

SEA SCREENING REPORT (COVER NOTE)

PART 1

To: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
or
SEA Gateway
Scottish Executive
Area 1 H (Bridge)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

PART 2

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

Dounreay Planning Framework 2012 Update

The Responsible Authority is:

The Highland Council

COMPLETE PART 3 or 4 or 5

PART 3

Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our view is that:

- an SEA is required** because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects or
- an SEA is required** because the PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and is likely to have significant environmental effects or
- an SEA is not required** because the PPS is unlikely to have significant environmental effects

PART 4

The PPS does not require an SEA under the Act. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, because this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 28 day timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed.

PART 5

None of the above apply. We have prepared this screening report because:
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.....
.....

PART 6

Contact name

Simon Hindson

Job Title

Planner

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PART 7

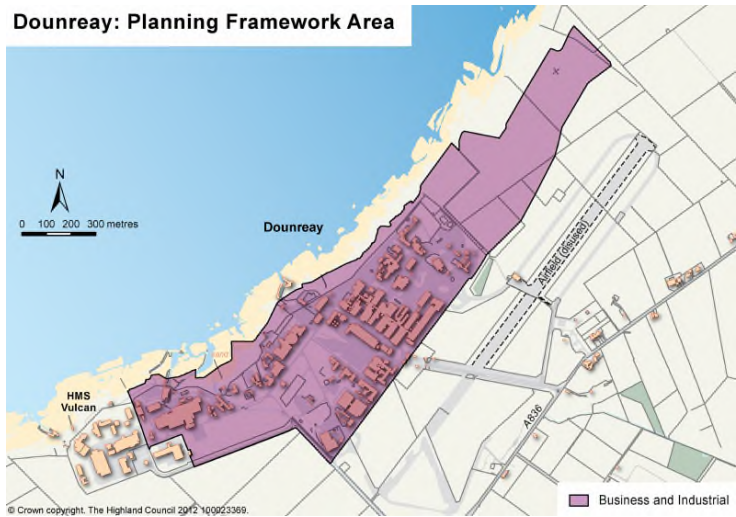
Signature
(electronic
signature
is acceptable)

S Hindson

Date

15th August 2012

SEA SCREENING REPORT - KEY FACTS

Responsible Authority	The Highland Council
Title of PPS	Dounreay Planning Framework 2012 Update
Purpose of PPS	This updated Dounreay Planning Framework document will be used by the Highland Council when considering Dounreay's planning applications and to regulate and control future decommissioning and restoration proposals. It is intended that the DPF2 will be Supplementary Guidance (SG) to the Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP) and will be part of the development plan to assist the Highland Council in making decisions on future planning applications. It will be based upon the principles set out in Policy 24 of the HwLDP.
What prompted the PPS (e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	Policy 24 of the HwLDP makes reference to the need for a development framework to facilitate the timely, safe and environmentally acceptable decommissioning restoration and after use of the Dounreay site.
Subject (e.g. transport)	Town Planning
Period covered by PPS	2012 onwards
Frequency of updates	The guidance will be reviewed as and when necessary. As a minimum the guidance will be reviewed every 5 years.
Area covered by PPS (e.g. geographical area – it is good practice to attach a map)	<p>The area covered by the Development Brief is shown on the map below:</p>  <p>© Crown copyright. The Highland Council 2012 100923369.</p>

**Summary of nature/
content of PPS**

The development framework is being produced to address the following principles:

- the timely, safe and environmentally acceptable decommissioning, restoration and after-use of the Dounreay site;
- phasing through to the interim end point, setting out the developments required for decommissioning and restoration towards achieving the site end state, including new build, adaptation, demolition and remediation;
- sufficient flexibility to respond to changing constraints whilst not placing undue restrictions on the site operator;
- indication of potential new interim uses and end uses for parts of the site in support of economic regeneration of the area;
- and developer requirements as set out in Appendix 5 of the Revised Environmental Report of the HwLDP relating to Policy 24: Dounreay. The Council will work with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority towards the early identification of opportunities for the economic reuse of existing Dounreay facilities and land.

This document is a revision to the 2006 Dounreay Planning Framework which is available to view on the link below:

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/planning/developmentplans/localplans/dounreay-planning-framework.htm>

**Are there any proposed
PPS objectives?**

YES

NO

Copy of objectives attached

YES

NO

Date

15th August 2012

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Our determinations regarding the likely significance of effects on the environment of Dounreay Planning Framework 2012 Update is set out in Table 1.

TABLE 1 – LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

TITLE OF PPS		
Dounreay Planning Framework 2012 Update		
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY		
The Highland Council		
Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (1(a), 1(b) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)	Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
1(a) the degree to which the PPS sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	NO	The development framework will refine and guide developments in line with the principles set out in the in the Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP). The development outlined in this document will happen in due course but by having this document it offers flexibility on timescale for delivery.
1(b) the degree to which the PPS influences other PPS including those in a hierarchy	NO	The development brief is influenced by the HwLDP and it will be a key factor in delivering development outlined by this development framework. It is considered that this Development Framework may influence the Dounreay related content of the Caithness and Sutherland Local Development Plan in due course, albeit this is likely to be limited.
1(c) the relevance of the PPS for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable	NO	The development framework will accord with the policies of the HwLDP which promote sustainable development.

development		
<p>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (1(d) etc. refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)</p>	<p>Likely to have significant environmental effects?</p> <p>YES/NO</p>	<p>Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)</p>
1(d) environmental problems relevant to the PPS	NO	In this area there are a number of environmental problems including: those associated with the former uses of the site. The key environmental constraints on the site have been identified through the SEA of the HwLDP and the appropriate mitigation from this will be brought through into the development framework.
1(e) the relevance of the PPS for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, PPS linked to waste management or water protection)	NO	It is not anticipated that the development framework will be relevant in this respect.
2 (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	YES/NO	The development framework ensures the timely, safe and environmentally acceptable decommissioning, restoration and after-use of the Dounreay site. With this in mind the development framework seeks to restore the site to a state which may enable part of the site to come into effective use in the future.
2 (b) the cumulative nature of the effects	NO.	It is unlikely that the cumulative effect of development in this area will lead to a significant effect on the environment. However through application of policies in the HwLDP and mitigation which will be included in the development framework (taken from the HwLDP SEA) any environmental effect will be minimal.
2 (c) transboundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects)	NO	N/A

on other EU Member States)		
2 (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	NO.	The development framework will play a role in reducing risks to the human health in the area through the timely, safe and environmentally acceptable decommissioning, restoration and after use of the site.
Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment (2(e), 2(f) etc refer to paragraphs in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005)	Likely to have significant environmental effects? YES/NO	Summary of significant environmental effects (negative and positive)
2 (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	NO	The development framework will apply to one specific area. The decommissioning, restoration and development of this area is a key element of the spatial strategy for Highland but specifically the Caithness and Sutherland area.
2 (f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to- (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use.	NO	This development framework will lead to developments required for decommissioning and restoration towards achieving the site end state. This will include new build, adaptation, demolition and remediation. There are a number of natural, built and cultural heritage designations around the development framework area. However it is anticipated that through application of mitigation measures identified in the SEA for the HwLDP, application of development plan policies. and through the preparation of the Development Framework itself, any potential impacts on these features can be mitigated.
2 (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	NO	There are no landscapes in or adjacent to the area covered by the development framework which are likely to be effected.

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A summary of our considerations of the significant environmental effects of Dounreay Development Framework 2012 Update is given below.

TABLE 2 – SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

This revised Dounreay Planning Framework document will be used by the Highland Council when considering Dounreay's planning applications and to regulate and control future decommissioning and restoration proposals.

It is recognised that development of this area will have an effect on the environment. However, the principle of preparing a development framework for this area has been set by the Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP). The HwLDP has been subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment which considered the policy implications but also carried out a site assessment, which has identified mitigation. These mitigation measures will be fully integrated into the development framework. It should also be noted that given the past use of this site it is not possible to fully restore the site to the state prior to the development of the Dounreay Nuclear Power Station on the site but through the considered approach to the timely, safe and environmentally acceptable decommissioning, restoration and after-use of the site there will be a positive effect on the environment; it is not considered that this will be significant.

Given the proximity to the North Caithness Cliffs SPA there may be an effect on a European designated site, as such Habitats Regulations Appraisal will be undertaken at an appropriate stage to inform, in due course, the content of the final version of the development framework which is to be adopted as statutory supplementary guidance.

The reason that the details contained within the proposed development framework is to be included in a development framework rather than the plan itself is to ensure the development of a succinct local development plan. This will also ensure that the most relevant, flexible and up to date to framework is in place to facilitate delivery of development. This flexibility enables the provisions of the development framework to be a statutory part of the development plan, rather than being reviewed with the HwLDP or Caithness and Sutherland Local Development Plan on a 5 year cycle.

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**TABLE 3
SUMMARY RECORD OF COMMENTS FROM CONSULTATION AUTHORITIES**

SCREENING TEMPLATE - GUIDANCE NOTE 2

It is not a statutory requirement to include this section in the screening report. However, the Responsible Authority may find it useful for record purposes.

TITLE OF PLAN, PROGRAMME OR STRATEGY

Dounreay Development Framework 2012 Update

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

The Highland Council

DATE COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM CONSULTATION AUTHORITIES

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Consultation Authority	Views (if known at this stage)
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Significant environmental effects - YES/ NO
	If YES, note SEA topics/issues here (e.g. soil and water)
Scottish Natural Heritage	Significant environmental effects - YES/ NO
	If YES, note SEA topics/issues here (e.g. flora, fauna and biodiversity)
The Scottish Ministers (Historic Scotland)	Significant environmental effects - YES/ NO
	If YES, note SEA topics/issues here (e.g. landscape and cultural heritage)

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TABLE 4 – RECORD OF POST SCREENING ACTION

SCREENING TEMPLATE - GUIDANCE NOTE 3

It is not a requirement to include this section in the screening report. However, the Responsible Authority may find it useful for record purposes.

TITLE OF PLAN, PROGRAMME OR STRATEGY (PPS)

Dounreay Development Framework 2012 Update

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

The Highland Council

1 Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities in agreement – PPS <i>is</i> likely to have significant environmental effects	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Date of determination	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
2 Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities in agreement – PPS <i>is not</i> likely to have significant environmental effects	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Date of determination	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
3 Responsible Authority and Consultation Authorities cannot reach agreement – referred to the Scottish Ministers for their determination	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Date referred to the Scottish Ministers	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
4 Scottish Ministers' determination	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Date of determination	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
5 Publicity requirements met	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <input style="width: 40%; height: 20px;" type="text" value="YES"/> <input style="width: 40%; height: 20px;" type="text" value="NO"/> </div>
6 Signature	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Date	<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>