

Appendix 15 Glossary and Acronyms

Alternatives: The different ways of achieving the plan. They may be referred to as options.

Baseline: Data that describes issues and conditions at the inception of the SEA. It serves as a starting point for measuring impacts, performance etc.

Biodiversity: The variety of life on earth at all levels – plants animals, species and genes and the ecological processes that support them.

Brownfield Land: Land which has previously been developed. The term may include vacant or derelict land, infill land or land occupied by redundant or unused buildings. A site within the settlement boundary where an intensification of use is suitable may also be brownfield land.

Consultation Authorities: Organisations with a particular status for involvement in the SEA under the Regulations. A specialist body with environmental expertise that can consider plans and programmes submitted by a Responsible Authority. The Consultation Authorities are; Historic Scotland, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Climate Change: A change in the statistical properties of the climate system when considered over long periods of time, regardless of cause. Fluctuations over a short period of time do not constitute climate change.

Cultural Heritage: Historical features and buildings including scheduled ancient monuments, archaeological sites and landscapes, conservation areas, historic gardens and designed landscapes.

Cumulative effects: The effects that result from changes caused by a project, plan, programme or policy in association with other past, present or future plans and actions.

Density: The intensity of development in a given area.

Effective Housing Supply: The part of the housing land supply which is free, or expected to be free of development constraints within the plan period.

Environmental Assessment: A tool for integrating environmental considerations into decision making and assessing the significant environmental effects comprising a number of discrete stages.

Environmental Report: Document required by the SEA Directive [Directive 2001/42/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment as part of an environmental assessment, which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing a plan or programme and reasonable alternatives. Section 14 and Schedule 3 of the

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 sets out the information required in an Environmental Report.

Flood Prevention: Works including walls new channels, embankments and flood water storage areas.

Flood Risk: The combination of the probability of a flood and the potential adverse consequences associated with a flood for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.

Green Belt: The land around an urban area with the following purposes:

- To check unrestricted sprawl of large built up areas
- To prevent neighbouring towns from merging
- To safeguard the countryside from urban encroachment
- To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns, and
- To assist in urban regeneration by encouraging the reuse and recycling of derelict urban land.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Gases occurring naturally in the atmosphere which keep the Earth at a temperature suitable for life by trapping energy from the Sun – the ‘greenhouse’ effect. The six main gases with a direct greenhouse effect are: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆). Emissions from human activities are increasing the concentrations of several of these gases, causing global warming and climate change.

Green Infrastructure: A strategically planned and delivered network of high quality green spaces and other environmental features, designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. It includes parks, open spaces, woodlands and paths.

Green Space: Part of our open space resource, Greenspace is any vegetated land or water within or adjoining an urban area. This includes:

- green corridors like paths, rivers
- woods, grassed areas, parks, gardens, playing fields, children’s play areas, cemeteries
- countryside immediately adjoining a town which people can access from their homes
- derelict, vacant and contaminated land which has the potential to be transformed

Landscape Character: Landscape Character is what makes an area unique. It reflects particular conditions of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement. A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements, natural (soil, landform) and/or human (for example settlement and development) in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another.

Landscape Character Areas: Single unique areas or the discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type.

Landscape Character Type: Distinct types of landscape which are generic in character in that they may occur in different parts of the country, but wherever they are they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation and historical land use and settlement pattern. Names are generic, for example 'moorland slopes and hills', 'open, intensive farmland' and 'high cliffs and sheltered bays'.

Landscape Character Assessment:

Landscape Character Assessment is a technique used to develop a consistent and comprehensive understanding of what gives the landscape its character. It uses statistical analysis and application of structured landscape assessment techniques. A standard system for identifying, describing, classifying and mapping this variety of landscape: it helps explain what makes landscapes different from each other. LCAs provide more detailed descriptions and analysis at a local level within the national framework of National Character Areas.

Listed Buildings: A building of special historical or architectural interest. Listed buildings are graded from A to C. Listing can include the interior and exterior of the building and any buildings or permanent structures such as walls.

Local Development Plan (LDP): The more detailed layer of the Development Plan system in Scotland.

Mitigation: Measures to avoid, reduce or offset significant adverse effects on the environment.

National Planning Framework: The spatial strategy for Scotland's future over the next 20 years; guiding development, setting out strategic development priorities to support the Scottish Government's central purpose of sustainable economic development. It identifies strategic infrastructure needs to ensure that each part of the country can develop to its full potential.

Natura 2000: Natura sites (or European Sites) represent the very best of Scotland's nature. Natura is the term given to Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). These internationally important sites are designated under two of the most influential pieces of European legislation relating to nature conservation, the Habitats and Birds Directives.

Open Space: Open space includes greenspace consisting of any vegetated land or structure, water or geological feature within and on the edges of settlements, including allotments, trees, woodland, paths and civic space consisting of squares, market places and other paved or hard landscaped area with a civic function

Precautionary Principle: The assumption that an activity or development might be damaging unless it can be proved otherwise.

Ramsar Site: Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance, designated under the Ramsar Convention. The Ramsar Convention is an international agreement signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, which provides for the conservation and good use of wetlands.

Responsible Authority: Under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, any person, body or office holder exercising functions of a public character is identified as a Responsible Authority. If such an authority prepares a strategy, plan or programme which requires an SEA then that authority is responsible for the SEA.

Scheduled Ancient Monument: A scheduled monument is a monument of national importance that Scottish Ministers have given legal protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Secondary Effects: Effects attributable to the plan but which may not be obvious or direct. These are specifically noted in the SEA Directive in order to emphasise the need for broad and comprehensive information regarding the effects.

Significant Environmental Effects: Schedule 2 of the SEA Act sets out specific criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment of a Plan, Policy or Strategy.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment:

Assessment used to refine information on areas that may flood, taking into account all sources of flooding and the impacts of climate change. SRFA should form the basis for preparing appropriate policies for flood risk management.

Sustainable Development: The Scottish Government supports the five guiding principles of sustainable development set out in the UK shared framework for sustainable development. The five principles are:

- living within environmental limits,
- ensuring a strong, healthy and just society,
- achieving a sustainable economy,
- promoting good governance, and
- using sound science responsibly.

Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs):

SUDs are a sequence of water management practices and facilities designed to drain surface water in a manner that will provide a more sustainable approach than what has been the conventional practice of routing run-off through a pipe to a watercourse.

Urban Capacity: An assessment of the potential contribution to the housing land supply of all the possible sources of housing land.

Acronyms used in the Report

CA Consultation Authority
ER Environmental Report
GIS Geographical Information System
GROS General Register Office for Scotland
HNDA Housing Needs and Demand Assessment
HRA Habitats Regulations Appraisal
HS Historic Scotland
HSE Health and Safety Executive
LDP Local Development Plan
LHS Local Housing Strategy
LNR Local Nature Reserve
LTS Local Transport Strategy
MIR Main Issues Report
NHS National Health Service
PAN Planning Advice Note
PPS Plan, Programme or Strategy
RBMP River Basin Management Plan
RSPB Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC Special Area of Conservation
SIC Shetland Islands Council
SAM Scheduled Ancient Monument
SEA Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEPA Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SFRA Strategic Food Risk Assessment
SG Scottish Government
SMR Sites and Monuments Record
SNH Scottish Natural Heritage
SPA Special Protection Area
SPG Supplementary Planning Guidance
SPP Scottish Planning Policy
SOA Single Outcome Agreement
SSSI Site of Special Scientific Interest
SUDS Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
WFD Water Framework Directive