

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

PART 1

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PART 2

An SEA Scoping Report is attached for the plan, programme or strategy (PPS) entitled:

On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance

The Responsible Authority is:

The Highland Council

PART 3

Please tick the appropriate box

The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. **or**

The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. **or**

The PPS does not require an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, as this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 5 week timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed.

PART 4

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PART 5

Signature (electronic signature is acceptable)	
Date	19 th July 2011

Introduction

The purpose of this Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report is to set out sufficient information on the On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance to enable the Consultation Authorities to form a view on the consultation period and scope/level of detail that will be appropriate for the Environmental Report.

The Consultation Authorities will be aware that The Highland Council have already produced a draft of this guidance and undertaken public consultation. This draft may be subject to significant changes following consideration of the representations made during the consultation and the undertaking of the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Appraisal of the document. There will be further consultation to make it clear how the process will progress in terms of SEA from this point please see the "Next Steps" section of this Scoping Report.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

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 particular reference to PAN45 Annex 2. Scottish Government has been reviewing PAN45 and its Annexes and has recently (February 2011) published replacement national guidance and advice; any implications for this Supplementary Guidance document will be considered by the Council following the phase of public consultation that we are holding on this version.

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 HwLDP and this document. 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 68 – Renewable Energy of the Highland wide Local Development Plan.

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Description of the Guidance Content

Consultation authorities will be aware that a draft of the document has already been made available for comment. A summary of it's 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 will include 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 will provide 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 will provide 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 will provide 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 will 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 will also be included.

CONTEXT

Relationship with other plans, programmes or strategies and environmental objectives

Table 1 lists the plans, policies and strategies which are relevant to the On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance and which may affect or influence its content. The contents of each plan, policy and strategy along with the relationship to the On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance and likely environmental impacts, is also summarised. We would welcome the Consultation Authorities' views on any additional plans, policies or strategies which we may wish to consider.

Table 1. Plans, programmes, strategies and environmental objectives to be analysed in the Environmental Report for their relationship with On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance

No.	Name of PPS / Environmental protection objective	Objective/Requirements of Plan/Programme	How it affects, or is affected 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 affecting 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 CO ₂ , 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 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.	The guidance will work with the Highland wide Local Development Plan and the Corporate Plan which seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Bill will influence the targets and delivery of the Corporate Plan objectives and it will affect 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	Protection scheme for all of Europe's wild birds, identifying 194 species and sub-species.	Provides a framework for the conservation of wild birds in Europe. The Directive requires the identification of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) to conserve rare or vulnerable species.
22	EU Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution (2005)	Aims to sustain populations of naturally occurring wild birds by sustaining areas of habitats in order to maintain populations at ecologically and scientifically sound levels.	Adequate consideration will be given to the impacts affecting biodiversity, with support for more detailed assessment at the local level where appropriate.
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 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.	The guidance will have due regard to the provisions of the convention and how this has been interpreted locally.
24	EC Birds Directive	The Directive provides a framework for the	The guidance will take the

	(2009)	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.	directive into account in when creating the spatial framework.
25	EC Habitats Directive (1992)	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 will take this strategy into consideration when creating the spatial framework.
National			
25	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.
26	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.
27	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.
28	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 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.	The guidance should take account of current and future air transport proposals and the affect on-shore wind energy can have on these interests.
29	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.
30	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 and	There are a number of SSSIs in the guidance area. The guidance should recognise their statutory

		priority habitats from development influences.	importance and strive to ensure they are adequately protected.
31	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.
32	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.
33	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.
34	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 competitive energy sector that is rooted here in Scotland 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	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.
35	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
36	Migratory Species and birds of conservation concern on the Red and	This is a list of the migratory species and birds that are afforded additional protection.	The guidance will have due regard to the impact of on-shore wind energy developments in

	amber lists – Schedules 1, 5, 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)		relation to these species.
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	Sets out the guiding principles that have to be adhered to in order to achieve the goal of sustainable development. The following principles set out the framework for all sustainable development policy within the UK: <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	Part 1 of the Act introduces: <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; Part 2 introduces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - community's right to buy Part 3 introduces: <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; 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 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 	The guidance should consider the provisions of the outdoor 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	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 three themes of the strategy support SEA objectives through the promotion of rural economic development and communities, natural heritage and landscape

	Strategic Plan	<p>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:</p> <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. 	<p>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.</p>
45	Scotland's Biodiversity (2004) It's In Your Hands. A Strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland	<p>Vision: 'It's 2030: Scotland is recognised as a world leader in biodiversity conservation. Everyone is involved; everyone benefits. The nation is enriched'</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conserve what we have - sustain healthy ecosystems - create networks and connections - engage more people - promote sustainable development <p>The strategy also underlines the need to promote understanding and appreciation of natural heritage.</p>	<p>Sets out the overall approach to biodiversity conservation and enhancement which the guidance should contribute towards.</p>
46	Scottish Historic Environment Policy (2008) (HS)	<p>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.</p>	<p>Guidance will take into consideration the SHEP when formulating policies on the built and cultural heritage of Highland.</p>
47	Scottish Executive(2001) A Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture	<p>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.</p>	<p>The guidance should take account of the concerns and opinions of local crofters, farmers, estate managers and landholders in the provision of new development.</p>
48	Scottish Executive (2004) Framework for Economic Development in Scotland	<p>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.'</p> <p>Key objectives include economic growth, regional development and closing the opportunity gap.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The guidance should reflect and build on the emphasis for environmentally sustainable ways of developing business.</p>
49	The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)	<p>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.</p>	<p>The guidance will have regard to the regulations and the EC Habitats Directive.</p>
50	Scottish Executive (2003) Securing a future: Scotland's Renewable Energy	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>

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 consequence. 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.	The guidance will seek to avoid negative impact on ground water, and will advocate a contaminated land assessment and appropriate remedial work if necessary.
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)	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establishing River Basin Management districts; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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). The Act aims to prevent further deterioration of	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.

		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).	
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; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. 	<p>The Regulations apply across the water environment to provide a holistic approach to pollution control and protection of the water environment.</p> <p>Any activities that may fall within the remit of these regulations will require close consultation with SEPA and the receipt of appropriate licences.</p>
59	Flood Prevention and Land Drainage (Scotland) Act 1997	<p>The introduction of the Flood Prevention and Land Drainage (Scotland) Act 1997 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 condition likely to flood. 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. <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. 	<p>The guidance should take account of flood plains and areas at risk of flooding from SEPA's flood risk maps.</p> <p>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>
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 	<p>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.</p>

		<p>precautionary principle where impact is not clear</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working together – to reduce damage, resolve conflict and maximise benefit 	
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) (2000)	<p>Sets the Scottish Executive's commitment to protecting Scottish biodiversity on the trunk road network. The purpose of the document is twofold:</p> <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. 	The guidance should take account of any recommendations and actions outlined within the 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 	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.

		what is best for the site.	
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	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. <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 river basin management plans (below) will ensure that statutory agencies, private	Guidance will make sure that the recommendations and findings of

	the Scotland River Basin District (2008)	organisations, public sector bodies and individuals work together to create a final plan that addresses all aspects of water management.	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 of Scotland (2005)	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 to the achievement of objectives and targets; and that the public sector disposes of surplus assets.	This will be taken into consideration when looking at proposed nationally important infrastructure in Highland.
79	Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967	Part of this Act has been updated by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. The Act makes provision on outdoor access and other countryside related issues.	The guidance will pay due regard to the provisions of the act when formulating policies on access to the outdoors.
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 affect 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) (SNH)	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	The toolkit has been produced to help community	The toolkit will be considered

	Government/Community Energy Scotland's Community Renewable Energy Toolkit	groups to develop renewable energy projects.	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 actions on deforestation. • To develop a clear understanding of the nature and extent of future woodland removal in Scotland. 	The guidance will have due regard to the provisions of this policy.
88	Scottish Forest Strategy (2006)	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: <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 2009	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	Helps to guide windfarms towards those landscapes best able to accommodate them and advises on how windfarms can be designed to best relate to	The guidance will have due regard to the general principles in the guidance.

	Landscape (2009)	their setting and minimise landscape and visual impacts	
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	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.
Scottish National Planning Policy Tier			
100	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.
101	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.
102	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.
103	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.
104	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.
105	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.
106	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.
107	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.
108	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.
109	PAN 1/2011 Planning	Advice on national planning policy matters related to	The guidance will have due

	and Noise	noise issues and development.	regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
110	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.
111	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.
112	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.
113	PAN 65 Planning and Open Space (2008)	Advice on national planning policy matters related to open space.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
114	PAN 66 Best Practice in Handling Planning Applications Affecting 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.
115	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.
116	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.
117	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.
118	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.
119	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.
120	PAN 77 Designing Safer Places (2006)	Advice on national planning policy matters related to secure by design principles.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
121	PAN 78 Inclusive Design (2006)	Advice on national planning policy matters related to inclusive design.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
122	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.
123	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.
124	PAN 83 Masterplanning (2008)	Advice on national planning policy matters related to masterplanning.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the PAN.
125	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.
126	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.
127	Circular 02/2010 The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development)	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.

	(Domestic Microgeneration) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2010 (2010)		
128	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.
129	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.
130	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.
131	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.
132	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.
133	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.
134	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.
135	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.
136	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.
137	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.
138	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.
139	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.
140	Circular 07/2007 Consultation on and Notification of Planning Applications for Outdoor Sports Facilities and Open Space 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.

	(2007)		
141	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.
142	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.
143	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.
144	Circular 01/2005 Notification of Planning Applications Development Affecting 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.
145	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.
146	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.
147	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.
148	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.
149	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.
150	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.

151	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.
152	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.
153	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.
154	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.
155	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.
156	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.
157	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.
158	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.
159	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.
160	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.
161	Circular 05/1997 Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Scotland) Amendment Order 1997: Consultation of Planning Applications for Roadside Facilities and Developments Affecting Playing Fields	Scottish Government policy on the implementation of legislation or procedures.	The guidance will have due regard to the contents and provisions of the Circular.

	(1997)		
162	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.
163	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.
Regional			
164	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.
165	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.
166	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.	The relevant section of this guidance 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.
167	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.
168	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.
169	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..
170	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.
171	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.
172	A96 Growth Corridor Framework	An implementation scheme covering the overall phasing, infrastructure, funding, developer	Due regard should be had to the proposed development in the A96

		contributions protocol and deliver mechanisms for expansion and development eastwards of Inverness to the border with Moray.	corridor.
173	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.
174	Badenoch and Strathspey Local Plan	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 land allocations and general policies on the local plan.
175	Inverness Local Plan	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 land allocations and general policies on the local plan.
176	Ross and Cromarty East Local Plan	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 land allocations and general policies on the local plan.
177	Wester Ross Local Plan	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 land allocations and general policies on the local plan.
178	Sutherland Local Plan	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 land allocations and general policies on the local plan.
179	Caithness Local Plan	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 land allocations and general policies on the local plan.
180	West Highland & Islands Local Plan	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 land allocations and general policies on the local plan.
181	Nairnshire Local Plan	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 land allocations and general policies on the local plan.
182	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 on the local development plan.
183	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.
184	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.
185	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/
186	Highland Forest and Woodland Strategy	This document sets out the Councils aspirations for forestry and woodland in the Highlands. It provides guidance for developers and a focus for the	This will influence the approach to woodland in the guidance.

		Council's engagement with the private sector, the Forestry Commission and Forest Enterprise, in its role as consultee on forestry applications.	
187	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.
188	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 he 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.
189	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 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.
190	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.
191	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.
192	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.
193	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.
194	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	Considers the habitats and species present in Badenoch and Strathspey, lists the main issues,	The guidance will have due regard to the provisions of the

	Action Plan	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.	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 forestry strategies and agri-environment schemes.	The guidance will have regard to the principles of the LCA when considering issues related to landscape.
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, Arderverikie, 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	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.
214	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.
215	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.
216	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.
217	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.
218	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.
219	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.
220	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.
221	Moray 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 Moray Council area	neighbouring authority but it will have limited influence over the development of the guidance.
222	Orkney 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 Orkney 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	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.
224	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.
225	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.
226	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.
227	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..
228	Highland Wind Farm Activity Map	Update 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
229	The Highland Council's Programme "Strengthening the Highlands"	Sets out the Council's objectives for until 2012	The guidance will consider the role on-shore wind energy will have in meeting the corporate objectives of the Council.
230	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.
231	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
232	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.
233	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.
234	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.
235	Lochaber Core Path	This document identifies the key strategic links	The guidance will have due

	Plan	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	regard to recreational interests and the location of paths contained within the core path plans.
236	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.
237	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.
238	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.
239	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.
240	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.
241	Protected Species: 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.
242	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.
243	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.
244	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.
245	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.
246	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 following background paper outlines the work undertaken.	The guidance will bring together the findings of the background paper and work to date.

Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment

General

The area covered by the Guidance extends over an area of 26,484 square kilometres and is an area of high quality natural environment and diverse historic background. It has a population of 217,440 and at 8.2 persons per square kilometre, is sparsely populated compared with other regions in Scotland. A large proportion of the land area is identified as “fragile” in terms of remoteness and scarcity of population.

Natural heritage designations cover a range of habitats in Highland. In terms of international designation there are 13 Ramsar sites and 91 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). In addition there are 367 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which cover important biological, geomorphological and geological areas. There are also 26 National Nature Reserves in Highland and in addition the Cairngorms National Park lies partly within the authority of the Highland Council. 16 National Scenic Areas are found within the Highland region, 46 Special Protection Areas and 21 Special Landscape Areas. Maps showing these natural heritage features are available at Appendix 1.

Wild land is a key feature of the Highland landscape. The detailed mapping of this is not yet available however when it becomes available the Council will update the baseline information and have due regard to it in the On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance

Areas which are considered to have special architectural or historic interest are designated as Conservation Areas. At present there are 30 Conservation Areas in Highland. Any building or structure which is considered to be of special architectural or historic interest is listed: those of national importance are listed as “Category A”; those of regional importance “Category B”; and those of local importance listed as “Category C(S)”. The number of listed building in Highland is 3014. They can be seen at Appendix 1.

There are 51 areas in Highland that are listed in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes. National guidance requires the settings, as well as the gardens themselves, be safeguarded from unsympathetic development. The history of Highland region and relative remoteness, means that many archaeological features of all periods remain well preserved, including 1237 Scheduled monuments. These features have been identified on a map in Appendix 1 - Baseline Information Maps.

Most Highland soils are very shallow, often due to shallow parent materials. In some parts of Highland, soil erosion is becoming increasingly significant. Peat is very common throughout Highland and Caithness and Sutherland contain one of the largest and most intact areas of blanket bog in the world, supporting a distinctive wildlife community. A map showing the extent of the blanket bog is shown in Appendix 2.

With a large geographical area and a low population size, Highland region is not affected by air pollution from extensive road networks and heavy industries as in other parts of Scotland. The air quality is reflected by the extensive number of lichen communities of international importance.

The quality of the freshwater environment is also 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 area are important for local economies and provide the scenic backdrop that encourages so many tourists to the area.

The key facts and the baseline information collated for this scoping report has enabled us to identify some environmental impacts 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 there is not additional guidance on onshore wind energy development in Highland. Feedback from the Consultation Authorities is sought on the scope of environmental problems identified.

Table 2 Environmental Impacts 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 reduce vulnerability of rare and endangered flora and fauna to changes in climate should be reduced in the longer term.	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 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 promoting early consideration of the issue.	The guidance will highlight the need to protect and where possible enhance the water environment where ever possible,
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 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.	The guidance will need to guide development to areas where there will be limited negative impact and maximise 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	The guidance should be used as a positive tool to on-shore wind energy developments to areas where they will

	on-shore wind energy developments and maintain local distinctiveness.	have minimal impact on the local and regional landscape character and local distinctiveness.
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The above has aided the Council in understanding the need for, the level of detail and scope of the guidance and the environmental report.

Scope and Level of Detail Proposed for the Environmental Assessment

SEA requires that “reasonable alternatives” to the guidance are considered. These set the context for the following two sections of this report – scoping of SEA issues and consideration of a framework for the assessment of environmental effects.

To ensure the SEA is focused on maximising the positive benefits of the guidance and minimising the negative effects of the guidance it is the intention that only the areas where effect on the environment in relation to the SEA topics are likely. The table below explains for each area of the guidance why it will/will not be subject to SEA and why:

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	This section is context for the guidance and in itself will have no effect on the environment.
The Spatial Framework		This section will be assessed as a whole however certain elements will not be assessed the justification for this is set out below.
Stage 1	N	This section is concerned with methodology only. It is reasonable to not SEA this section of the guidance as Scottish Planning Policy gives a very strong steer on what is included at this stage.
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.
Stage 4	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.
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 affect
Development Guidelines		This section will be assessed as a whole however certain elements will 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 affect as the feature is man made and the only affect 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 affect as the feature is man made and the only affect 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 affect as the feature is man made and the only affect 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	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 affect as the feature is man made and the only affect may be on the road network rather than the environment.
Additional Guidance		This section will be assessed as a whole however certain elements will 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 affect on the environment., however, individual community energy projects may have an affect but this is out with 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 affect on a number of factors therefore it is likely there will be a significant environmental effect.
Forestry	N	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.
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 affect one on-shore wind farm can have on another. 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	N	The restoration of a site post operation can have a significant effect on the environment, however this section will be solely concerned with guidance on how the Council will ensure this takes place (i.e. financial guarantees) therefore it is unlikely that this section will have a significant environmental effect.
Mitigation	N	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. As it is related to financials it is unlikely that this section will have a significant effect on the environment.
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
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 affect.
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.

Note - The table above reflects the sections set out in the draft On-shore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance (May 2011).

Reasonable Alternatives

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.

Section Specific Alternatives

There are reasonable alternatives to specific sections in the guidance. These are boardly outlines below and will be assessed in the Environmental Report. The Council seek the views of the Consultation Authorities on these alternatives.

Spatial Framework

It is possible that be 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.

Development Guidelines

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.

Additional Guidelines

It is possible to take different approaches to the environmental 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.

Appendix 1 – Spatial Framework Landscape and Visual Guidance

It should be recognised that given the scale of Highland that 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 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.

The approach taken and the reasonable alternatives identified will be assessed against appropriate SEA objectives.

Scoping in/out of SEA issues

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. Given the context provided by national planning policy and guidance, it is not anticipated that there will be any significantly negative effects on the environment resulting from this supplementary guidance, therefore the role of the Strategic Environmental Assessment will be to maximise the positive impacts that the guidance may have. From the environmental problems listed in Table 2 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 3 below.

Table 3. 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		

Methodology for Assessing Environmental Effects

The preferred approach and its alternative will be subject to detailed assessment against all the SEA objectives and criteria. We would welcome comment on the proposed SEA objectives as outlined below. The SEA objectives are derived from those used for the Strategic Environmental Assessment on the Highland wide Local Development Plan.

This process will identify as far as possible what level of environmental impact the operation of these policies/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.

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 contamination, safeguard soil quantity and quality.
Water	5. Avoid impact to and where possible enhance the water environment
Climatic Factors	6. Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change 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

Cumulative Assessment

The guidance will also be assessed as a whole against the proposed SEA objectives. This will effectively be a cumulative assessment of the guidance.

Proposed Mitigation Measures

The SEA Directive requires the use of mitigation measures that make recommendations to prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse effects. The proposed mitigation measures will be discussed in the Environmental Report. In addition the Environmental Report will encourage the enhancement of the positive effects. Changes to the guidance will be considered should it provide for better mitigation against negative environmental effects.

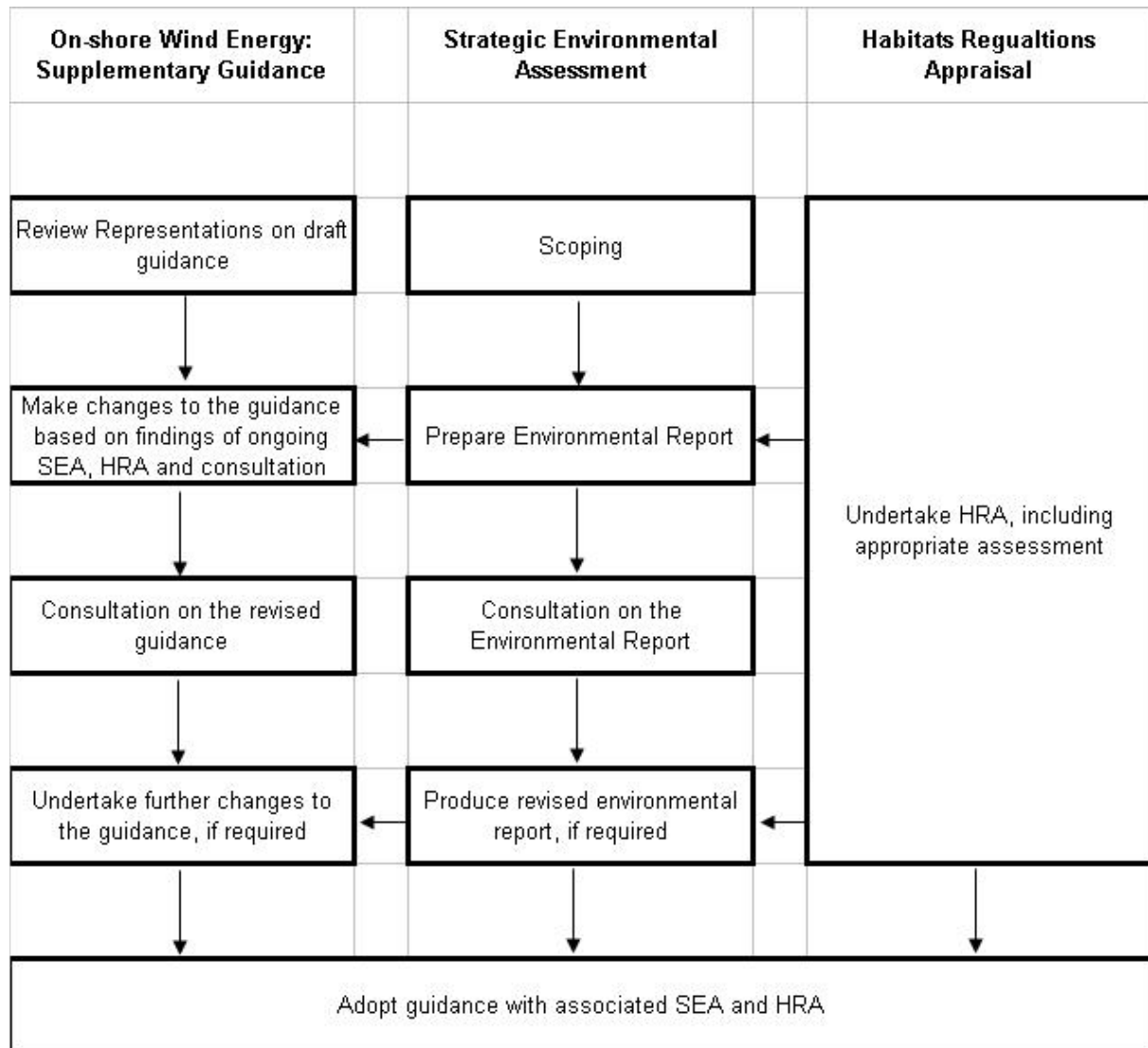
Monitoring Framework

The Environmental Report will outline the proposed monitoring framework.

Next Steps

Proposed consultation timescales

The Environmental Report for the On-shore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance will be published for consultation in tandem with the second consultative draft of the guidance. It is anticipated that this will be in late November 2011. The consultation period will run for a period of 6 weeks. The views collected during this consultation period will be used in producing a revised Environmental Report. The next steps are outlined below:



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 2010.

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.

Maps Contained in this Section are:

- Cairngorms National Park
- Core Path Network
- Highland Cycle Network
- Highland Flood Risk
- Highland Forest and Woodland Strategy
- Fragile Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Local Nature Reserves
- National Nature Reserves
- National Scenic Areas
- Ramsar Sites
- Special Areas of Conservation
- Special Protection Areas
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Settlement Hierarchy
- Settlement Development Areas
- Wind Farm Activity Map (May 2011)
- Where people live in Highland
- RAF Training Area – Low Flying
- Tourist and Recreation Routes
- Electricity Grid
- Conservation areas in Highland
- Special Landscape Areas
- Schedule Monuments
- Transport Strategy (Roads Hierarchy)
- Air, Rail and Ferry Links,
- Records in the Historic Environment Record.

The baseline data has been derived from that used for the Highland wide Local Development Plan and supplemented. We seek comment from the consultation authorities on its scope.

SEA Indicator Scoped In	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
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
House Sales	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-B05FEBFCBE0/0/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
Climate Factors	Areas affected by flooding/costs (sea) Areas affected by flooding (river) Priority Species Impact on Natural Resources Impact on Provision of Services/cost to Council	UKCIP08 The climate of the United Kingdom and recent trends. www.ukcip08.org.uk SEPA flood maps www.sepa.org.uk SCCIP pilot project LCLIP. www.sccip.org.uk Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership.
Reduce need for energy.	Highland Council Energy Consumption is 22, 250GWH	Highland Council Energy Management and Performance Plan

	per annum.	http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/4EA59619-0EF5-42CC-9889-7EDA9F997E8E/0/emppfeb06.pdf
	Carbon Footprint – 11.73-11.99 tonnes CO ₂ per capita	Stockholm Environment Institute. <i>Taken from the report “A Right Climate for Change”, (2007) Local Footprints Project and Stockholm Environmental Institute.</i> Scottish Climate Change Bill; http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Climate-Change/16327/Climate-Change-Bill
Reduce air pollution to levels that do not damage natural systems, including contribution to climate change.	None at present	http://www.scottishairquality.co.uk/
Number of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in Highland	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	This should be monitored through the Highland Council green travel plan which is currently under development, Local Transport Strategy http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/roadsandtransport/transportplanning/localtransportstrategy.htm
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	This should be monitored through the Highland Council green travel plan which is currently under development, Local Transport Strategy http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/roadsandtransport/transportplanning/localtransportstrategy.htm
	Renewable Energy installations in Highland Council Building is 1200KWh Promotion of renewable energy Progress against HRES Targets.	Highland Council Energy Management and Performance Plan http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/4EA59619-0EF5-42CC-9889-7EDA9F997E8E/0/emppfeb06.pdf Highland Council Renewable Energy Strategy http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/planning/energyplanning/renewableenergy/highlandrenewableenergystrategy.htm Community Benefits from Renewables http://www.highland.gov.uk/livinghere/communityplanning/communitybenefit/ Export Onshore Wind, 2010 target - 800 MW and 2015 target is 1200 MW. In terms of progress, as at August 2010 we had reached 808 MW of windfarms in Highland either Operational or Approved Or Under Construction.

Increase the proportion of energy from renewable sources	Promotion of Sustainable design in the Community.	Sustainable Design Guide: Supplementary Guidance http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/planning/developmentplans/developmentplanpolicyguidance/designingforsustainability.htm Highland Housing Fair: http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/sustainabledevelopment/sharingthegreenagenda/highlandhousingfair.htm
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_PUB_SCHEME_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
Soil & Waste	Key Information	Data Source
Minimise waste and	Waste into landfill: The	HC Waste Data Report -

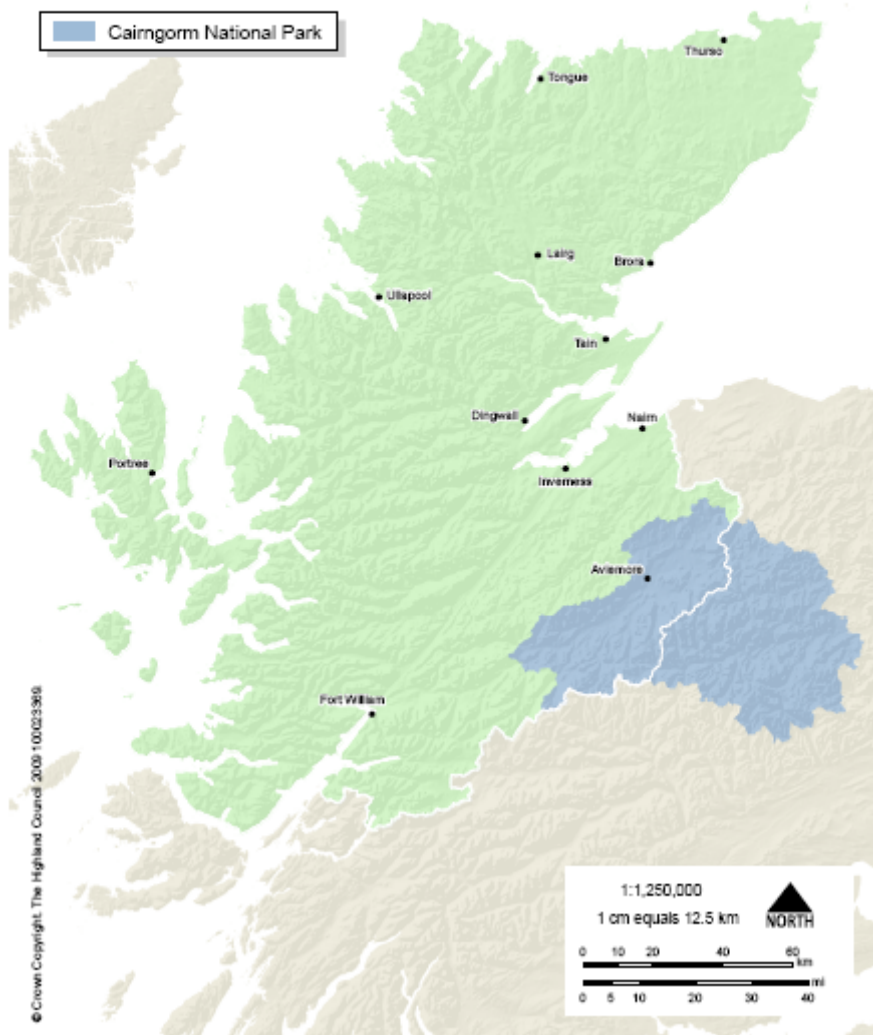
<p>re-use or recover it by recycling, composting or energy recovery.</p>	<p>proportion of waste in Highland being put into landfill. % of recycling/composting.</p> <p>Currently 183 recycling points in Highland.</p> <p>35% of waste in Highland recycled.</p> <p>77393 tonnes waste to landfill.</p> <p>Target of 40% recycling rates for 2010.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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>Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>Key Information</p>	<p>Data Source</p>
	<p>A Listed - 186 B Listed - 1667 C(S) Listed - 1161</p>	<p>Historic Scotland GIS Dataset</p>
	<p>Total Number of Schedule Monuments in Highland is 1237</p>	<p>Historic Scotland GIS Dataset</p>
	<p>Total Number of Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes (51)</p>	<p>Historic Scotland GIS Dataset</p>
<p>Landscape</p>	<p>Key Information</p>	<p>Data Source</p>
	<p>Landscape Character</p>	<p>Scottish Natural Heritage: <i>Overview of Scotland's national programme of Landscape Character Assessment (2004)</i></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1996) <i>Cairngorms landscape assessment.</i></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) <i>Inner Moray Firth Landscape Character Assessment.</i></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1999) <i>Ben Alder, Ardverikie and Creag Meagaidh Landscape Character Assessment</i></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) <i>Inverness District Landscape Character Assessment</i></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) <i>Moray and Nairn Landscape Character Assessment</i></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) <i>Caithness and</i></p>

		<p><i>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.	<p>SNH http://www.snh.org.uk/scottish/nhighland/Peatlands/CSL.asp</p>
Forest and Woodland		<p>The Highland Forest and Woodland strategy. http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/agriculturefisheriesandforestry/treesandforestry/highland-forest-and-woodland-strategy.htm</p> <p>Forestry Commission Scotland; http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland</p>
Agricultural Land	Land use, employment and production information.	<p>National Farmers Union Scotland; http://www.nfus.org.uk/facts_index.asp</p> <p>Crofters Commission Annual report 2006/07; http://www.crofterscommission.org.uk/documents/croft-englishfinalreport0607.pdf</p>
	Crofting in Highland	
Coast	Biodiversity	Highland Biodiversity Action Plan www.highland.gov.uk
	Number, type and specification of harbours in Highland.	http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/roadsandtransport/harbours/
	Coastal Classification	Highland Coastal Development Strategy http://www.highland.gov.uk/developmentplans .
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Key information	Data Source
Protect, enhance and	There are currently 12 RAMSAR	www.snh.org.uk

where necessary restore designated wildlife sites and protected species	sites, 90 SAC's, 46 SPA's, 368 SSSI's, 12 NNR's, 1 LNR,	
	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/

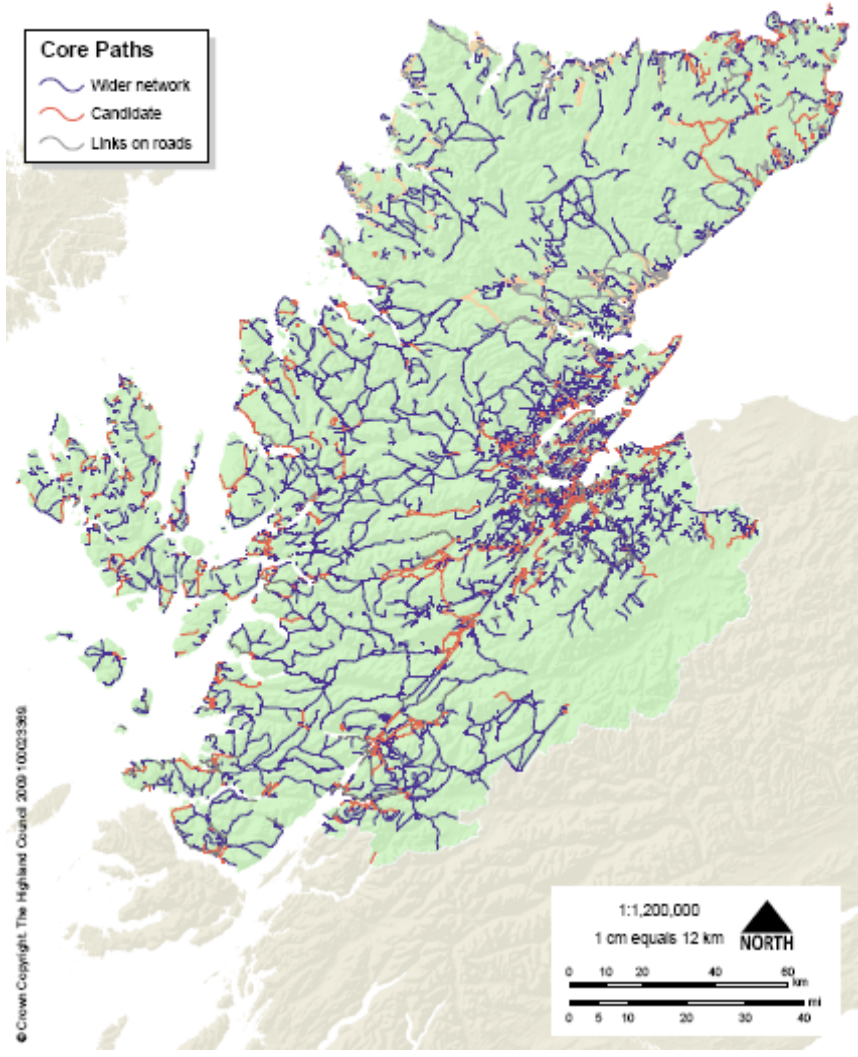
Highland Wide Local Development Plan

Cairngorm National Park



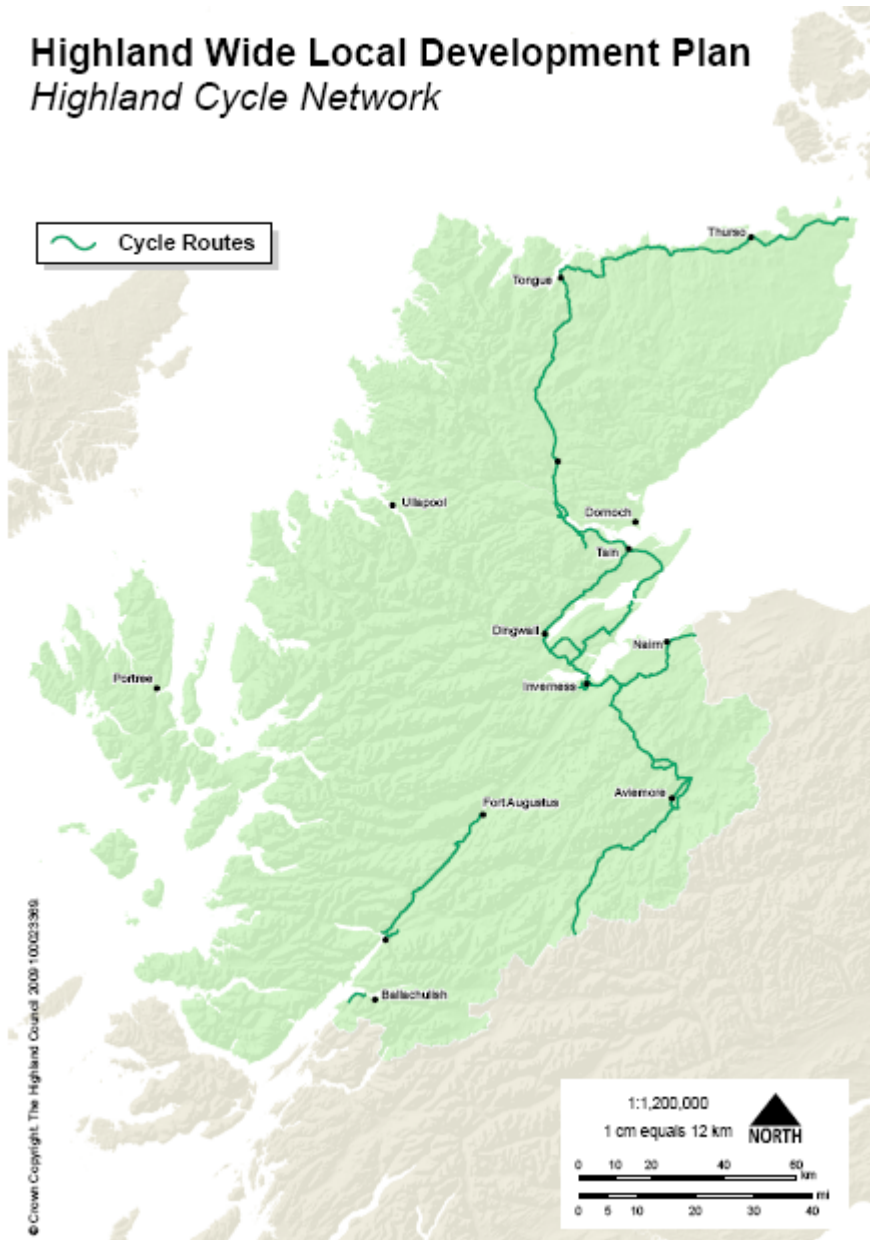
Highland Wide Local Development Plan

Core Paths Network



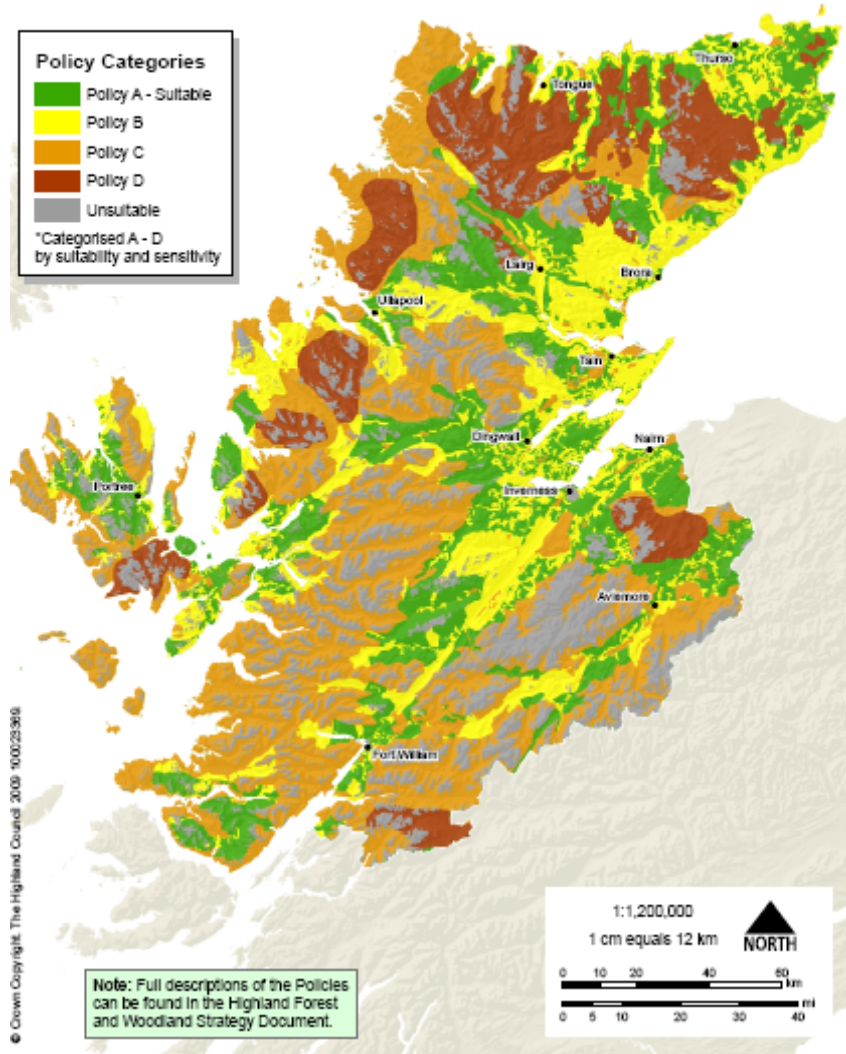
Highland Wide Local Development Plan

Highland Cycle Network



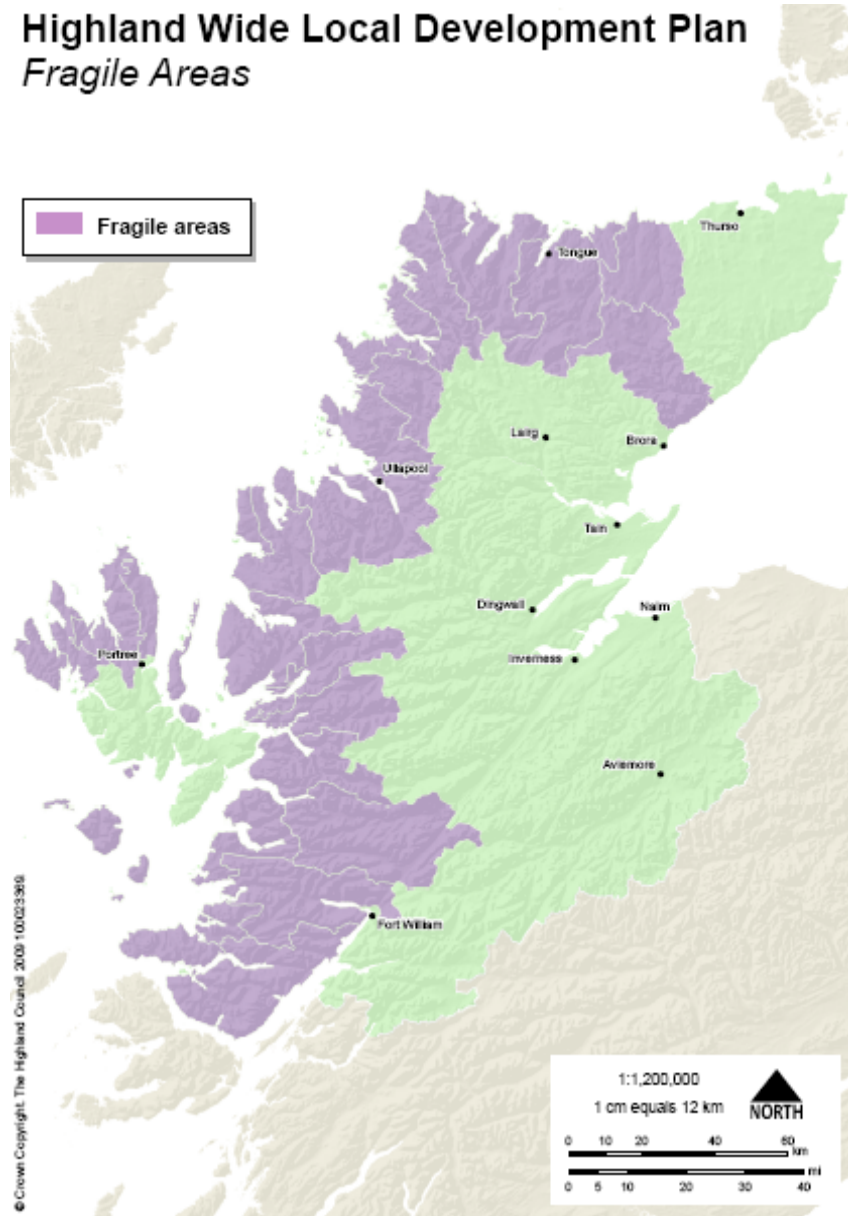
Highland Wide Local Development Plan

Highland Forest and Woodland Strategy



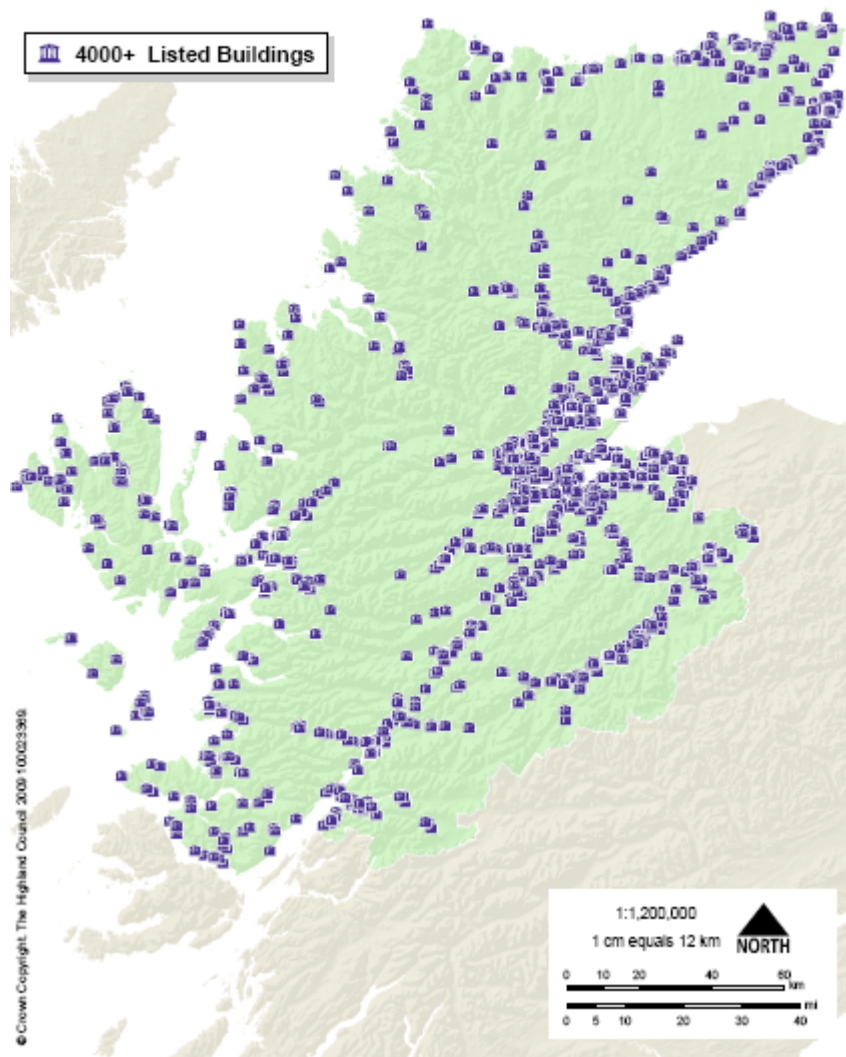
Highland Wide Local Development Plan

Fragile Areas



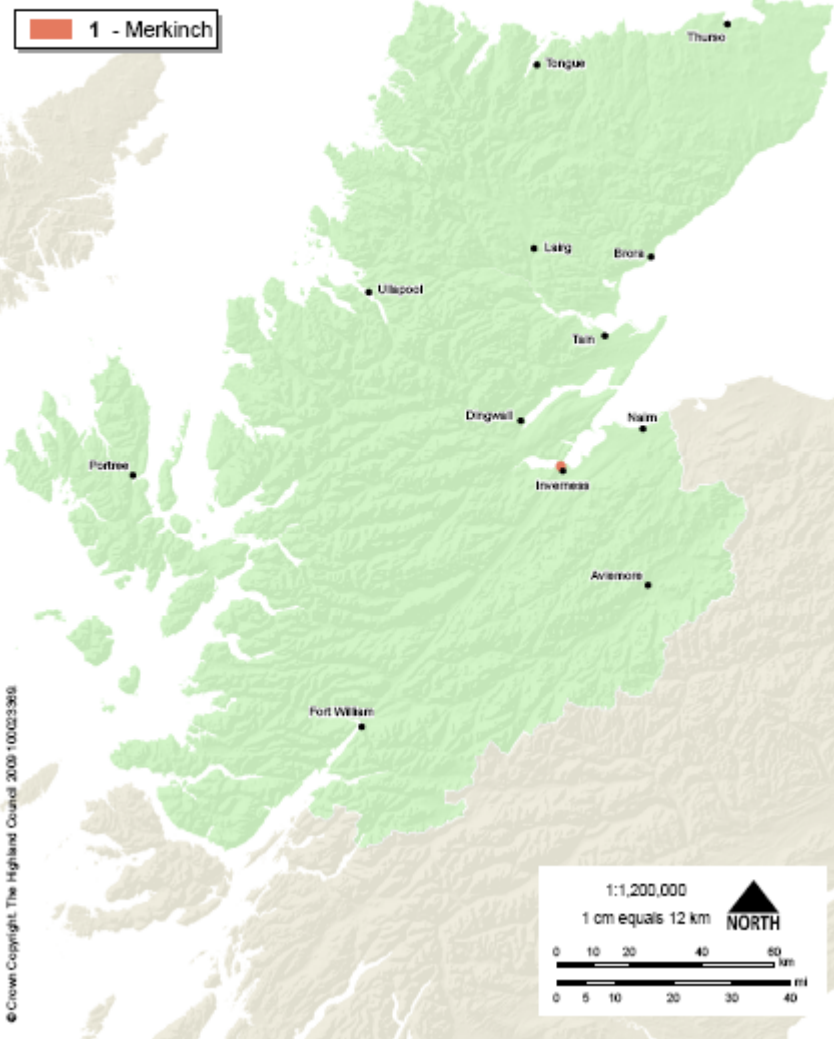
Highland Wide Local Development Plan

Listed Buildings



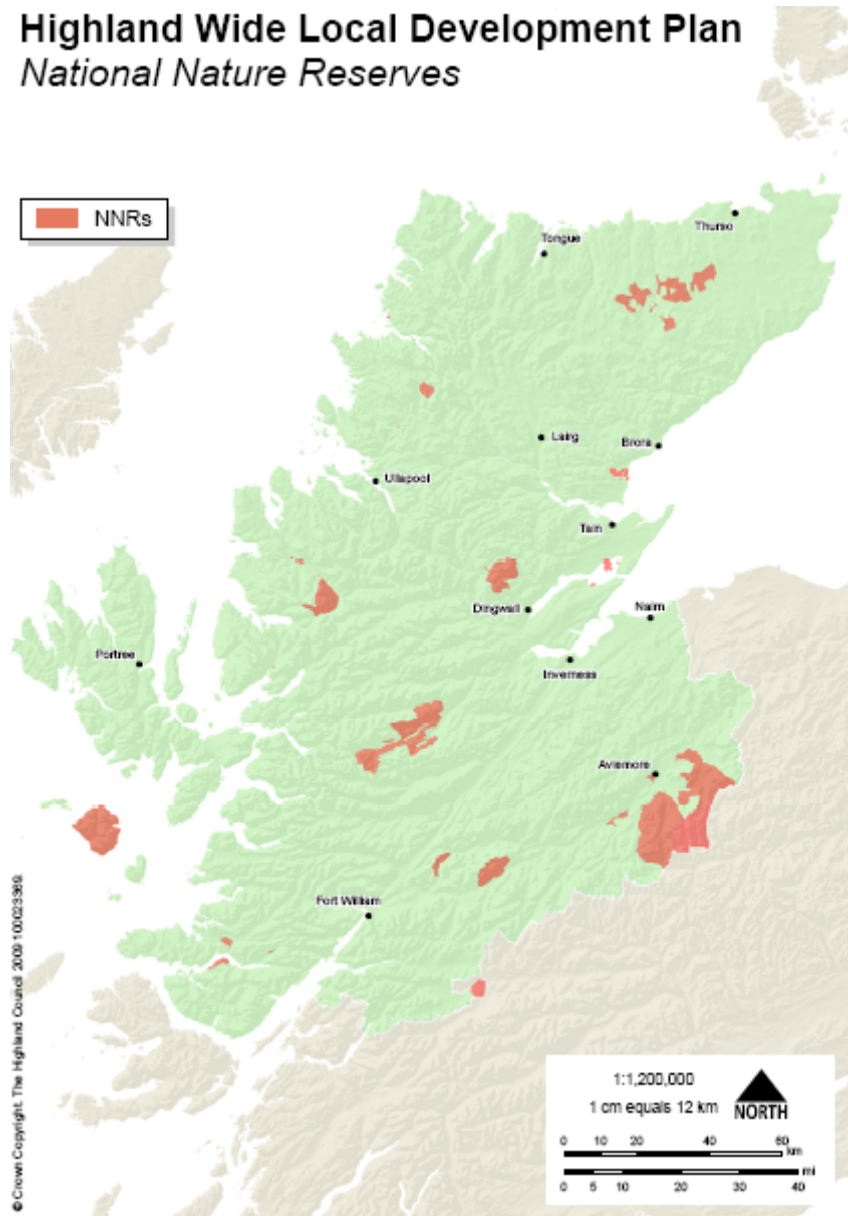
Highland Wide Local Development Plan

Local Nature Reserve



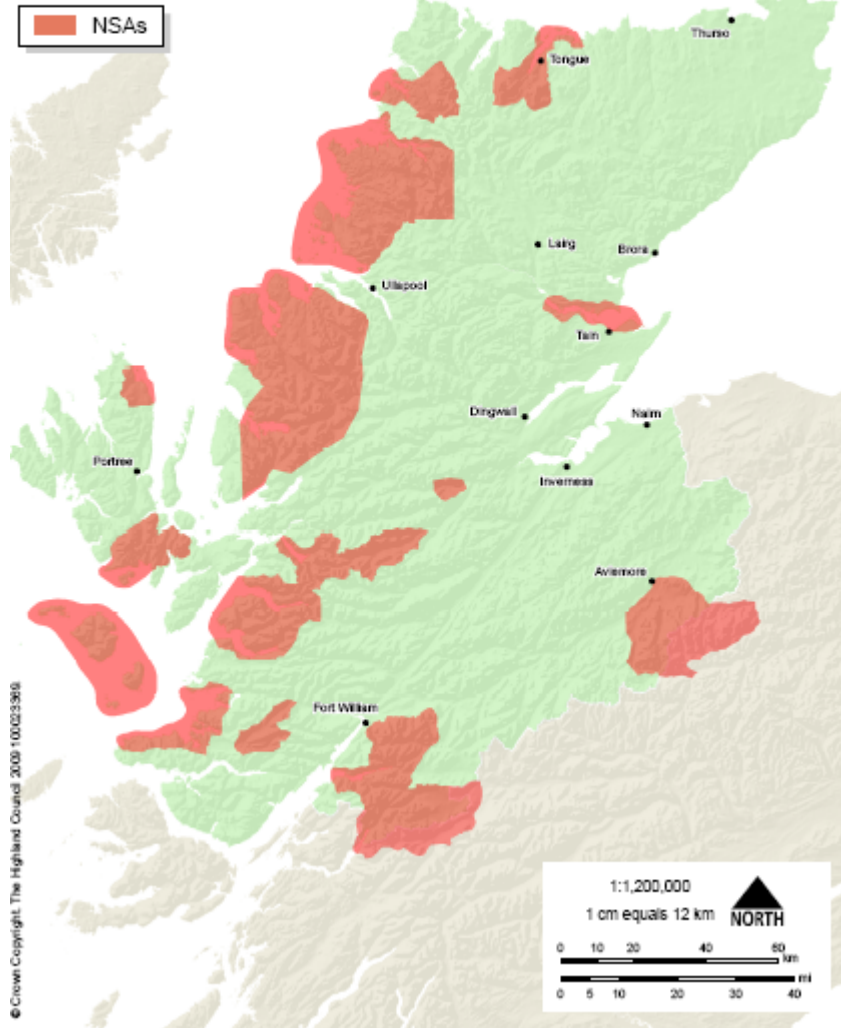
Highland Wide Local Development Plan

National Nature Reserves



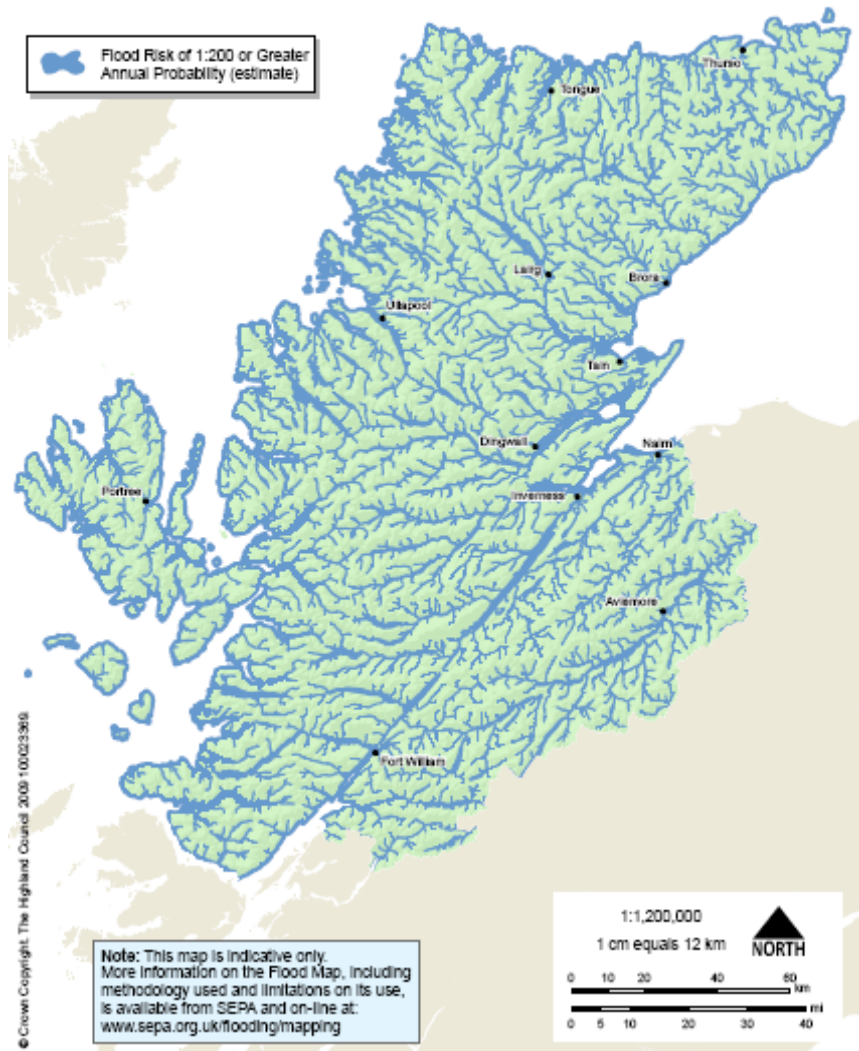
Highland Wide Local Development Plan

National Scenic Areas



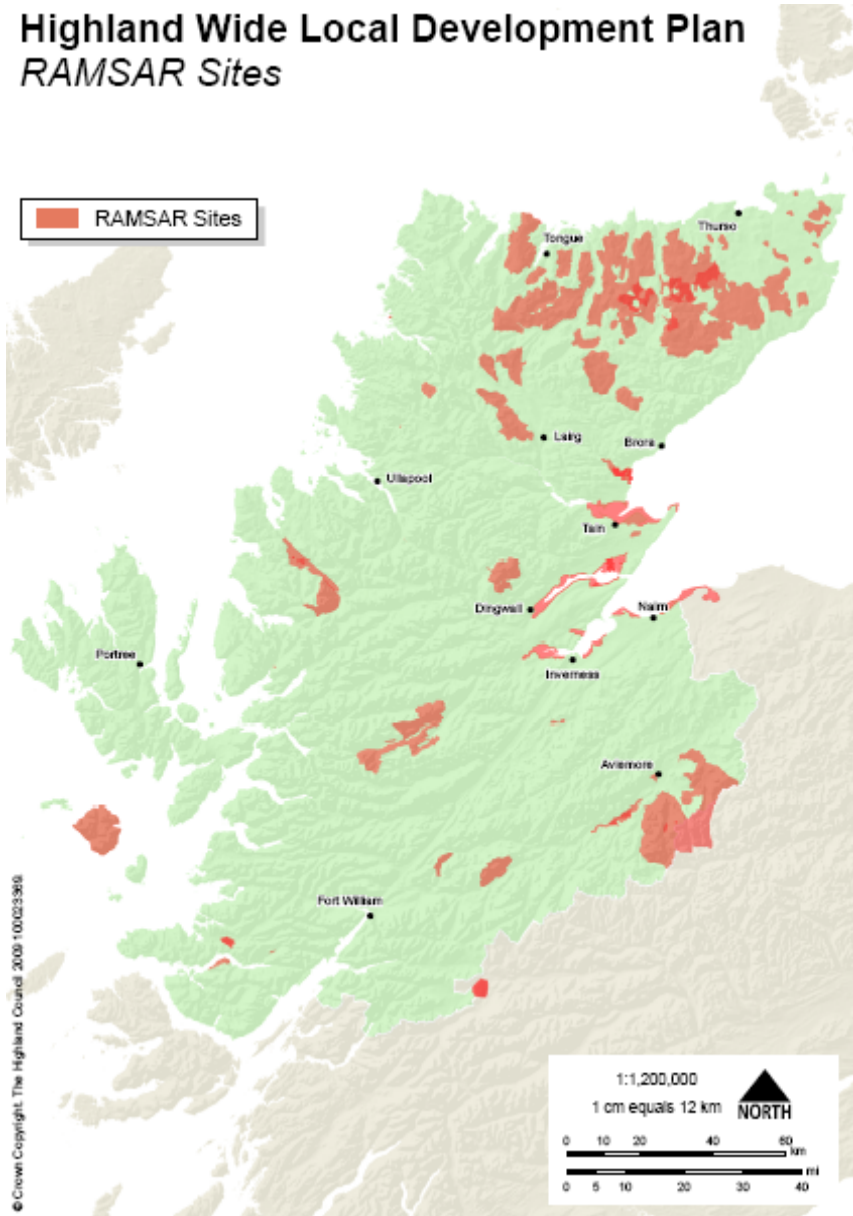
Highland Wide Local Development Plan

Highland Flood Risk



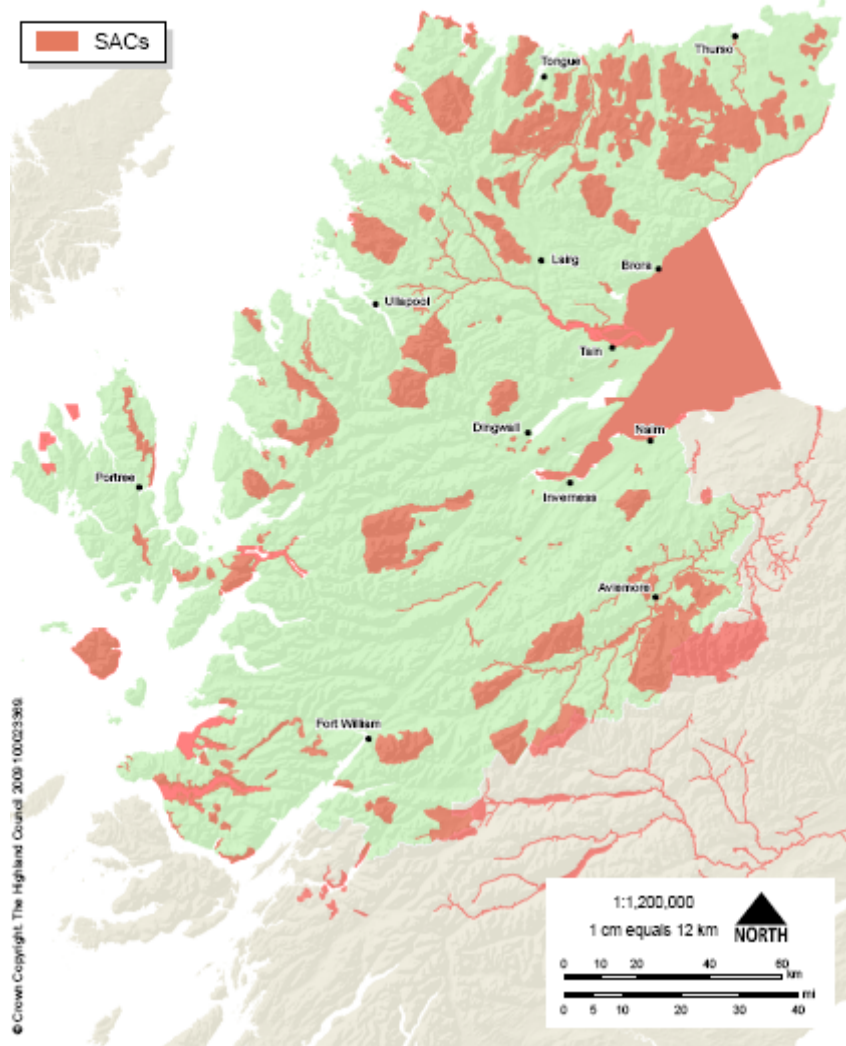
Highland Wide Local Development Plan

RAMSAR Sites

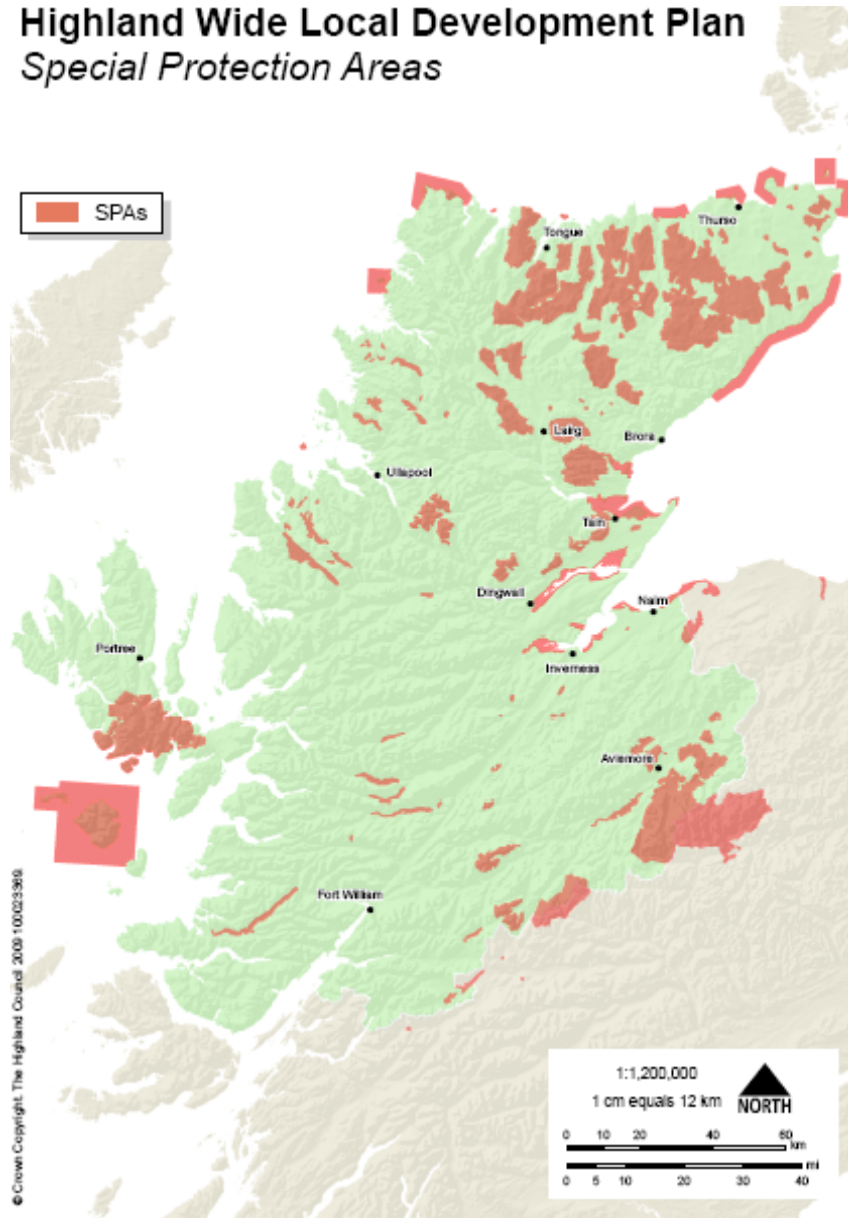


Highland Wide Local Development Plan

Special Areas of Conservation



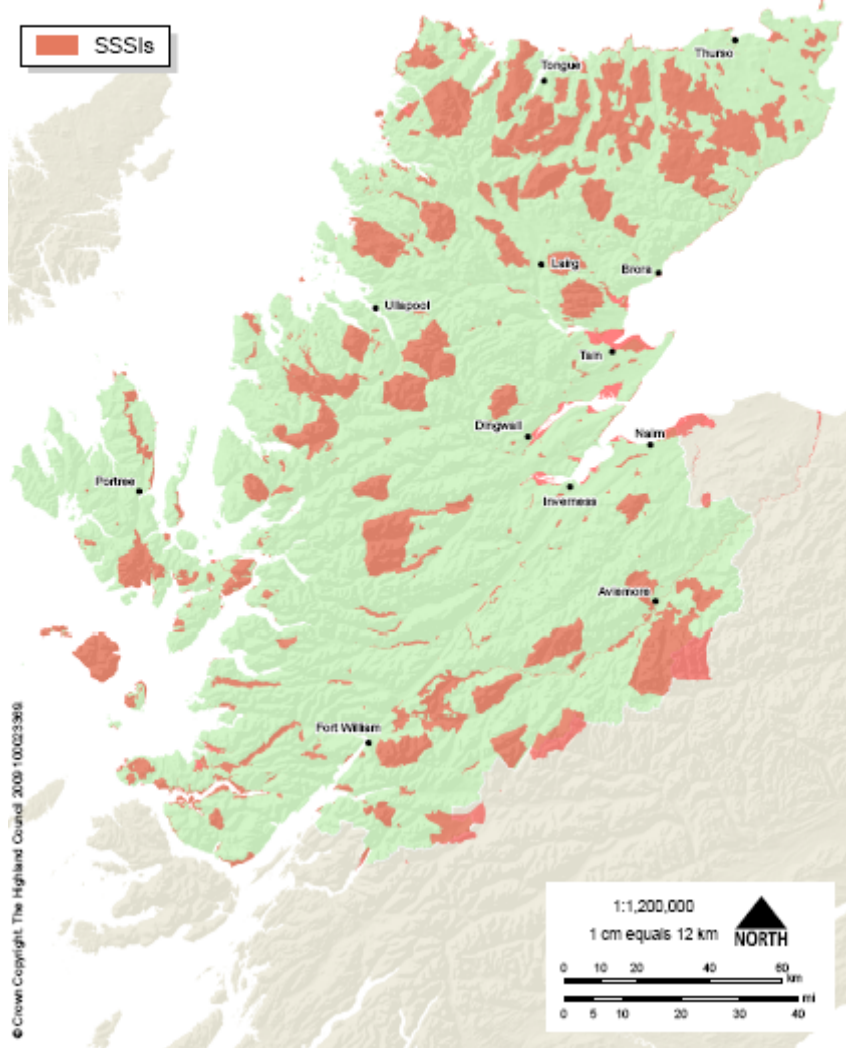
Highland Wide Local Development Plan Special Protection Areas



Highland Wide Local Development Plan

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

SSSIs



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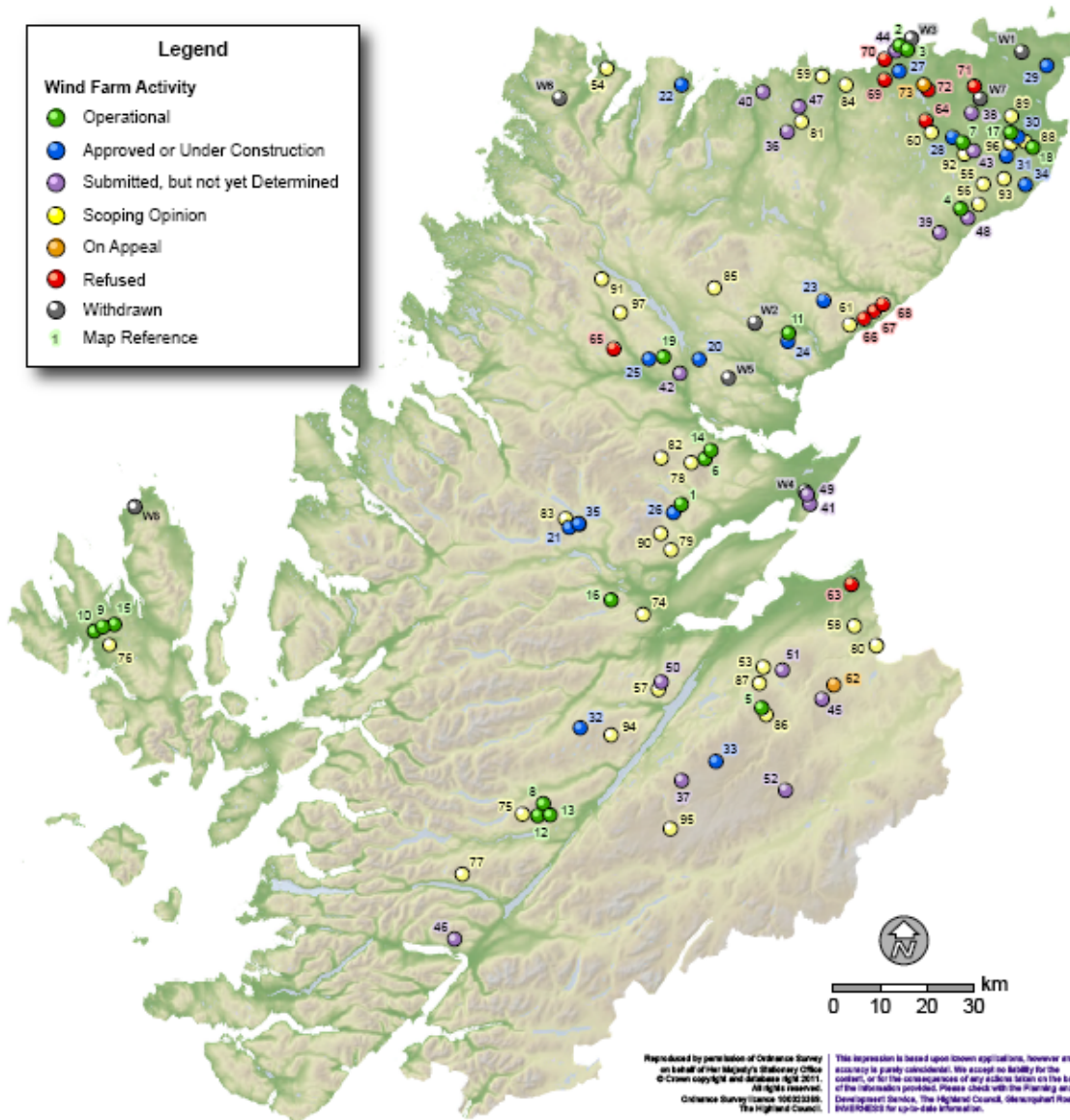
Highland Wind Farm Activity – May 2011

Aithisg Tuath Gaoithe – A' Mhàigh 2011

Legend

Wind Farm Activity

- Operational
- Approved or Under Construction
- Submitted, but not yet Determined
- Scoping Opinion
- On Appeal
- Refused
- Withdrawn
- + Map Reference

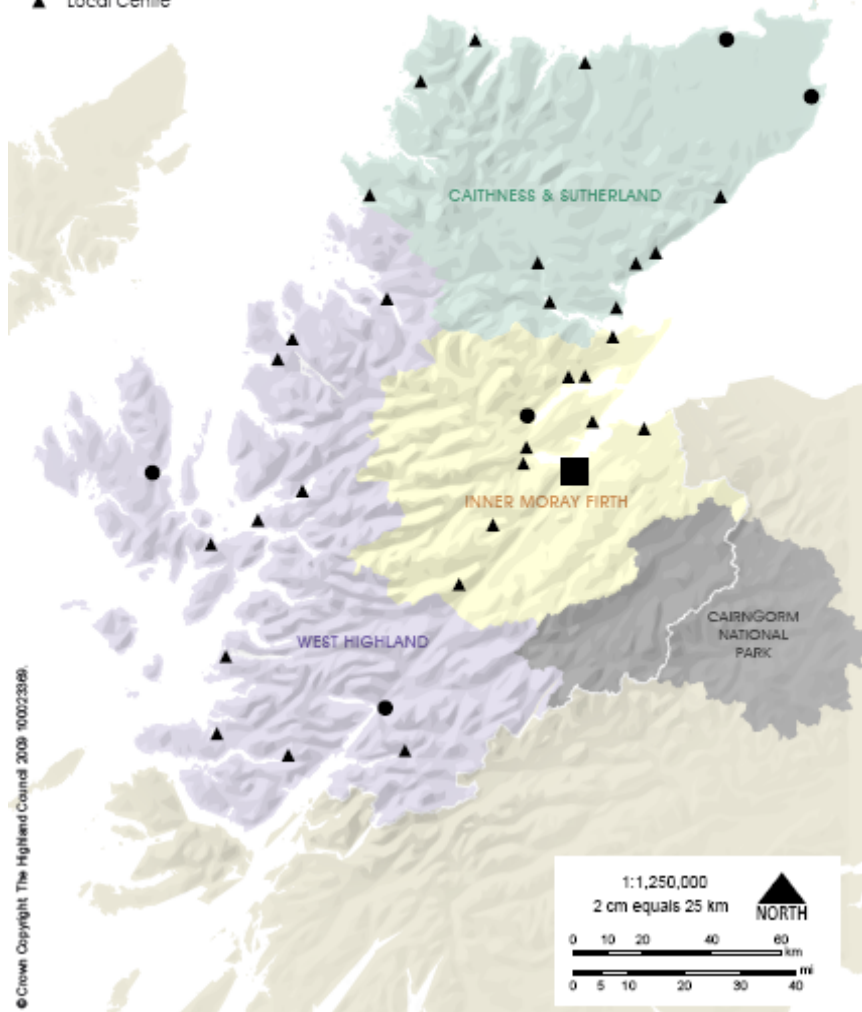


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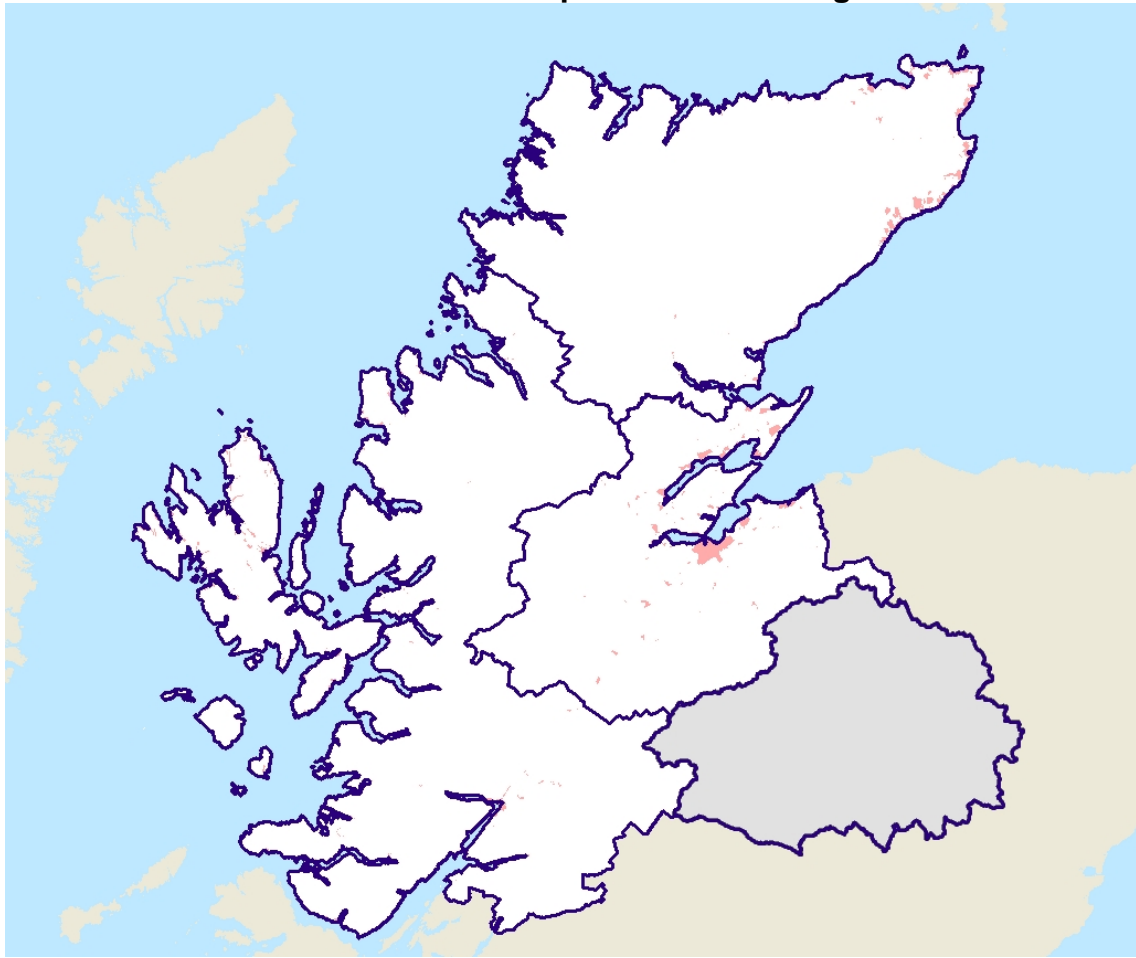
This depiction is based upon known applications, however any accuracy is purely coincidental. We accept no liability for the content, or for the consequences of any actions taken on the basis of the information provided. Please check with the Planning and Development Service, The Highland Council, Glenangrove Road, Inverness IV2 3JZ for up-to-date information.

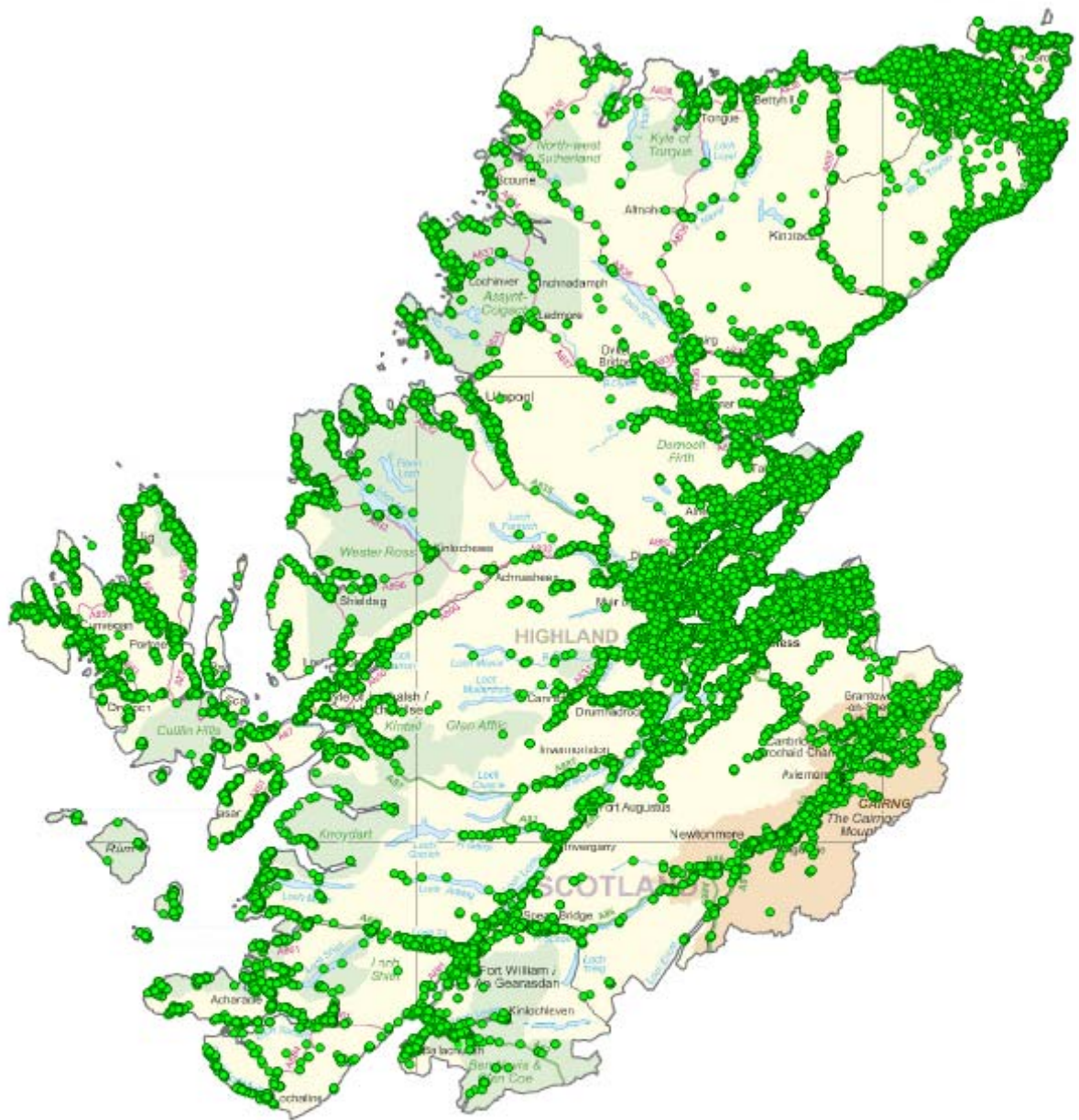
Highland Wide Local Development Plan *Settlement Hierarchy*

- Regional Centre
- Sub-Regional Centre
- ▲ Local Centre



Settlement Development Areas in Highland





Where People in Highland Live - Houses Registered for Council Tax March 2011

cjt Date: 20/09/11

1:1,200,000

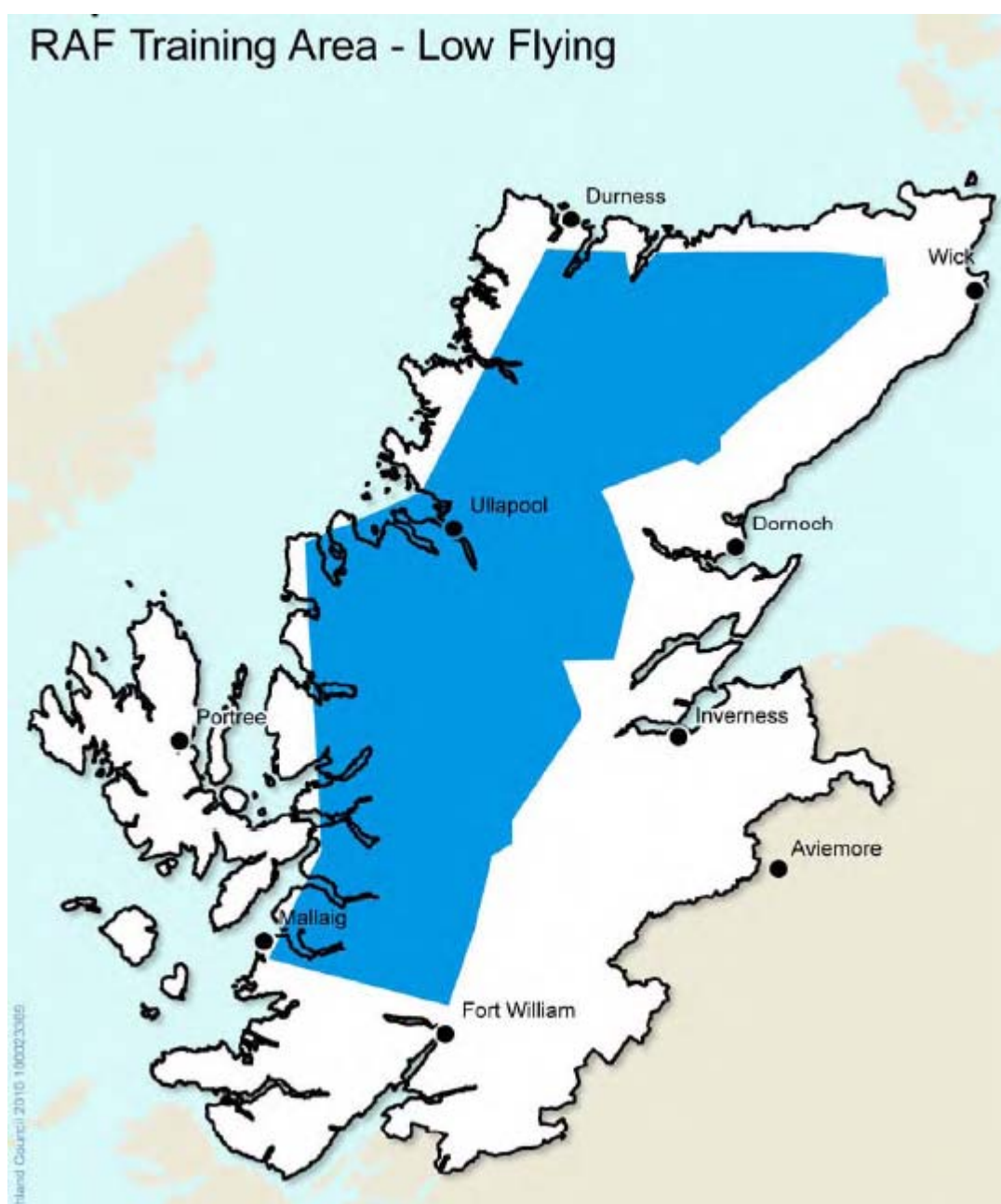
25 12.5 0 25 Kilometers

1 cm = 12,000 metres




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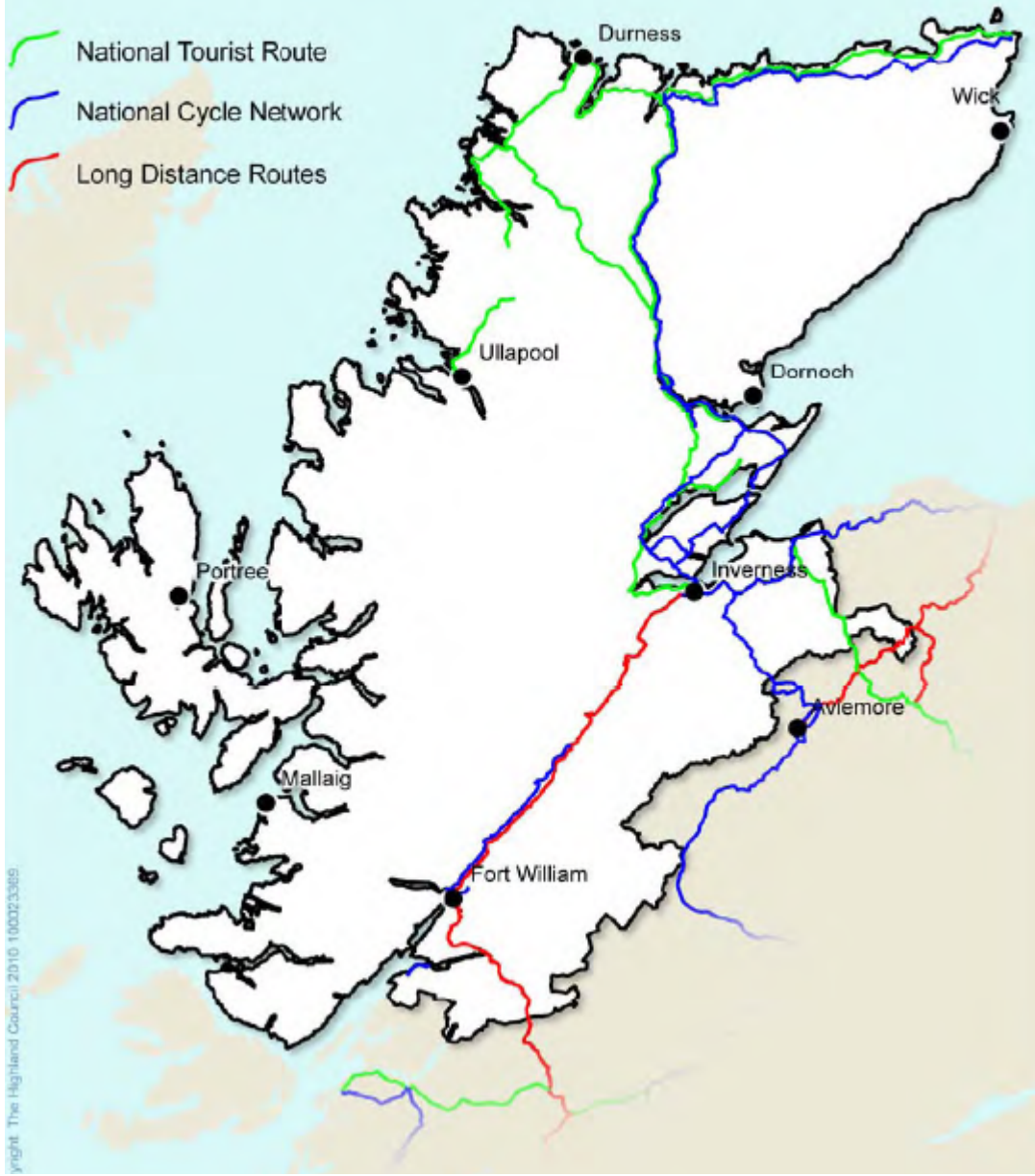


RAF Training Area - Low Flying

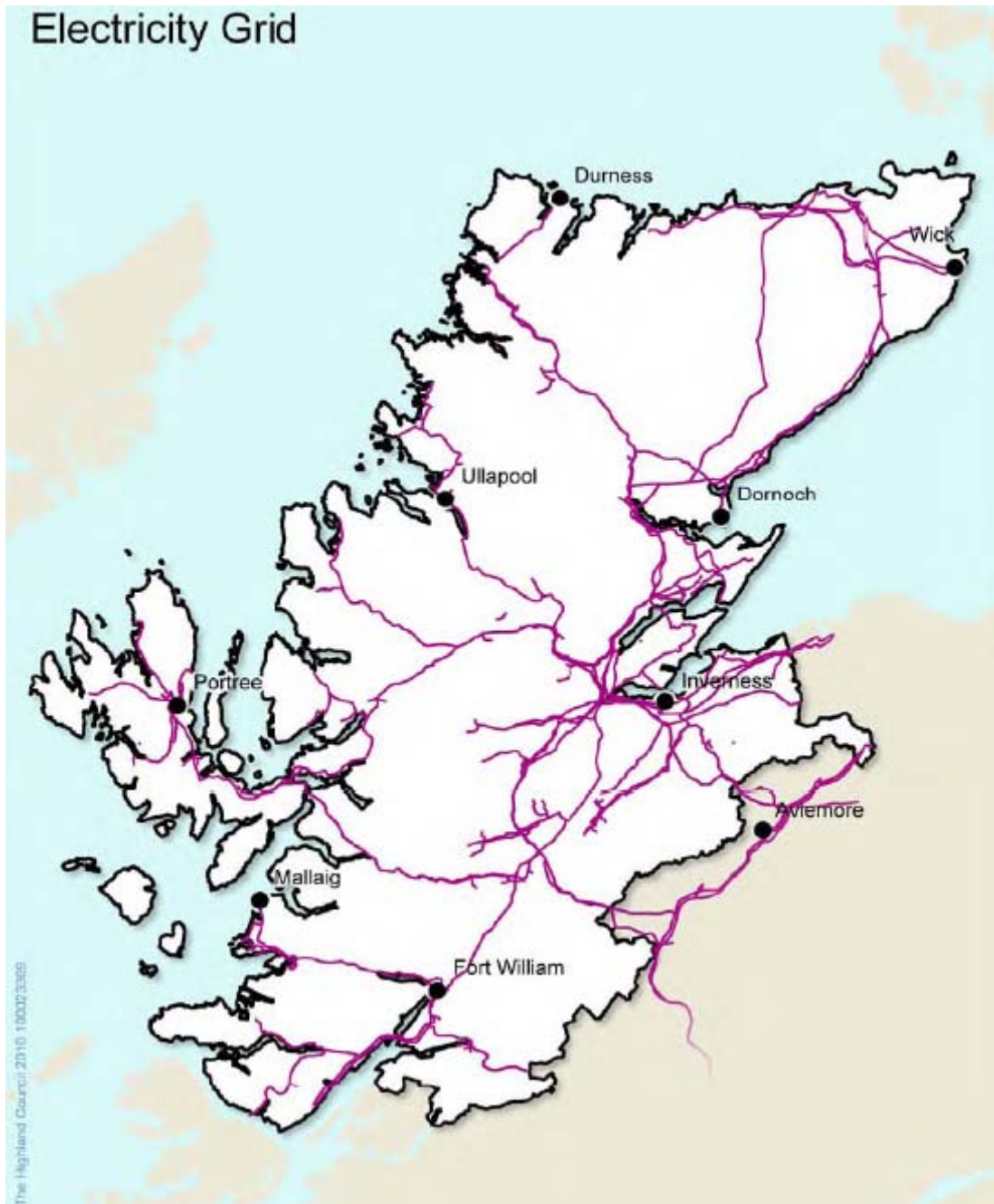


Tourist and Recreation Routes

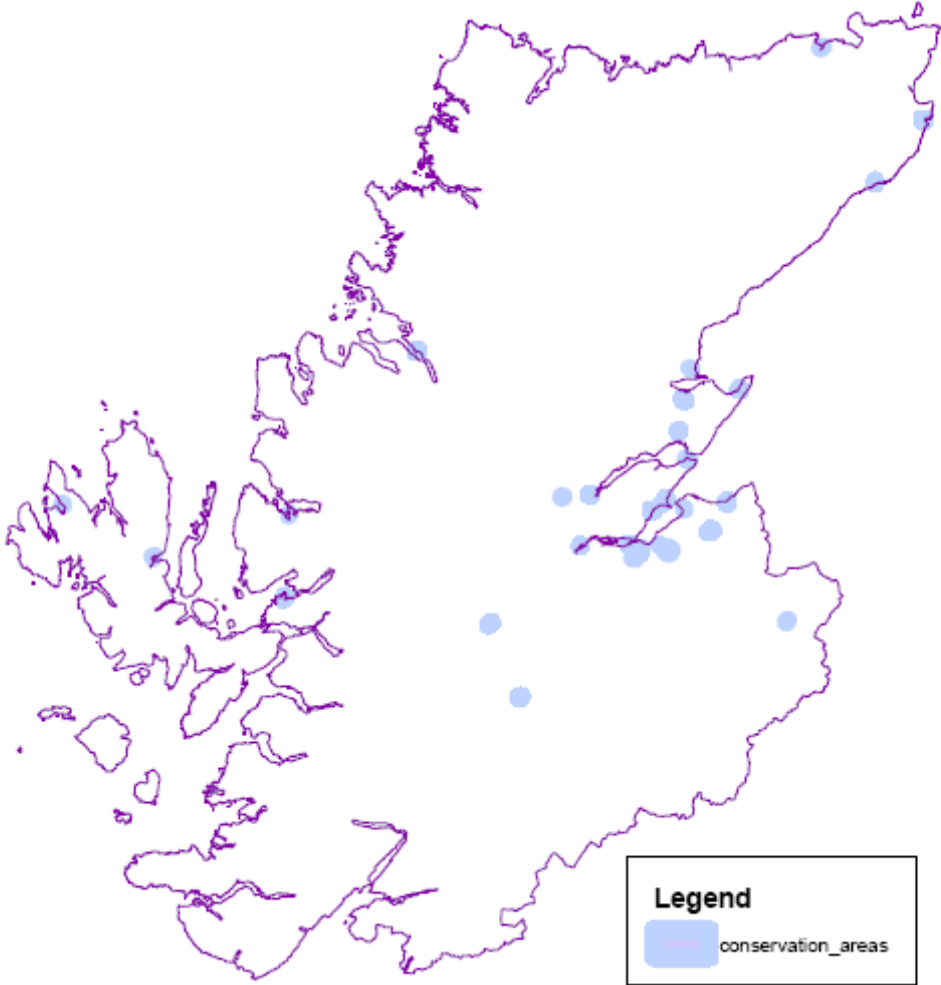
-  National Tourist Route
-  National Cycle Network
-  Long Distance Routes



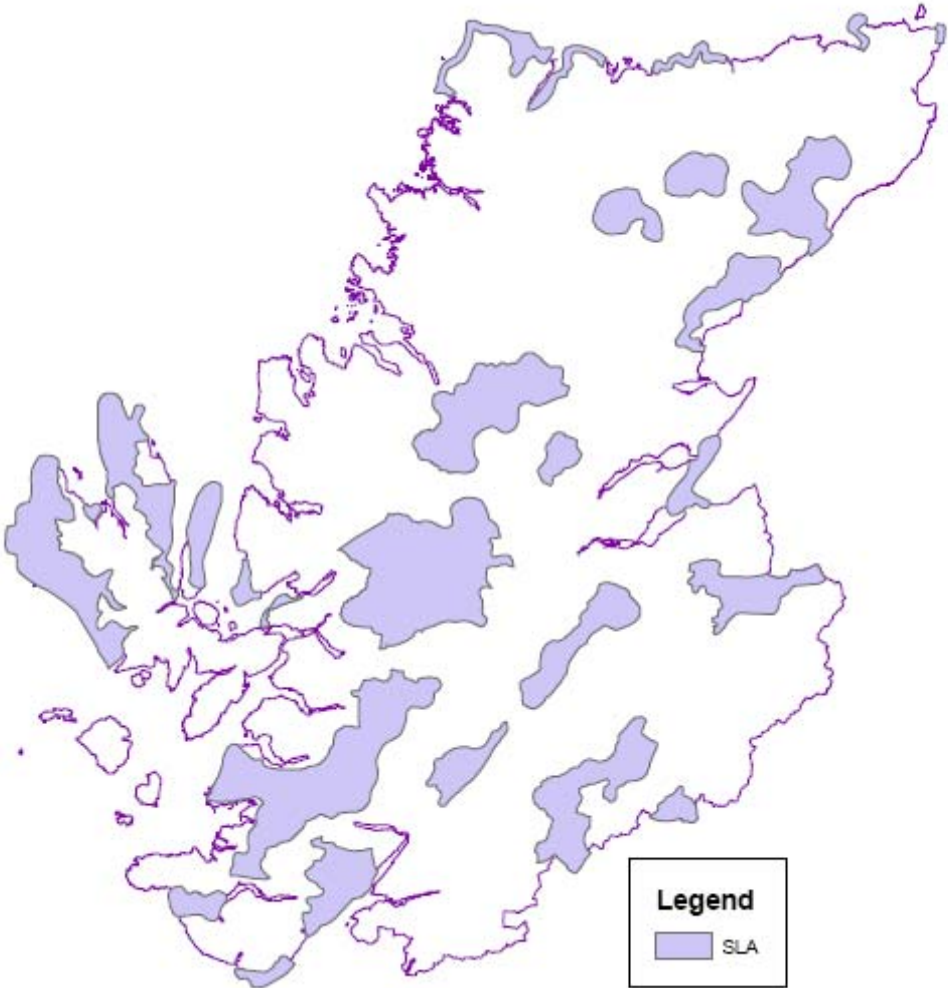
Electricity Grid



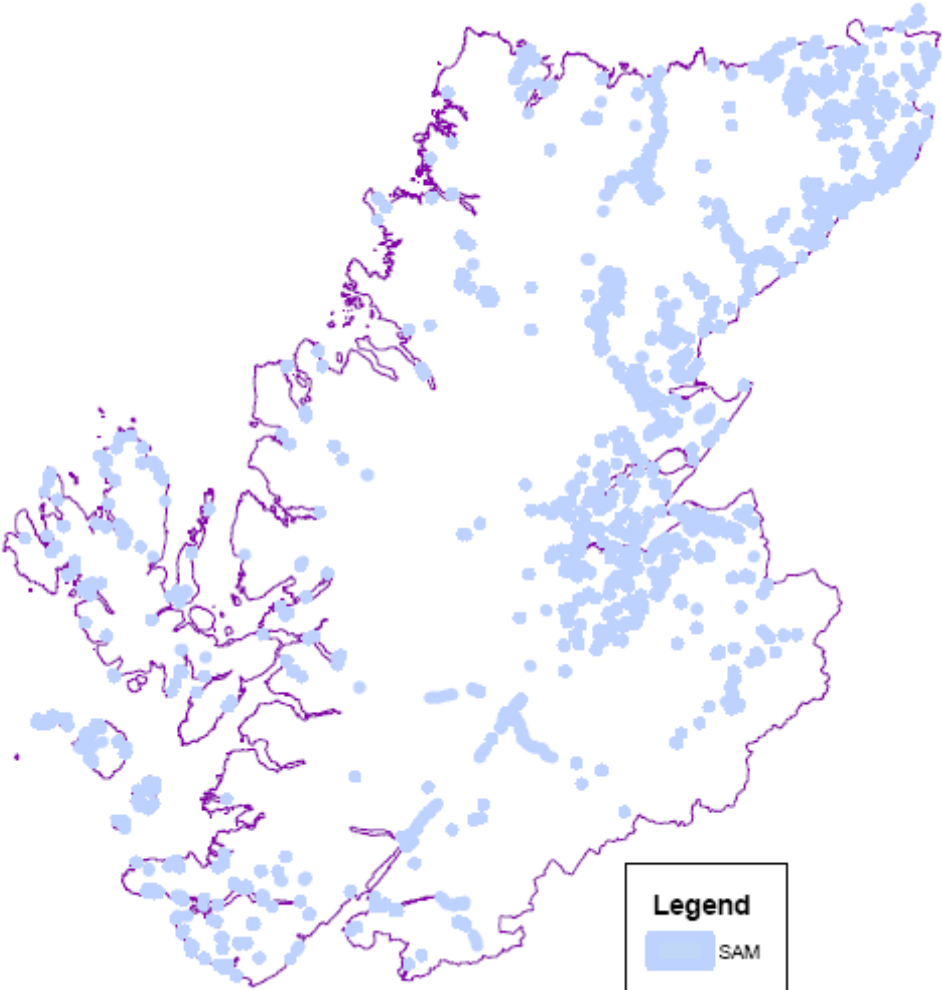
Conservation Areas in Highland



Special Landscape Areas

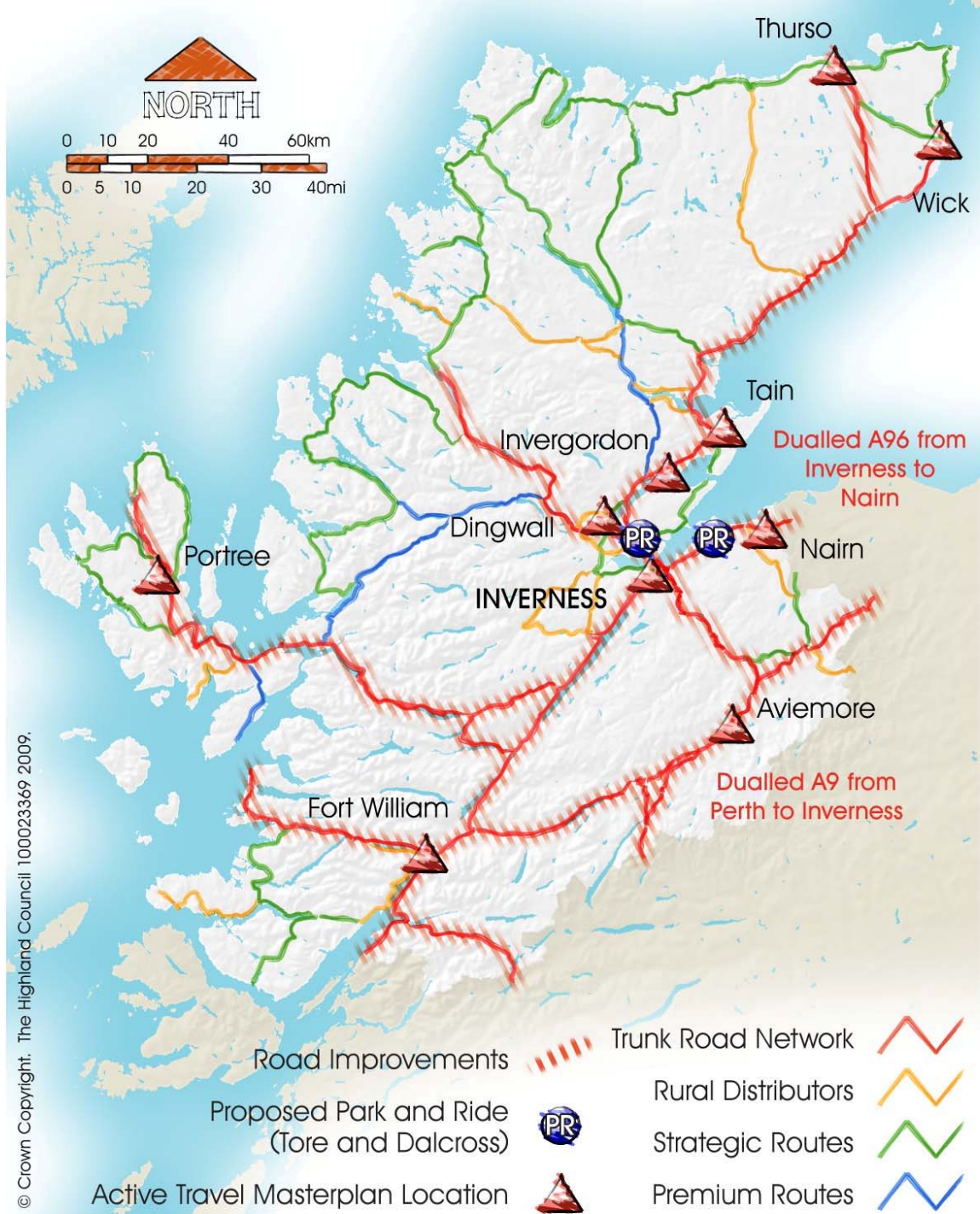


Schedule Ancient Monuments



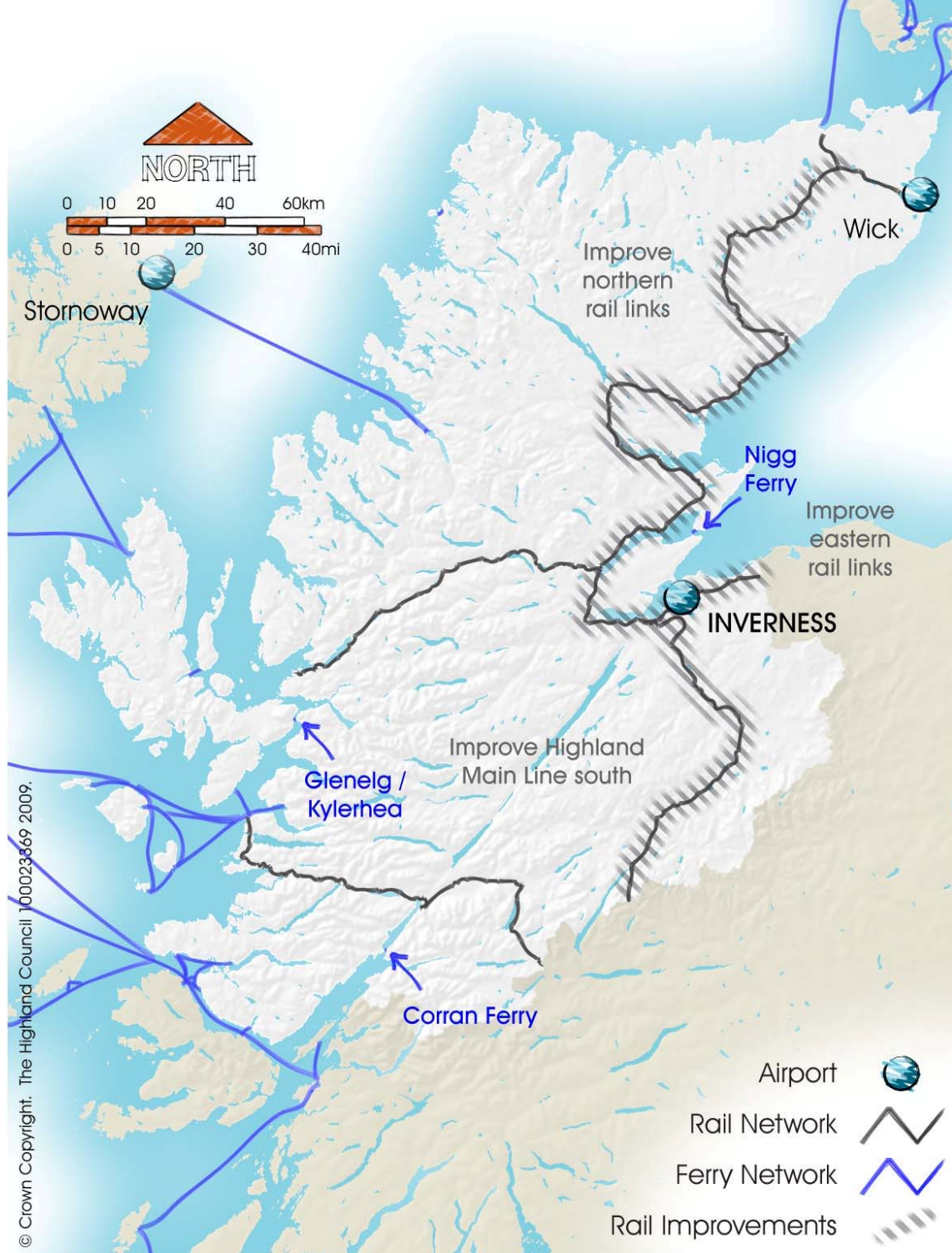
HIGHLAND WIDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Transport Strategy Map

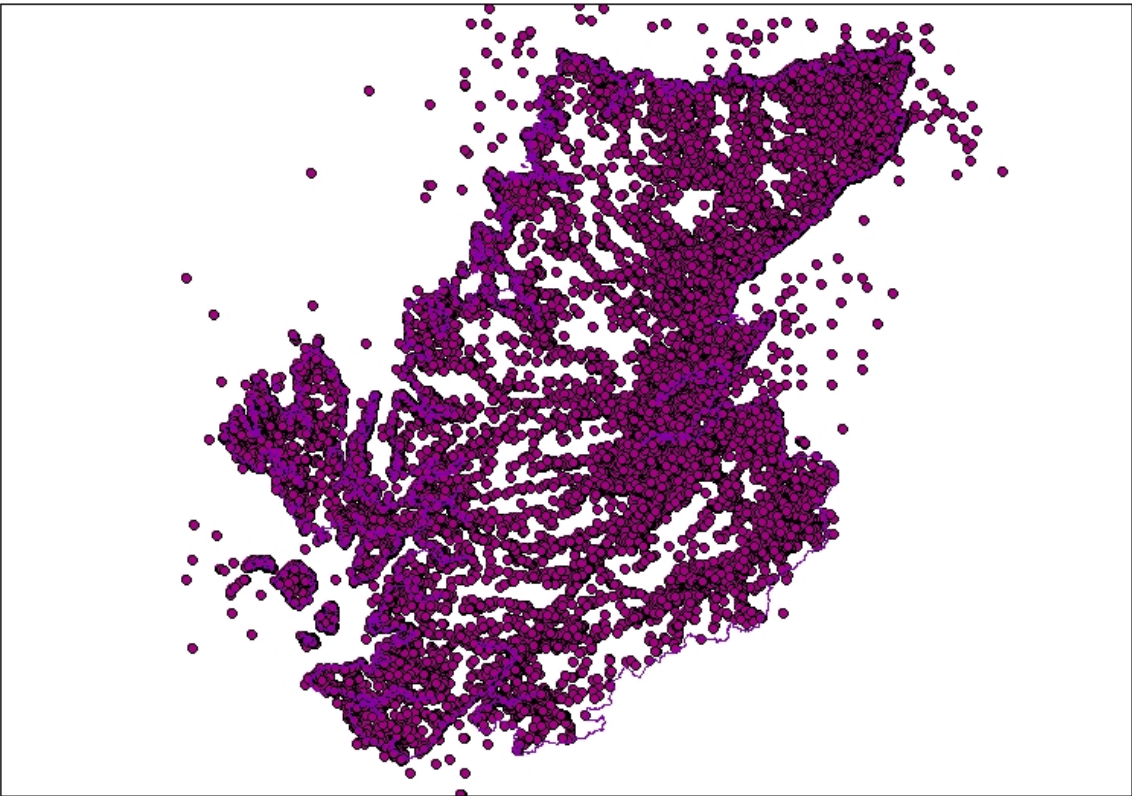


HIGHLAND WIDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Air, Rail and Ferry Links



Records in the Highland Historic Environment Record



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 Natura 2000 sites?</p> <p>Will it safeguard Sites of Special Scientific Interest?</p> <p>Will it ensure the importance of the protected species of the area is made a priority?</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 a more healthy lifestyle for the residents within the settlements?</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 contamination, 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>
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</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>
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?</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>

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.