

SEA SCOPING TEMPLATE – COVER NOTE

PART 1

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

PART 2

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

Managing Waste in New Developments: 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.

SEA SCOPING TEMPLATE – COVER NOTE

PART 4

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PART 5

Signature (electronic signature is acceptable)	Gillian Webster
Date	24 th August 2010

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report is to set out sufficient information on the Managing Waste in New Developments: 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.

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

Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance

What prompted the Guidance

The supplementary guidance was prompted by targets introduced by the Scottish Government in the 'Zero Waste' document as well as other targets and penalties introduced by the EU Landfill Directive. Both documents encourage local authorities to move away from the practise of landfilling and recognise the potential of waste as a resource. To help achieve these targets it will be necessary to ensure that new development pro-actively build in new waste management infrastructure. Guidance is therefore required to ensure this occurs consistently across the Highland area.

Subject

Town Planning/ Waste Management

Period covered by Guidance

2010 onwards

Frequency of updates

As required

Area covered by Guidance

The entire Highland Council area except that where planning is delegated to the Cairngorms National Park Authority

Purpose and/or objectives of Guidance

The objectives of the Guidance are:

- To help achieve a more sustainable Highlands
- To supplement waste management policies outlines in the Highland Wide Local Development Plan
- To assist in the implementation of the Council's Waste Management Strategy
- To provide guidance and certainty to developers on the Council's requirement for waste management facilities for new developments and developer contributions that may be sought towards major waste management infrastructure

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DESCRIPTION OF THE GUIDANCE CONTENT

Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance will contain the following:


- Introduction
 - This section outlines targets introduced by Scottish Government and the importance of pro-actively building in new waste management infrastructure across all new developments from the outset. This section also outlines the waste hierarchy and the objectives of the guidance (detailed on p.3)
- Key Issues
 - This section outlines the key issues in connection with waste management (e.g. visual impact) that the guidance aims to address as
 - Separation of waste for recycling
 - Access
 - Pollution
 - Safety
 - Visual impact
- Guidance
 - This is the main section within the guidance and outlines, in detail, the Council's waste management requirements for all new developments (residential, commercial, industrial and retail). Guidance is also provided with regard to mitigating the visual impact associated with waste storage. Developers are also encouraged to enter into pre-application discussions with the Council regarding waste management requirements
- Developer Contributions
 - This section outlines the circumstances in which a developer contribution towards the upgrading of existing waste management infrastructure may be sought instead of delivery on-site

CONTEXT

Relationship with other plans, programmes or strategies and environmental objectives

Table 1 lists the plans, policies and strategies which are relevant to the Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance and which may affect or influence its content. The contents of each plan, policy and strategy along with the relationship to the Managing Waste in New Developments: 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 Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance

International		
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 documents such as this and an Environmental Report produced.
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; and aim to reduce carbon emissions. The Guidance will reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill reducing harmful pollutants.
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 Environment Assessment will consider the implications of waste management on the water environment and how its can benefit the existing environment and reduce risk of flooding.
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, including waste management, and seek to reflect these within the overarching objectives of the strategy and individual projects.

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.
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.
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.
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.
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.	The guidance should consider the strategic approach to air quality in Highland and the contribution improved waste management could make to this.
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 efficient resource use, and sustainable development through a number of the topics. Sustainable development would be considered a cross cutting theme.
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 of reducing CO ₂ emissions and consider measures to reduce the need to landfill waste.
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	The guidance will take account of the Framework and will aim to reduce water pollution through a reduction of waste sent to landfill.

	floods and droughts.	
The EC Waste Framework Directive	Along with subsequent Directives, this Directive aims to create an integrated approach to waste management in order to reduce waste production. It requires all necessary measures to be taken to ensure that waste is recovered or disposed of without harming human health	The guidance will be based around the need to reduce the overall amount of waste produced within the area as well as the need to sustainably dispose and reuse the waste that is produced
EC Directive on Landfill	The Directive aims to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill. Biodegradable waste is waste that breaks down to produce methane (a greenhouse gas causing global warming). The main requirements of the directive are that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All landfill sites are classified as either hazardous, non-hazardous or inert. This will mean the end of co-disposal • Full costs to be met by the gate price • Only treated waste may be landfilled • Once a landfill site is classified, the Directive dictates the types of waste it can accept 	The Directive will have a considerable influence on the overall development of the Guidance. It will be necessary to ensure that the approach taken in the guidance limits the amount of waste that goes to landfill as much as possible
EU Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution (2005)	Sets objectives for reducing certain pollutants and reinforces the legislative framework for combating air pollution via two main routes: improving Community environmental legislation and integrating air quality concerns into related policies.	The guidance will take this strategy into consideration when assessing any impact on air quality.
Taking Sustainable Use of Resources Forward: A Thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste (2005)	Sets out guidelines and describes measures aimed at reducing the pressure on the environment caused by waste production and management. The main thrust of the strategy is on amending the legislation to improve implementation, and on preventing waste and promoting effective recycling.	This will be taken into account consideration when developing the Guidance to achieve more sustainable waste disposal in line with the waste hierarchy
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 consider the role it has to play with regard to climate change esp. reduction of greenhouse gases such as methane from landfill

National



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.
UK Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future – Creating a Low Carbon Economy (2003)	Defines a long-term vision for energy policy combining environmental, security supply, competitiveness and social goals. Four key goals within the White Paper: - 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 Local Plan should recognise the significance of the contribution waste management makes to CO2 emissions.
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 looks at ways in which greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced. The guidance will examine more sustainable waste management that encourages recycling and reduces the amount of waste that is landfilled
UK Climate Change Bill	The UK Climate Change Bill sets a target of 60% CO ₂ reduction by 2050. The Bill is currently moving through the House of Commons. A Climate Change Committee has been created to take forward the actions in the Bill. Scotland will have certain devolved powers in implementing a Climate Change Bill for Scotland.	The guidance will take a strategic approach to how waste management may a part in reducing carbon emissions.
Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland	Describes the plans drawn up by the Government and devolved administrations to improve and protect ambient air quality in the UK in the medium-term. Standards set for 8 main air pollutants of particular concern to human health:	The guidance will have regard to the implications of different policies on air quality and promote measures which reduce the need to travel and encourage the development and uptake of


(2000 – amended 2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Benzene; - 1,3-butadiene; - Carbon Monoxide; - Lead; - Nitrogen Dioxide; - Ozone; - Particles (PM10); and - Sulphur Dioxide <p>Local authorities are charged with drawing up their own strategies to tackle the air quality objectives in their areas. Standards are to be achieved between 2003 and 2008. The standards are purely health based and objectives are to be derived from these, taking account practically, technical feasibility, and economic factors.</p>	<p>more sustainable options. The guidance should seek to ensure that air pollution within the area is managed and where possible, steps are taken to alleviate air quality problems.</p>
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Scotland National



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.
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 should 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.
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.
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
Groundwater Protection Policy for Scotland SEPA	Groundwater is a valuable resource in Scotland, essential for irrigation in some	The guidance will try to reduce the risk of water contamination

Environmental Policy 19 (2003)	<p>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.</p> <p>Groundwater should be managed in a sustainable way to maintain and enhance its contribution to social, economic and environmental welfare. However, the resource can be damaged by pollution and over-abstraction, sometimes irreversibly</p>	from landfill seepage.
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>
SEPA Policy 27 (Addendum)	<p>This document looks at the reduction and control of water pollution. SEPA is responsible for ensuring that licenses 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 such as landfill seepage
Scottish Climate Change Bill	The aim of the Bill is to establish a framework to enable more actions to reduce Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. The Bill is currently out for consultation and The Highland Council have submitted a response	The guidance will take into consideration the provisions of the act.
National Waste Plan (2003) – Municipal waste recycling, and disposal	The strategy sets out a framework within which Scotland can reduce the amount of waste it produces and deal with the waste	The guidance will aim to address the issues raised in the Waste Plan by ensuring waste

targets to 2025 announced in January 2008	that is produced in a more sustainable way. It covers all household, commercial and industrial waste. More than 85% of the waste produced in Scotland is sent directly to landfill – a massive misuse of resources and a major source of greenhouse and other gases. The National Waste Plan aims to reduce this practice and outlines how we can work towards a culture of reducing, reusing and recycling our rubbish	infrastructure is incorporated into all new developments – this should minimise the need to travel and increase rates of recycling. Means of approaching waste issues associated with the construction industry will also be considered
Changing out 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 aim to reduce carbon emissions arising a result of landfilled waste
Zero Waste Scotland (2010)	Sets targets on waste including: the amount of municipal being recycled or composted to be increased to 60% by 2020 and a new target of 70% target by 2025 Landfill from municipal waste is to be reduced to 5% by 2025 and no more than 25% of municipal waste is to be used to generate energy by 2025 and large inefficient incinerators are to be rejected; and keeping the existing challenging targets by stopping the growth in municipal waste by 2010	Zero Waste Scotland will heavily influence the production of the guidance, in particular the need to reduce reliance on landfilling of waste and increase recycling rates
Scottish National Planning Policy Tier		
		
National Planning Framework for Scotland 2	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
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 waste management
PAN 63 Waste Management Planning (2002)	One of the purposes of this PAN is to assist planning authorities in ensuring that development plans reflect the land use requirement of the delivery of an integrated network of waste management facilities	The guidance will reflect the advice provided in this PAN

Regional



Highland Area Waste Plan (SEPA, 2003)	This document outlines the strategic vision for waste management in the Highlands over the next 20 years. At present the Highlands has a high reliance on landfill sites on landfill sites. There is pressure for change including an increase in recycling	The guidance will aim to tackle the issues raised in the Area Waste Plan, in particular by ensuring recycling facilities are pro-actively built into all new development
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.	This will be taken into consideration when bringing forward the guidance and considering the role waste management has to play.
Highland wide Local Development Plan (forthcoming)	Sets the strategy and land use framework for the development of land and protection of the environment across the Highland area	The guidance will supplement the Plan's waste management policies
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 supplement guidance already in the Local Plan.
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 supplement guidance already in the Local Plan.
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 supplement guidance already in the Local Plan.
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 supplement guidance already in the Local Plan.
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 supplement guidance already in the Local Plan.
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 supplement guidance already in the Local Plan.
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 supplement guidance already in the Local Plan.
Supplementary Planning Guideline on Developer Contributions	This guidance is in preparation and will set out guidance on Developer Contributions	The guidance will consider the implications of this emerging guidance.
The Highland Council Waste Strategy (2009)	Sets out the existing waste management infrastructure, develop the principals and plan for progress in waste management in the medium and long term to meet current and future legislative requirements and objectives of the National Waste Plan. Seeks to make the maximum possible contribution to reduce environmental impact at an acceptable cost and the maximisation of opportunities for businesses arising from	The Waste Strategy will be taken into account during development of the guidance to ensure future waste management needs are met

	sustainable waste opportunities	
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Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment

The Highland Council Local Development Plan 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 (SACS). In addition there are 367 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) 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 and 46 Special Protection Areas. These natural heritage features are available at Appendix 1.

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”. The number of listed building in Highland is 3014. They can be seen at Appendix 2.

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 2 - 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 whiskey 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 problems in the Highland area. Environmental problems that affect the area are identified in table 2 below. Feedback from the Consultation Authorities is sought on the scope of environmental problems identified.

Table 2 Environmental Impacts Relevant to Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance

SEA Issue	Potential Environmental Impact resulting from Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance	Implications for Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance
Biodiversity, flora, fauna	As the guidance applies to all new development, the wider development may have an impact on biodiversity, flora and fauna however it is unlikely that the guidance itself will have any environmental impact	n/a
Population	It is unlikely the guidance itself will result in any changes to population. As above, the wider development will result in population increases putting pressure on existing waste management infrastructure	The guidance will ensure new waste management infrastructure is pro-actively and consistently built into all new developments (residential, commercial, retail and industrial) to mitigate the increase in population
Human health	Increased opportunity for improvement to human health through a reduced reliance on landfill and associated impact on health through landfill gas pollution	The guidance will emphasise the need to reduce the amount of waste produced and sent to landfill and will encourage recycling as much as possible
Soil	Increased opportunity for improved waste management storage, meeting landfilling and recycling targets, overall reduced risk of soil contamination	The guidance will help to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfill through increased recycling and less production of waste. This will lower the risk of soil contamination from landfilled waste
Water	A reduction in landfill waste, improved water quality through reduced risk of contamination by landfill	The guidance will help to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfill and lower the risk of seepage into water bodies
Air	A reduction in contaminants from landfill, improved air quality	The guidance will help to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill which will reduce the risk of landfill gas escaping and having a detrimental impact on local air quality
Climatic factors	Potential reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide and methane) from landfill	The guidance will need to emphasise the need to produce less waste in the first instance and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill through increasing recycling rates
Material assets	It is unlikely that the guidance itself will impact on material assets such as core paths or cycle paths.	n/a
Cultural heritage	Possible negative impact on the setting for cultural heritage features in terms of the visual impact of waste storage	The guidance should incorporate an element of flexibility in terms of waste storage (i.e. type/number of receptacles) to ensure cultural heritage features are protected
Landscape	As above, there may be a potential negative impact on the landscape as a result of the visual impact associated with waste storage	The guidance should provide detailed advice for developers regarding the design of waste storage to ensure it is suitably incorporated and any visual impact is mitigated

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

Alternatives

SEA requires that “reasonable alternatives” to the Plan 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. Only one reasonable alternative has been identified by the Council. This alternative is outlined below:

Preferred Approach - Prepare Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance

The Council's preferred approach at this time is to prepare waste management supplementary guidance to ensure that the challenging targets set by Scottish Government to reduce waste and increase recycling can be timeously met. The guidance would also provide a consistent approach to waste management within new developments across the Highlands.

Alternative Approach – Do Nothing

The alternative approach is to not prepare guidance on managing waste in new developments. This approach may lead to a less co-ordinated approach to waste management across the Highlands. More importantly it is very often difficult to retro-fit facilities such as recycling points into already established areas – new developments provide the best opportunity to pro-actively incorporate new waste management infrastructure.

The two alternative approaches will be assessed against appropriate SEA objectives. We would welcome the Consultation Authorities views on these alternatives.

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 Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance are likely to be significant. 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 in 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	It is not considered that there will be a significant impact on this SEA topic through this guidance. There may be a negative impact as a result of wider development that occurs
population		X	It is not considered that there will be any impact on this SEA guidance through this guidance. There may be a negative impact as a result of the wider development that occurs
human health	X		
soil	X		
water	X		
air	X		
climatic factors	X		
material assets		X	It is not considered that there will be a significant impact on this SEA topic through the guidance. Whilst the wider development may have a negative impact on material assets, this would be addressed through the planning process
cultural heritage		X	It is not considered that there will be a significant impact on this SEA topic through the guidance. As above, any impact of wider development would be mitigated through the planning process
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 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.

1	Protect and enhance human health
2	Avoid impact to and where possible enhance the water environment
3	Maintain water abstraction, run-off and recharge within carrying capacity (including future capacity)
4	Maintain air quality
5	Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change
6	Value and protect the biodiversity and local distinctiveness of landscapes
7	Minimise waste
8	Reduce contamination, safeguard soil quantity and quality

Cumulative Effects

The cumulative effects of this guidance on each of the SEA objectives will be assessed with regard to the issues which have been scoped into the environmental report

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 Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance will be published for consultation in tandem with the draft guidance. It is anticipated that this will be in late September 2010. The consultation period will run for a period of 8 weeks. The views collected during this consultation period will be used in producing a revised Environmental Report. A proposed timetable for the various stages is outlined below:

Stage	Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance	Strategic Assessment	Environmental	Time Scale
1	Workshop on the scope of the Guidance	Prepare a Scoping Report and send to the Consultation Authorities		August 2010
2	Prepare and publish the draft Managing Waste in New Developments Supplementary Guidance. Consult the community for a total period of 8 weeks	Publish an Environmental Report and consult the community and the Consultation Authorities on this for a total of 8 weeks.		September 2010
3	Publish final version of Managing Waste in New Developments: Supplementary Guidance.	Publish revised Environmental Report, if required.		November 2010
4.	Put guidance into place and monitor our progress	Publish Post-Adoption Statement and submit to SEA Gateway		November 2010

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 August 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
- Population Change 1998-2007
- 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.

SEA Indicator Scoped In	Key Information	Data Source
Human Health	Incidence of Coronary Heart Disease in Highland is 304 cases per 100,000 (Scotland – 306) for year ending 31 Dec 2006. 1997 figure was 396.	www.isdscotland.org
	Highland wide in 2006 22 pedestrians and 5 cyclists were killed or serious injured in road accidents. 1994-98 yearly averages are 38 pedestrian and 16 cyclist fatalities.	www.scotland.gov.uk
	82 non-domestic noise complaints received by Highland Council in 2006/7.	www.audit-scotland.gov.uk
	Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey 2006 suggests 56% of respondents thought crime to be a 'big' problem (93% considered a problem overall). Feelings of safety while walking alone after dark is often used as a proxy measure for fear of crime. Overall, just over 3 in 10 respondents (32%) reported that they felt unsafe while walking alone after dark (which was the same as the proportion that reported feeling unsafe in the 2003 survey). Just over one in 10 (12%) reported that they felt 'very unsafe'. No regional data.	www.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
Climate Factors	Key Information	Data Source
Reduce vulnerability to effects of climate change.	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 per annum.	Highland Council Energy Management and Performance Plan http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/ronlyres/4EA59619-0EF5-42CC-9889-7EDA9F997E8E/0/emppfeb06.pdf
Reduce air pollution to levels that do not damage natural systems, including contribution to climate change.	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
Number of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in Highland	None at present	http://www.scottishairquality.co.uk/
Reduce the need to travel.	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
Increase potential use of public transport.	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
Increase the proportion of energy from renewable sources	Renewable Energy installations in Highland Council Building is 1200KWh Promotion of renewable energy.	Highland Council Energy Management and Performance Plan http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/ronlyres/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/
Improve the use of sustainable building techniques	Promotion of Sustainable design in the Community.	Designing for Sustainability in the Highlands http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/planning/developmentplans/developmentplanpolicyguidance/designingforsustainability.htm Highland Housing Fair: http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/su

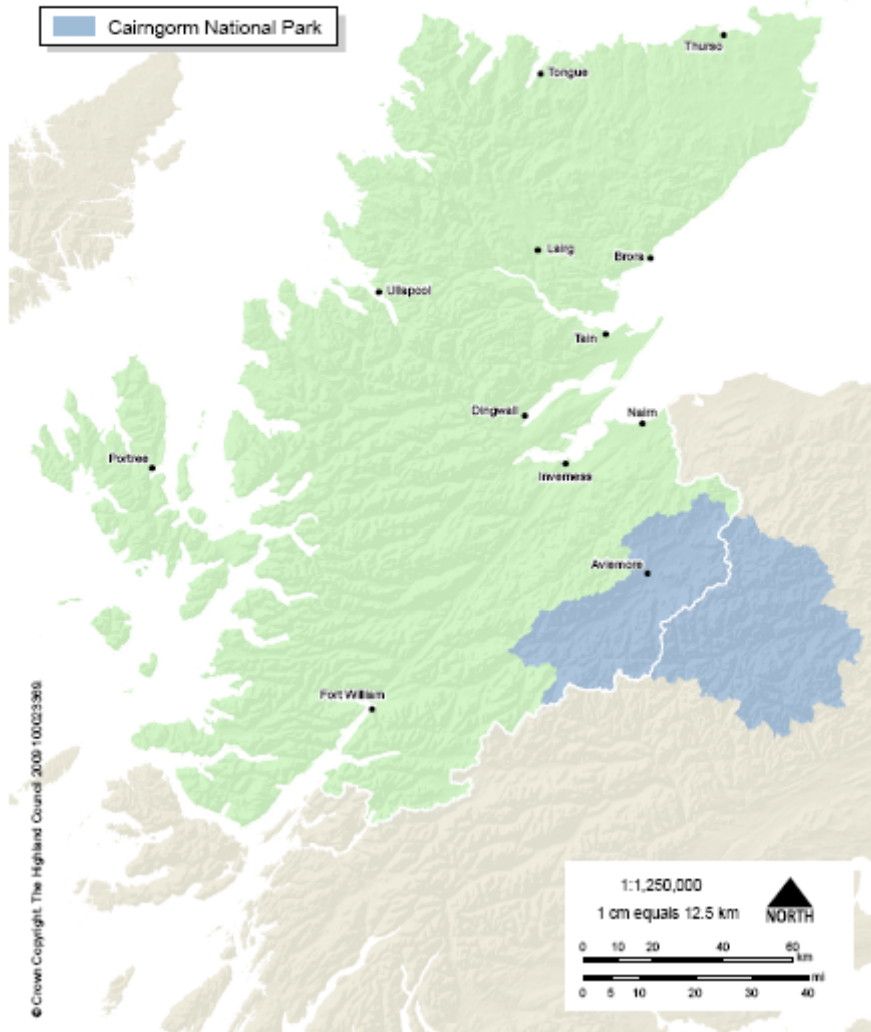
		stainabledevelopment/sharingthegreenagenda/highlandhousingfair.htm
Water	Key Information	Data Source
Avoid impact to and where possible enhance the water environment.	Number of rivers/lochs in good Ecological Condition.	EU Water Framework Directive. Highland Biodiversity Action plan SEPA Scottish Water
Flooding likelihood	Vulnerability of Highlands communities to flooding.	Scottish Government: the Future of Flood risk Management in Scotland: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/Flooding/Consultation UKCIP08: www.ukcip08.org.uk
Existing flood defences		Office of Science and technology (2005) Foresight report: <i>Future Flooding Scotland</i> . http://www.foresight.gov.uk/Previous_Projects/Flood_and_Coastal_Defence/Reports_and_Publications/Scotland/final_scotland.pdf
Pumping Stations and Sewage Works		Scottish Water (2006) Strategic Asset Capacity and Development Plan; http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/portal/page/portal/SW_PAGE_GROUP_PS_ADMIN/SW_PUBLIC_SCHEMA_ADMIN_HOLDING/TAB65572/RELEASED%20STRATEGIC%20CAPACITY%20ANALYSIS%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 re-use or recover it by recycling, composting or energy recovery.	Waste into landfill: The proportion of waste in Highland being put into landfill. % of recycling/composting. Currently 183 recycling points in Highland.	HC Waste Data Report - http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/F6627158-2F0E-4C68-8250-9475DA7B8999/0/20062007AnnualWasteDataReport.pdf SEPA Waste Data Digest Series - http://www.sepa.org.uk/nws/data/data_digest.htm

	<p>26% of waste in highland recycled.</p> <p>77393 tonnes waste to landfill.</p> <p>Target of 40% recycling rates for 2010.</p>	<p>m 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>
Erosion	<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>
Contaminated Land	<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>
Landscape	Key Information	Data Source
<p>Retain and improve quality and quantity of publicly accessible open space.</p>	<p>Landscape Character</p>	<p>Scottish Natural Heritage: <u><i>Overview of Scotland's national programme of Landscape Character Assessment (2004)</i></u></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1996) <i>Cairngorms landscape assessment.</i></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) <u><i>Inner Moray Firth Landscape Character Assessment.</i></u></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1999) <u><i>Ben Alder, Ardverikie and Creag Meagaidh Landscape Character Assessment</i></u></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) <u><i>Inverness District Landscape Character Assessment</i></u></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) <u><i>Moray and Nairn Landscape Character Assessment</i></u></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) <i>Caithness and Sutherland Landscape Character Assessment.</i></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1996) <i>Skye and Lochalsh Landscape Character Assessment.</i></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) <i>Lochaber Landscape Character Assessment.</i></p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1999) <i>Ross and Cromarty Landscape Character Assessment.</i></p>
Peatlands	<p>Proportion of peat land in Caithness and Sutherland.</p>	<p>SNH; http://www.snh.org.uk/scottish/nhighland/Peatla</p>

		ndsofCSI.asp
Forest and Woodland		The Highland Forest and Woodland strategy. http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/agriculturefisheriesandforestry/treesandforestry/highland-forest-and-woodland-strategy.htm Forestry Commission Scotland; http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland
Agricultural Land	Land use, employment and production information. Crofting in Highland	National Farmers Union Scotland; http://www.nfus.org.uk/facts_index.asp Crofters Commission Annual report 2006/07; http://www.crofterscommission.org.uk/documents/croft-englishfinalreport0607.pdf
Coast	Biodiversity Number, type and specification of harbours in Highland.	Highland Biodiversity Action Plan www.highland.gov.uk http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/roadsandtransport/harbours/

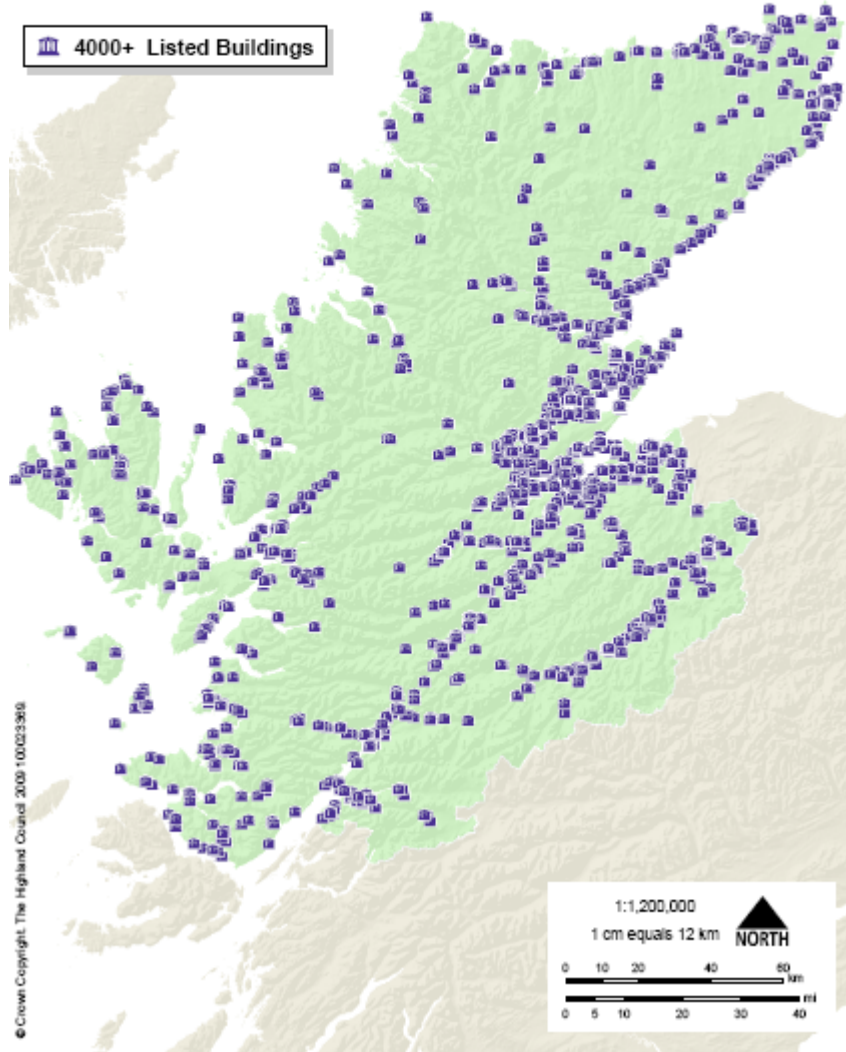
Highland Wide Local Development Plan

Cairngorm National Park



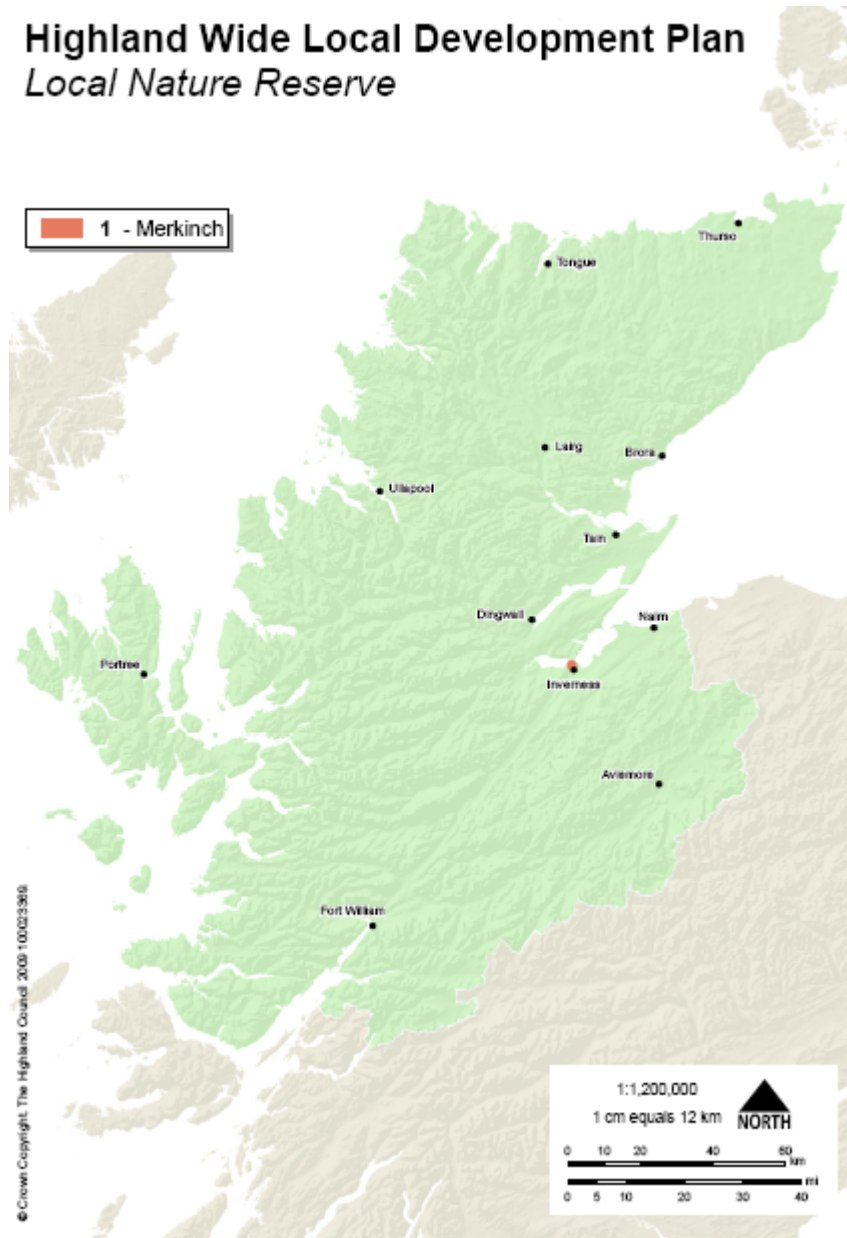
Highland Wide Local Development Plan

Listed Buildings



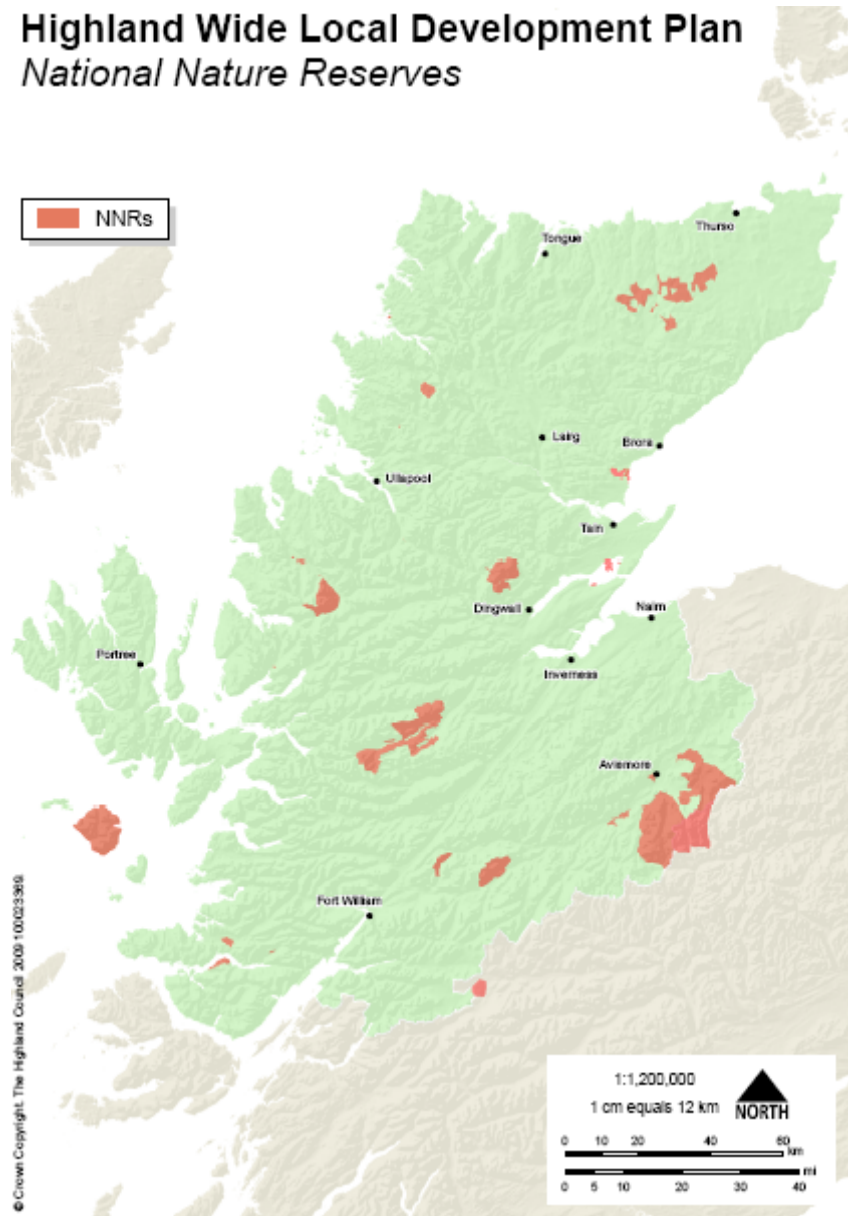
Highland Wide Local Development Plan

Local Nature Reserve



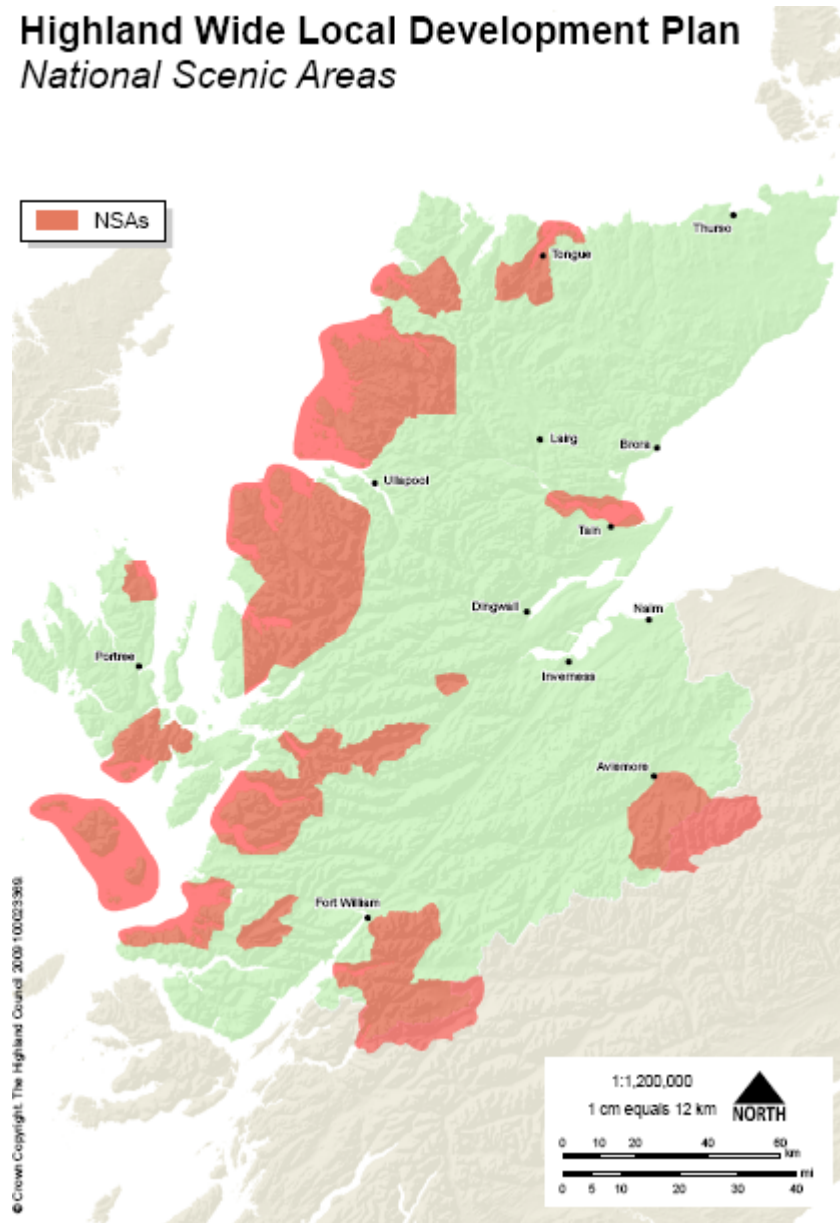
Highland Wide Local Development Plan

National Nature Reserves



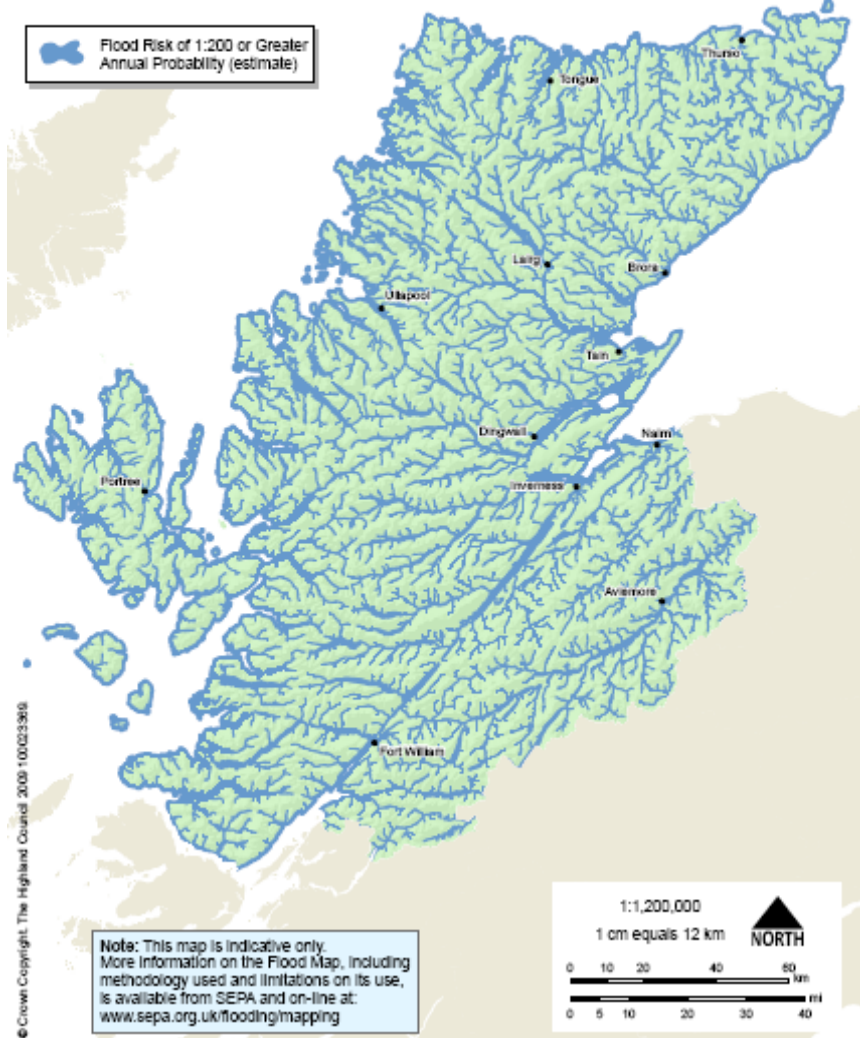
Highland Wide Local Development Plan

National Scenic Areas



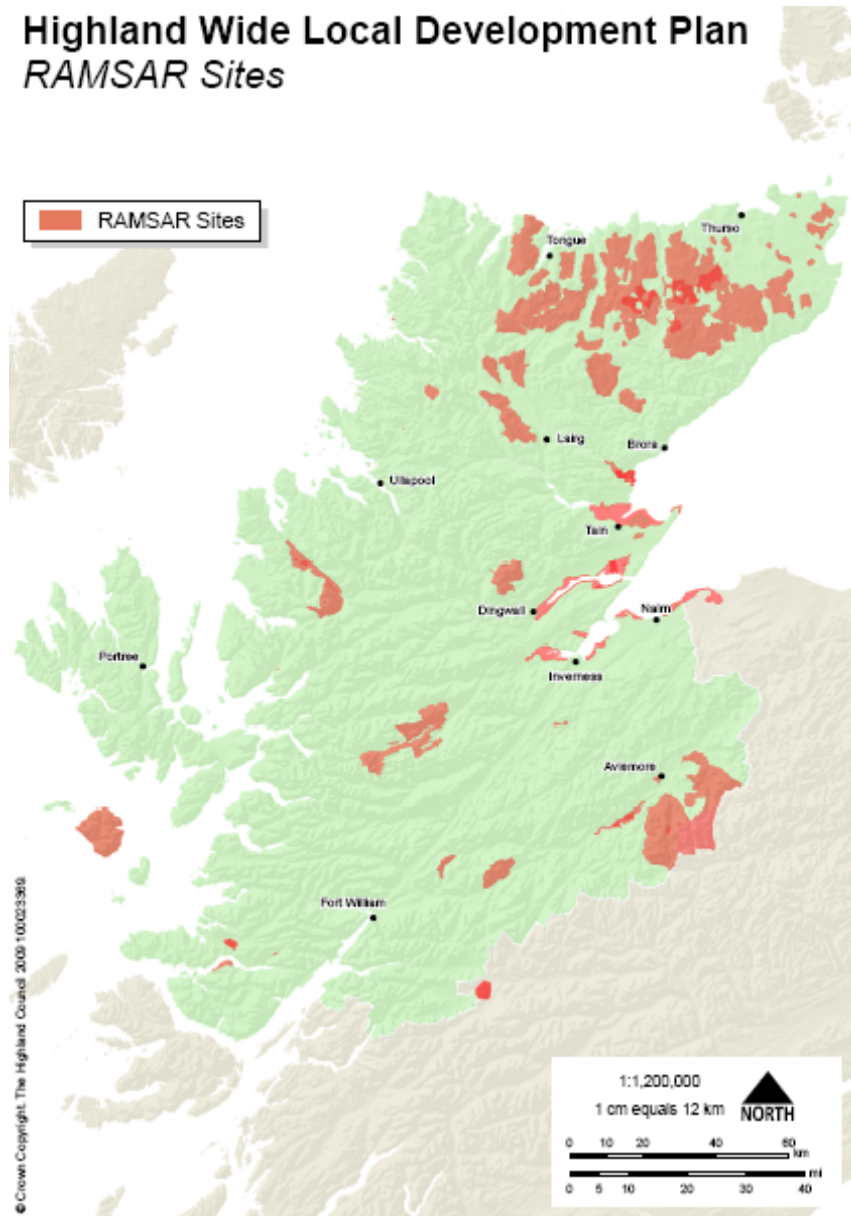
Highland Wide Local Development Plan

Highland Flood Risk



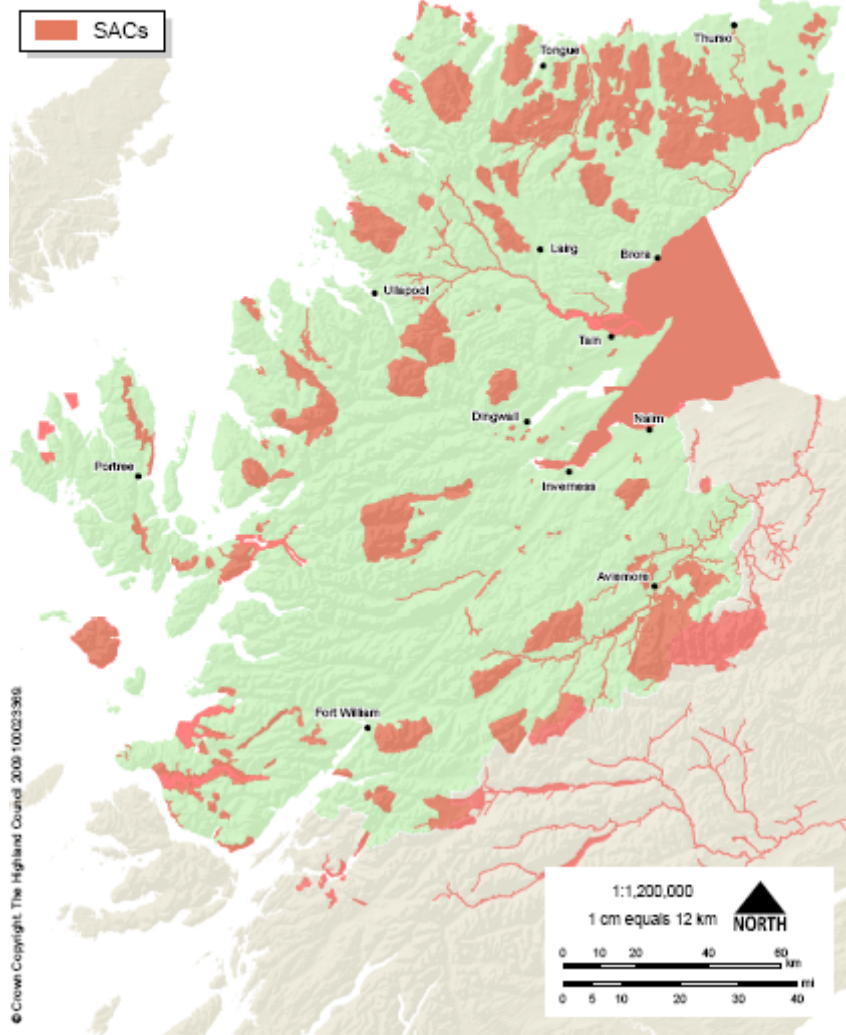
Highland Wide Local Development Plan

RAMSAR Sites

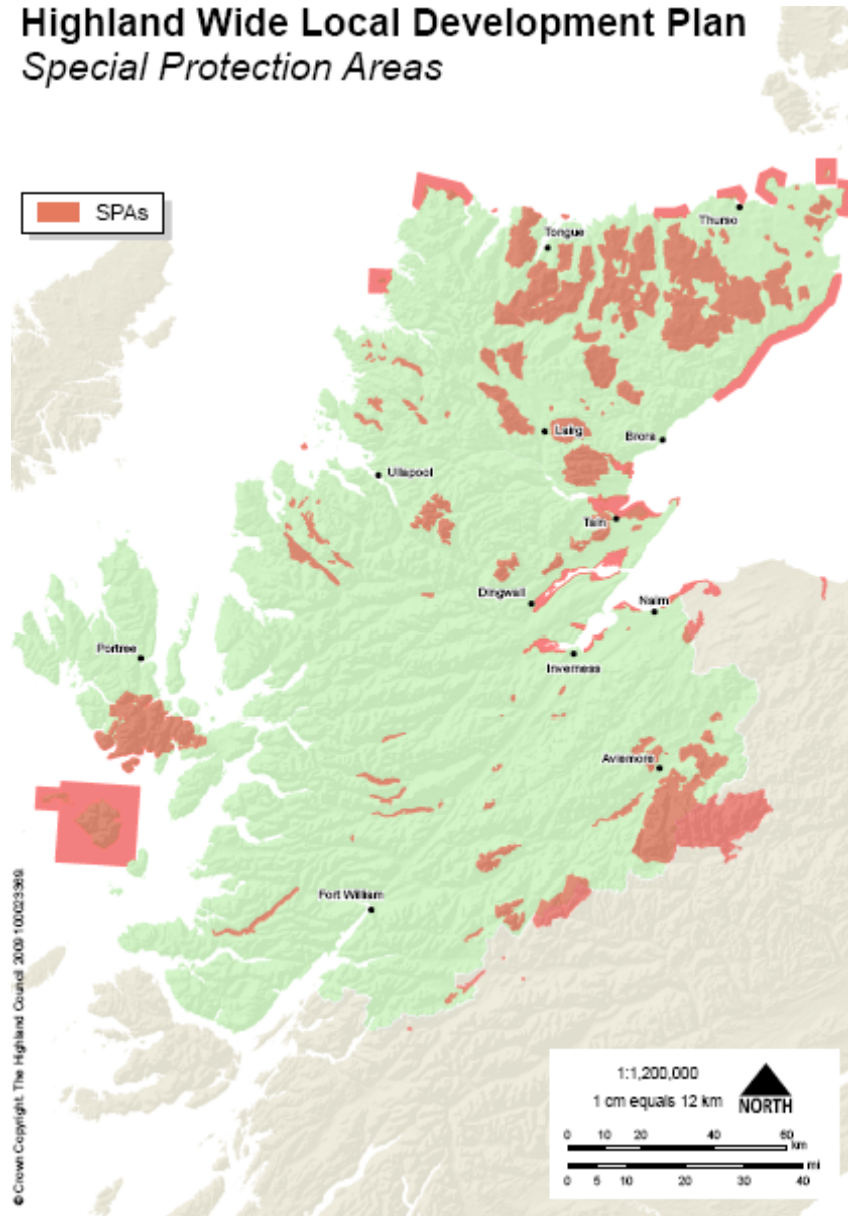


Highland Wide Local Development Plan

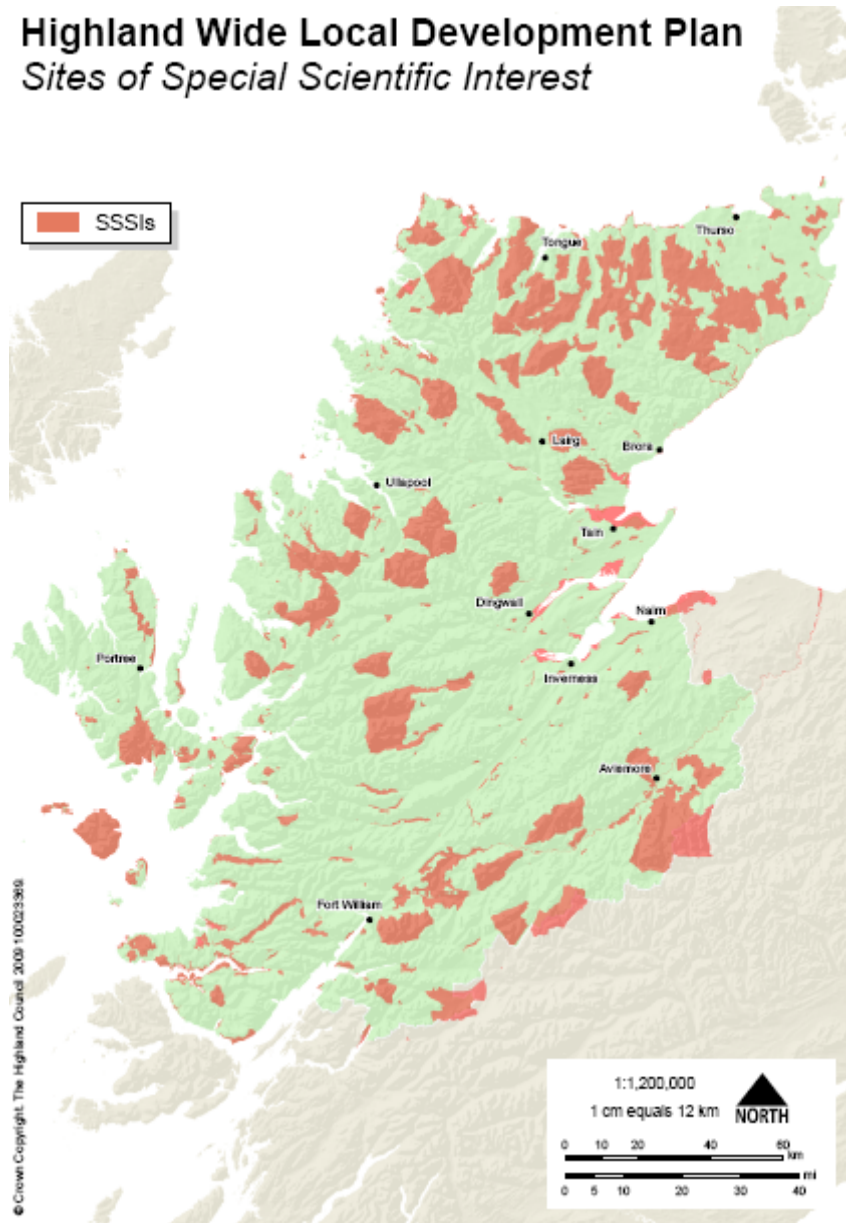
Special Areas of Conservation



Highland Wide Local Development Plan *Special Protection Areas*



Highland Wide Local Development Plan *Sites of Special Scientific Interest*



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

Appendix 2 – Example of Matrix to be used in assessing options

The assessments will be completed using the best available data and take into consideration a number of other plans, policies and strategies set out in the Scoping Report.

The key for the following matrices is below:

Significant Positive Impact	No minimal positive impact or	Neutral Impact	No minimal negative impact or	Significant negative impact	Unknown impact
++	+	=	-	--	??

In areas where it is possible that there may be a positive and negative impact a +/- symbol will be used.

High Sensitivity	H
Medium Sensitivity	M
Low Sensitivity	L

Each assessed alternative will be followed by a short commentary.

Explanation of Matrix

Below explains each column of the matrix and how it has been filled in.

SEA Objective		Considerations and Assumptions	Time Scale			Sensitivity (H/M/L)	Magnitude		Justification
			Short Term	Medium	Long Term		Local	Regional	
1	Maintain and enhance designated wildlife sites, biodiversity, valuable habitats and protected species avoiding irreversible losses	<p>Considerations</p> <p>Will it contribute to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in Highland?</p> <p>Will it have a detrimental effect on protected species?</p> <p>Will it contribute to achieving local and regional biodiversity action plan targets?</p> <p>Will habitats of importance to for biodiversity be protected?</p> <p>Will it prevent the fragmentation of green habitat networks?</p> <p>Assumptions</p>							

SEA Objective from Environmental Report

Considerations and assumptions made when assessing the approach against the SEA objective

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

How relevant is the approach to the SEA Objective

Will the approach have an impact locally or highland wide

Why the SEA has been given this assessment

Blank Matrix

SEA Objective		Considerations and Assumptions	Time Scale			Sensitivity (H/M/L)	Magnitude		Justification
			Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term		Local	Regional	
1	Protect and enhance human health	Considerations Will it give additional benefit to human health? Will human health be significantly reduced? Will it ensure a more health lifestyle for residents within the development?							
		Assumptions							
2	Avoid impact to and where possible enhance the water environment	Considerations Will it ensure development is supported by appropriate drainage infrastructure? Will it ensure that development has no detrimental impact on the water environment? Will it ensure developments enhance the water environment where possible?							
		Assumptions							
3	Maintain water abstraction, run-off and recharge within carrying capacity(inc	Considerations Will it enhance natural drainage? Will it prevent soil sealing in new residential development?							

SEA Objective		Considerations and Assumptions	Time Scale			Sensitivity (H/M/L)	Magnitude		Justification
			Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term		Local	Regional	
	future capacity)	Assumptions							
4	Maintain air quality	Considerations Will it prevent a reduction in air quality? Assumptions							
5	Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change	Considerations Will it ensure new developments are free from flooding? Will it enhance natural drainage? Will it reduce the vulnerability of existing areas to flooding? Will it facilitate species adaptation to climate change through the protection of or contribution to green habitat networks? Assumptions							
6	Value and protect the diversity and local distinctiveness of landscapes	Considerations Will existing landscape character be maintained or enhanced? Will local biodiversity and distinctiveness be maintained or enhanced? Assumptions							

SEA Objective		Considerations and Assumptions	Time Scale			Sensitivity (H/M/L)	Magnitude		Justification
			Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term		Local	Regional	
7	Minimise waste	<p>Considerations</p> <p>Will it support the minimisation of waste production?</p> <p>Will it support the achievement of government targets through the use of the waste management hierarchy?</p> <p>Will it ensure the waste management facilities comply the national target, thus ensuring only residual waste is landfilled?</p> <p>Assumptions</p>							
8	Reduce contamination, safeguard soil quantity and quality	<p>Considerations</p> <p>Will it ensure the re-use of brownfield sites?</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>							

We would welcome comment from the key agencies on our matrix approach and also the considerations for each of the SEA objectives.