



**Strategic Environmental Assessment
Scoping Report
for the
Orkney Local Development Plan**

October 2024

Cover Note PART 1	
To:	<u>SEA_Gateway@gov.scot</u> SEA Gateway 2 H (South) Victoria Quay Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
PART 2	
An SEA Scoping Report is attached for the plan, programme or strategy (PPS) entitled:	
<div>Orkney Local Development Plan</div>	
The Responsible Authority is:	
<div>Orkney Islands Council</div>	
PART 3	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. <u>or</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. <u>or</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	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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Date	<div>23 October 2024</div>

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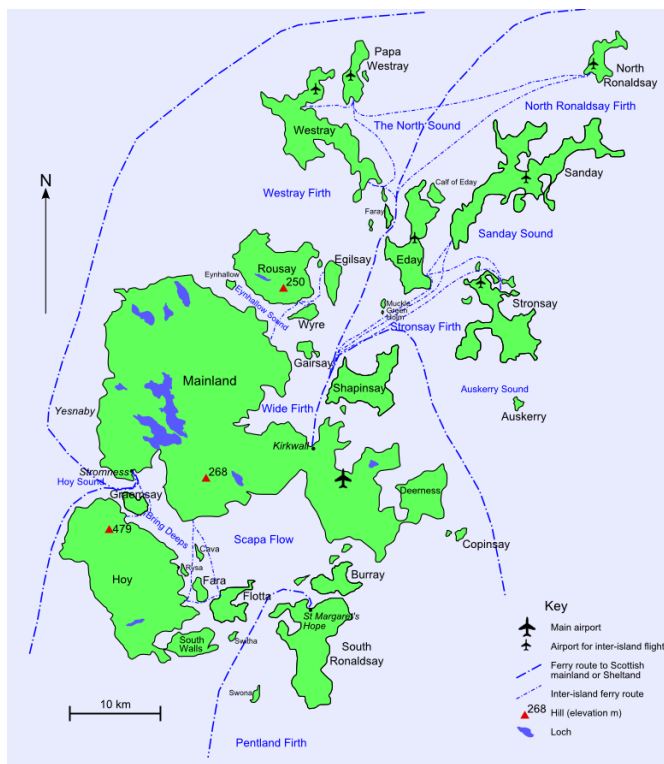
Note: Baseline environmental information is provided in a separate document.

1. Context

a. Background

The plan being assessed is the future Orkney Local Development Plan (LDP). The Plan is a ten year plan covering the whole of the Orkney Islands Council area (figure 1) for the period 2027 – 2037.

Having a Local Development Plan is a legislative requirement under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended). The purpose of the LDP is to set out a spatial strategy and the planning authority's policies and proposals about how land is developed and used in the Orkney Islands Council area.



Map of Orkney by Mikenorton [\[CC BY-SA 3.0\]](#), via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Figure 1 – the area covered by the LDP

b. Environmental protection objectives in other plans, programmes and strategies

There are a large number of other plans, programmes and strategies (PPS) that are of relevance to the LDP. Due to their number, these are listed in **Annex I: Other plans, programmes and strategies**. The PPS are categorised according to their international, national and local scales and are accompanied by information on their purpose, relationship with the LPD and their relevance to the environmental assessment.

2. Scoping information

a. Topics considered

Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 lists categories of potential environmental effects that should be considered as part of the environmental assessment process. These have been grouped together into eight Topic areas. The Topics are:

- Topic 1: Climatic Factors
- Topic 2: Air
- Topic 3: Water
- Topic 4: Soil (including geodiversity)
- Topic 5: Material Assets
- Topic 6: Biodiversity
- Topic 7: Landscape and Cultural Heritage
- Topic 8: Population and Human Health

b. Topics scoped in

All the SEA Topics identified in section 2.a have been scoped in, as the LDP has the potential to influence all topics.

c. Environmental baseline

The separate Topic papers present information on the environmental baseline, ordered by the eight different topic areas: climatic factors, air, water, soils and geodiversity, material assets, biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage, population and human health.

3. Proposed assessment methodology

a. Process

The intended SEA process is to:

- Gather environmental baseline data and information, identify draft methodology.
- Consult on the scoping report, to confirm the environmental baseline is complete and agree the assessment methodology with consultation authorities (current stage).
- Alongside the preparation of LDP, carry out environmental assessment and prepare a draft Environmental Report for the LDP, using the assessment

methodology and taking into account consultation authority advice on the scoping report.

- Consult on the draft Environmental Report and LDP, followed by consideration of consultation feedback, before final sign off by the Council to submit to Ministers.
- Issue a post-adoption statement on the Environmental Report.
- Monitor environmental effects, identify and implement mitigation where unexpected adverse effects occur.

b. Assessment templates and SEA objectives

At this stage, it is intended that the assessment will focus on the elements that have the potential to result in changes, development or activities on the ground that may have environmental effects. Tables 1, 2 and 3 will be used as a basis for carrying out the environmental assessment and recording the findings. Table 1 provides the intended scoring matrix that will be used to ensure consistency during the environmental assessment. Tables 2 and 3 provide the main objectives and template for scoring and recording potential environmental effects during the environmental assessment. It incorporates proposed SEA objectives and sub-objectives that each element of the LDP will be scored against.

Where available, guidance published by the consultation authorities has been used as a basis for setting the SEA objectives and sub-objectives. These relate to the specific SEA environmental receptors and issues that have the potential to be affected by the LDP. The information and issues identified as part of the baseline have also been used to inform which objectives and sub-objectives are relevant to the environmental assessment of the LDP.

The SEA objectives and questions are provisional and may be modified during the SEA process – for example, as a result of comments from the Consultation Authorities, changes in the baseline data when it is fully collected and/or if the content of the LDP covers different subject matter than currently expected.

Table 1 – proposed scoring matrix

Significance of Effect	
Element would have a major positive environmental effect in its current form as it would resolve an existing issue or maximise opportunities. SIGNIFICANT.	++
Element would have a minor positive environmental effect.	+
Effect of element is uncertain.	?
No connectivity with the environmental Topic/Objective being assessed.	x
Element would have no predicted environmental effects.	0

Element would have a minor adverse environmental effect.	-
The element would have a major adverse environmental effect as it would create significant new problems or substantially exacerbate existing problems. Consider exclusion of option. SIGNIFICANT.	--

Table 2 – proposed main environmental objectives

Topic	Objective number	Main Objective(s)
Climatic factors	1a	Reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases with particular focus on emissions from buildings, transport, waste, energy generation and industry, and those arising from land use, land change and forestry (including natural carbon sinks such as peatlands, sea grass, kelp and trees).
	1b	Ensure existing and proposed infrastructure and buildings are located and designed to cope with future climate conditions.
Air	2a	To maintain or improve air quality and reduce emissions of key pollutants.
Water	3a	Maintain and improve the quality of water resources and to protect and enhance the state of the water environment.
	3b	Reduce demand for water and minimise unnecessary water use.
	3c	To reduce the impact of invasive non-native species on the water environment.
Soil and geodiversity	4a	Minimise contamination and safeguard and improve soil, peat quality and geodiversity.
Material assets	5a	Encourage the sustainable use and reuse of material assets.
Biodiversity	6a	Protect and enhance the biodiversity of the Orkney.
Landscape and cultural heritage	7a	Protect and enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the landscapes of Orkney.
	7b	Protect and enhance the historic and cultural environment and assets (including linguistic) of Orkney.
Population and human health	8a	Support and enhance the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors to Orkney through housing, recreation and employment opportunities.

Table 3 – proposed environmental assessment template

SECTION OF PLAN BEING ASSESSED: (eg Vision, Policy X, Option 1A, etc)					
SEA objective	Assessment of environmental effects				
	SEA sub-objective	Nature of effect <i>Insert a description of the nature of the potential effect the Option will have on the issue against the criteria set out by the SEA Objective. Include consideration of cumulative effects. Link to baseline information as necessary.</i>	Scoring: significance of effect before mitigation <i>Insert scoring for the significance of the environmental effect BEFORE mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)</i>	Mitigation and enhancement <i>Insert information on how adverse effects will be mitigated and/or how enhancements will be used to create positive effects.</i>	Scoring: residual significance of effect after mitigation <i>Insert scoring for the residual significance of the environmental effect AFTER mitigation (using the symbology in Table 1)</i>
1a	Will there be an effect on transport GHG emissions during construction activity or during operation/occupation ?				
	Will there be an effect on energy GHG emissions during construction activity or during operation/occupation ?				

	Will there be an effect on industrial, manufacture and/or construction processes GHG emissions during construction activity or during operation/occupation ?				
	Will there be an effect on waste GHG emissions during construction activity or during operation/occupation ?				
	Will there be an effect on land use, land change and forestry GHG emissions during construction or during operation/occupation affecting carbon sinks (such as trees, carbon rich soils, wetlands, sea grass beds, kelp forests, etc)?				

1b	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on existing infrastructure and buildings?				
	Considering future implications of climate change (eg increased severity of weather resulting in more flooding, periods of drought and extremes of temperature), will there be an effect on infrastructure and buildings proposed in the Local Development Plan?				
2a	Will there be an effect on the levels of UK National Air Quality pollutants (e.g. NO ₂ , PM ₁₀ , PM _{2.5} , SO ₂)?				

	Will there be an effect on the levels of other types of air pollution (eg particulates)?				
3a	Will there be an effect on the water quality of watercourses and ground-water from diffuse and point source pollution?				
	Will there be an effect on the ability of catchments to store water and the natural flood management services they provide?				
	Will there be an effect on public water supplies?				
3b	Will there be an effect on demand for water from development (residential and business)?				
	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of water resources?				

3c	Will there be an effect on the water environment from invasive non-native species?				
4a	Will there be an effect on carbon rich soils?				
	Will there be an effect on soil sealing, soil structure and soil loss?				
	Will there be an effect on the levels of soil contamination?				
	Will there be an effect on soil erosion and landslides?				
	Will there be an effect on geodiversity interests (eg GCR sites)?				
5a	Will there be an effect on sustainable use of natural resources (eg water, aggregates)?				

	Will there be an effect on the sustainable use and management of existing and proposed infrastructure (eg water, heat, energy or flood protection infrastructure)?				
	Will there be an effect on the use of finite resources through the use of secondary and recycled materials?				
6a	Will there be an effect on the favourable condition of the interests of areas protected for nature conservation? (European sites, Ramsar sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest)				
	Will there be an effect on protected species?				
	Will there be an effect on Scottish Biodiversity List habitats and plants				

	found in Orkney? (in Local Nature Conservation Sites or in the wider countryside)				
	Will there be an effect on Scottish Biodiversity List non-plant species? (in Local Nature Conservation Sites or in the wider countryside)				
	Will there be an effect on invasive non-native species or tree pests and diseases?				
7a	Will there be an effect on the special qualities of the National Scenic Area?				
	Will there be an effect landscape character and local distinctiveness?				
7b	Will there be an effect on the historic and cultural environment and assets?				

8a	Will there be an effect on housing for local needs?				
	Will there be an effect on recreation and active travel opportunities that support healthier lifestyles?				
	Will there be an effect on employment opportunities local to places of residence?				

c. Longevity and permanence of effects

Consideration of longevity and scale of effects is built into the assessment table template, so will form an integral part of the environmental assessment for each element assessed.

d. Alternatives and mitigation

At this stage, initial thinking is that consideration will be given to an LDP approach that focusses the majority of new development around existing settlements and to an alternative that spreads new development throughout settlements and the wider countryside. Other alternatives will be considered and assessed if different options emerge during the preparation of the consultation draft as well as from the public consultation itself.

e. Cumulative and in-combination effects

Consideration of the potential for cumulative and in-combination effects will be included as an integral part of the environmental assessment process for individual elements of the plan. A review of the assessment results will also be undertaken to double check any cumulative or in-combination effects that may not have been apparent during individual assessments.

f. Other environmental assessments

A Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) will be undertaken to inform the LDP. While the HRA is required under different legislation¹, as a matter of good practice the HRA will be used to inform the Environmental Report and vice versa as part of an iterative process.

¹ Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, commonly referred to as the Habitats Regulations.

4. Next steps

a. Scoping advice sought from consultation authorities

As described in the previous sections, all Topics have been scoped in. OIC wish to seek the particular advice of the consultation authorities on:

- the proposed methodology (section 3)
- whether there are gaps in the environmental baseline information identified in separate Topic papers
- if there is new information that is expected to become available over the next 3 months that could be useful to add to the environmental baseline.

The advice of the consultation authorities will be valuable for informing the environmental assessment going forward.

b. Environmental Report proposed consultation period

A round of public consultation events and a public call for sites was undertaken in Orkney during the summer of 2024, closing at the end of September. All proposed allocation sites will be subject to SEA (and HRA where required). At the current early stage of plan preparation, it is considered that the majority of the policies in National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) will be appropriate for use in the Orkney context. As NPF4 policies have already been subject to SEA (and HRA), such policies will be scoped out of the SEA of the Orkney LDP. However any new policies and any NPF4 policies that require local adaptation for the Orkney LDP will be subject to SEA (and HRA where required). A twelve week consultation period is therefore anticipated for the Environmental Report.

c. Indicative timescales for plan preparation and consultation

It is anticipated that the LDP and the Environmental Report will be consulted on at the same time via the SEA Gateway. They will also go out for public consultation during this time.

Annex I: Other plans, programmes and strategies

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA topic	Relationship between the PPS and land use planning
International directives and policies			
European Landscape Convention (European Commission, 2000)	Promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – biodiversity – landscape and cultural heritage – population and human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should be a tool for the maintenance and restoration of landscapes and their natural habitats.
The Paris Agreement (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2015)	The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – climatic factors 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should seek to promote the development and use of appropriate renewable energy sources and contribute to climate change mitigation.
Kyoto Protocol (UNFCCC, 1997)	Protocol to the international Framework Convention on Climate Change Framework with the objective of reducing the Greenhouse gases that cause climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – climatic factors 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should support measures that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (Council of Europe, 1995)	The Strategy aims to reverse the decline of landscape and biological diversity, by promoting innovation and proactive policy making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – biodiversity – landscape and cultural heritage – population and human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should support the strategy by considering the contribution that actions could make to protecting biodiversity and landscapes.

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA topic	Relationship between the PPS and land use planning
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance 1971	Requires conservation and wise use of wetlands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – water – biodiversity – landscape and cultural heritage 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should ensure the protection and enhancement of wetlands.
Taking Sustainable Use of Resources Forward: A thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste (EU 2005)	A sector based strategy produced as a requirement of the Seventh Environmental Action Programme of the European Community, seeking to help Europe become a recycling society that seeks to avoid waste and uses waste as a resource.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – climatic factors – air – material assets 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should seek to minimise waste and promote recycling.
Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection (EU 2006)	A sector based strategy produced as a requirement of the Seventh Environmental Action Programme of the European Community, seeking to establish common principles for the protection and sustainable use of soils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – soil and geodiversity 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should contribute towards the protection and improvement of soil.
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UN, 1992)	An international legally-binding treaty with three main goals: conservation of biodiversity; sustainable use of biodiversity; fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – biodiversity 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should look for opportunities to conserve, and where possible restore, biodiversity.
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (the Rio Earth Summit) 1992 (UN, 1992)	Treaty aimed at reducing global emissions of greenhouse gases to combat global warming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – climatic factors 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should assist in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
– National legislation (UK and Scotland)			

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA topic	Relationship between the PPS and land use planning
Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000 (as amended in Scotland)	Establishes standards for air quality and sets limits for various pollutants in Scotland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – air – population and human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should support measures that would improve air quality.
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended by Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011)	Prescribes the approach to be taken to planning for scheduled ancient monuments and archaeological areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – landscape and cultural heritage 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should ensure that scheduled ancient monuments and archaeological areas are not adversely affected by new development.
Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009	Legislation to set a target for the year 2050, an interim target for the year 2020, and to provide for annual targets, for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; to provide about the giving of advice to the Scottish Ministers relating to climate change; to confer power on Ministers to impose climate change duties on public bodies; to make further provision about mitigation of and adaptation to climate change; to make provision about energy efficiency, including provision enabling council tax discounts; to make provision about the reduction and recycling of waste; and for connected purposes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – climatic factors 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should support and include climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.
Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994 (as amended for Scotland)	These regulations relate to the designation of European sites, and provision of protection to various plant and animal species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – biodiversity 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should ensure that

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA topic	Relationship between the PPS and land use planning
			European sites are protected from loss or damage.
Environment Act 1995	The Act sets new standards for environmental management by statutory bodies.	– all topics	The council must adhere to the standards set out in the act.
Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	Requires Strategic Environmental Assessments to be completed for plans, programmes and strategies likely to have significant environmental effects.	– all topics	Enables the significant environmental effects of the plan, programme or strategy being assessed to be identified and addressed.
Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 2017	Requires environmental impact assessments for certain forestry projects.	– all topics	The plan, programme or strategy being assessed will be required to be compatible with environmental impact assessments legislation.
The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017	Requires environmental impact assessment of site specific projects and specifically requires consideration of Sensitive Areas.	– all topics	The plan, programme or strategy being assessed will be required to be compatible with environmental impact assessments legislation.
Equality Act 2010	The Equality Act 2010 legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society.	– population and human health	The plan, programme or strategy being assessed should ensure that it does not result in individuals or groups with protected characteristics being discriminated against.
Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009	Establishes roles, responsibilities and requirements for sustainable flood management.	– climatic factors – water – population and human health	The plan, programme or strategy being assessed should support flood management, particularly natural flood management.

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA topic	Relationship between the PPS and land use planning
Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014	Amongst other things, establishes Historic Environment Scotland with the general function of investigating, caring for and promoting Scotland's historic environment.	– landscape and cultural heritage	The plan, programme or strategy being assessed should support the protection and preservation of the historic environment.
Housing (Scotland) Act 2014	Makes provision about housing, including provision about the abolition of the right to buy, social housing, the law affecting private housing, the regulation of letting agents and the licensing of sites for mobile homes.	– population and human health	The plan, programme or strategy being assessed should support the provision of housing, particularly affordable housing.
Islands (Scotland) Act 2018	Sets out a requirement for public bodies to have regard to the effects on island communities in relation to their policies and plans.	– population and human health	The plan, programme or strategy being assessed can identify development opportunities that enable islands communities.
National Plan for Scotland's Islands (December 2019)	The National Islands Plan provides a framework for action in order to meaningfully improve outcomes for island communities.	– population and human health	The plan, programme or strategy being assessed can identify development opportunities that enable islands communities.
Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003	Establishes right of responsible access to land and water.	– water – landscape and cultural heritage – biodiversity – population and human health	The plan, programme or strategy being assessed can provide for and support responsible access.
Nature Conservation Act (Scotland) 2004	Act places duties on public bodies for conserving biodiversity, increases protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), amends legislation on Nature Conservation Orders,	– water – biodiversity – landscape and cultural heritage	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should support

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA topic	Relationship between the PPS and land use planning
	provides for Land Management Orders for SSSIs and associated land, strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and requires the preparation of a Scottish Fossil Code.		conservation and enhancement of biodiversity.
National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)	Sets out national development plan and policies as a framework to inform LDPs.	– all topics	The plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA must ensure that it complies with NPF4.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997	Prescribes the approach to be taken in planning for listed buildings, conservation areas and designed landscapes and gardens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – material assets – landscape and cultural heritage 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should ensure that listed buildings, conservation areas and designed landscapes and gardens are not adversely affected.
Sewage (Scotland) Act 1968	Along with the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002 this gives responsibilities to Scottish Water to manage the discharge of surface water that enters its drainage systems (by providing sewers and public Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs)) and to maintain water supplies and drainage infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – water – population and human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should have regard to Scottish Water's duties under this act.
Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003	Transposes the Water Framework Directive into Scots law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – water – biodiversity – landscape and cultural heritage – population and human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should encourage improvements to the water environment and support measures for more efficient use of water.

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA topic	Relationship between the PPS and land use planning
Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002	Along with the Sewage (Scotland) Act 1968 this gives responsibilities to Scottish Water to manage the discharge of surface water that enters its drainage systems (by providing sewers and public Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs)) and to maintain water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – water – population and human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should have regard to Scottish Water's duties under this act.
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended in Scotland)	Sets out offences in relation to the protection of certain species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – biodiversity 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should support protected species.
Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011	Amends Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and seeks to modernise game law; abolish the designation 'areas of special protection'; improve snaring practice; regulate invasive non-native species; change the licensing system for protected species; amend current arrangements for deer management and deer stalking; strengthen protection of badgers; change how muirburn can be practised; and make operational changes to the management of Sites of Scientific Interest; game law, use of shores, and invasive species legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – biodiversity 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should support provisions of the act.
Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	To make provision in relation to the conservation of biodiversity; to make further provision in relation to the conservation and enhancement of Scotland's natural features; to amend the law relating to the protection of certain birds, animals and plants; and for connected purposes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – biodiversity 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should support provisions of the act.

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA topic	Relationship between the PPS and land use planning
– National policy (UK and Scotland)			
The Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000	Sets out air quality objectives for Scotland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – air – population and human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should encourage reductions in emissions through a range of measures.
Creating Places - A policy statement on architecture and place for Scotland (Scottish Government, 2013)	A policy statement on architecture and place setting out the comprehensive value good design can deliver. The document contains an action plan that sets out the work that will be taken forward to achieve positive change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – landscape and cultural heritage – population and human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should support good design.
Climate ready Scotland - Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019 – 2024 (Scottish Government, 2019)	Sets objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, Ministerial proposals and policies for meeting those objectives, and the period within which those proposals and policies will be introduced. The Programme also sets out the arrangements for wider engagement in meeting those objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – climatic factors – population and human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should encourage reductions in emissions through a range of measures.
Civil Contingencies Act 2004	Delivers a framework for civil protection in the UK and defines the responsibilities for responders to emergency which include (among others)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – material assets – population and human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should support the requirements of responders to fulfil their statutory duties.
Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 – The Road to a Healthier Future	The national cross-government strategy that sets out how the Scottish Government and its partner organisations propose to reduce air pollution further to protect human health and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – air – population and human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should encourage

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA topic	Relationship between the PPS and land use planning
(Scottish Government, 2021)	fulfil Scotland's legal responsibilities as soon as possible.		reductions in emissions through a range of measures.
Groundwater Protection Policy for Scotland (SEPA, 2009)	This policy aims to provide a sustainable future for Scotland's groundwater resources by protecting legitimate uses of groundwater and providing a common SEPA framework.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – water – soil and geodiversity 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should aim, where possible, to manage significant flood risk to groundwater from flooding related pollution.
Historic Environment Circular 1 (HES, 2019)	This circular covers the requirements of the secondary legislation ('the Regulations') relating to the Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014 ('the 2014 Act').	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – landscape and cultural heritage 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should follow the guidance for policy development on the management of the historic environment.
Historic Environment Policy Statement (HES, 2019)	Document to which planning authorities are directed in their consideration of applications for conservation area consent, listed building consent for buildings of all three categories and their consideration of planning applications affecting the historic environment and the setting of individual elements of the historic environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – landscape and cultural heritage 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should follow the guidance for policy development on the management of the historic environment.
Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2021 – 2026 (Scottish Government, 2021)	Outlines strategy for achieving sustainable land use across Scotland and getting the best from the land of Scotland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – all topics 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA could provide more specific direction on the national land use strategy and can be implemented at a regional level.
Managing Change in the Historic Environment	Series of guidance notes which are designed to support the Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) and Scottish Planning Policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – landscape and cultural heritage 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should support

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA topic	Relationship between the PPS and land use planning
Guidance Notes (HES, various)			positive management of the historic environment.
Control of Woodland Removal Policy (Scottish Government, 2009)	Sets out Scottish Ministers policy on woodland removal in Scotland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – climatic factors – water – soil and geodiversity – biodiversity – landscape and cultural heritage 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should support the policy
The River Basin Management Plan for the Scotland River Basin District: 2015–2027 (SEPA, 2015)	Fulfils a requirement under the Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – water – soil and geodiversity – biodiversity 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should support management objectives for water bodies.
Scotland's National Transport Strategy (Transport Scotland, 2020)	Scottish Government's National Strategy for reducing transport emissions by 80%.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – climatic factors – air – population and human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should support reductions in emissions from transport.
Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (Scottish Government, 2022 in draft)	Identifies Scottish biodiversity priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – water – biodiversity – landscape and cultural heritage 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should reflect the purpose of the strategy.
Scottish Government's Infrastructure Investment	Gives an overview of the Scottish Government's plans for infrastructure investment over the coming decades.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – material assets 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should take account

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA topic	Relationship between the PPS and land use planning
Plan (Scottish Government, 2021)		– population and human health	of potential impacts (both positive and negative) of actions on existing and planned developments.
Scottish Government's National Performance Framework, National Outcomes (Scottish Government, undated)	As part of the National Performance Framework, Scottish Government have set 15 National Outcomes that the public sector must collectively deliver, on children and young people, economy, fair work and business, international, communities, education, health, poverty, culture, environment, human rights.	– all topics	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should identify and contribute to delivery of the outcomes that are most appropriate in the plan/programme/strategy area.
Scottish Soil Framework (Scottish Government, 2009)	Ministers policies and objectives for the conservation and use of soils.	– all topics	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should promote soil conservation.
Scottish Water Business Plan 2015 – 2021 (Scottish Water, 2015)	The business plan sets out how Scottish Water will deliver improvements to drinking water quality, the environment and customer service required by Scottish Ministers.	– water – population and human health	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should be developed with regard to the objectives and actions proposed in the business plan.
Scottish Zero Waste Plan (Scottish Government, 2010)	Provides context for waste planning in Scotland by sets the strategic direction for waste policy for Scotland, with a target of 70% recycling and maximum 5% to landfill by 2025 for all Scotland's waste.	– climatic factors – soil and geodiversity – material assets – population and human health	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA support waste management and good design.

Relevant PPS	Relevant objectives/purpose	SEA topic	Relationship between the PPS and land use planning
– Local plans and strategies			
Orkney Islands Council Core Paths Plan (OIC, 2018)	Identifies a network of core paths throughout the Orkney Council area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – biodiversity – population and human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should support the promotion and development of core paths.
Orkney Community Plan (incorporating the Local Outcome Improvement Plan) (prepared by Community Planning Partners)	Strategic documents outlining (usually socio-economic) priorities for communities. Community Planning Partners include local public services such as councils, NHS boards, police and fire services, and other public bodies. They work together to improve the way that local services are planned, co-ordinated and carried out.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – all topics 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should help deliver priorities to address inequalities and issues in communities.
Local Housing Strategy	Required by the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001. Sets out how housing authorities will provide for housing needs and demands in their area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – population and human health 	Where relevant to the priorities identified, the proposals in the plan, programme or strategy subject to SEA should support housing delivery.
Local Transport Strategy	Set out how to maintain and improve infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – climatic factors – air – population and human health 	Plan should support sustainable transport solutions and encourage lower carbon forms of transport.

Annex II: Baseline environmental data

Please see the separate Topic paper infographic document.

Annex II: Protected area condition data

Data correct at time of download from <https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/ProtectedNatureSites/> using Orkney Islands Council area as a locational filter on 23 August 2024.

Site Name	Designation	Feature Name	Summary Condition	Pressure	Pressure Recorded As
Hoy	SAC	Vegetated sea cliffs	Favourable	Over grazing	Grazing - over
Hoy	SAC	Alpine and subalpine heaths	Favourable	Over grazing	Grazing - over
Hoy	SAC	Alpine and subalpine heaths	Favourable	Recreation/ disturbance	Recreation/disturbance
Hoy	SAC	Base-rich fens	Favourable	Agricultural operations	Agricultural operations
Hoy	SAC	Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks	Favourable	Natural event	Natural event
Loch of Isbister	SAC	Naturally nutrient-rich lakes or lochs which are often dominated by pondweed	Recovering	Trampling	Trampling
Loch of Isbister	SAC	Naturally nutrient-rich lakes or lochs which are often dominated by pondweed	Recovering	Water management	Water Dependant Pressure- diffuse source pollution
Loch of Isbister	SAC	Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	Favourable	Trampling	Trampling
Loch of Isbister	SAC	Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	Favourable	Water management	Water Dependant Pressure- diffuse source pollution
Loch of Isbister	SAC	Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface	Favourable	Grazing - other	Grazing - appropriate level
Loch of Stenness	SAC	Lagoons	Favourable	Agricultural operations	Agricultural operations
Loch of Stenness	SAC	Lagoons	Favourable	Water management	Water management
Stromness Heaths and Coast	SAC	Base-rich fens	Favourable	Grazing - other	Grazing - appropriate level
Auskerry	SPA	Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>), breeding	Unfavourable	Other	No on-site activities related to feature condition noted

Calf of Eday	SPA	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>), breeding	Favourable	Agricultural operations	Agricultural operations
Calf of Eday	SPA	Great black-backed gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>), breeding	Unfavourable	Agricultural operations	Agricultural operations
Calf of Eday	SPA	Seabird assemblage, breeding	Unfavourable	Other	No on-site activities related to feature condition noted
Copinsay	SPA	Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>), breeding	Unfavourable	Climate Change	Climate change
Copinsay	SPA	Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>), breeding	Unfavourable	Climate Change	Climate change
Copinsay	SPA	Seabird assemblage, breeding	Unfavourable	Climate Change	Climate change
Orkney Mainland Moors	SPA	Red-throated diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>), breeding	Favourable	Invasive species	Presence/changing extent invasive species - NATIVE
Switha	SPA	Greenland barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>), non-breeding	Favourable	Agricultural operations	Agricultural operations
Calf of Eday	SSSI	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>), breeding	Favourable	Agricultural operations	Agricultural operations
Central Sanday	SSSI	Machair	Unfavourable	Invasive species	Presence/changing extent invasive species - NATIVE
Central Sanday	SSSI	Machair	Unfavourable	Over grazing	Grazing - over
Central Sanday	SSSI	Sand dunes	Unfavourable	Invasive species	Presence/changing extent invasive species - NATIVE
Central Sanday	SSSI	Sand dunes	Unfavourable	Over grazing	Grazing - over
Copinsay	SSSI	Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>), breeding	Unfavourable	Climate Change	Climate change
Copinsay	SSSI	Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>), breeding	Unfavourable	Climate Change	Climate change
Copinsay	SSSI	Seabird colony, breeding	Unfavourable	Climate Change	Climate change
Cruaday Quarry	SSSI	Silurian - Devonian Chordata	Favourable	Extraction	Mineral extraction
Den Wick	SSSI	Quaternary of Scotland	Favourable	Dumping/ storage of materials	Dumping/spreading/stor age of materials
Den Wick	SSSI	Quaternary of Scotland	Favourable	Natural event	Natural event

Doomy and Whitemaw Hill	SSSI	Arctic skua (<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>), breeding	Unfavourable	Climate Change	Climate change
Doomy and Whitemaw Hill	SSSI	Whimbrel (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>), breeding	Unfavourable	Climate Change	Climate change
Doomy and Whitemaw Hill	SSSI	Whimbrel (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>), breeding	Unfavourable	Dumping/ storage of materials	Dumping/spreading/stor age of materials
Doomy and Whitemaw Hill	SSSI	Whimbrel (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>), breeding	Unfavourable	Other	Other activity
Doomy and Whitemaw Hill	SSSI	Whimbrel (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>), breeding	Unfavourable	Over grazing	Grazing - over
Glims Moss and Durka Dale	SSSI	Hydromorphological mire range	Favourable	Invasive species	Presence/changing extent invasive species - NATIVE
Glims Moss and Durka Dale	SSSI	Hydromorphological mire range	Favourable	Natural event	Natural event
Glims Moss and Durka Dale	SSSI	Raised bog	Favourable	No proactive management	Lack of remedial management
Holm of Papa Westray	SSSI	Black guillemot (<i>Cephus grylle</i>), breeding	Unfavourable	Other	Other activity
Hoy	SSSI	Coastal Geomorphology of Scotland	Favourable	Other	No on-site activities related to feature condition noted
Hoy	SSSI	Upland oak woodland	Favourable	Plant pests and diseases	Plant Pests and Diseases
Keelylang Hill and Swartaback Burn	SSSI	Breeding bird assemblage	Favourable	Burning	Burning
Loch of Banks	SSSI	Breeding bird assemblage	Favourable	To be identified	Pressure to be identified
Loch of Banks	SSSI	Breeding bird assemblage	Favourable	Water management	Water management
Loch of Banks	SSSI	Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>), non-breeding	Recovering	Other	Other activity
Loch of Banks	SSSI	Basin fen	Unfavourable	Invasive species	Presence/changing extent invasive species - NATIVE
Loch of Banks	SSSI	Basin fen	Unfavourable	Under grazing	Grazing - under

Loch of Isbister and the Loons	SSSI	Breeding bird assemblage	Favourable	Water management	Water management
Loch of Isbister and the Loons	SSSI	Basin fen	Favourable	Grazing - other	Grazing - appropriate level
Lochs of Harray and Stenness	SSSI	Tufted duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>), non-breeding	Unfavourable	To be identified	Pressure to be identified
Lochs of Harray and Stenness	SSSI	Eutrophic loch	Unfavourable	Invasive species	Presence/changing extent invasive species - NON NATIVE
Lochs of Harray and Stenness	SSSI	Eutrophic loch	Unfavourable	Water management	Water Dependant Pressure- diffuse source pollution
Lochs of Harray and Stenness	SSSI	Freshwater nerite snail (<i>Theodoxus fluviatilis</i>)	Favourable	Water management	Water Dependant Pressure- diffuse source pollution
Lochs of Harray and Stenness	SSSI	Saline lagoon	Favourable	Agricultural operations	Agricultural operations
Lochs of Harray and Stenness	SSSI	Saline lagoon	Favourable	Water management	Water management
Mill Loch	SSSI	Red-throated diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>), breeding	Favourable	Game/ fisheries management	Fishing - recreational
Mill Loch	SSSI	Red-throated diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>), breeding	Favourable	Inter-specific competition	Inter-specific competition
Rousay	SSSI	Breeding bird assemblage	Favourable	Invasive species	Presence or changing extent of invasive species
Rousay	SSSI	Breeding bird assemblage	Favourable	Water management	Water management
Rousay	SSSI	Mesotrophic loch	Unfavourable	Invasive species	Presence or changing extent of invasive species
Rousay	SSSI	Mesotrophic loch	Unfavourable	Water management	Water management
Rousay	SSSI	Blanket bog	Favourable	Other	Other activity
Rousay	SSSI	Vascular plant assemblage	Favourable	Water management	Water Dependant Pressure- flow regulation

Stromness Heaths and Coast	SSSI	Non-marine Devonian	Favourable	Dumping/ storage of materials	Dumping/spreading/stor age of materials
Stromness Heaths and Coast	SSSI	Non-marine Devonian	Favourable	Extraction	Geological Core extraction
Stromness Heaths and Coast	SSSI	Non-marine Devonian	Favourable	Recreation/disturban ce	Fossil Collection
Switha	SSSI	Greenland barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>), non-breeding	Favourable	Agricultural operations	Agricultural operations
West Mainland Moorlands	SSSI	Red-throated diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>), breeding	Favourable	Invasive species	Presence/changing extent invasive species - NATIVE
West Mainland Moorlands	SSSI	Blanket bog	Favourable	Extraction	Mineral extraction
West Mainland Moorlands	SSSI	Blanket bog	Favourable	Invasive species	Presence/changing extent invasive species - NATIVE
West Mainland Moorlands	SSSI	Blanket bog	Favourable	Other	Other activity
West Mainland Moorlands	SSSI	Upland assemblage	Favourable	Invasive species	Presence/changing extent invasive species - NATIVE
West Mainland Moorlands	SSSI	Upland assemblage	Favourable	Water management	Water management
West Westray	SSSI	Maritime cliff	Favourable	Grazing - other	Grazing - appropriate level