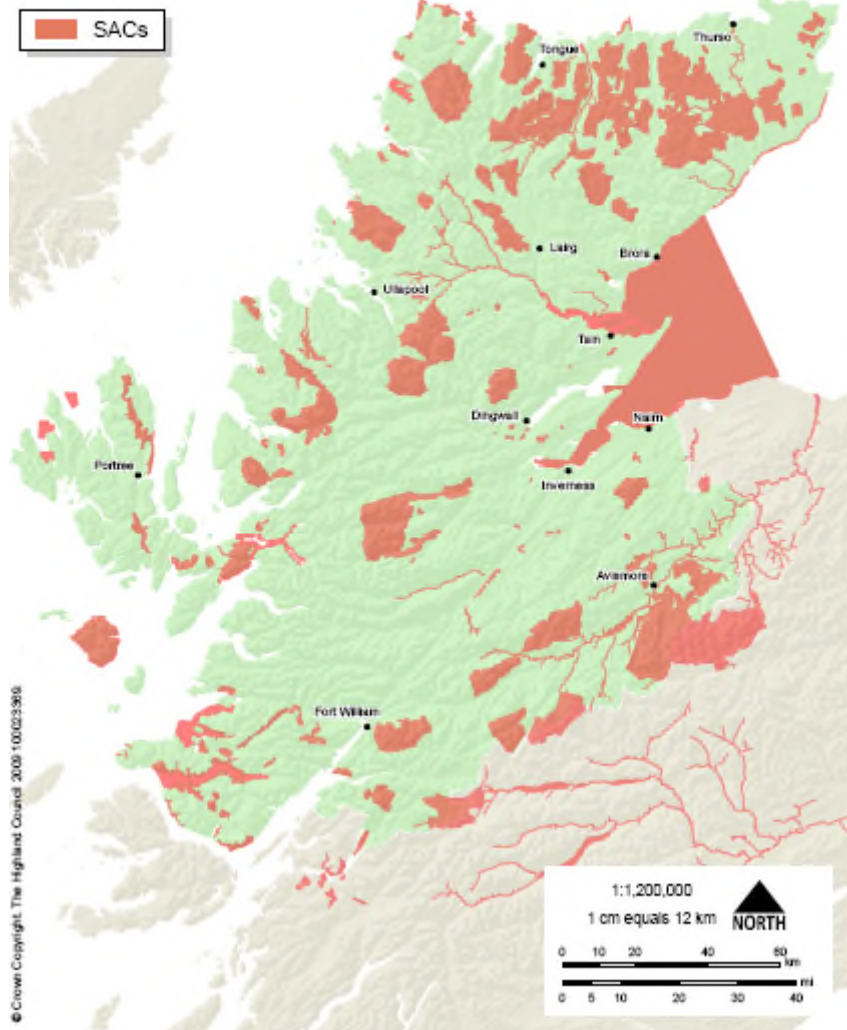


Highland Wide Local Development Plan

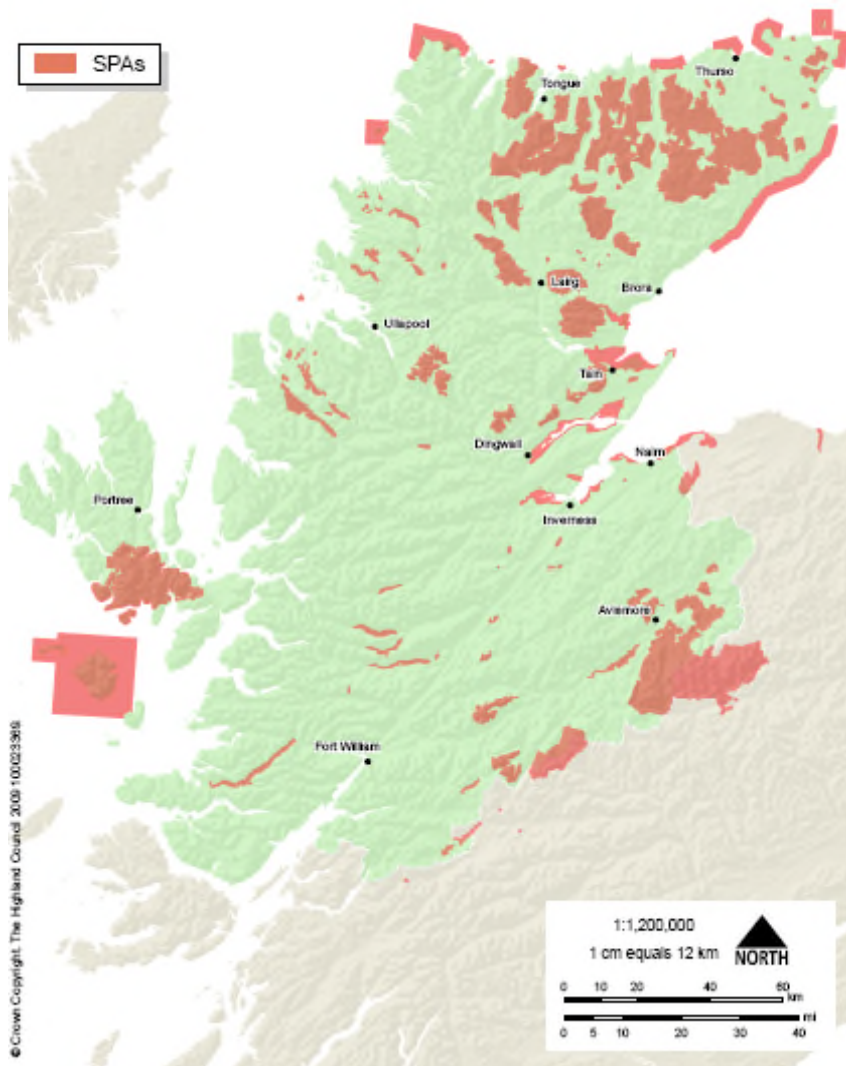
RAMSAR Sites



Highland Wide Local Development Plan *Special Areas of Conservation*

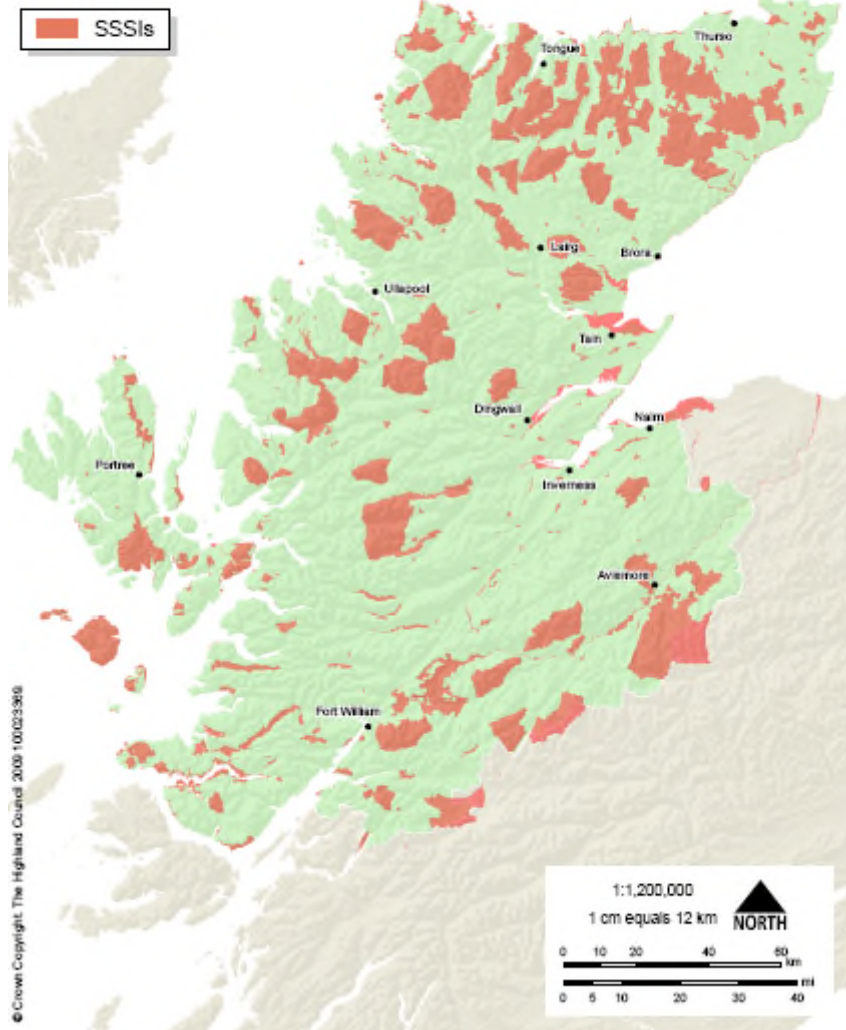


Highland Wide Local Development Plan *Special Protection Areas*



Highland Wide Local Development Plan

Sites of Special Scientific Interest



Sensitivity ratings within tetrad:

4 high	(5421)
3 high	(1411)
2 high	(1964)
1 high	(1573)
4 medium	(4109)
3 medium	(482)
2 medium	(785)
1 medium	(727)
All low/unknown	(5715)

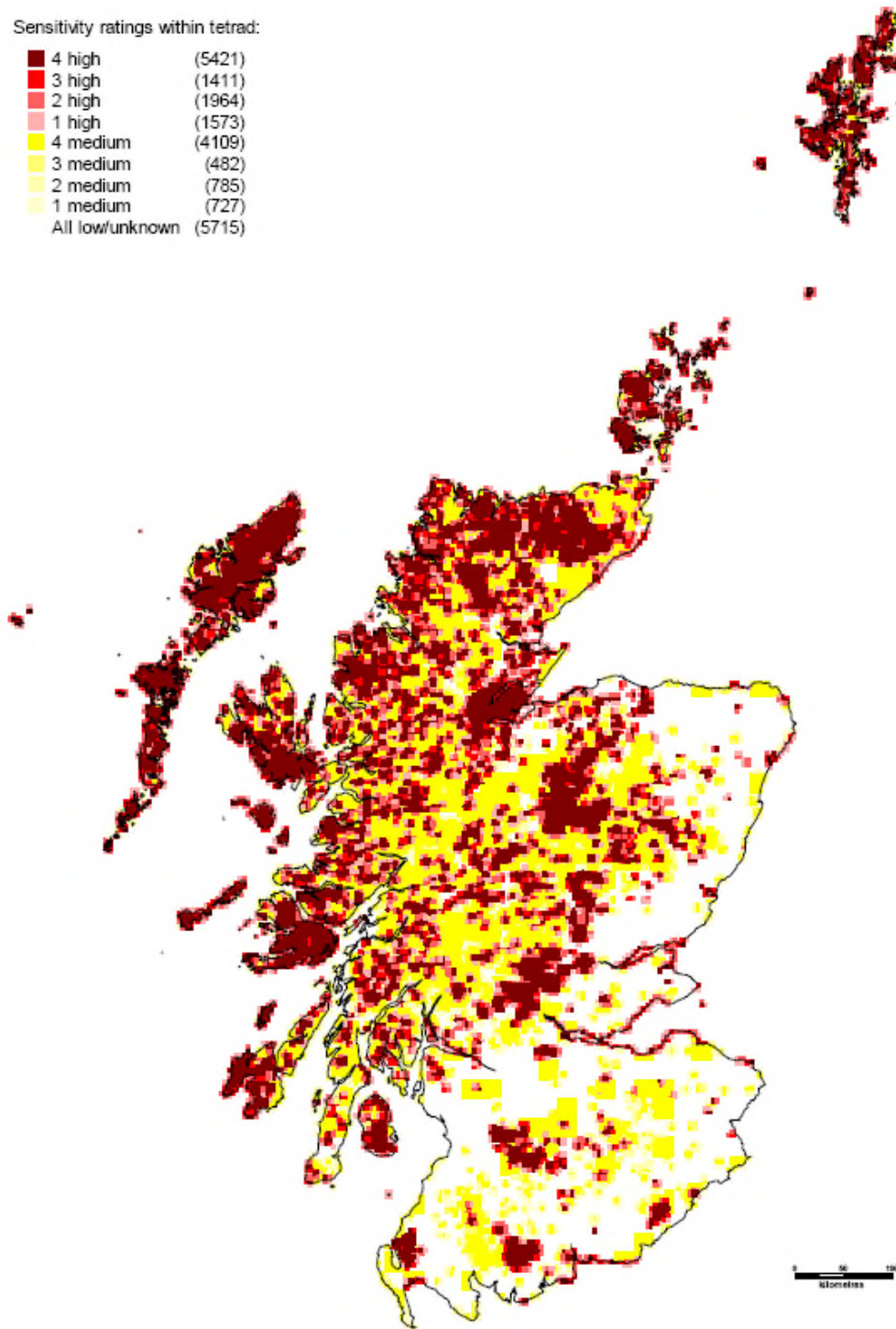


Figure 1. Composite Sensitivity Map of Scotland for location of onshore wind farms with respect to a suite of sensitive bird species (presented here at tetrad level of resolution to protect locations of sensitive species).

Appendix 2 – How the Assessment will be carried out (Example of Matrix Approach)

The assessment will consider:

- What level of impact the guidance/reasonable alternative may have in the short/medium/long term on each of the SEA Objectives and;
- At what scale the preferred approach/reasonable alternative may have an impact.

The matrix also includes a justification of the assessment for each SEA objective. This is intended to guide the reader through the decision making process. To aid in this the matrix also records assumptions which have been made in the decision making process.

For consistency the following scoring system has been used through out the assessment matrices:

Significant Positive Impact	Minimal positive impact	No or neutral Impact	Minimal negative impact	Significant negative impact	Possible Positive and Negative Impacts	Unknown Impact
++	+	=	-	--	+/-	??

Each assessment will be followed by a concise commentary on the findings of the assessment of the policy/reasonable alternative.

On the following page the SEA Objectives are set out and are accompanied by the key considerations for the assessment of the guidance/reasonable alternative. We seek the views of the consultation authorities on these considerations.

Key Considerations

1	<p>Maintain and enhance designated wildlife sites, biodiversity, valuable habitats and protected species, avoiding irreversible losses</p> <p>Will it contribute to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in Highland?</p> <p>Will it contribute to achieving local and regional biodiversity action plan targets?</p> <p>Will habitats of importance will biodiversity be protected?</p> <p>Will it safeguard internationally designated sites?</p> <p>Will it safeguard nationally designated sites?</p> <p>Will it safeguard locally designated sites?</p> <p>Will it safeguard protected species (including protected bird species) and their habitats?</p> <p>Will it safeguard other important species and their habitats?</p>
2	<p>Provide opportunities for people to come into contact with and appreciate nature/natural environments</p> <p>Will it safeguard the ability of people to experience qualities of wildness?</p> <p>Will it enhance responsible access to natural areas, including those of high biodiversity value?</p> <p>Will it contribute to education of local people and tourists in terms of their understanding of the local wildlife?</p>
3	<p>Protect and enhance human health</p> <p>Will it ensure better opportunities for walking and cycling?</p> <p>Will it ensure the amenity impact in terms of noise and shadow flicker are key considerations?</p>
4	<p>Reduce impact on peatland and safeguard soil quantity and quality</p> <p>Will it reduce the removal of good quality soil from sites?</p> <p>Will it protect areas of importance for geodiversity in Highland?</p> <p>Will it protect soil functions?</p> <p>Will carbon storage of peat land be protected?</p> <p>Will it protect residential developments from the risk of peat slide?</p>
5	<p>Protect and enhance the water and riparian environment</p> <p>Will it ensure that development has no detrimental impact on the water environment?</p> <p>Will it ensure developments enhance the water environment where possible?</p>
6	<p>Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change and address the carbon balance of on-shore wind energy development</p> <p>Will it ensure new developments are free from flooding?</p> <p>Will it enhance natural drainage?</p> <p>Will it reduce the vulnerability of existing areas to flooding?</p> <p>Will it facilitate species adaptation to climate change through the protection of or contribution to green habitat networks?</p> <p>Will it maximise the carbon balance of development?</p>
7	<p>Increase the proportion of energy from renewable sources</p> <p>Will it ensure more renewable energy production where appropriate?</p> <p>Will it ensure suitable connection to electricity infrastructure?</p>
8	<p>Promote the sustainable use of natural resources</p> <p>Will it promote the sustainable use or re-use of natural resources (including forestry)?</p> <p>Will it effect people's ability to enjoy outdoor access?</p> <p>Will it effect roads and local transport infrastructure?</p>
9	<p>Protect and where appropriate enhance the cultural heritage</p> <p>Will it protect or enhance listed buildings and their settings?</p>

	<p>Will it protect or enhance the scheduled monuments and their settings?</p> <p>Will it protect or enhance locally important archaeological sites?</p> <p>Will it protect or enhance conservation areas?</p> <p>Will it protect or enhance historic gardens and designed landscapes?</p>
10	<p>Value and protect the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscapes</p> <p>Will existing landscape character be maintained or enhanced?</p> <p>Will local diversity and distinctiveness be maintained or enhanced?</p> <p>Will it protect areas with strong qualities of wildness?</p> <p>Will it consider the cumulative landscape impact of proposals?</p> <p>Will it protect and enhance designated landscapes?</p> <p>Will it effect the setting of and visual impact from settlements?</p>

Example Matrix

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
	1					

SEA Objective from Environmental Report.

When will the effect become apparent in the short(0-5yrs), medium (5-10yrs), or Long term (10+yrs).

Will the approach have an impact locally or highland wide.

Why the element of the PPS has been given this assessment, in respect of this SEA objective, and any assumptions that have been made.

Appendix 3 – Assessment of the Alternatives

Spatial Framework

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
1	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>That Highland has a significant contribution to make on a national level because of the proportion of these designated areas that it has.</p> <p>Justification – Gives significant protection to Ramsar, SSSI, NNR, SPA and SAC sites, and gives some protection to amenity trees, ancient woodland of semi natural origin, TPO, Sites of Local Nature Conservation, Long Established woodland of plantation origin. By protecting designated sites, and locally important sites for habitat and species it will protect sensitive areas in the Highlands.</p>
2	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>That Highlands is less densely populated so it won't provide access to a significant amount of people when considered nationally.</p> <p>Justification – It does protect the more important areas so they can still be experienced but because it does not promote development within these areas, it therefore does not open up new access to them.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
3	+	+	+	+	=	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>The effect of this policy is likely to steer development away from environmental designations to areas which tend to have less designations, this may be more built up areas. That Highlands is less densely populated so it won't provide access to a significant amount of people when considered nationally.</p> <p>Justification – Development of windfarms can provide new or enhanced opportunities to access the outdoors and provide enhancements to the recreational assets of the area.</p>
4	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>By giving significant protection to SACs, Ramsar, SPA and SSSI we are protecting a lot of the peatland. That Highland has a significant contribution to make on a national level because of the proportion of these designated areas(including peatland etc) that it has.</p> <p>Justification – Significant protection of significant areas of peatland and some protection of Geological Conservation Review sites</p>
5	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions - That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Justification – No specific protection of the water environment is ensured through the Spatial Framework</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
6	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Provides an effective spatial policy framework which provides sufficient opportunity for wind energy development in less sensitive environmental areas</p> <p>Justification – Provides sufficient opportunity for wind energy development which is a clean way of producing energy and helps contribute to global climate change agenda</p>
7	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Provides sufficient opportunity for wind energy development</p> <p>Justification - Provides an effective spatial policy framework which provides sufficient opportunity for wind energy development in less sensitive environmental areas</p>
8	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Provides an effective policy framework which provides sufficient opportunity for wind energy development in less sensitive environmental areas which tends to promote land closer to more densely populated areas. Highlands has a large proportion of Scotland's wind resource.</p> <p>Justification – Development of windfarms can provide new or enhanced opportunities to access the outdoors and provide enhancements to the recreational assets of the area.</p>
9	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions - That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Justification – Provides significant protection for Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes and some protection for Schedule Ancient Monuments, Conservation Areas and A, B and C(S) listed buildings, historic environment record and war memorials. This approach is consistent with Policy 57 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan which gives an appropriate level of protection.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
10	++	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions - That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Justification – Provides significant protection to National Scenic Areas, Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes and areas of high landscape and visual sensitivity that need protection due to cumulative limit (within pilot areas). Also provides some protection to Special Landscape Areas, and Settlement Setting and setting of National Park, Special Landscape Areas, visual sensitivity from routeways, settlements and dwellings, and landscape character sensitivity. However detailed landscape and visual assessment which identifies cumulative landscape and visual limits have only been identified within parts of the Highlands albeit those which are at the moment under greatest pressure from wind energy developments. In the future as other areas are under significant development pressure ideally there would be an update to the spatial framework after further Landscape and Visual Assessment.</p>

Conclusions and recommended mitigation: The Spatial Framework provides clear policy protection specific to medium to large scale wind energy proposals through spatial policy which provides the appropriate level of protection to the different features and promotes the remaining less sensitive areas through the Broad Areas of Search. Overall the SEA of this approach is that the Spatial Framework is at least neutral if not a positive addition by providing interpretation and also greater certainty as to the sensitivity of areas to medium to large scale wind energy proposals.

The Spatial Framework (within the pilot areas) also protects areas of high landscape and visual sensitivity including those that are sensitive due to the cumulative capacity being reached. However detailed landscape and visual assessment has only been carried within parts of Highland (within the pilot areas) - albeit these are the areas which are currently under greatest pressure from wind energy developments.

In the future, before other areas begin to come under significant development pressure, there could be an update to the spatial framework after further Landscape and Visual Assessment. Ideally refining and rolling out the pilot landscape and visual work would eventually establish these sensitivities across the whole of Highland allowing us to feed this into the spatial framework providing greater spatial guidance and more certainty on this matter. If this roll out happens and timeously so then the medium to long term impact would be more positive than shown.

Alternative Approach to Spatial Framework

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
1	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>That Highland has a significant contribution to make on a national level because of the proportion of these designated areas that it has. If we had (as suggested through the consultation on the draft Supplementary Guidance) removed Long Established woodland of plantation origin from being a stage 2 to being no constraint in the Spatial Framework then protection of this habitat would be less effective.</p> <p>Justification – Gives significant protection to Ramsar, SSSI, NNR, SPA and SAC sites, and gives some protection to amenity trees, ancient woodland of semi natural origin, TPO, Sites of Local Nature Conservation, Long Established woodland of plantation origin. By protecting designated sites, and locally important sites for habitat and species, it will protect sensitive areas in the Highlands.</p>
2	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>That Highlands is less densely populated so it won't provide access to a significant amount of people when considered nationally.</p> <p>Justification – It does protect the more important areas so they can still be experienced, but because it does not promote development within these areas, it therefore does not open up new access to them.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
3	+	+	+	+	=	<p>Assumptions - That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>The effect of this policy is likely to push development closer to more densely populated areas which tend to have less environment designations. That Highlands is less densely populated so it won't provide access to a significant amount of people when considered nationally.</p> <p>Justification - Development closer to populated areas will open up more access opportunities within these areas which are within easy reach of a large amount of people.</p>
4	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>By giving significant protection to SACs, RAMSAR and SPA we are protecting a lot of the peatland. That Highland has a significant contribution to make on a national level because of the proportion of these designated areas that it has.</p> <p>Justification – Significant protection of significant areas of peatland and some protection of Geological Conservation Review sites</p>
5	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions - That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Justification – No specific protection of the water environment is ensured through the Spatial Framework</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
6	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Provides an effective spatial policy framework which provides sufficient opportunity for wind energy development. That less protection areas (compared to the draft SG) and larger broad areas of search means a more positive presumption for wind energy development.</p> <p>Justification – Provides generous opportunity for wind energy development which is a clean way of producing energy and helps contribute to global climate change agenda. Compared to the draft SG there are less areas protected for landscape and visual sensitivity so it identifies less protection areas.</p>
7	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Provides generous opportunity for wind energy development. That less protection areas (compared to the draft SG) and larger broad areas of search means a more positive presumption for wind energy development.</p> <p>Justification - Provides an effective spatial policy framework which provides sufficient opportunity for wind energy development. Compared to the draft SG there are less areas protected for landscape and visual sensitivity so it identifies less protection areas.</p>
8	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Provides an effective policy framework which provides sufficient opportunity for wind energy development in less sensitive environmental areas which tends to promote land closer to more densely populated areas. Highlands has a large proportion of Scotland's wind resource.</p> <p>Justification - Provision of opportunity for wind energy development close to more densely populated areas will promote good access opportunities. Also will enable good use of our excellent wind resource.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
9	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions - That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Justification - Provides some protection for Historic Garden and Designed Landscape, Schedule Ancient Monuments, Conservation Areas and A, B and C(s) listed buildings, historic environment record and war memorials. It is not considered that moving Historic Garden and Designed Landscape from a Stage 1 to Stage 2 to better reflect Scottish Government policy and guidance has a significant impact on the protection of cultural heritage.</p>
10	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>If we had removed views over open water from being a stage 2 (as suggested through the consultation on the draft Supplementary Guidance) to being no constraint in the Spatial Framework then protection of these important views would be less clear and effective.</p> <p>Justification – Provides significant protection to National Scenic Areas. Also provides some protection of Special Landscape Areas, Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, views over open water and Settlement Setting and setting of both National Park, and Special Landscape Areas. However detailed landscape and visual assessment which identifies cumulative landscape and visual limits, and some lesser protection for other landscape and visual sensitivities have not been identified.</p>

Conclusions and recommended mitigation: The Spatial Framework provides clear policy protection specific to medium to large scale wind energy proposals through the provision of a spatial policy which provides the appropriate level of protection to the different features and promotes the less sensitive areas through the Areas of Search. However there are limitations to this Spatial Framework as it does not include landscape and visual sensitivities including cumulative impacts (beyond significant protection of NSA's and some protection of SLA's).

To address this deficiency the assessment of cumulative impact and other landscape and visual sensitivities could be provided by mapping these sensitivities; where it is possible and pragmatic to map them. However alternatively or in addition to this approach mitigation could be provided through additional policy/guidance on these landscape and visual sensitivities.

Development Guidelines

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
1	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions The development guidelines will not be read or applied in isolation.</p> <p>Justification It is anticipated that the development guidelines will not afford any additional protection to designated sites, however one of the key considerations in the development guidelines is that consideration should be given to the potential impact of development on all the features covered by Policy 57 (Highland-wide Local Development Plan) and not just those expanded on in the Supplementary Guidance. Reference is made to Policies 58, 59, 60 and 61 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan.</p>
2	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions The development guidelines will not be read or applied in isolation.</p> <p>Justification The development guidelines consolidate and expand on the provisions made in Policy 57 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan. The development guidelines make provision for to assess proposals against the impact likely against a number of different features/issues. Many of these are related to opportunities to come into contact with nature and experience natural environments.</p>
3	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions The development guidelines will not be read or applied in isolation.</p> <p>Justification The development guidelines can encourage developers to provide better opportunities for walking and cycling. The development guidelines do make provision for assessing proposals against amenity effects such as noise and shadow flicker.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
4	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The development guidelines will not be read or applied in isolation.</p> <p>Justification The Development Guidelines ask developers to identify the presence of peat and risk of landslide. However it is unlikely that the Development Guidelines will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>
5	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions The development guidelines will not be read or applied in isolation.</p> <p>Justification The development guidelines make provision for developers to demonstrate that development and associated infrastructure will not have a significant adverse effect on the water environment.</p>
6	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The development guidelines will not be read or applied in isolation.</p> <p>Justification It is unlikely that the Development Guidelines will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>
7	++	++	++	++	++	<p>Assumptions The development guidelines will not be read or applied in isolation.</p> <p>Justification The development guidelines facilitate renewable energy production in Highland subject to specific criteria being met, without significant detrimental effects on the environment.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
8	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The development guidelines will not be read or applied in isolation.</p> <p>Justification The development guidelines make the provision for developers to demonstrate that proposals will not have a significant adverse effect on public access; however the effect on people's ability to enjoy outdoor access will be minimal.</p>
9	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions The development guidelines will not be read or applied in isolation.</p> <p>Justification It is anticipated that the development guidelines will not afford any additional protection to designated sites, however one of the key considerations in the development guidelines is that consideration should be given to the potential impact of development on all the features covered by Policy 57 (Highland-wide Local Development Plan) and not just those expanded on in the Supplementary Guidance.</p>
10	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions The development guidelines will not be read or applied in isolation.</p> <p>Justification The development guidelines ensure that regard is had to significant effects on the landscape when proposals are being assessed. This will ensure that appropriate mitigation is put in place to avoid any detrimental effect on landscape designations.</p>

Conclusions and recommended mitigation

The development guidelines section of the Supplementary Guidance provides a fuller interpretation of the criteria listed in Policy 67 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan. It is envisaged that the interpretation of the criteria will lead to a number of positive effects of SEA objectives 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 10. It is also considered that there may be significantly positive effects on SEA objective 7 as it should provide opportunity to significantly increase the proportion of energy from

renewable sources. While the development guidelines are anticipated to have a number of positive effects there may still be localised detrimental impacts of individual proposals, it still ensures that these are considered at the planning application stage. The development guidelines should not be read or applied in isolation.

Alternative to Development guidelines

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
1	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The fuller interpretation of the criteria in Policy 67 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP) is not provided in the Supplementary Guidance. Rely on the Highland-wide Local Development Plan suite of policies.</p> <p>Justification The HwLDP policy says proposals must have regard to any significant effects on the list of criteria however no detail is given. It is unlikely that the absence of the fuller interpretation of the Development Guidelines will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>
2	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Assumptions The fuller interpretation of the criteria in Policy 67 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan is not provided in the Supplementary Guidance. Rely on the Highland-wide Local Development Plan suite of policies.</p> <p>Justification The HwLDP policy is not explicit in promoting this SEA objective. Therefore the absence of the fuller interpretation of the Development Guidelines could have a minimal negative impact on this SEA objective.</p>
3	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The fuller interpretation of the criteria in Policy 67 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan is not provided in the Supplementary Guidance. Rely on the Highland-wide Local Development Plan suite of policies.</p> <p>Justification The HwLDP policy says proposals must have regard to any significant effects on the list of criteria however no detail is given. It is unlikely that the absence of the fuller interpretation of the Development Guidelines will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
4	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Assumptions The fuller interpretation of the criteria in Policy 67 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan is not provided in the Supplementary Guidance. Rely on the Highland-wide Local Development Plan suite of policies.</p> <p>Justification The HwLDP policy is not explicit in promoting this SEA objective. Therefore the absence of the fuller interpretation of the Development Guidelines could have a minimal negative impact on this SEA objective.</p>
5	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The fuller interpretation of the criteria in Policy 67 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan is not provided in the Supplementary Guidance. Rely on the Highland-wide Local Development Plan suite of policies.</p> <p>Justification The HwLDP policy says proposals must have regard to any significant effects on the list of criteria however no detail is given. It is unlikely that the absence of the fuller interpretation of the Development Guidelines will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>
6	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Assumptions The fuller interpretation of the criteria in Policy 67 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan is not provided in the Supplementary Guidance. Rely on the Highland-wide Local Development Plan suite of policies.</p> <p>Justification The HwLDP policy is not explicit in promoting this SEA objective. Therefore the absence of the fuller interpretation of the Development Guidelines could have a minimal negative impact on this SEA objective.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
7	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions The fuller interpretation of the criteria in Policy 67 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan is not provided in the Supplementary Guidance. Rely on the Highland-wide Local Development Plan suite of policies.</p> <p>Justification The HwLDP policy says the Council will consider the contribution of proposal towards meeting renewable energy targets.</p>
8	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The fuller interpretation of the criteria in Policy 67 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan is not provided in the Supplementary Guidance. Rely on the Highland-wide Local Development Plan suite of policies.</p> <p>Justification The HwLDP policy says proposals must have regard to any significant effects on the list of criteria however no detail is given. It is unlikely that the absence of the fuller interpretation of the Development Guidelines will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>
9	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The fuller interpretation of the criteria in Policy 67 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan is not provided in the Supplementary Guidance. Rely on the Highland-wide Local Development Plan suite of policies.</p> <p>Justification The HwLDP policy says proposals must have regard to any significant effects on the list of criteria however no detail is given. It is unlikely that the absence of the fuller interpretation of the Development Guidelines will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
10	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The fuller interpretation of the criteria in Policy 67 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan is not provided in the Supplementary Guidance. Rely on the Highland-wide Local Development Plan suite of policies.</p> <p>Justification The HwLDP policy says proposals must have regard to any significant effects on the list of criteria however no detail is given. It is unlikely that the absence of the fuller interpretation of the Development Guidelines will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

Conclusions and recommended mitigation

The absence of the development guidelines section of the Supplementary Guidance, providing a fuller interpretation of the criteria listed in Policy 67 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan could have an impact on the SEA objectives as the assessment of any proposals would be made without the extra detail provided by the development guidelines. It is envisaged that relying on the list of criteria in the HwLDP policy without the fuller interpretation available, would lead to a number minimal negative impacts for SEA objectives 2, 4 and 6. It is also considered that there may be no or neutral impacts on SEA objectives 1, 3, 5, 8, 9 and 10. It is also considered that there may be positive effects on SEA objective 7 as it should provide opportunity to increase the proportion of energy from renewable sources.

Additional Guidance

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
1	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The additional guidance will not be read or applied in isolation.</p> <p>Justification It is unlikely that the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>
2	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The additional guidance will not be read or applied in isolation.</p> <p>Justification It is unlikely that the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>
3	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The additional guidance will not be read or applied in isolation.</p> <p>Justification It is unlikely that the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>
4	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions The additional guidance will not be read or applied in isolation.</p> <p>Justification The additional guidance ensures that regard is had to peat issues.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
5	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The additional guidance will not be read or applied in isolation.</p> <p>Justification It is unlikely that the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>
6	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions The additional guidance will not be read or applied in isolation.</p> <p>Justification The additional guidance encourages applications to consider carbon balancing.</p>
7	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions The additional guidance will not be read or applied in isolation.</p> <p>Justification The additional guidance ensures that regard is had to design and layout of windfarms. This should help ensure that turbines are designed and positioned to reduce impact on landscape and ensure operational efficiency.</p>
8	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The additional guidance will not be read or applied in isolation.</p> <p>Justification It is unlikely that the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
9	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The additional guidance will not be read or applied in isolation.</p> <p>Justification It is unlikely that the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>
10	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The additional guidance will not be read or applied in isolation.</p> <p>Justification The additional guidance ensures that regard is had to design and layout of windfarms. This should help ensure that turbines are designed and positioned to reduce impact on landscape. However it is unlikely that the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

Conclusions and recommended mitigation

The additional guidance section of the Supplementary Guidance provides information on a number of other considerations which need to be taken into account in the determination of any planning application for wind energy developments. It is envisaged that the consideration of these additional issues will lead to a number of positive effects of SEA objectives 4, 6 and 7. It is also considered that there may be no or neutral impacts on SEA objectives 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9 and 10. While the additional guidance is anticipated to have a number of positive effects there may still be localised detrimental impacts of individual proposals, it still ensures that these are considered at the planning application stage. The additional guidance should not be read or applied in isolation.

Alternative to Additional guidance

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
1	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The additional guidance is not provided in the Supplementary Guidance. Rely on the Highland-wide Local Development Plan suite of policies.</p> <p>Justification It is unlikely that the absence of the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>
2	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The additional guidance is not provided in the Supplementary Guidance. Rely on the Highland-wide Local Development Plan suite of policies.</p> <p>Justification It is unlikely that the absence of the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>
3	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The additional guidance is not provided in the Supplementary Guidance. Rely on the Highland-wide Local Development Plan suite of policies.</p> <p>Justification It is unlikely that the absence of the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>
4	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Assumptions The additional guidance is not provided in the Supplementary Guidance. Rely on the Highland-wide Local Development Plan suite of policies.</p> <p>Justification The additional information on peat would be absent which could have a minimal negative impact on this SEA objective.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
5	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The additional guidance is not provided in the Supplementary Guidance. Rely on the Highland-wide Local Development Plan suite of policies.</p> <p>Justification It is unlikely that the absence of the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>
6	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Assumptions The additional guidance is not provided in the Supplementary Guidance. Rely on the Highland-wide Local Development Plan suite of policies.</p> <p>Justification The additional information on carbon balancing would be absent which could have a minimal negative impact on this SEA objective.</p>
7	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The additional guidance is not provided in the Supplementary Guidance. Rely on the Highland-wide Local Development Plan suite of policies.</p> <p>Justification It is unlikely that the absence of the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>
8	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The additional guidance is not provided in the Supplementary Guidance. Rely on the Highland-wide Local Development Plan suite of policies.</p> <p>Justification It is unlikely that the absence of the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
9	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The additional guidance is not provided in the Supplementary Guidance. Rely on the Highland-wide Local Development Plan suite of policies.</p> <p>Justification It is unlikely that the absence of the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>
10	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions The additional guidance is not provided in the Supplementary Guidance. Rely on the Highland-wide Local Development Plan suite of policies.</p> <p>Justification It is unlikely that the absence of the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

Conclusions and recommended mitigation

The absence of the additional guidance section of the Supplementary Guidance, providing information on a number of other considerations which need to be taken into account in the determination of any planning application for wind energy developments could have an impact on the SEA objectives as the assessment of any proposals would be made without the extra detail provided by the additional guidance. It is envisaged that without the consideration of these additional issues, it would lead to a number of minimal negative impacts for SEA objectives 4 and 6. It is also considered that there may be no or neutral impacts on SEA objectives 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Appendix 1

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
10	++	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions - That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Justification - Provides significant protection to areas of high landscape and visual sensitivity, such as National Scenic Areas, that need protection due to cumulative limit (within pilot areas). Also provides some protection of Special Landscape Areas, and Settlement setting, setting of both the National Park and the Special Landscape Areas, visual sensitivity from routeways, settlements and dwellings, important landscape features, and landscape character sensitivity. However detailed landscape and visual assessment which identifies cumulative landscape and visual limits have only been identified within parts of the Highland albeit those which are at the moment under greatest pressure from wind energy developments. In the future as other areas are under greater development pressure ideally there would be an update to the spatial framework after further Landscape and Visual Assessment.</p>

Conclusions and recommended mitigation: Within the pilot areas there is protection of areas high landscape and visual sensitivity including those that are sensitive due to the cumulative capacity being reached. However detailed landscape and visual assessment has only been carried out within parts of Highland - albeit these are the areas which are currently under greatest pressure from wind energy developments.

In the future before other areas are under significant development pressure there could be an update to the spatial framework after further Landscape and Visual Assessment. Ideally refining and rolling out the pilot landscape and visual work would eventually establish these sensitivities across the whole of Highland allowing us to feed this into the spatial framework providing greater spatial guidance and more certainty on this matter. If this roll out happens then the medium to long term impact would be more positive than shown.

Alternative approach to Appendix 1

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
10	++	+	+	++	+	<p>Assumptions - That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Justification – Provides significant protection to areas of high landscape and visual sensitivity, such as National Scenic Areas, that need protection due to cumulative limit (within pilot areas). Also provides some protection of Special Landscape Areas, and Settlement Setting, setting of both the National Park and the Special Landscape Areas, visual sensitivity from routeways, settlements and dwellings, important landscape features, and landscape character sensitivity. However detailed landscape and visual assessment which identifies cumulative landscape and visual limits have only been identified within parts of the Highland albeit those which are at the moment under greatest pressure from wind energy developments. In the future as other areas are under greater development pressure ideally there would be an update to the spatial framework after further Landscape and Visual Assessment.</p>

Conclusions and recommended mitigation:

Additional mitigation could be provided by refining and rolling out the pilot work to map landscape and visual sensitivities across Highland. However if this is to be done at a smaller scale map base then it means more fieldwork and resources committed to the project. The difference between more detailed mapping and the more generalised areas is not anticipated to show in what proposals/planning applications the Council would refuse (or in case of a section 36 application object to Scottish Government on). However it would require additional resources to produce more precise boundaries that hold up to scrutiny at a smaller scale. The positive is that it would give greater certainty to developers. However it is not considered that carrying out this level of assessment would change outcomes as the policy could otherwise be framed towards assessing impact on the reasons for protection of an area. Therefore if through detailed work the developer can establish that there is no or little impact on the reason for why we protected that area then this would assess well against that policy.

The risk of this approach is that resources required to carry out this approach are significant and it is possible that the roll out to cover additional areas could take longer and therefore the positive impact of the policy could lessen over time if new areas came under concerted pressure from developers and if this detailed work struggles to be produced quickly enough to keep up.

Appendix 4 – Assessment of the Cumulative Effects

Cumulative impact of the Supplementary Guidance

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
1	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>That Highland has a significant contribution to make on a national level because of the proportion of these designated areas that it has.</p> <p>Justification Spatial framework: Gives significant protection to Ramsar, SSSI, NNR, SPA and SAC sites, and gives some protection to amenity trees, ancient woodland of semi natural origin, TPO, Sites of Local Nature Conservation, Long Established woodland of plantation origin. By protecting designated sites, and locally important sites for habitat and species it will protect sensitive areas in the Highlands.</p> <p>Development Guidelines: It is anticipated that the development guidelines will not afford any additional protection to designated sites, however one of the key considerations in the development guidelines is that consideration should be given to the potential impact of development on all the features covered by Policy 57 (Highland-wide Local Development Plan) and not just those expanded on in the Supplementary Guidance. Reference is made to Policies 58, 59, 60 and 61 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan.</p> <p>Additional Guidance: It is unlikely that the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
2	+	+	+	++	+	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>That Highlands is less densely populated so it won't provide access to a significant amount of people when considered nationally.</p> <p>Justification Spatial framework: It does protect the more important areas so they can still be experienced but because it does not promote development within these areas, it therefore does not open up new access to them.</p> <p>Development Guidelines: The development guidelines consolidate and expand on the provisions made in Policy 57 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan. The development guidelines make provision for to assess proposals against the impact likely against a number of different features/issues. Many of these are related to opportunities to come into contact with nature and experience natural environments.</p> <p>Additional Guidance: It is unlikely that the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
3	+	+	+	+	=	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>The effect of this policy is likely to push development closer to more densely populated areas which tend to have less environment designations. That Highlands is less densely populated so it won't provide access to a significant amount of people when considered nationally.</p> <p>Justification Spatial framework: Development closer to populated areas will open up more access opportunities within these areas which are within easy reach of a large amount of people.</p> <p>Development Guidelines: The development guidelines can encourage developers to provide better opportunities for walking and cycling. The development guidelines do make provision for assessing proposals against amenity effects such as noise and shadow flicker.</p> <p>Additional Guidance: It is unlikely that the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
4	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>By giving significant protection to SACs, Ramsar and SPA we are protecting a lot of the peatland. That Highland has a significant contribution to make on a national level because of the proportion of these designated areas that it has.</p> <p>Justification Spatial framework: Significant protection of significant areas of peatland and some protection of Geological Conservation Review sites</p> <p>Development Guidelines: The Development Guidelines ask developers to identify the presence of peat and risk of landslide. However it is unlikely that the Development Guidelines will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p> <p>Additional Guidance: The additional guidance ensures that regard is had to peat issues.</p>
5	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions - That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Justification Spatial framework: No specific protection of the water environment is ensured through the Spatial Framework</p> <p>Development Guidelines: The development guidelines make provision for developers to demonstrate that development and associated infrastructure will not have a significant adverse effect on the water environment.</p> <p>Additional Guidance: It is unlikely that the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
6	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Provides an effective policy framework which provides sufficient opportunity for wind energy development in less sensitive environmental areas</p> <p>Justification Spatial framework: Provides sufficient opportunity for wind energy development which is a clean way of producing energy and helps contribute to global climate change agenda.</p> <p>Development Guidelines: It is unlikely that the Development Guidelines will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p> <p>Additional Guidance: The additional guidance encourages applications to consider carbon balancing.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
7	++	++	++	++	++	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Provides sufficient opportunity for wind energy development</p> <p>Justification Spatial framework: Provides an effective spatial policy framework which provides sufficient opportunity for wind energy development in less sensitive environmental areas.</p> <p>Development Guidelines: The development guidelines facilitate renewable energy production in Highland subject to specific criteria being met, without significant detrimental effects on the environment.</p> <p>Additional Guidance: The additional guidance ensures that regard is had to design and layout of windfarms. This should help ensure that turbines are designed and positioned to reduce impact on landscape and ensure operational efficiency.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
8	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Provides an effective policy framework which provides sufficient opportunity for wind energy development in less sensitive environmental areas which tends to promote land closer to more densely populated areas. Highlands has a large proportion of Scotland’s wind resource.</p> <p>Justification Spatial framework: Provision of opportunity for wind energy development close to more densely populated areas will promote good access opportunities. Also will enable good use of our excellent wind resource.</p> <p>Development Guidelines: The development guidelines make the provision for developers to demonstrate that proposals will not have a significant adverse effect on public access; however the effect on people’s ability to enjoy outdoor access will be minimal.</p> <p>Additional Guidance: It is unlikely that the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
9	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions - That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Justification Spatial framework: Provides significant protection for Historic Garden and Designed Landscape and some protection for Schedule Ancient Monuments, Conservation Areas and A, B and C(s) listed buildings, historic environment record and war memorials</p> <p>Development Guidelines: It is anticipated that the development guidelines will not afford any additional protection to designated sites, however one of the key considerations in the development guidelines is that consideration should be given to the potential impact of development on all the features covered by Policy 57 (Highland-wide Local Development Plan) and not just those expanded on in the Supplementary Guidance.</p> <p>Additional Guidance: It is unlikely that the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
10	++	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions - That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Justification Spatial framework: Provides significant protection to National Scenic Areas, Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes and areas of high landscape and visual sensitivity that need protection due to cumulative limit (within pilot areas). Also provides some protection of Special Landscape Areas, and Settlement Setting and setting of National Park, Special Landscape Areas, visual sensitivity from routeways, settlements and dwellings, and landscape character sensitivity. However detailed landscape and visual assessment which identifies cumulative landscape and visual limits have only been identified within parts of the Highland albeit those which are at the moment under greatest pressure from wind energy developments. In the future as other areas are under greater development pressure ideally there would be an update to the spatial framework after further Landscape and Visual Assessment.</p> <p>Development Guidelines: The development guidelines ensure that regard is had to significant effects on the landscape when proposals are being assessed. This will ensure that appropriate mitigation is put in place to avoid any detrimental effect on landscape designations.</p> <p>Additional Guidance: The additional guidance ensures that regard is had to design and layout of windfarms. This should help ensure that turbines are designed and positioned to reduce impact on landscape. However it is unlikely that the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

Conclusions and recommended mitigation:

The Spatial Framework: The Spatial Framework provides clear policy protection specific to medium to large scale wind energy proposals through spatial policy which provides the appropriate level of protection to the different features and promotes the remaining less sensitive areas through the Broad Areas of Search. Overall the SEA of this approach is that the Spatial Framework is at least neutral if not a positive addition by providing interpretation and also greater certainty as to the sensitivity of areas to medium to large scale wind energy proposals.

The Spatial Framework (within the pilot areas) also protects areas of high landscape and visual sensitivity including those that are sensitive due to the cumulative capacity being reached. However detailed landscape and visual assessment has only been carried within parts of Highland (within the pilot areas) - albeit these are the areas which are currently under greatest pressure from wind energy developments.

In the future before other areas are under significant development pressure there could be an update to the spatial framework after further Landscape and Visual Assessment. Ideally refining and rolling out the pilot landscape and visual work would eventually establish these sensitivities across the whole of Highland allowing us to feed this into the spatial framework providing greater spatial guidance and more certainty on this matter. If this roll out happens and timeously so then the medium to long term impact would be more positive than shown.

The Development Guidelines: section of the Supplementary Guidance provides a fuller interpretation of the criteria listed in Policy 67 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan. It is envisaged that the interpretation of the criteria will lead to a number of positive effects of SEA objectives 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 10. It is also considered that there may be significantly positive effects on SEA objective 7 as it should provide opportunity to significantly increase the proportion of energy from renewable sources. While the development guidelines are anticipated to have a number of positive effects there may still be localised detrimental impacts of individual proposals, it still ensures that these are considered at the planning application stage.

The Additional Guidance: The additional guidance section of the Supplementary Guidance provides information on a number of other considerations which need to be taken into account in the determination of any planning application for wind energy developments. It is envisaged that the consideration of these additional issues will lead to a number of positive effects of SEA objectives 4, 6 and 7. It is also considered that there may be no or neutral impacts on SEA objectives 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9 and 10. While the additional guidance is anticipated to have a number of positive effects there may still be localised detrimental impacts of individual proposals, it still ensures that these are considered at the planning application stage.

Alternative to adoption of the guidance as at April 2011

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
1	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>That Highland has a significant contribution to make on a national level because of the proportion of these designated areas that it has. If we had (as suggested through the consultation on the draft Supplementary Guidance) removed Long Established woodland of plantation origin from being a stage 2 to being no constraint in the Spatial Framework then protection of this habitat would be less effective.</p> <p>Justification Spatial Framework: Gives significant protection to Ramsar, SSSI, NNR, SPA and SAC sites, and gives some protection to amenity trees, ancient woodland of semi natural origin, TPO, Sites of Local Nature Conservation, Long Established woodland of plantation origin. By protecting designated sites, and locally important sites for habitat and species, it will protect most sensitive areas in the Highlands.</p> <p>Development Guidelines: The HwLDP policy says proposals must have regard to any significant effects on the list of criteria however no detail is given. It is unlikely that the absence of the fuller interpretation of the Development Guidelines will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p> <p>Additional Guidance: It is unlikely that the absence of the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
2	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>That Highlands is less densely populated so it won't provide access to a significant amount of people when considered nationally.</p> <p>Justification Spatial Framework: It does protect the more important areas so they can still be experienced, but because it does not promote development within these areas, it therefore does not open up new access to them.</p> <p>Development Guidelines: The HwLDP policy is not explicit in promoting this SEA objective. Therefore the absence of the fuller interpretation of the Development Guidelines could have a minimal negative impact on this SEA objective.</p> <p>Additional Guidance: It is unlikely that the absence of the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
3	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions - That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>The effect of this policy is likely to push development closer to more densely populated areas which tend to have less environment designations. That Highlands is less densely populated so it won't provide access to a significant amount of people when considered nationally.</p> <p>Justification Spatial Framework: Development closer to populated areas will open up more access opportunities within these areas which are within easy reach of a large amount of people.</p> <p>Development Guidelines: The HwLDP policy says proposals must have regard to any significant effects on the list of criteria however no detail is given. It is unlikely that the absence of the fuller interpretation of the Development Guidelines will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p> <p>Additional Guidance: It is unlikely that the absence of the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
4	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>By giving significant protection to SACs, Ramsar and SPA we are protecting a lot of the peatland. That Highland has a significant contribution to make on a national level because of the proportion of these designated areas that it has.</p> <p>Justification Spatial Framework: Significant protection of significant areas of peatland and some protection of Geological Conservation Review sites</p> <p>Development Guidelines: The HwLDP policy is not explicit in promoting this SEA objective. Therefore the absence of the fuller interpretation of the Development Guidelines could have a minimal negative impact on this SEA objective.</p> <p>Additional Guidance: The additional information on peat would be absent which could have a minimal negative impact on this SEA objective.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
5	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions - That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Justification Spatial Framework: No specific protection of the water environment is ensured through the Spatial Framework</p> <p>Development Guidelines: The HwLDP policy says proposals must have regard to any significant effects on the list of criteria however no detail is given. It is unlikely that the absence of the fuller interpretation of the Development Guidelines will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p> <p>Additional Guidance: It is unlikely that the absence of the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
6	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Provides an effective policy framework which provides sufficient opportunity for wind energy development. That less protection areas (compared to the draft SG) and larger broad areas of search means a more positive presumption for wind energy development.</p> <p>Justification Spatial Framework: Provides generous opportunity for wind energy development which is a clean way of producing energy and helps contribute to global climate change agenda. Compared to the draft SG there are less areas protected for landscape and visual sensitivity so it identifies less protection areas.</p> <p>Development Guidelines: The HwLDP policy is not explicit in promoting this SEA objective. Therefore the absence of the fuller interpretation of the Development Guidelines could have a minimal negative impact on this SEA objective.</p> <p>Additional Guidance: The additional information on carbon balancing would be absent which could have a minimal negative impact on this SEA objective.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
7	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Provides generous opportunity for wind energy development. That less protection areas (compared to the draft SG) and larger broad areas of search means a more positive presumption for wind energy development.</p> <p>Justification Spatial Framework: Provides an effective policy framework which provides sufficient opportunity for wind energy development. Compared to the draft SG there are less areas protected for landscape and visual sensitivity so it identifies less protection areas.</p> <p>Development Guidelines: The HwLDP policy says the Council will consider the contribution of proposal towards meeting renewable energy targets.</p> <p>Additional Guidance: It is unlikely that the absence of the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
8	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Provides an effective policy framework which provides sufficient opportunity for wind energy development in less sensitive environmental areas which tends to promote land closer to more densely populated areas. Highlands has a large proportion of Scotland’s wind resource.</p> <p>Justification Spatial Framework: Provision of opportunity for wind energy development close to more densely populated areas will promote good access opportunities. Also will enable good use of our excellent wind resource.</p> <p>Development Guidelines: The HwLDP policy says proposals must have regard to any significant effects on the list of criteria however no detail is given. It is unlikely that the absence of the fuller interpretation of the Development Guidelines will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p> <p>Additional Guidance: It is unlikely that the absence of the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
9	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions - That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>Justification Spatial Framework: Provides some protection for Historic Garden and Designed Landscape, Schedule Ancient Monuments, Conservation Areas and A, B and C(s) listed buildings, historic environment record and war memorials. It is not considered that moving Historic Garden and Designed Landscape from a Stage 1 to Stage 2 to better reflect Scottish Government policy and guidance has a significant impact on the protection of cultural heritage.</p> <p>Development Guidelines: The HwLDP policy says proposals must have regard to any significant effects on the list of criteria however no detail is given. It is unlikely that the absence of the fuller interpretation of the Development Guidelines will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p> <p>Additional Guidance: It is unlikely that the absence of the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

SEA Objective	Time Scale			Magnitude		Assumptions and Justification
	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Local	Regional	
10	=	=	=	=	=	<p>Assumptions – That the alternative is to rely on the policies of the HwLDP.</p> <p>If we had removed views over open water from being a stage 2 (as suggested through the consultation on the draft Supplementary Guidance) to being no constraint in the Spatial Framework then protection of these important views would be less clear and effective.</p> <p>Justification Spatial Framework: Provides significant protection to National Scenic Areas. Also provides some protection of Special Landscape Areas, Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, views over open water and Settlement Setting and setting of both National Park, and Special Landscape Areas. However detailed landscape and visual assessment which identifies cumulative landscape and visual limits, and some lesser protection for other landscape and visual sensitivities have not been identified.</p> <p>Development Guidelines: The HwLDP policy says proposals must have regard to any significant effects on the list of criteria however no detail is given. It is unlikely that the absence of the fuller interpretation of the Development Guidelines will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p> <p>Additional Guidance: It is unlikely that the absence of the additional guidance will have a direct effect on this SEA objective.</p>

Conclusions and recommended mitigation:

The Spatial Framework: The Spatial Framework provides clear policy protection specific to medium to large scale wind energy proposals through the provision of a spatial policy which provides the appropriate level of protection to the different features and promotes the less sensitive areas through the Areas of Search. However there are limitations to this Spatial Framework as it does not include landscape and visual sensitivities including cumulative impacts (beyond significant protection of NSA's and some protection of SLA's).

To address this deficiency the assessment of cumulative impact and other landscape and visual sensitivities could be provided by mapping these sensitivities; where it is possible and pragmatic to map them. However alternatively or in addition to this approach mitigation could be provided through additional policy/guidance on these landscape and visual sensitivities.

Development Guidelines: The absence of the development guidelines section of the Supplementary Guidance, providing a fuller interpretation of the criteria listed in Policy 67 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan could have an impact on the SEA objectives as the assessment of any proposals would be made without the extra detail provided by the development guidelines. It is envisaged that relying on the list of criteria in the HwLDP policy without the fuller interpretation available, would lead to a number minimal negative impacts for SEA objectives 2, 4 and 6. It is also considered that there may be no or neutral impacts on SEA objectives 1, 3, 5, 8, 9 and 10. It is also considered that there may be positive effects on SEA objective 7 as it should provide opportunity to increase the proportion of energy from renewable sources.

Additional Guidance: The absence of the additional guidance section of the Supplementary Guidance, providing information on a number of other considerations which need to be taken into account in the determination of any planning application for wind energy developments could have an impact on the SEA objectives as the assessment of any proposals would be made without the extra detail provided by the additional guidance. It is envisaged that without the consideration of these additional issues, it would lead to a number of minimal negative impacts for SEA objectives 4 and 6. It is also considered that there may be no or neutral impacts on SEA objectives 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Appendix 5 – Responses from the Consultation Authorities at SEA Scoping Stage

Below is all of the comments from the Consultation Authorities at Scoping Stage and how we aim to reflect these comments in the Environmental Report.

Consultation Authority Comment	Council Response
Historic Scotland	
The scoping report provides an outline of the proposed approach to the environmental assessment of the Supplementary Guidance (SG) and subject to the specific comments set out below and in an appendix (1) I am content with the scope and level of detail proposed for the SEA.	Noted
I note that a draft SG has already been out to consultation and that changes to this guidance as a result of the SEA process will be presented in a revised guidance to be issued for further consultation. In this circumstance it will be particularly important for the Environmental Report to document the effect that the SEA process has had on the evolution of the guidance.	It has been determined that the SEA Environmental Report will be carried out on the basis of the draft document which was published in April 2011. The Environmental Report will then make recommendations for changes to the guidance to maximise the positive and minimise the negative significant environmental effects.
I can confirm that I am content with the 6 week consultation period stated in the scoping report. Please note that, for administrative purposes, Historic Scotland consider that the consultation period commences on receipt of the relevant documents by the SEA Secretariat.	Noted.
Scope and Level of Detail Proposed for the Environmental Assessment I welcome that the historic environment is scoped into the assessment. Given the role that the SG will play in directing on-shore wind energy to locations it should be considered that spatially the potential remains for negative impacts on the historic environment through impacts on the setting of historic environment resources. However, it will be for the assessment to identify and offer mitigation where appropriate on any such effects.	Noted.
Reasonable Alternatives I am content with the approach to reasonable alternatives outlined in the scoping report.	Noted.
Methodology for Assessing Environmental Effects I can confirm that I am content with the SEA Objective identified for the historic environment. I also welcome that the proposed matrix will include commentary detailing the findings of the assessment. In terms of the proposed key considerations you may wish to consider including battlefields in this list.	Noted. A key consideration related to battlefields will be included.
Mitigation and Monitoring As noted in the scoping report, mitigation may involve changes to the guidance. While a reliance on the appropriate application of policy may suffice as mitigation in some instances it also may involve amending the spatial strategy. In terms of monitoring it is important to note that to a large extent any mitigation measures that are identified and required within the assessment should drive the monitoring	Noted. By carrying out the SEA at this stage we are confident that changes to the guidance/spatial framework can be brought forward to ensure the positive and negatives can be maximised/minimised respectively through the recommendations of the SEA process.

indicators and this should be borne in mind as the assessment progresses.	
<p>Next Steps</p> <p>This section is useful in setting out the steps to be undertaken in regard to the relationship between the previously published draft guidance and the SEA process. As noted above, given the early publication of a draft it will be of particular importance that the manner in which the SEA process has helped inform subsequent revisions of this draft is clearly documented in the Environment Report.</p>	Noted.
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	
As an over-arching comment for you to consider in other work, scoping has been carried out at a late stage in the guidance-writing process (the draft guidance is dated April 2011). This is disappointing because it is likely to limit the influence that the assessment will have on guidance development. To ensure that SEA is effective and useful we would encourage you to scope earlier in the plan-making process.	Noted.
We have made quite a number of comments on the proposed scope of the assessment and we are aware that SNH has suggested an alternative approach for considering the spatial element of the guidance and a detailed approach in relation to the assessment of the final Broad Areas of Search. We would be very happy to meet with you and the other consultation authorities to discuss and assist with any alternative approaches you propose to take as a result of these comments.	Noted. See comment in response to the alternative approach to SEA of the spatial strategy in SNH section of this report.
<p>General comments</p> <p>Generally the scoping report provides clear and detailed information on the proposed scope and level of detail of the assessment and covers most of the aspects that we would wish to see addressed at this stage. We do, however, have a number of suggestions as to how the ER could be more focused than is currently suggested.</p>	Noted.
<p>Relationship with other Plans, Policies and Strategies (PPS)</p> <p><i>In specific relation to this Guidance we would suggest that the following may be considered relevant PPS and guidance:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Practice During Windfarm Construction prepared by SNH, SEPA and the windfarm industry; • The Scottish Government guidance "Calculating carbon savings from windfarms on Scottish peat lands – A New Approach", which provides a revised methodology for estimating the impacts of this type of development on carbon dynamics of peat lands: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Business-Industry/Energy/Energy-sources/19185/17852-1/CSavings; 	These documents will be included and considered.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEPA's Regulatory Position Statement – Developments on Peat. 	
<p>Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment</p> <p><i>Appendix 1 provides detailed baseline data for those aspects of the environment where we have an interest. In the ER we suggest you consider focusing it more specifically onto issues which the Guidance might effect or be effected by.</i></p>	<p>Noted. The baseline information will be refined to focus on the issues which this guidance may effect.</p>
<p><i>Since most wind farms in the Highlands are on peatland we suggest that additional baseline information on peatland would be very useful. Peatland is an important habitat (many types of which are ground water dependant terrestrial ecosystems, wetlands specifically protected by the Water Framework Directive), it is a significant carbon store and there can be complicated regulatory issues relating to the disposal of waste peat. Impacts on peatland may therefore be relevant to evaluate when considering the water, climate change and soil environmental issues. The Scottish Soil Strategy (available from www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/273170/0081576.pdf) and our State of the Scotland Soils (available from www.sepa.org.uk/land/land_publications.aspx) provides useful information. Also Map 6 of the Land Use Strategy for Scotland (available from www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/345946/0115155.pdf) could be referred to as it clearly shows that peat depths are generally deepest in the Highlands (and Western Isles and Shetland). We appreciate that finding useful soil information at a regional level is more difficult but we suggest that information may be available from The James Hutton Institute (www.hutton.ac.uk/) or from the Soil Survey from Scotland Soil 1:250,000 maps.</i></p>	<p>Noted. We will include additional information on this however there are limitations to the data which we hold and these will be explained/explored in the Environmental Report.</p>
<p>You have already covered much of the relevant baseline data which we have on the water environment. We would however suggest that now that the River Basin Management Plan Area Management Plans have been published they probably provide the most easily accessible information on water ecology for the area. These are available from our website at www.sepa.org.uk/water/river_basin_planning/area_advisory_groups.aspx</p>	<p>Noted this will be updated.</p>
<p><i>In Table 2 it would be helpful if you outlined what material assets you think are relevant to this Guidance; this would help frame the related SEA objective and key considerations. For example, in relation to SEPA's interests we would wish to ensure that management of materials and wastes is either covered here or under "soil". There is a need for wind farm developments to minimise the amount of soil, peat and over-burden they disturb, maximise the amount that can usefully be reused</i></p>	<p>Noted. We will make changes to the layout of the guidance to clarify the situation.</p>

<p><i>and limited the material which needs to be considered as waste and therefore have to be disposed off.</i></p>	
<p>Alternatives</p> <p><i>Based on the information provided, we agree that not producing the guidance is not a reasonable alternative in this instance. We note that a variety of different alternative ways of producing the spatial framework and of developing the guidelines are considered as the reasonable alternatives and we are satisfied with this approach.</i></p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Scoping in/out of SEA objectives</p> <p><i>We are satisfied with the proposal to scope out air. We consider that the Guidance could influence local air quality, but not at a strategically significant level.</i></p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Scope and level of detail proposed for environmental assessment</p> <p><i>We expect all aspects of the Guidance which are likely to have significant effects to be assessed. We agree, based on the information provided to date, that all elements of your Guidance are not likely to have significant effects and we consider it a very useful approach to try to qualify this at this scoping stage; one of the recommendations which has come out of the recent SEA review includes the need for more focused scoping.</i></p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>However, we are not altogether in agreement with the proposal to scope out some of the elements that you propose and adopting a similar approach to your own our comments in relation to this are provided in the table below.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Guidance proposed to be scoped out	SEPA's comments	We will update our Environmental Report and what sections of the guidance we will be scoping in and out in accordance with the responses of the Consultation Authorities.
Types of wind energy	<p><i>We consider that the capacity criteria that are used to categorise the scale of development (Table 2) could result in significant effects on the environment. This is because the category that the development will fall into will determine the advice and guidance which applies. For example, following the general principle that tighter controls will be placed on large developments, if a lower threshold is applied for developments to be categories as "large", then tighter controls will be placed on more developments, which may result in less negative effects on the environment. We have presumed that the reason for the categorisations is mainly based on other published policy and guidance (such as the 20 MW capacity criteria for medium / large scale developments being based on the Onshore Wind Turbines, the web-based advice that has replaced PAN 45). As this is the case we are not specifically requesting that this element be subject to assessment, but suggest that the ER would benefit from further justification.</i></p>	
Stage 1	<p>Contrary to what is stated we do not consider that this section relates to methodology only. However, having reviewed the Scottish Planning Policy <i>Process for preparing spatial frameworks for windfarms</i>, we accept that there is a very strong steer on what should be included in the stage 1 screening process. We would suggest that this limits the number of reasonable alternatives (perhaps to none?) but does not negate the need to assess the effect it will have. Based on the information provided to date we consider that Stage 1 should be scoped into the assessment and recommend that if you decide not to include it then a clear argument for its exclusion should be included in the ER.</p>	

Traffic and Transport Interests Guideline	It is our experience that to facilitate the delivery of large scale components modifications to the existing road infrastructure are often required. While each is relatively small in scale they are high in number and many directly impact on the water environment (new bridges or bridge strengthening being examples). As a result we consider that this element of windfarm development could have effects on the environment and the Guidance could help mitigate these negative effects. As a result it would be our preference that this section was scoped into the assessment.	
Forestry	<p>We agree that there is a trend towards targeting commercial forestry plantations for windfarm developments.</p> <p>If turbines are not key-holed into the forestry then the areas are usually clear-felled. The current economic climate means that there is no market for much of the wood and it is being felled and left on site. As such these proposals can have significant waste management implications.</p> <p>In addition, forest practice has changed significantly in recent years and we have a number of forests in areas such as the Flow Country, which more modern practices would suggest would be better returned to peatland, rather than being replanted. Windfarms are being targeted into these areas for the reasons you outline in the draft guidance; they already have good infrastructure.</p> <p>Due to the potential effects in relation to waste management, peatland and carbon balance/climate change we therefore request that forestry be scoped into the assessment.</p>	
Site restoration	We consider that the current draft proposals to ensure that a financial bond is secured for every wind farm will positively help to restore or improve the water and soil environment. As we consider that there could be significant positive effects we ask that this be scoped in.	
Mitigation	We consider that the current draft proposals to ensure mitigation will positively help to protect the water and soil environment. As we consider that there could be significant positive effects we ask that this be scoped in.	
We suggest that the same level of rigor in assessment need not necessarily be applied equally to all		

SEA objectives for all assessments. The assessments should concentrate efforts where significant effects are thought most likely. For example, we would have no concerns if a light touch approach was taken to assessing the water objectives when considering the <i>Landscape and Visual Impact</i> section.	
Method of assessing environmental effects We note that the SEA objectives are derived from those used in the Highland-wide Local Development Plan, which is reasonable. However, we would welcome it if you considered rephrasing some of them to make them more specifically relevant to this Guidance.	Noted
Land contamination is not a significant problem associated with on shore wind energy, whereas impacts on peatland is. As a result we suggest that the soil SEA objective is rephrased to take this into consideration. For example, "Reduce impacts on peatland and safeguard soil quality and quantity", or similar.	Noted. The SEA objective will be revised accordingly.
In this instance, again taking into consideration the guidance subject, climatic factors may be better served by a SEA objective which tries to maximum the carbon balance of developments, rather than an adaptation SEA objective.	Noted. We will seek to amend the wording of the objective and agree this with the Consultation Authorities.
We welcome the clear setting out of the proposed scoring at this stage; as a reminder the purpose of SEA is to concentrate on identifying significant effects.	Noted.
<i>We are also supportive of your use of "key considerations"; a practical approach which helps to make the assessment process more transparent and easier to understand. We do however, again suggest that you re-evaluate whether all the key considerations outlined are relevant to this Guidance. For example in relation to human health, will the guidance have any effect on healthy lifestyle? An alternative question you may wish to consider for human health relates to protecting people and homes from the risk of peat slide. Although it has not to date been a problem in Scotland, it is perceived by the public as a significant issue, and it is usually considered by developers.</i>	Noted. The key considerations will be reviewed and revised as necessary.
<i>When it comes to providing the assessment of effects please provide enough information to clearly justify the reasons for each of the assessments presented. It would also be helpful to set out assumptions that are made during the assessment and difficulties and limitations encountered.</i>	Noted. This will be carried out as a matter of course.
<i>We would encourage you to use the assessment as a way to improve the environmental performance of individual aspects of the final guidance. Proposals for enhancement would also be supported.</i>	Noted.
Mitigation <i>We remind you that one of the most important ways to mitigate significant environmental effects identified through the assessment is to make changes to the Guidance itself so that significant effects</i>	Noted. This will be tracked and a section contained within the Environmental Report on the changes that have been made. While in doing this there is an overlap with the role of the post-adoption statement we consider

<p>are avoided. The ER should therefore identify any changes made to the Guidance as a result of the environmental assessment.</p>	<p>given the stage of the guidance and the SEA that in this instance it is appropriate.</p>												
<p>Where the mitigation proposed does not relate to modifications to the Guidance itself then it should be clear how the mitigation will be achieved and by whom. These should follow the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate). It would be extremely helpful to set out all mitigation measures in a way that clearly identified: (1) the measures required, (2) when they would be required and (3) who will be required to implement them. A summary table could be included as part of the preparation of the ER. We provide an example below which may be helpful:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="120 488 1294 651"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="120 488 398 552">Issue / Impact Identified in ER</th> <th data-bbox="405 488 801 552">Mitigation Measure</th> <th data-bbox="808 488 1037 552">Lead Authority</th> <th data-bbox="1043 488 1294 552">Proposed Timescale</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="120 557 398 620">Insert effect recorded in ER</td> <td data-bbox="405 557 801 620">Insert mitigation measure to address effect</td> <td data-bbox="808 557 1037 620">Insert as appropriate</td> <td data-bbox="1043 557 1294 620">Insert as appropriate</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="120 625 398 651">etc</td> <td data-bbox="405 625 801 651">etc</td> <td data-bbox="808 625 1037 651">etc</td> <td data-bbox="1043 625 1294 651">etc</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This table is cited as an example, but demonstrates how measures could be clearly identified, allocated to lead authorities and then, through the monitoring process, tracked regarding progress.</p>	Issue / Impact Identified in ER	Mitigation Measure	Lead Authority	Proposed Timescale	Insert effect recorded in ER	Insert mitigation measure to address effect	Insert as appropriate	Insert as appropriate	etc	etc	etc	etc	<p>Noted. We will implement the mitigation hierarchy and set out in a tabular format how and when the mitigation will be implemented.</p>
Issue / Impact Identified in ER	Mitigation Measure	Lead Authority	Proposed Timescale										
Insert effect recorded in ER	Insert mitigation measure to address effect	Insert as appropriate	Insert as appropriate										
etc	etc	etc	etc										
<p>Monitoring</p> <p>Although not specifically required at this stage, monitoring is a requirement of the Act and early consideration should be given to a monitoring approach particularly in the choice of indicators. It would be helpful if the ER included a description of the measures envisaged to monitor the significant environmental effects of the plan.</p>	<p>Noted. This will be included.</p>												
<p>Next steps</p> <p>We are satisfied with the proposal for a six week consultation period for the ER. If the period falls over the Christmas holidays it would, however, be very much appreciate if it could be lengthened slightly.</p> <p>We would also find helpful if the ER included a summary record of the scoping outcomes, and how comments from the consultation authorities were taken into account.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>												

Scottish Natural Heritage	
<p>Scope of assessment and level of detail Subject to the specific comments set out below and in the annex to this letter, we are content with the</p>	

<p>scope and level of detail proposed for the environmental report.</p> <p>1. It was not clear in the scoping report whether the Broad Areas of Search (BAS) as identified in the spatial framework will be subject to SEA on a comprehensive 'site by site' basis. We feel such an approach should be taken to BAS as for proposals sites allocated in a development plan. This would mean somehow defining the BAS into coherent locations and numbering/naming them e.g. 'Redpoint', 'Central Skye', or into coherent combinations of sites. This seems to be the crux of the assessment of Stages 1-4 of the supplementary guidance to consider if any residual significant environmental effects remain after carrying out the 'sieving' stages 1-3. This will also allow for the cumulative impact of the BAS to be considered (allowing for Stage 1 areas in future to be expanded because of cumulative limits being reached) and for alternative spatial strategies to be examined.</p>	<p>It is the view of the Council that in order to produce a practical and proportionate strategic environmental assessment that the broad areas of search should not be assessed as pseudo allocations. It is considered that by undertaking an SEA of the sieving process and its alternatives that the general principles have guided the identification of broad areas of search. We consider that any specific broad area of search assessment either related to individual or groups of broad areas of search would add little to the process given the methodology for their identification would be subject to SEA. In addition by carrying out assessments on the broad areas of search it would be difficult to draw the line as to where the assessment should end given that features just out with a broad area of search may still be impacted by an on-shore wind energy development within a broad area of search so while the spatial framework will identify the site as an area of search it need to be assessed in combination with the policy approach. We will set the above out clearly in the Environmental Report.</p>
<p>2. It was also not particularly clear how the SEA process is going to be applied as an integral part of the process of working on the revised version of the draft guidance, rather than as a separate exercise afterwards. It is very important that the SEA should inform the development of the plan. To this end we have suggested issues to consider under the SEA topics and baseline information that should assist with the 'sieving' nature of this guidance, to ensure that resultant BAS are as robust as possible.</p>	<p>Noted. See above comment to Historic Scotland on this issue and the approach which will be taken.</p>
<p>3. We recommend the following elements of the supplementary guidance proposed for scoping out in this report are scoped in -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Stage 1 of the Spatial Framework – Tourism, Recreation and Film Industry Interests (unless this is all covered under other headings, e.g. landscape, access, population) – Traffic and Transport – Forestry – Electricity Transmission Cables and Lines (unless this is solely the physical protection of existing infrastructure) – Site Restoration – Mitigation 	<p>Noted. These will be included within the assessment.</p>

<p>4. Following on from the above we recommend that under the SEA topic of 'Population' should be considered issues around access, recreation, tourism and the impact on settlements, while under the SEA topic of 'Material assets' should be considered impacts on the sustainable forest estate and the transport infrastructure.</p>	<p>Noted. These changes will be made and as set out in response to comment from SEPA above we will include a table of what we consider to be covered by each SEA topic for clarity.</p>
<p>Consultation period for the environmental report We note that a period of 6 weeks is proposed for consultation on the Environmental Report, in tandem with the second consultation draft of the supplementary guidance. However we also note that it is anticipated that the consultation period would commence at the end of November. This would mean that it would coincide with the Christmas-New Year period. Given therefore office closures and annual leave at this time, we recommend that if the consultation period takes place at this time of year it is increased to 8 weeks.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Relationships with other PPS 21 and 22 – these entries for the OSPAR Convention and the EU Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution have been mixed up with the Birds Directive (24) 25 – this entry for the EU Habitats Directive appears to be mixed up with a noise strategy. The key issue from the Habitats Directive is the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), the protection for European Protected Species and the recognition of Article 10 'wildlife corridor' features 30 – this entry for the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 should refer to protected species (birds, animals and plants) as well as SSSIs 36 – this entry seems to mix together a number of PPS in respect of birds, which should be separated. The Birds Directive has already been referred to under 'International' and covers migratory species as well as Annex 1 species. Schedule 1 species should be referred to under the entry for the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Birds of Conservation Concern could be listed separately – see http://www.bto.org/science/monitoring/psob 41 – this entry for the Planning Etc (Scotland) Act 2006 should include reference to the general provisions included re National Scenic Areas 49 – this entry for the Habitats Regulations as well as referring to European sites should also refer to European Protected Species 79 – this entry for the Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967 should include reference to s.66 which imposes a general duty on all public bodies to have regard to the desirability of conserving the natural heritage of Scotland in the exercising of their functions 83 – please note 'European Protected Species, Development Sites and the Planning System' was published by the Scottish Executive/Government, not by SNH An entry in this respect should be added for the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 which includes provisions in respect of protected species (e.g. water vole in relation to wind farms) and invasive non-native species 90 – please note there is now a 2010 edition of Renewables Trends in Scotland – see http://www.snh.gov.uk/planning-and-development/renewableenergy/research-data-and-</p>	<p>These will be included and considered in preparation of the next draft of the document.</p>

<p>trends/trendsandstats/</p> <p>We welcome references to various SNH documents under the 'National' banner but note omission of the Bird Sensitivity Map (joint with RSPB) – http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/sensitivitymapreport_tcm9-157990.pdf</p> <p>We also note omission of our own Strategic Locational Guidance for Onshore Windfarms at the national level – http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/A247182.pdf</p> <p>The following web page includes these and other SNH guidance documents relating to onshore wind energy – http://www.snh.gov.uk/planning-and-development/renewableenergy/onshore-wind/</p> <p>98 – Cumulative Effects of Windfarms – this should be noted as an SNH publication, dated 2005 (see above web reference)</p> <p>An important omission is the Scottish Soil Framework, very relevant in terms of the significance of carbon-rich soils – see http://passthrough.fwnotify.net/download/230748/http://scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/273170/0081576.pdf</p> <p>Material from the James Hutton Institute e.g. in relation to montane habitats and peat depth could be added here</p> <p>The list of PANs and Circulars could be more targeted for this particular supplementary guidance. Circular 9/1987 with regard to development control in National Scenic Areas should however be added.</p> <p>163 – this entry under Scottish National Planning Policy Tier for the Land Use Strategy for Scotland would be better in the preceding section ('Scotland National')</p> <p>Under the Natural Heritage Futures Series (205-212) should be added the NHF document for Orkney and North Caithness – (entitled 'Orkney' only on our website) – see http://www.snh.gov.uk/about-snh/what-we-do/nhf/nhf-downloads/</p>	
<p>Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment</p> <p>Reference to SPAs should be included in the sentence on international designations. There should be discussion added on the richness of Highland's biodiversity more generally than simply with reference to designated sites. This could for example relate to priority habitats and species in UK and Local Biodiversity Action Plans and Biodiversity Lists. The carbon storage property of peat should be noted. Some discussion should be added about the diversity and distinctiveness of landscapes in Highland. We welcome the reference to wild land here. The preponderance of Munros and Corbetts in Highland, and the role this plays in outdoor recreation, access and tourism could be discussed and noted.</p>	<p>Noted. It is the intention that this section of the ER will be re-worded and re-formatted to provide clarity and to expand on some points including those mentioned in this comment.</p>
<p>Environmental Problems</p> <p>Biodiversity, flora and fauna –</p> <p>The environmental problems could be more precisely stated e.g. – – Impact on birds in the 'wider countryside' through potential disturbance to breeding or roosting/feeding areas and potential collision</p>	<p>Noted. These changes will be made for clarification purposes.</p>

<p>risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Indirect impact on Special Protection Areas by effecting areas with connectivity to sites – Cumulative impact on bird species – Impact (including cumulatively) on montane habitats and peatland vegetation 	
<p>Soil –</p> <p>This recognises the environmental issue of deeper peat but we are unsure how ‘the guidance will seek to guide developments away from areas where there are features which are likely to be significantly negatively impacted by onshore wind energy development’. Although SACs include peatlands, these do not represent the entirety of this resource. We commented in our response on the first draft that peat depth data may be available to the Council from the James Hutton Institute.</p>	<p>Noted. See comment above to SEPA on this comment.</p>
<p>Material assets –</p> <p>This might consider transport, given that access has been considered under ‘Population’. It might also consider forestry, given this is referred to later in the guidance.</p>	<p>Noted. The ER will clearly define what is being considered under each SEA topic.</p>
<p>Landscape -</p> <p>Here again the environmental problems could be more precisely stated e.g. –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Impact on wildland – Impact on landscapes whose character offers limited or no capacity to accommodate development – Indirect impact on designated areas (NSAs and SLAs plus the National Park) – Impact on tourist routes and key tourism attractions – Impact on outdoor recreation (Munros, Corbetts, Long Distance Routes, longer rights-of-way) – Impact on settlements (although this could go under ‘Population’) – Cumulative landscape and visual impact <p>The aim should be to avoid the degradation of national as well as local and regional landscape character. Cumulative issues are a key ‘environmental problem’ that should be added here. This should be reflected in the ‘implications’ column e.g. ‘The guidance should be used as a positive tool to guide onshore wind energy developments to areas where they will have minimal impact, including cumulatively, on national, regional and local landscape character and on the distinctiveness of Highland’s landscapes’.</p>	<p>Noted. We will clarify this section in accordance with the comment.</p>
<p>Scope and Level of Detail Proposed</p> <p>Introduction –</p> <p>Given that this includes targets for onshore wind energy in Highland up to 2050 (2900 MW) which presumably inform the extent of the broad areas of search in the spatial framework, we are unclear why the scoping report says that this will have no effect on the environment and is intended for scoping out. However it may be possible here to rely on any SEA carried out for the Highland Renewable Energy Strategy.</p>	<p>These targets have been defined by other documents and included in this guidance as a reference. The Higher level documents have been subject to SEA.</p>
<p>Stages 1 – 4</p>	<p>Noted. Having considered the comment we will assess</p>

<p>It is not the case that Stage 1 is concerned with methodology only any more so than Stages 2-4. So it is unclear why it is proposed to scope this stage out and scope the other stages in. Stage 1 should be scoped in. Having said that, we do wonder whether a more practical approach would be to concentrate on the Stage 4 areas (broad areas of search) and to consider these for any likely significant effects on the range of environmental issues in the SEA. This would capture any residual effects not picked up through Stages 1-3. For this purpose the broad areas of search would need to be identified into separate zonal areas (e.g. 'Central Monadhliath', 'Central Skye' or other larger scale coherent combinations). This SEA would then become a much more spatially focused SEA, similar to SEA of Proposals Sites in a Development Plan. Also if policies were set out in the revised supplementary guidance not only for Areas to be Afforded Significant Protection, but also for Areas of Other Constraints, Refinement Areas, and Broad Areas of Search, then these could each individually be subject to SEA and so pick up the themes of Stages 1-4.</p>	<p>this section as well.</p>
<p>Development Guidelines – For those aspects scoped in, the SEA could be focused on the subject at hand – e.g. the development guideline on landscape and visual impact could focus on SEA Objectives relating to landscape, with a view to ensuring positive effects are maximised. Re 'Other Tourism, Recreation and Film Industry Interests' – the ability to scope this out depends on the amount of overlap with other parts of the development guidelines scoped in (landscape and visual impact, and public access). For example if these do not cover say views from tourist routes and from Munros and Corbetts, then this issue should cover these and this issue scoped in. Also we note reference here to impact of windfarms on forestry which is not covered elsewhere and so for this reason too we do not believe this part of the guidance should be scoped out. See above for suggestion that forestry could be included as a material asset. Re 'Traffic and Transport Interests' – see above suggestion that transport infrastructure be included as a material asset, in which case this part of the guidance should then be scoped in.</p>	<p>Noted. Revisions will be made and clarity given on these matters in the ER.</p>
<p>Additional Guidance – Forestry – see above re scoping this in under 'material assets' to enable effects on Highland's forest resource to be considered. Electricity Transmission Cables and Lines – this should not be scoped out if this part of the guidance relates to the connection infrastructure for wind farms to the grid network. On the other hand if this part of the guidance is concerned with the physical protection of the existing grid system from nearby wind turbine developments, it could be scoped out. Site Restoration and Mitigation – these are proposed for scoping out on the basis of what was included here in the April 2011 first draft. However if other material is included here in the later draft this may need to be reconsidered, because in principle issues around site restoration and mitigation could have likely significant environmental effects, particularly on habitat/biodiversity.</p>	<p>Noted. Revisions will be made and clarity given on these matters in the ER. With regard to electricity cables it is concerned only with protection of existing lines.</p>
<p>Appendix 1: Spatial Framework – Landscape and Visual Guidance – For the spatial dimension of this work in the two pilot areas, caution will be needed to avoid 'double-</p>	<p>Having given consideration to this comment and in order to avoid double handling of work the Council have</p>

<p>handling' of work, since these areas will already have featured in the Stage 1-4 work above. Also Type 4 areas shown here will not have been considered for anything but landscape at this stage, so it is inevitable that as shown in this appendix these will not allow for such other issues as nature conservation designations or the cultural heritage. Therefore there is a risk of abortive work here (where landscape is the sole issue) rather than at Stages 1-4 (where all factors are considered)</p>	<p>decided that in assessing this section we will consider only the SEA objectives and key consideration related to landscape and visual impact.</p>
<p>Reasonable Alternative We agree that alternatives will exist if different methodologies are carried out for the Stage 1-4 'sieving' exercise e.g. what to include under Stages 2 and 3 (subject to those elements that are stipulated in PAN 45 Annex 2). Such alternatives might include as a result greater or lesser use of criteria-type inclusion in the guidance as opposed to map-based coverage. Alternative methodologies may be considered for the ongoing pilot areas work in terms say of the classification of different landscape policy types. This could be considered and reported as part of the SEA here. We agree that the alternatives of an 'evolutionary' spatial framework (beginning with the two pilot areas) and a 'comprehensive' spatial framework (where landscape and visual assessment for the whole of Highland is incorporated at the outset) should be mentioned. Any alternatives with regard to the Development Guidelines would we suggest be limited by the need to remain compliant with Policy 67 of HwLDP.</p>	<p>Noted. This will be clarified and included in the ER.</p>
<p>Scoping In/Out We are content that all the environmental issues apart from air should be scoped in. We do not agree that it can be anticipated that likely significant environmental effects will be positive rather than negative. This is a matter for the SEA process to work through as the guidance is revised from the April 2011 version. What is desirable is that the SEA process is ingrained by the Council into the Stage 1-4 process, and broad areas of search are tested against the SEA Objectives and modified if necessary as an integral part of the plan preparation. It should of course be said that some SEA Objectives are mutually exclusive i.e. climatic factors (which encourage renewable energy generation) will be negative for the areas afforded significant protection from wind energy development e.g. on biodiversity grounds. Such a negative score (unlike elsewhere) does not automatically imply mitigation measures are required.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Methodology for Assessing Environmental Effects (and Appendix 2) Biodiversity, flora and fauna – This should be looking to include considerations that can be taken into account as the spatial framework 'sieving' is carried out, so that the SEA process informs the plan. Adjustments can then be made if necessary as the plan progresses. Given topics that are prescribed anyway in PAN 45 Annex 2 (e.g. European sites and SSSIs) other useful issues would be – – Indirect effects on European sites and SSSIs (connectivity) – Effects on sensitive bird species to wind farms (as say included in the RSPB-SNH Bird Sensitivity Map) – Effects on other protected species (e.g. wildcat, water vole)</p>	<p>Noted the key consideration can be updated as per the comment.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Effects on montane habitats and upland/peatland vegetation – Cumulative effects, on designated sites, birds and other protected species <p>We note (and welcome) reference to green networks elsewhere under ‘Climate Change’</p>	
<p>Population –</p> <p>If this aspect of the SEA is covering access, recreation and tourism, then issues to consider would be –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Effects on core paths and rights of way – Effects on Long Distance Routes (including their setting) – Effects on popular mountain areas (Munros and Corbetts) – Effects on tourist routes and key tourism attractions – Effects on the ability to enjoy outdoor access <p>If this is also covering settlements, then another issue would be –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Effect on the setting of and visual impact from settlements 	This will be clarified in the Environmental Report.
<p>Human health –</p> <p>If active recreation (walking and cycling) was covered under ‘Population’ as above, then this SEA topic could focus as listed on –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Noise – Shadow flicker 	This will be clarified in the Environmental Report.
<p>Soil –</p> <p>We agree the references here to carbon-rich soils (e.g. peat) and to geodiversity. Either here or under ‘Water’ should be added a reference to avoiding increased risk of peat slide.</p>	Soil will cover the issue of peat slide risk, the key considerations will be updated as per the comment.
<p>Climate Change –</p> <p>We welcome reference here to the protection of the green network. Here could be added references to whether the plan will avoid effects on habitats and species most at risk from climate change e.g. montane habitat and peatland, and bird species susceptible to climate change.</p>	The key considerations will be updated as per the comment.
<p>Material assets –</p> <p>As discussed above, this could include Highland’s forestry resource (e.g. ‘Will the plan maintain a sustainable forest stock?’) and transport infrastructure (e.g. ‘Will the plan avoid effects on roads and bridges?’)</p>	The key considerations will be updated as per the comment.
<p>Landscape –</p> <p>We agree the coverage in Appendix 2 which includes –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Effect on wildland/areas with strong qualities of wildness – Indirect effect on NSAs, SLAs and National Parks – Effect on landscape character – Cumulative effects 	Noted.
<p>The cumulative assessment should include a consideration of the spatial framework as a whole (i.e. all the BAS that have been assessed beforehand individually) – however this is tied into the issue of how</p>	The cumulative assessment will comprise of an assessment of the cumulative, secondary and

<p>the Council would modify the strategy over time to allow for cumulative limits being reached, and so expanding Type 1 areas.</p>	<p>synergistic effects of the spatial framework, the policy guidance, the policy in the Highland-wide Local Development Plan and the related national, and local outcomes from the Single Outcome Agreement 2. for the reasons outlined above it is not the intention to assess each of the broad areas of search either individually or in groups.</p>
<p>Next Steps If the consultation period is to be from late-November for 6 weeks, this will include the Christmas and New Year period when offices for example will be shut, and so allowance should be made for this, e.g. increase to 8 weeks.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Appendix 1 – Baseline Information Population and Human Health – If these elements of the SEA are to cover access, recreation and tourism, then relevant baseline data ought to relate to – – distribution of Long Distance Routes, longer rights of way and core paths in Highland – distribution of popular mountain areas in Highland – distribution of tourist routes and key visitor attractions in Highland Viewsheds from these should be considered, and the extent to which these are already within the ZTV of existing windfarms. This baseline data may be available from the Macaulay Study. If the visual impact on settlements is to be considered under this, baseline data should be included for the distribution of settlements, their viewsheds and extent to which these are already within the ZTV of existing windfarms. Again the Macaulay Study may assist with this.</p>	<p>Noted. Where possible the identified baseline will be included and considered.</p>
<p>Material assets – If this element of the SEA is to cover transport and sustainable forestry, as discussed above, then relevant baseline data would relate to – – distribution of public roads in Highland and their condition/quality (including bridges) – the commercial forest estate in Highland and age range</p>	<p>Noted. Where possible the identified baseline will be included and considered.</p>
<p>Climate factors – As well as renewable energy generation and flood risk areas, if this element of the SEA is to cover habitats and species at risk from climate change, then relevant baseline data ought to relate to – – distribution of habitats vulnerable to climate change – strategic green networks for the movement of species Information on montane, upland and peatland habitats should be available from the James Hutton Institute.</p>	<p>Noted. Where possible the identified baseline will be included and considered.</p>
<p>Soil and Waste – This should include –</p>	<p>Noted. Where possible the identified baseline will be included and considered.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – distribution of carbon-rich soils, especially deep peat – geodiversity sites (GCR and Local Geodiversity Sites) – slope could be added here as an indicator of peat slide risk 	
<p>Landscape - As well as NSAs, SLAs and Landscape Character Assessments, it is essential this component of the baseline information includes wildness qualities. Baseline information is available on our website – especially Search Areas for Wild Land (SAWL) – pending our providing you with preliminary map data on wildness: http://www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/looking-afterlandscapes/landscape-policy-and-guidance/wild-land/wild-land-policy/</p> <p>The Special Qualities Reports for NSAs as well as the Citations for SLAs should form part of the baseline information. Reference should also be made to ‘Landscape Strategy and assessment guidance for wind energy development within Caithness and Sutherland’ (SNH Commissioned Report no. 087)</p>	<p>Noted. Where possible the identified baseline will be included and considered.</p>
<p>Biodiversity, flora and fauna – This table lists European sites, SSSIs, NNRs and LNRs, although it should be borne in mind that indirect effects on such sites may occur through connectivity. The RSPB-SNH Bird Sensitivity Map (2006) should be added here - http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/sensitivitymapreport_tcm9-157990.pdf Annex 1 habitats should be included within the baseline, especially the key upland habitats of blanket bog, wet and dry heaths and montane heaths (see MLURI/JHI data). The Ancient Woodland Inventory should be listed here rather than under Landscape. Key species distribution data may be able to be considered via data on our own and on the NBN Gateway websites – http://www.snh.gov.uk/about-scotlands-nature/species/species-sightingsin-your-area/http://data.nbn.org.uk/</p>	<p>Noted. Where possible the identified baseline will be included and considered.</p>
<p>Maps National Nature Reserves – Inchnadamph is shown on the map as an NNR but is no longer one The scale of the map may be too small to show them, but it was difficult to see if (a) Corrieshalloch Gorge and (b) Rassal Oakwood NNRs are included on the map.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Special Protection Areas – The map does not show the following new SPAs in Highland – – Foinaven – Glen Affric to Strathconon – Moidart and Ardgour</p>	<p>Noted.</p>