

Issue 47	Siting and Design of Communications Infrastructure	
Development plan reference:	Policy 47 (Para 20.14, Page 93)	Reporter:
Body or person(s) submitting a representation raising the issue (including reference number)		
Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) (118) , M Gilvray (453)		
Provision of the development plan to which the issue relates:		Siting and Design of Communications Infrastructure
Councils summary of the representation(s):		
<p>The policy provides insufficient protection for the environment in general and landscape character in particular. (118).</p> <p>The policy itself should include access to communications structures as this can be as intrusive as the structure itself (453)</p>		
Modifications sought by those submitting representations:		
<p>SNH suggest that Para. 20.13.1 is augmented with, "Guidance on siting and design is available in 'Siting and Design Guidelines for Mobile Telecommunications Developments in the Highlands and Islands' (http://www.snh.org.uk/pubs/detail.asp?id=172). (118)</p> <p>SNH suggest amending the first bullet point to read: "equipment is sited and designed sensitively to avoid adverse impacts on the environment, including landscape character views." (118)</p> <p>Include proposed access routes within wider assessment of design/location [first bullet point] and cumulative visual impact of Communications Infrastructure [final sentence] [assumed] (453)</p>		
Summary of responses (including reasons) by Planning Authority:		
<p>SNH's 'Siting and Design Guidelines for Mobile Telecommunications Developments in the Highlands and Islands' was published in 2002 and is based on older survey data and out-dated mast designs/mobile technologies. Updated guidance would be welcome, as this existing guidance would be some 14-15 years old by the end of the plan period.</p> <p>Agree with proposed change to first bullet point to read: "equipment is sited and designed sensitively to avoid adverse impacts on the environment, including landscape character views", as may be a particular concern in rural areas.</p> <p>Agree with proposed change to first bullet point to include access routes in assessment, as may be a particular concern in rural areas.</p>		

Agree with proposed change to final sentence to include access routes in assessment, as may be a particular concern in rural areas.

Any further plan changes commended by the council

None

Reporter's conclusions:

For Reporter

Reporter's recommendations:

For Reporter