

# **SHETLAND CORE PATHS PLAN**



## **SEA Environmental Report** Shetland Draft Core Paths Plan



Shetland Islands Council  
Infrastructure Services Department, Grantfield, Lerwick, Shetland. ZE1 0NT.

# Core Paths Plan

## Non – technical summary

### Shetland Islands Council

#### 1. Background

This is a non-technical summary of the Environmental Report for Shetland Islands Council Core Paths Plan (CPP). It sets out the findings of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the draft CPP.

Shetland Island's Council (SIC) is required to draw up a plan for a network of paths (core paths) sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area.

The European Union SEA Directive 2001/24/EC was transposed into Scots law in 2004 by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. The Directive describes SEA as:

“an important tool for integrating environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment...because it ensures that such effects of implementing plans and programmes are taken into account during their preparation and before their adoption”.

The main requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 are that:

- The findings of the SEA are published in an Environmental Report, i.e. the document summarised in this non-technical summary, which sets out the likely significant effects of the draft plan;
- Consultation is undertaken on the draft plan and Environmental Report;
- The results of the consultation are taken into account in deciding on adoption of the final plan; and
- Information on how the results of the SEA have been taken into account is made available to the public.

#### 2. Methodology

The following guidance documents have been referenced in undertaking the SEA and preparing the Environmental Report:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment Tool Kit, Natural Scotland, Scottish Executive, September 2006; and
- A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Directive, ODPM, September 2005. (Now Department for communities and Local Government)

SEA involves consideration of the likely significant effects of a plan (in this case the draft Core Paths Plan) in relation to environmental topics defined in the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

- (a) On issues such as –
- 1) Biodiversity;
  - 2) Population;
  - 3) Human health;
  - 4) Fauna;
  - 5) Flora;
  - 6) Soil;
  - 7) Water;
  - 8) Air;
  - 9) Climatic factors;
  - 10) Material assets;
  - 11) Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;
  - 12) Landscape; and
  - 13) The inter- relationship between the issues referred to in heads 1 to 12
- (b) Short, medium and long-term effects;
- (c) Permanent and temporary effects;
- (d) Positive and negative effects; and
- (e) Secondary, cumulative and synergistic affects.

The individual paths detailed in the CPP were assessed in a desktop exercise, identifying where elements of the path network have the potential to affect areas within SIC's jurisdiction which are designated for their environmental sensitivity to any of the above factors.

Following this, area network proposals based around community council areas were also assessed against SEA objectives and screened against all natural, cultural and historical designations. Finally, the CPP was considered as a whole against the same topics. The process took into account the cumulative, secondary, indirect and synergistic effects that may occur as a result of adopting the CPP.

### **3. Consultation and Scoping**

Consultation is an essential element of the SEA process and is undertaken in two stages; at the scoping stage to ensure the SEA fulfils the requirements of the relevant Consultation Authorities. And once the draft CPP and Environmental Report (this document) were published, a scoping report was provided to the Consultation Authorities November 2007 and their views sought on:

- Other plans and programmes of relevance to the CPP that should be considered as part of the SEA;
- Environmental protection objectives;
- Environmental or sustainability issues in the study area; and
- The existing and future state of the environment

These comments from the Consultation Authorities have been taken into account in completing the SEA. Based on the results of the scoping consultation these are covered by the definition of a set of SEA objectives (Table 1) against which the CPP is appraised.

Table 1 outlines a set of SEA objectives for the CPP. It also highlights the SEA topics relevant to each objective.

Table 1

SEA Objective	Relevant SEA topics	SEA criteria for Core Paths
To conserve and enhance diversity	Flora, Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• minimise the impact of recreational access on designated sites</li> </ul>
Habitats and species	Landscape, water, soil, material assets, human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise impacts of recreational access on other areas of natural and semi-natural vegetation</li> <li>• Ensure recreational access does not cause significant disturbance/ damage to protect or prioritise species&amp; habitats</li> <li>• Consider impacts of new and increased activities on species and habitats</li> </ul>
To conserve and enhance the integrity of ecosystems	flora, fauna, biodiversity, landscape, water, soil, material assets, human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure recreational access &amp; associated infrastructure does not cause fragmentation of habitats, or inhibit movement of species &amp; habitats</li> </ul>
Provide opportunities for people to enjoy & appreciate wildlife & wild places	Biodiversity, landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide sustainable access opportunities for people to enjoy wild and wild places</li> </ul>
To protect water bodies and water	Biodiversity, water, landscape, human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise significant adverse impact of recreational quality access on landscape character</li> <li>• Ensure infrastructure is sited/ designed to make positive contribution to landscape character.</li> <li>• Minimise the impact of recreational access on geological and geomorphological features</li> </ul>
To maintain and improve air quality	Air, human health, biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the need for travel by private car for recreation</li> </ul>
To maintain soil quality and integrity	Soil, water, human health, biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise erosion from recreational access.</li> <li>• Safeguard soil quality &amp; function when developing new access routes/ infrastructure</li> </ul>
To conserve and where appropriate enhance or restore the historic environment	Cultural heritage, material assets, landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure new recreational access/ infrastructure has a positive effect on archaeological/ historical/ cultural sites and/ or their setting.</li> <li>• Ensure new access alleviates pressure on sensitive sites</li> </ul>
Provide opportunities for people to enjoy & appreciate the historic environment	Cultural heritage, material assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide sustainable access to historic sites</li> </ul>
To protect & enhance human health	Population, human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide recreational access opportunities for all sectors of the community.</li> <li>• Encourage communities/ visitors to be more active</li> <li>• Encourage less dependency on cars</li> <li>• Maintain and improve access to public open space</li> </ul>
To reduce waste and pollution	Air, soil, water, biodiversity, human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce litter and dereliction in the countryside</li> <li>• Minimise pollution from human waste in the countryside</li> <li>• Reduce need for use of private cars for recreational access</li> </ul>
To promote sustainable use of natural resources and material assets	Material assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage use of local materials in development of recreation infrastructure</li> <li>• Encourage use of materials from sustainable resources</li> </ul>

In defining the SEA objectives, it is important to recognise their distinction from the relationship with the objectives of the Plan. In simple terms, the Plan objectives describe what the SIC wish to achieve, or make a contribution to achieving, through the adoption of the Plan, and aim to cover all aspects of the outcomes of the Plan.

The draft CPP and Environmental Report have been published and both documents are available for review and comment at [www.shetland.gov.uk/corepathsplan](http://www.shetland.gov.uk/corepathsplan) or by contacting Heritage Section, Planning, Grantfield, Lerwick.

#### 4. Plan Context

The strategic aim of the CPP has been defined and agreed as being:

“To identify and promote a sustainable and safe core path network in Shetland, which encourages access for all within the isles.”

It is proposed the CPP will deliver this aim through a series of objectives. To ensure a valid and comprehensive approach and to assess their compatibility, the Core Paths Plan objectives and the SEA objectives were compared. A matrix was compiled, and is presented in the Environmental Report.

The following are the Core Paths Plan Objectives;

1. To promote a sustainable approach to access development and visitor management, safeguarding the environment whilst recognising the potential to deliver local economic and social benefits;
2. To ensure that the core paths network balances the need of users and the interests of landowners;
3. To promote a path network which provides health benefits
4. To promote a path network which provides access to recreational opportunities
5. To support existing local policies; and
6. To create a path network which allows the local community and visitors to enjoy and interpret the assets of the isles, its natural and cultural heritage and local distinctiveness.

## **5. Development of the Plan**

The development of the Core Paths Plan has benefited from extensive and inclusive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. The informal public consultation process started in 2004 and was a two-stage process designed to seek agreement on the following:

- Criteria for what constitutes a “core” path in Shetland; and
- Identification of specific routes which meet the criteria

The first stage involved working with communities, land managers and other agencies to identify potential suitable routes to be included in Shetland’s Core Paths Plan. The suggested routes were then screened against CPP objectives and SEA objectives before being mapped and then tested through a series of community meetings, consultation events and the access forum.

Throughout attention was paid to both selection of individual paths and the sufficiency of the CPP as a whole.

## **6. Environmental Baseline**

Details of the current state of the environment in the study area and how this might change in the future in the absence of the CPP and the environmental characteristics of the area likely to be affected by the Plan were identified and are described in the Environmental Report.

Key environmental issues highlighting the baseline data included climate change, coastal erosion and the demands for housing development.

Environmental baseline data were taken into account in selecting candidate core paths including landscape, ecological, cultural heritage and designations around the

proposed core paths. This helped ensure that environmental considerations played a key role in path identification and adoption.

## **7. Assessment of Draft Core Paths Plan**

### **7.1 Possible Cumulative Effects**

The very small magnitude of individual impacts predicted to arise from the adoption of the CPP is not likely to cause significant cumulative impacts following implementation of the Plan. The development and promotion of the CPP as a whole will increase awareness of Shetland's path network and bring improvements in access to the whole of Shetland, whilst bringing support to other sustainable transport initiatives underway in Shetland at present.

### **7.2 Proposed Mitigation**

The impacts of the CPP on the integrity of environmental designations are consistently negligible and specific measures to mitigate the impacts are not therefore considered to be necessary. Information signage will be implemented in particularly environmentally sensitive areas to discourage any activities that may affect the nature conservation interests.

### **7.3 Monitoring**

Monitoring of the effects of implementing the CPP will be undertaken by the Shetland Amenity Trust Ranger Service and the SIC Access Officers. Information about management, maintenance, and development of core paths will be collated annually and form part of an overall report on access related work across the council area.

# **SHETLAND CORE PATHS PLAN**



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## Introduction

### 1.1 Background

This is the Environmental Report for Shetland's Core Paths Plan. It sets out the findings of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the draft Core Paths Plan (the Plan).

Chapter 5 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (the Act) gives access authorities three years from February 2005 to draw up a draft plan for a network of paths (core paths) sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area. The Act requires that after the adoption, the access authority shall keep the Plan and maps it refers to available for public inspection and for sale at a reasonable price.

The Act also sets out procedures in relation to:

- Consultation, which included a public inspection period of 12 weeks and consultation with Scottish Natural Heritage;
- Adoption of Core Paths Plan;
- Maintenance of paths
- Review and amendments of Core Paths Plan;
- Delineation by agreement of paths in land in respect of which access rights are exercisable; and
- Compulsory powers to delineate paths on land in respect of which access rights are exercisable.

The draft plan sets out the proposed Core Paths within Shetland and documents the process that has been followed to determine which paths should be included. Once adopted, the Plan will provide a basis for managing access and promotion of routes throughout Shetland. The paths will be designated and protected for the future and monitored and reviewed at appropriate intervals.

The Environmental Report accompanies the Plan for the purposes of public consultation. Responses to this consultation will be taken into account prior to adopting the final plan.

### 1.2 Core Paths in Context

The Core Paths Plan is intended to satisfy the basic path needs of local people and visitors for recreation exercise and transit.

Core Paths Planning forms a key component of outdoor access provision, guided by Outdoor Access Strategies and by public policy objectives in relation to health, recreation, sustainable transport and tourism. The identified core paths have surfaces ranging from natural ground through to high specification constructed paths, and cater for a range of users including walkers, cyclists, horse riders and people with disabilities – although not every path is designed or managed for every type of user.

There is a requirement for the local authority to keep the adopted Plan and any maps to which it refers available for public inspection, but the following matters should be noted:

- Access authorities are not under a duty to maintain core paths. Provision and care of core paths will be achieved through a range of measures and by a variety of stakeholders;
- Core paths designation does not generally provide enhanced access rights since the majority of core paths are on land where access rights can be exercised already. Access rights will also continue for those paths in the wider path network, which are not adopted as core paths. Enhanced access rights would however be granted if a core path was established across land on which access rights were not currently exercisable (this is not the case for any paths designated in the draft Core Paths Plan);
- It is expected that once designated, core paths will be protected through planning control.

### **1.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment**

#### **1.3.1 The Requirement for SEA**

The SEA Directive was approved by the European Parliament in 2001 and was transposed into Scottish Law on 20 July 2004 through the Environmental Assessments of Plans and Programmes (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations). These Regulations were replaced by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 which came into force 20 February 2006 and extended the provision of SEA within Scotland.

The main requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act are that:

- The findings of the SEA are published in an Environmental Report, i.e. this document, which sets out the likely significant effects of the draft plan or;
- Consultation is undertaken on the draft plan and the Environmental Report;
- The results of the consultation are taken into account in decision making relating to the adoption of the plan; and
- Information on how the results of the SEA have been taken into account is made available to the public.

#### **1.3.2 The purpose of the Environmental Report**

The Environmental Report for the Core Paths Plan sets out the methodology and findings of the SEA and describes the consultation, which has been undertaken to date as part of the SEA.

The Environmental Report is part of the SEA process and follows on from a scoping exercise conducted last year. An Environmental Scoping Report was produced for comment by the statutory Consultation Authorities. The Environmental Report allows decision makers, the Consultation Authorities, the public and other stakeholders to understand the likely significant impacts of the Plan before it is finalised and the measures that will be implemented to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects.

The SEA process has been a key consideration in developing the Plan. This process ensured that environmental considerations have been taken into account fully during

the development of the draft Plan, and it provides for a high level of environmental protection.

The draft Plan and the Environmental Report are being made available as part of a final consultation exercise prior to adoption of the final plan. Copies of the Environmental Report are being sent to the three Consultation Authorities defined in the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act, namely:

- The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA);
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH); and
- Historic Scotland (through Scottish Ministers).

The draft Plan and the Environmental Report are also available for comment by any other interested party. Following this consultation, SIC will consider the views expressed in finalising the plans set out in an Environmental Statement how the findings of consultation have been taken into account.

### 1.4 Structure of the Environmental Report

As previously stated, the Environmental Report is accompanied by a separate non-technical summary (NTS). The main text of this Environmental Report is followed by a series of supporting technical information for the SEA. A series of supporting figures and plans are also included. The remainder of this Environmental Report is organised as described in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Structure of the Environmental Report

Section of the ER	Content
Non-Technical Summary	The Non-Technical Summary (NTS) gives an overview of the SEA, a summary of its findings and describes the role that the SEA process has played in the development of the draft Core Paths Plan.
Main Text	
Section 1 - Introduction	Describes the background to the preparation of the draft Core Paths Plan, the purpose of the SEA and this report.
Section 2 - Methodology	Describes the overall methodology for the SEA.
Section 3 - Scope of the SEA and Consultation	This section describes the scope of the SEA and provides details of consultation carried out on the SEA scope and on the draft Core Paths Plan.
Section 4 – Plan Context	This section introduces the Core Paths Plan preparation methodology and objectives and explains how the Plan is relevant to related plans and programmes.
Section 5 – Environmental Baseline	Describes the current and future baseline environment for the study area. Difficulties encountered in obtaining information or deficiencies in data, or in the methods used to undertake the SEA are also described.
Section 6 – Assessment of the Environmental effects and proposed mitigation and monitoring	Describes the options that have been considered in developing the draft Core Paths Plan and how options have been assessed  This section also describes the effects of the proposed plan in relation to each of the environmental topics considered in the SEA, proposes mitigation measures and identifies areas of risk and uncertainty.  Proposals for monitoring and reporting the performance of the

	draft Core Paths Plan against SEA objectives also included in section 6.
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Annexes

Annex A – Consultation

Annex B – Review of Plans and Programmes

Annex C - Individual Path Appraisals

**Key Facts**

**Name of Responsible Authority** – Shetland Islands Council

**Title of PPS** – Shetland Islands Council Core Paths Plan

**What prompted the Plan, Programme or Strategy (PPS)** – Land Reform Act requirement

**Subject** – Core Path Planning

**Period covered by PPS** – Indefinite, but the Land Reform Act requires regular review updating of the Plan

**Frequency of updates** – reviewed by SIC as required

**Area covered by PPS** – Shetland Islands

**Contact point** – Sheila Johnson – Planning, Infrastructure Services, Grantfield, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1  
0NT phone: 01595 744864

## SEA Methodology

### 2.1 Introduction

The SEA for the draft Shetland Core Paths Plan has been undertaken in accordance with statutory requirements and guidance prepared by the Scottish Executive. In undertaking this SEA, the following guidance documents have been used:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment Tool Kit, Natural Scotland, Scottish Executive, September 2006; and
- A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Directive, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, September 2005. (now the Dept. of Communities and Local Government)

SEA involves consideration of the likely significant effects of a strategy, plan or programme (in this case the draft Core Paths Plan) in relation to a set of environmental factors defined in the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 as follows:

- (a) (effects) on issues such as-
1. biodiversity;
  2. population;
  3. human health;
  4. fauna;
  5. flora;
  6. soil;
  7. water;
  8. air;
  9. climatic factors;
  10. material assets;
  11. cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage
  12. landscape; and
  13. the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in heads 1 to 12.
    - a. short, medium and long-term effects;
    - b. permanent and temporary effects;
    - c. positive and negative effects; and
    - d. secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects

The SEA process should continue throughout the development of the Plan, providing input when setting the objectives of the Plan and appraising and refining alternatives.

### 2.2 Stage A: Context, Objectives, Baseline and Scoping

The purpose of this stage of the SEA was to compile background information required to inform the development of Plan options. It has involved:

- a review of plans, programmes, strategies and environmental protection objectives relevant to the Plan;
- establishing a set of SEA objectives against which the path options have been appraised during the development of the Plan;
- the collection and review of initial environmental information;
- the identification of environmental problems and opportunities in the study area; and
- preparation of and consultation on Scoping Report which set out the proposed scoping and methodology for the SEA.

### **2.3 Stage B: Assessment**

This stage involved considering alternatives for the content of the Plan and the assessment of the likely significant effects of the draft Core Paths Plan as it was developed. As part of this appraisal, mitigation measures needed to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the plan were also considered.

### **2.4 Stage C: Preparing the Environmental Report**

Having undertaken the assessments of environmental effects likely to arise as a result of adopting the Core Paths Plan, and where relevant, developed mitigation to minimise any potential adverse effects, this Environmental Report has been prepared to consolidate these findings and set the assessment into a context appropriate for consultation.

### **2.5 Stage D: Consultation and Reporting**

The preparation and production of this Environmental Report provides Consultation Authorities, the general public and other stakeholders with an opportunity to contribute to the development of the Plan in the light of its environmental effects final.

### **2.6 Stage E: Monitoring**

The final stage of the SEA is to monitor the significant environmental effects of the draft Plan. The purpose of this is to ensure that the Draft Plan is implemented in accordance with the findings of the SEA and to ensure that if any adverse effects, predicted or unexpected, are identified, appropriate corrective action can be undertaken.

## **2.7 Environmental Assessment Methodology**

### **2.7.1 SEA objectives and Appraisal Criteria**

The use of SEA objectives is recognised in SEA guidance as a way of providing a framework for appraising the environmental effects of a plan, programme or strategy. The SEA objectives provide a set of criteria against which the direction of environmental change from the future baseline can be assessed.

Table 1 outlines a set of SEA objectives for the CPP. It also highlights the SEA topics relevant to each objective.

Table 1

SEA Objective	Relevant SEA topics
(1) To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity	Flora, Fauna, landscape, water, soil, material assets, human health
(2) To conserve and enhance the integrity of ecosystems	Flora, Fauna, biodiversity, landscape, water, soil, material assets, human health
(3) Provide opportunities for people to enjoy responsibly and appreciate wildlife	Biodiversity, landscape, human health, population
(4) To maintain and improve air quality	Air, human health, biodiversity,
(5) To maintain soil quality & integrity	Soil, water, human health, biodiversity
(6) To conserve and where appropriate enhance or restore the landscape and historic environment	Cultural heritage, material assets, landscape
(7) ) Provide opportunities for people to responsibly enjoy & appreciate landscape and historic environment	Cultural heritage, material assets, lanscape
(8) To protect & enhance human health	Population, human health
(9) To reduce waste and pollution	Air, soil, water, biodiversity, human health
(10) To promote sustainable use of natural resources and material assests	Material assets

In defining the SEA objectives, it is important to recognise their distinction from and relationship with the objectives of the Plan. In simple terms, the Plan objectives describes what SIC wish to achieve, or make a contribution to achieving, through adoption of the Plan, and aim to cover all aspects of the outcomes of the Plan. The SEA objectives principally consider environmental factors and are used as criteria against which to appraise the environmental performance of the Plan. They are designed to complement the environmental aspirations included in the objectives of the Plan.

Establishing SEA objectives provides a starting point for determining the type of baseline data which is needs to be collected and the methods that will be needed to appraise the Plan. It should be recognised that the detailed examination of baseline information may reveal other environmental objectives worthy of inclusion in the assessment. The SEA objectives are therefore kept under review as the SEA progresses to take account of emerging findings and results of consultations.

The particular focus of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act is the assessment of the likely significant effects of the Plan on the environment. A significant effect is one which should be a material consideration in the decision making process. Some areas are especially vulnerable to environmental effects, and

where designations exist to protect particular environmental factors or sensitivities, the significance of a particular effect is likely to be greater.

SEA objectives have been used as the basis for assessing the likely significance of the effects of the Plan. Specifically, the SEA has considered how the options and Plan will change the baseline environment and the consequences of these changes in relation to the SEA objectives.

SEA examines the impacts of the Core Paths Plan against the objectives in relation to the existing baseline environment and its expected development in the future in the absence of the Plan.

## **2.8 Secondary, Cumulative, Indirect and Synergising Effects**

The Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act requires an analysis of the likely significant effects on the environment and that these effects should include “secondary, cumulative, synergistic, medium and long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.” The aim of cumulative effects assessment is to identify, describe and evaluate cumulative (including secondary and synergistic) effects and enable them to be avoided, minimised or enhanced as appropriate.

In order to meet these requirements, the Core Paths Plan has been assessed in a number of ways. Each of the proposed care path interventions was examined against the individual SEA topic areas to identify in general terms, where such an intervention would bring positive or negative impacts to specific environmental factors. This interaction of the factors was also considered at this stage to identify scenarios where interventions bring benefits or disadvantages to some environmental factors, and those benefits or disadvantages that may have a knock-on effect on other factors that should be considered.

## **2.9 Assessment Procedure**

The first step in evaluating the likely environmental effects of implementing the Plan was to examine each of the proposed paths individually. This was done at various stages as paths were proposed for decision through the different stages of public consultation.

The paths plotted on maps showing environmental designations, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) etc. These maps were used to see which designated areas each path would run across or be adjacent to, and from this what impacts the path could have on those designated areas. The final list of paths and the designations that they have the potential to affect by adoption as core paths is included in Annex A. No paths were rejected specially because they crossed designated areas. In undertaking this initial assessment, each path was also considered in the light of the SEA topics to highlight where the adoption of the route or path as core path could have potential to have an impact upon one or more of these environmental factors.

Following and building upon this initial assessment, the Plan was considered in its entirety for each of the SEA topics, taking into account the possibility of secondary,



cumulative, indirect and synergistic effects to arise as a result of implementation and adoption.

## **3 Scope & Consultation**

### **3.1 Introduction**

This section describes the spatial, temporal and technical scope of the environmental studies that have been undertaken as part of the SEA.

### **3.2 Scope**

#### **3.2.1 Spatial Scope**

The study area, or spatial scope for the SEA, is the whole of the Shetland Islands.

#### **3.2.2 Temporal Scope**

The time frame, or temporal scope, of the SEA is the period October 2008, when the Core Paths Plan is expected to be finalised and adopted, to the date at which the Core Paths Plan is next amended (likely to be at least 5 years).

#### **3.2.3 Technical Scope**

The modes covered in the Plan include cycling, walking, horse riding and access to the water for water sports.

The range of environmental topics addressed as part of the SEA is referred to as the “technical scope”. In determining the technical scope of the SEA for the Plan, the topics set out in the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 were used as a starting point.

### **3.3 Consultation**

#### **3.3.1 Background**

Consultation is an essential element in SEA process. Guidance on SEA recommends that this should be undertaken in two stages, at the scoping stage to ensure SEA fulfils the requirements of the relevant Consultation Authorities, and on the draft Plan and Environmental report.

Following the consultation on the Plan and Environment Report, the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act requires the authority with responsibility for the Plan, in this case SIC, to publish a statement outlining how findings of consultation have been taken into account in finalising the Plan. The main elements of the consultation, which has been undertaken to date, are set out in the following sections.

#### **3.3.2 SEA Scoping Report**

As described above, a Scoping Report was prepared at an early stage in the SEA. Its purpose was to engage the Consultation Authorities on the scope of the SEA and the appraisal methodologies to be used. In particular, comments were sought on the following:

- Other plans and programmes of relevance to the Plan that should be considered as part of the SEA;
- Environmental protection objectives;
- Environmental or sustainability issues in the study area; and
- The existing and future state of the environment.

A summary of the consultation comments is provided below and further detail is provided in Annex A.

### **3.3.3 Summary of Key Consultation Responses**

**Historic Scotland** – comments were overall very supportive of proposed methodology and time frame. The feedback did point out the fact that some impacts are uncertain at strategic level and where this is the case it is important to identify these issues and to be clear how they will be taken into account at lower levels, and who will be responsible for following them through.

**The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)** – At the screening stage SEPA was of the opinion that the Plan was unlikely to have a significant effect against the air, water, soil, human health and climatic receptors. However, now that coastal erosion has been identified as a possible issue they would now like to scope in water and soil. SEPA also listed additional plans, policies and strategies that might impact on the plan. They also expect SIC to consider the main European environmental Directives, such as Water Framework Directive, and legislation that implements the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (as amended).

**Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)** – provided very detailed comments on the whole scoping report. SNH requires more environmental baseline information, as well as more attention to priority species. The feedback also pointed out that an Appropriate Assessment is likely to be required for the Natura sites.

### **3.3.4 Next Stages in Consultation**

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act requires account to be taken of responses to consultation. This will be covered in an SEA statement, which will accompany the Plan when it is finalised.

## 4 Plan Context

### 4.1 The Aims and Objectives of the Core Paths Plan

The Plan has the following strategic aim and objectives. These have been developed in consultation with the Shetland Countryside Access Forum, which comprises of statutory and non-statutory bodies, user groups, land managers and community councils and refined during the early phase of community consultation.

#### Strategic Aim

The overall strategic aim of the Shetland Core Paths Plan is:

“To identify and promote a sustainable and safe core path network in Shetland, which encourages access for all within the isles.”

#### Objectives

1. To promote a sustainable approach to access development and visitor management, safeguarding the environment whilst recognising the potential to deliver local economic and social benefits;
2. To ensure that the core path network balances the needs of users and the interests of land managers;
3. To promote a path network which provides health benefits;
4. To promote a path network which provides access to recreational opportunities;
5. To support existing local policies; and
6. To create a path network which allows the local community and visitors to enjoy and interpret the assets of the isles, its natural and cultural heritage and local distinctiveness.

A matrix has been prepared in order to ensure compatibility between the SEA objectives and the draft Core Paths Plan objectives.

All of the SEA objectives are broadly compatible with the Core Paths Plan objectives. Where no specific link between objectives has been identified, this is because they are not related.

Table 4.1 Compatibility of SEA and Core Paths Plan Objectives

Objective	Core Paths Plan					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>SEA Objectives</b>	+	0	0	+	0	0
To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity	+	0	0	+	0	0
To conserve and enhance the integrity of ecosystems	+	+	0	+	0	+
Provide opportunities for people to responsibly enjoy & appreciate wildlife	0	0	+	+	+	0
To protect water bodies and water	0	0	0	+	0	0
To maintain and improve air quality	0	0	0	+	0	0
To maintain soil quality and integrity	0	0	0	+	0	0
To conserve and where appropriate enhance or restore the landscape and historic environment	+	+	0	+	0	+
Provide opportunities for people to responsibly enjoy & appreciate the landscape and historic environment	+	+	0	+	+	+
To protect & enhance human health	+	+	+	+	+	+
To reduce waste and pollution	0	0	0	+	0	0
To promote sustainable use of natural resources and material assets	0	0	0	+	0	0

Key

+ Objectives are compatible with each other

x Objectives are incompatible

0 There is no specific link between the objectives

## 4.2 Development of Plan

The development of the Core Paths Plan has benefited from extensive and inclusive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. The informal public consultation process started in 2004 and was a two-stage process designed to seek agreement on the following:

- Criteria for what constitutes a “core” path in Shetland; and
- Identification of specific routes which meet the criteria

The first stage involved working with communities, land managers and other agencies to identify potential suitable routes to be included in Shetland’s Core Paths Plan. The suggested routes were then screened against CPP objectives and SEA objectives before being mapped and then tested through a series of community meetings, consultation events and the access forum.

Throughout attention was paid to both selection of individual paths and the sufficiency of the CPP as a whole.

## 4.3 Links to other plans and policies

The Plan may both influence and be influenced by a wide range of other plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives. Consequently, an important aspect of the SEA has been to identify and assess the relationship between the Plan and other relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives.

A comprehensive review of the relevant plans programmes and environmental protection objectives was undertaken at an early stage in the SEA and the findings set out in the Scoping Report. This review covered all of the SEA topics at international, European, UK wide, national and regional and local plan levels. Its aim was to identify how other plans and programmes may influence the Plan and vice versa.

Following consultation on the Scoping Report in December 2007 and as the study has evolved, some additional plans and programmes of relevance to the Plan have been identified. Consequently, these have been reviewed and an updated analysis undertaken. Annex B summarises the plans and programmes that have been reviewed as part of the SEA. Plans and programmes at a national and regional level generally interpret international, European and UK wide policy. Consequently, where international, regional and National Plans and programmes are implemented through national and regional plans; only relevant objectives at the national and regional level have been described.

## 5 Environmental Baseline

### 5.1 Introduction

Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act requires the Environmental Report to include a description of “relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without the implementation of the plan or programme.”

This section of the Environmental Report presents the findings of the initial stage of the SEA. It describes:

- This current state of the environment in the study area and how this might change in the future in the absence of the Plan, and the environmental characteristics of the area likely to be significantly affected by the Plan; and
- The existing environmental issues that are relevant to the Plan.

### 5.2 Current Baseline Information

The Shetland Islands are the most northerly local authority area in the UK, 298 miles north of Edinburgh and 211 miles north of Aberdeen. Our closest neighbours are Orkney, the nearest part which lies some 25 miles from Fair Isle and about 50 miles from Shetland mainland. Shetland is only 228 miles from Torshavn in Faroe and a similar distance from Bergen in Norway. Shetland comprises of more than 100 islands, 15 of which are inhabited, and the total population is around 22,000.

#### 5.2.1 Human Health and Population

Shetland’s population has fallen by 4% over the last twenty-five years, an average of 35 people a year. The trend towards centralisation of the population towards Lerwick and 15 –20 minute commute of Lerwick continues. Around 41% of the population now lives in Lerwick.

Since 1991, Shetland’s population aged over 65 has risen by 31% and the progression of an ageing population looks set to continue, with the population of over 50s increasing by 1.9% in the last year.

Shetland’s life expectancy is slightly above the Scottish average. Levels of avoidable deaths in Shetland are fairly stable at around 100 a year.

Although Shetland has fewer people misusing drugs than the national average, the age of starting is becoming younger and is lower than the national average. The numbers of young people presenting with self-harm is also increasing. NHS Shetland estimate that over half the population of Shetland are at risk of effects of being overweight or obese.

There are many ways to improve quality of life for Shetland’s population. One important aspect is facilitating access to foot and cycle paths, open space and recreation areas. Open space contributes to physical and psychological well-being as well as offering tranquillity where the pressures of everyday life can be temporarily set aside. Core paths planning can make a valuable contribution to providing means for

improving health and quality of life through facilitating and encouraging non-motorised transport and recreation.

### **5.2.2 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna**

Shetland's biodiversity is unique in the British Isles and an extremely valuable contributor to both quality of life and economic development in the islands. It is a resource upon which primary and most secondary economic activity depends on attraction for visitors and inward investment, and an asset for promotion and marketing. The value derives from the existing diversity of flora and fauna and the way these distributed to form characteristic habitats that contribute to Shetland's inspirational land and seascapes. The highest priority should be afforded to maintaining the mix of habitats and species that have characterised Shetland in recent times (approximately the last 100 years) and restoring this where recent management has proved unsustainable. Shetland has 3 National Nature Reserves (NNR's); Hermaness, Keen of Hamar and Noss, and 81 Sites of Special Scientific Interest. 12 Special Protection Areas, covering 17 of the ornithological SSSI's have been designated under EC Birds Directive. A further 12 sites comprising 11 SSSI's and 1 non-SSSI area have been designated as Special Areas of Conservation under the EC Habitats Directive. Total area covered by statutory conservation sites is 19,852 hectares, which represents 13.5% of the total area of Shetland.

Species population proportion of UK population

- Red-necked Phalarope 25-30 pairs 90%
- Whimbrel 4-500 pairs 95%
- Great Skua 6,800 pairs 71%
- Artic Skua 1,100 pairs 52%
- Red-throated Diver 400 pairs 40%
- Artic Tern 25,000 pairs 44%
- Fulmar 190,000 pairs 38%
- Black Gulliemot 16,000 adults 41%
- Shag 6,000 pairs 21%
- Puffin 100,000 pairs 18%
- Gannet 26,000 pairs 12%
- Grey Seal 3,000 individuals (excluding pups) 2.5%
- Otter 800-1000 individuals 12%
- Common Seal 4,900 + individuals 15%

Shetland's flora is impoverished by comparison with that of mainland Britain, due in large part to its isolation and climate.

### **5.2.3 Air Quality and Climatic Factors**

Shetland's air quality meets all the criteria set by the national air quality standards.

Global warming is now widely regarded as the biggest single threat facing mankind, and Shetland must play its part in the national and international effort to restore equilibrium. Core paths planning can make a contribution to walking and cycling connections to workplaces, employment hubs and significant destinations within Shetland.

Shetland has the highest average humidity in UK. The average maximum monthly temperature is 9.7C and the average annual rainfall 1372mm.

#### 5.2.4 Water

Coastal Water Quality Standards Criteria are set in bandings between A and D, with A as the highest quality and C and D representing unsatisfactory results. Most of Shetland’s coastline is A, with improvements in general quality from 2004 to 2005 and a decrease in the amount of unsatisfactory coastal areas in Shetland.

#### 5.2.5 Material Assets

The number of houses continues to increase, however, build does not appear to keep up with demand, as the numbers waiting for social housing continues to increase, as does private house prices.

Vehicle ownership and inter-island ferry and bus usage in Shetland continues to rise, as does usage of external air and sea routes. The cost of fares is also increasing across the board.

Over 200 access routes have been improved over the last 5 years. National Cycle Network 1 runs down the length of Shetland from North to South.

#### 5.2.6 Cultural Heritage including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage

In Shetland there 4 Garden’s and Designed Landscapes, 348 listed buildings and 365 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (8 of which are under Care of the Scottish ministers)

#### 5.2.7 Landscape

Majority of the rock of Shetland are part of an old, deeply eroded mountain chain called Caledonian Orogenic Belt. The majority of rocks are overlain with superficial deposits of peat, boulder clay and glacial drifts. Within Shetland there are 43 geological Conservation Review sites. Shetland’s geology is of international importance and it is a proposed Geopark.

The topography of the eastern half of the Shetland Islands is characterised by north/south ridges with intervening partially-drowned valleys. In the west, the topography is more rugged and diverse with numerous small knolls (hummocks).

### 5.3 Current Environmental Issues

Table 5.1 below summarises the most important issues currently facing Shetland that are considered relevant in the context of the Plan. They represent the key areas of concern and draw on the issues originally identified in the scoping report.

Issue	
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flooding</li> <li>• Land slides</li> <li>• Coastal erosion</li> </ul>
Increase tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pressure on existing routes</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal erosion</li> <li>• Strain on crofters infrastructure</li> </ul>
Pressure on natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased demand for housing and associated infrastructure</li> </ul>

#### 5.4 The Implications of not preparing the Core Paths Plan

The SEA process is designed to identify what impacts the adoption of the Plan is likely to have on the environment. The SEA Directive also requires that the evolution of the environment in the absence of the Plan is examined.

The majority of proposed core paths are already in existence, however, there are a few that require some improvements, mainly gates. Therefore, no physical interventions other than gates and signage will arise from the adoption of the Plan. However, the paths listed in the Core Paths Plan will be afforded an additional level of protection, which will be most significant where land available for development and path routes coincide. Consequently, in the absence of the Plan's adoption, there is a risk that existing routes may be lost, and future opportunities for new core paths would not be identified.

#### 5.5 Evolution of the Environment without the Core Paths Plan

SEA Topic	Evolution without Core Paths Plan
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	The Core Paths Plan does not provide any physical interventions except signage and gates and therefore it is not expected that any adverse changes is likely to occur to Shetland's biodiversity with the adoption of the Plan. Harm to biodiversity could be prevented by adoption of the Plan if development of land that is currently rich in species diversity is halted as a direct result of adoption of a core path on that land. It is most likely that with adoption of the Plan, biodiversity provision will be unchanged. The designation and protection of paths may result in their increased use in the future but encouraging the provision of responsible use through interpretation and signage suggested within the Plan. With this negative aspects of the increased use can be minimised. Lack of Core Path Designation protection may result in paths becoming less used, which could enhance their natural heritage value through reduced disturbance.
Population and Human Health	The promotion of the core path network, both as a recreational resource and to improve non-motorised transit should increase the number of Shetland residents and visitors using a mode of transport that involves a level of physical activity. Without the Plan, fewer people are likely to walk or cycle around Shetland and this may have a minor impact on the overall health of the population.
Soil	It is envisaged that there will be little impact on soils arising of adopting or not adopting the Plan. The potential of increase visitor numbers might have minor impacts on levels of soil erosion. However, routes will be managed in a manner to minimise this. Coastal areas have the potential to be worst affected but to mitigate this the route of any associated core path will be positioned away from sensitive areas.
Water, Air Quality and	The potential for the Core Paths Plan to encourage an increase in



Climatic Factors	non-motorised forms of transport may bring less reliance on motorised transport, which could bring minor, insignificant benefits to water and air quality. However, the general levels of car use and ownership are increasing throughout the UK and globally and the knock-on effects will continue to be apparent in Shetland irrespective of the adoption of the Core Paths Plan.
Material Assets	The adoption of some core paths may restrict or alter the form of development that would otherwise be permitted on the route of a path. However, the Core Paths Plan has been developed in consultation with landowners and stakeholders to ensure that the potential for conflicts of interest to arise over land-use is minimised.
Cultural Heritage including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage	The Core Paths Plan does not directly affect any sites of cultural heritage value. However, the path network will improve viewing opportunities. Without the Core Paths Plan, such sites will continue to be popular attractions for visitors and residents of Shetland.
Landscape	The main influence on Shetland's landscape will come from housing development. This is unlikely to be affected by the adoption of the Core Paths Plan, although the protection of designated routes may alter the form and exact footprint of development in the vicinity of core paths.

## 6 Assessment of Environmental Effects & Proposed Mitigation

### 6.1 Introduction

The procedure for assessing the likely environmental impacts of the Core Paths Plan has been described in Section 2.9. The aims and objectives of the Plan have been tested for their compatibility with the SEA objectives (see table 4.1). An overall summary of the environmental assessment of the Candidate Paths against the SEA objectives is given in Table 6.1.

Although there were no explicit alternative plans considered during development of the CPP objectives, to a large number of potential core paths suggested by consultees, and to different levels of core path coverage (ie more or less core paths). How these were assessed is discussed below in Section 6.2.

### 6.2 Assessment of Alternatives

The SEA Directive and the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act require the Environmental Report to consider the impacts of alternatives to the proposed plan as part of the SEA. There is no alternative per se to producing A Core Paths Plan as a production of a plan is a statutory requirement of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. However, the development of the Core Paths Plan has been an iterative process, during which a large number of possible routes have been considered for inclusion, through application of the criteria listed, as well as discussions with relevant parties. Alternatives to the content and proposals contained within the Plan have therefore been considered as part of the Plan development.

As a result of this iterative assessment and series of consultations the following were developed and refined during the Core Paths Plan development process:

- The initial vision and objectives (where alternatives were considered and choices made and refined during the community/stakeholder consultation process, in accordance with the legislation and associated guidance available);
- The criteria used to define what constitutes a core path, which were informed and shaped by legislation, guidance and consultation;
- Routes including the following were tested against the developed criteria, as they were suggested during consultation:
  - Key existing routes (e.g. Hermaness, Clickimin Loch);
  - Existing Rights of Way
  - New routes developed through Shetland's Access Improvement Scheme
  - Routes suggested by land managers through the Land Management Contract Scheme
- The overall level of core path provision throughout Shetland Islands Council
- Inclusion of aspirational routes that could be designated as core paths at a later stage

At an early stage, the environmental assessment process informed the development of the vision and objectives and ensured that one of the objectives a priority for environmental protection:

“to promote a sustainable approach to access, safeguarding the environmental whilst recognising the potential to deliver local economic and social benefits.”

All paths were screened against the Core Paths Plan objectives and this presented the opportunity to identify any environmental constraints at an early stage. Environmental agencies, such as, SNH and RSPB were involved throughout the whole process by commenting and advising on individual routes. No paths were rejected specifically on the grounds of environmental impact. Many paths proposed during the consultations have been taken forward but a significant number were rejected because they were not considered to serve any particular need which warranted core path designation.

Certain routes were also identified for consideration during future reviews of the Plan as they are not suitable for designation at the present time.

## **6.3 Assessment of the Draft Core Paths Plan**

### **6.3.1 Introduction**

Building on the high level of assessment that was undertaken for the individual proposed core paths (See Annex C); the Core Paths Plan has been considered as a whole in the context of the SEA Topics. Table 6.1 consolidates the environmental effects that are predicted to arise as a result of the adoption of the draft Core Paths Plan.

Adoption of the Core Paths Plan will result in some minor physical works to routes, for example, a self closing gate installed to remove the physical barrier of a fence. However, no major works are expected as a result of the adoption of this Plan. The only other actions that will be undertaken will be:

- To provide a low key signing of core paths;
- To promote them by dissemination of the core paths marking of core paths on next issues of ordnance survey maps; and
- To identify them in future local plans for consideration in planning decisions

The promotion of core paths may result in their increased use with potential for impact on environmental resources at risk from disturbance by people, cycles, dogs etc. Against this increased walking, cycling and riding has the potential to offer benefits to the health and welfare of participants and reduce the adverse effects of motorised forms of travel.

In reaching the conclusions included in Table 6.1, professional judgement has also been exercised in considering the likelihood of secondary, cumulative, indirect and synergistic effects arising from the adoption of the proposed Core Paths Plan.

**Table 6.1 Appraisal Summary**

<b>SEA Objective</b>	<b>Relevant SEA topics</b>	<b>Likely Significant Impact</b>	<b>Comments</b>
(1) To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity	Flora, Fauna, landscape, water, soil, material assets, human health	Neutral/Positive	The core paths planning process may increase public awareness and educational signage should encourage responsible enjoyment.  Defined routes also help manage visitors to area and direct them away from sensitive areas.
(2) To conserve and enhance the integrity of ecosystems	Flora, Fauna, biodiversity, landscape, water, soil, material assets, human health	Neutral	
(3) Provide opportunities for people to enjoy responsibly and appreciate wildlife	Biodiversity, landscape, human health, population	Positive	Through the core paths planning process more routes are now accessible to the public and future promotions may encourage higher user rates.
(4) To maintain and improve air quality	Air, human health, biodiversity,	Neutral/Positive	Possible reduction in volumes of air pollution by promoting non-motorised forms of transport but this expected to be negligible.
(5) To maintain soil quality & integrity	Soil, water, human health, biodiversity	Neutral/Negative	No new paths are proposed across existing agricultural land, therefore there will be no significant impact on existing soil quality. Increased intensity of use of paths could result in very minor effects in relation to soil erosion.
(6) To conserve and where appropriate enhance or restore the landscape and historic environment	Cultural heritage, material assets, landscape	Positive	
(7) Provide opportunities for people to responsibly enjoy & appreciate landscape and historic environment	Cultural heritage, material assets, human health	Positive	The development of the Plan, especially the consultation process and the plan adoption, will increase public awareness and possible use of existing routes, improving knowledge of access provision and broadly promote the enjoyment of Shetland's landscape and historic environment.
(8) To protect & enhance human health	Population, human health	Positive	The core paths planning process may increase public awareness and use of the existing network and promote opportunities for healthy recreational activities and alternative modes of travel eg cycling or walking
(9) To reduce waste and pollution	Air, soil, water, biodiversity, human health	Neutral/Positive	Possibility of having a small impact on CO2 emissions by encouraging non-motorised travel.
(10) To promote sustainable use of natural resources and material assets	Material assets	Neutral	

### **6.3.2 Appropriate Assessment**

Guidance produced by SNH describes a staged process for considering the effects of proposals that affect Special Protection Areas (SPAs) as follows:

1. Define the proposals
2. Establish whether the proposals are necessary to the management of the site for nature conservation purposes. If they are then no further assessment is required.
3. Determine whether the proposals are likely to have a significant effect on the site. This acts as a coarse sieve to remove from the process projects which are neutral, trivial, or very short term in their impacts on a site's qualifying interest
4. If it cannot be demonstrated that the effect is trivial or inconsequential, then the implications of the development for the site's conservation objectives should be assessed so as to answer the question "can it be demonstrated that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the site?" This is referred to as the Appropriate Assessment.
5. If the Appropriate Assessment indicated that no adverse effect will occur, consent may be granted. If not, further steps are required to demonstrate that specific reasons why the development should be permitted before consent may be granted. These may include consideration of alternatives, or Imperative Reasons of Over-riding Public Interest (IROPI).

The proposals are defined above and it is evident that they are not necessary to management for nature conservation purposes (steps 1 and 2).

### **6.3.3. The Process of Determining Likely Significant Effect (step 3)**

The purpose of determining whether a likely significant effect will occur has included consideration of the following information:

- Details of the nature conservation interests of the SPA and the qualifying interest for which it was designated;
- The conservation objectives of the SPA;
- The condition of the site; and
- The anticipated change in the level and pattern of usage of the core paths.

This included consideration of:

- How the proposed core paths could affect the qualifying interest of the 12 SPA's and 12 SAC's in Shetland;
- How sensitive the areas of the SPA's and SAC's most likely to be affected are;
- The probability of a negative effect occurring;
- The likely consequences for the conservation objectives if the effect occurred; and
- The magnitude, duration and reversibility of the effect.

Table 6.1 below highlights the core paths for Shetland relevant to any assessment of likely significant effects on associated SPA's or SAC's.

Table 6.1

Fair Isle	CPPD06	SPA, SAC
Fetlar	CPPF2 CPPF3 CPPF5	SPA, SAC SPA, SAC SPA
Foula	CPPWS4	SPA
Hermaness	CPPU4	SPA
Keen of Hamar	CPPU1	SAC
Mousa	CPPS3 CPPS8	SPA SAC
Noss	CPPB2	SPA
Papa Stour	CPPWS10 CPPWS11	SPA SPA
Ronas Hill	CPPN8	SAC

There are a total of 12 SPA's and 12 SAC's designated in Shetland. The designations likely to be effected by the adoption of Shetland's Core Paths Plan are detailed below.

### **Fair Isle Special Protection Area**

The large colonies of breeding seabirds, internationally important bird migration and diversity of species makes Fair Isle one of the most popular places in Europe to bird watch.

### **Conservation objectives**

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within the site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance to species

### **Qualifying Species**

- Artic Skua (*stercorarius parasiticus*)
- Artic Tern (*sterna paradisaea*)
- Fair Isle Wren (*troglodytes troglodytes gridariensis*)
- Fulmar (*fulmarus glacialis*)
- Gannet (*Morus bassanus*)
- Great Skua (*catharacta skua*)
- Guillemot (*Uria aalge*)
- Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)
- Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*)
- Razorbill (*Alca torda*)
- Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*)

- Seabird assemblage

The Core Path CPPD06 in Fair Isle has been carefully routed with the help of the Fair Isle Bird Observatory to minimise disturbance to the birds. In order to keep any disturbance to a minimum the Scottish Outdoor Access Code will be promoted and assisted through signage to protect the species implicated. This can be done through the Bird Observatory on the island. It is considered that the likely impact on the integrity of the Fair Isle SPA arising from the implementation of the Plan will be negligible.

### **Fetlar Special Protection Area**

Heathlands, marshes, cliffs and rocky shores important for breeding birds and waders including internationally important populations of red-necked phalarope, Artic tern, fulmar, whimbrel, Artic Skua and black gulliemot; nationally important populations of dunlin and notable populations of red-throated diver.

### **Conservation objectives**

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within the site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance to species

### **Qualifying Species**

- Artic Skua (*stercorarius parasiticus*)
- Artic Tern (*sterna paradisaea*)
- Dunlin (*calidris alpine schinzil*)
- Fulmar (*fulmarus glacialis*)
- Great Skua (*catharacta skua*)
- Red-necked phalarope (*phalaropus lobatus*)
- Whimbrel (*numerous phaeopus*)

As it stands, none of the proposed core paths within the above designation require any physical works to be carried out. In this respect, there are no construction phase impacts to be considered as part of an Appropriate Assessment.

The core paths affecting this area have been carefully selected and routed to minimise any disturbance to qualifying species. To mitigate any risk of disturbance from increased path use, the Scottish Outdoor Access Code will be promoted and assisted through signage to highlight the value of the qualifying species. It is considered that the likely impact on the integrity of the Fetlar SPA arising from the implementation of the Plan will be negligible.

## **Foula Special Protection Area**

Rocky coastline and large areas of moor, supporting internationally important populations of seabirds.

### **Conservation Objectives**

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within the site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance to species

### **Qualifying Species**

- Artic Skua (*stercorarius parasiticus*)
- Artic Tern (*sterna paradisaea*)
- Guillemot (*uria aalge*)
- Kittiwake (*rissa tridactyla*)
- Leach's petrel (*oceanodroma leucorhoa*)
- Puffin (*fratercula arctica*)
- Razorbill (*alca torda*)
- Red-throated diver (*gavia stellata*)
- Shag (*phalacrocorax aristotelis*)
- Seabird assemblage

CPPWS03 and CPPWS08 as it is presented within the Plan require no physical works to be carried out. In this respect, there are no construction phase impacts to be considered as part of an Appropriate Assessment. They have been carefully routed to minimise any disturbance to qualifying species. To mitigate any risk of disturbance from increased path use, the Scottish Outdoor Access Code will be promoted and assisted through signage to highlight the value of the qualifying species. It is considered that the likely impact on the integrity of the Foula SPA arising from the implementation of the Plan will be negligible.

## **Hermaness Special Protection Area**

Sea cliffs and moorland supporting internally important breeding populations of fulmar, gannet, great skua, gulliemot and puffin.

### **Conservation Objectives**

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site



- Distribution of the species within the site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance to species

### **Qualifying Species**

- Fulmar (*fulmarus glacialis*)
- Gannet (*morus bassana*)
- Guillemot (*uria aalge*)
- Kittiwake (*rissa tridactyla*)
- Puffin (*fratercula arctica*)
- Red-throated diver (*gavial stellata*)
- Shag (*phalacrocorax aristotelis*)

CPPU4 as it is presented within the Plan requires no physical works to be carried out. In this respect, there are no construction phase impacts to be considered as part of an Appropriate Assessment. It has been carefully routed to minimise any disturbance to qualifying species. To mitigate any risk of disturbance from increased path use, the Scottish Outdoor Access Code will be promoted and assisted through signage to highlight the value of the qualifying species. It is considered that the likely impact on the integrity of the Hermaness SPA arising from the implementation of the Plan will be negligible.

### **Mousa Special Protection Area**

Low grassy island with internationally important breeding colonies of storm petrel and Artic tern.

### **Conservation Objectives**

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within the site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance to species

### **Qualifying Species**

- Artic Tern (*sterna paradisaea*)
- Storm Petrel (*hydrobates pelagicus*)

As it stands, the proposed core path within the above designation does not require any physical works to be carried out. In this respect, there are no construction phase impacts to be considered as part of an Appropriate Assessment.

The core path affecting this area has been carefully selected and routed to minimise any disturbance to qualifying species. To mitigate any risk of disturbance from increased path use, the Scottish Outdoor Access Code will be promoted and assisted through signage to highlight the value of the qualifying species. It is considered that the likely impact on the integrity of the Mousa SPA arising from the implementation of the Plan will be negligible.

### **Noss Special Protection Area**

High cliffs supporting internationally important breeding populations of migratory seabirds including fulmar, gannet, great skua, kittiwake and gulliemot.

#### **Conservation Objectives**

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within the site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance to species

#### **Qualifying Species**

- Fulmar (*fulmarus glacialis*)
- Gannet (*morus bassana*)
- Great Skua (*catharacta skua*)
- Guillemot (*uria aalge*)
- Kittiwake (*rissa tridactyla*)
- Puffin (*fratercula arctica*)

CPPB02 has been carefully routed to minimise any disturbance to qualifying species. To mitigate any risk of disturbance from increased path use, the Scottish Outdoor Access Code will be promoted and assisted through signage to highlight the value of the qualifying species. It is considered that the likely impact on the integrity of the Noss SPA arising from the implementation of the Plan will be negligible.

### **Papa Stour Special Protection Area**

Heathland and cliffs supporting nationally important numbers of ringed plover and Artic Skua, and large seabird colonies.

#### **Conservation Objectives**

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within the site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance to species

### **Qualifying Species**

- Artic Tern (*sterna paradisaea*)
- Ringed plover (*charadrius hiaticula*)

As it stands, none of the proposed core paths within the above designation require any physical works to be carried out. In this respect, there are no construction phase impacts to be considered as part of an Appropriate Assessment.

The core paths affecting this area have been carefully selected and routed to minimise any disturbance to qualifying species. To mitigate any risk of disturbance from increased path use, the Scottish Outdoor Access Code will be promoted and assisted through signage to highlight the value of the qualifying species. It is considered that the likely impact on the integrity of the Papa Stour SPA arising from the implementation of the Plan will be negligible.

### **Fair Isle Special Area of Conservation**

The sea cliff vegetation of Fair Isle is principally oceanic and varies from spray-influenced maritime grassland swards to sub-maritime heather *Calluna vulgaris* moorland. Prostrate juniper *Juniperus communis* ssp. *nana*, now rare throughout the rest of Shetland, remains common over extensive areas of the moorland. Another qualifying feature for Fair Isles SEA is its European Dry Heaths for which it is considered to support a significant presence.

### **Conservation Objectives**

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within the site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significance disturbance of typical species of the habitat

### **Qualifying Habitats**

- Dry Heaths
- Vegetated Sea Cliffs

CPPD06 has been carefully routed to minimise any disturbance to qualifying species. To mitigate any risk of disturbance from increased path use, the Scottish Outdoor Access Code will be promoted and assisted through signage to highlight the value of the qualifying habitat. It is considered that the likely impact on the integrity of the Fair Isle SAC arising from the implementation of the Plan will be negligible.

### **Keen of Hamar Special Area of Conservation**

Vegetated calaminarian grassland area of serpentine bedrock and (base-rich\_ scree areas that support a unique community of plants including a number of rare northern species and on sub-species found only in Unst.

#### **Conservation Objectives**

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within the site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significance disturbance of typical species of the habitat

#### **Qualifying Habitats**

- Base-rich scree
- Dry heaths
- Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals

CPPU1 as it is presented within the Plan requires no physical works to be carried out. In this respect, there are no construction phase impacts to be considered as part of an Appropriate Assessment. It has been carefully routed to minimise any disturbance to qualifying species. To mitigate any risk of disturbance from increased path use, the Scottish Outdoor Access Code will be promoted and assisted through signage to highlight the value of the qualifying habitat. It is considered that the likely impact on the integrity of the Keen of Hamar SAC arising from the implementation of the Plan will be negligible.

### **Mousa Special Area of Conservation**

The largest single colony of breeding common seals within Shetland, which represents about 2% of the total UK common seal population.

### **Conservation Objectives**

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within the site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significance disturbance of typical species of the habitat

### **Qualifying Habitats**

- Reefs
- Sea Caves

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significance disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and to ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within the site distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significance disturbance of the species

### **Qualifying Species**

- Common Seal

As it stands, none of the proposed core paths within the above designation require any physical works to be carried out. In this respect, there are no construction phase impacts to be considered as part of an Appropriate Assessment.

The core paths affecting this area have been carefully selected and routed to minimise any disturbance to qualifying habitats or species. To mitigate any risk of disturbance from increased path use, the Scottish Outdoor Access Code will be promoted and assisted through signage to highlight the value of the qualifying habitats and species. It is considered that the likely impact on the integrity of the Mousa SAC arising from the implementation of the Plan will be negligible.

### **North Fetlar Special Area of Conservation**

North Fetlar is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom for Alkaline Fens, which are calcium rich spring water fed fens. These wetland areas support rare or scarce plants only occurring in base rich fens. It is also very important due to its rich European dry heaths supporting dwarf shrubs of the heather family.

### **Conservation Objectives**

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within the site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significance disturbance of typical species of the habitat

### **Qualifying Habitats**

- Base-rich fens
- Dry heaths

As it stands, none of the proposed core paths within the above designation require any physical works to be carried out. In this respect, there are no construction phase impacts to be considered as part of an Appropriate Assessment.

The core paths affecting this area have been carefully selected and routed to minimise any disturbance to qualifying habitats. To mitigate any risk of disturbance from increased path use, the Scottish Outdoor Access Code will be promoted and assisted through signage to highlight the value of the qualifying habitats. It is considered that the likely impact on the integrity of the North Fetlar SAC arising from the implementation of the Plan will be negligible.

### **Papa Stour Special Area of Conservation**

Exposed rocky coastline fringed by submerged bedrock and boulder reefs. Habitats include extensive kelp forests and deeper reefs dominated by invertebrates such as soft coral. Papa Stour has excellent examples of caves, tunnels and arches, with rich communities of algae and sponges.

### **Conservation Objectives**

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within the site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat

- No significance disturbance of typical species of the habitat

### **Qualifying Habitats**

- Reefs
- Sea Caves

As it stands, none of the proposed core paths within the above designation require any physical works to be carried out. In this respect, there are no construction phase impacts to be considered as part of an Appropriate Assessment.

The core paths affecting this area have been carefully selected and routed to minimise any disturbance to qualifying habitats. To mitigate any risk of disturbance from increased path use, the Scottish Outdoor Access Code will be promoted and assisted through signage to highlight the value of the qualifying habitats. It is considered that the likely impact on the integrity of the Papa Stour SAC arising from the implementation of the Plan will be negligible.

### **Ronas Hill Special Area of Conservation**

Areas of active blanket bog on lower lying ground and alpine and sub-alpine heaths are present. Also peat mounds capped with a vegetation community more usually associated with dry heaths. Heathlands are generally dominated by heather and carpets of woolly hair moss. Bog vegetation dominated by heather, hare's tail cotton grass and deergrass, with a well developed understorey of mosses and liverworts. Pools and lochans provide breeding sites for red-throated divers.

### **Conservation Objectives**

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within the site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significance disturbance of typical species of the habitat

### **Qualifying Habitats**

- Acid peat-stained lakes and ponds
- Acidic scree
- Alpine and subalpine heaths
- Blanket bog
- Clear-water lakes or loch vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels
- Dry heaths
- Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath

CPPN8 as it is presented within the Plan requires no physical works to be carried out. In this respect, there are no construction phase impacts to be considered as part of an Appropriate Assessment.

CPPN8 only provides access onto Ronas Hill, thus resulting in no defined route over the designated area in order to spread any impact caused by visitors. To mitigate any risk of disturbance from increased visitor numbers, the Scottish Outdoor Access Code will be promoted and assisted through signage to highlight the value of the qualifying habitats. It is considered that the likely impact on the integrity of the Ronas Hill SAC arising from the implementation of the Plan will be negligible.

What remains to be considered within the context of an assessment of likely significant effects, is the potential impact of any change in the level or pattern of use of the core paths in question, resulting from the implementation of the Core Paths Plan on the associated SAC's and SPA's.

#### **6.4 Possible Cumulative Effects Associated with the Plan**

Few individual environmental impacts are likely to arise as a result of implementing the Plan. However, the effect of any such impacts that do arise may become increasingly significant when combined with effects arising from the development of the rest of the path network and construction activities concurrently with any core path activities. It is therefore an SEA requirement to consider cumulative impacts in this assessment.

The very small magnitude of impacts predicted to arise from the development of the Core Paths Plan is not likely to cause any significant cumulative impacts following implementation of the Plan. The development and promotion of the Plan as a whole will increase awareness of the Shetland path network and bring improvements in access to the whole of Shetland.

Because there are no construction elements to the proposed Plan, its adoption will not contribute to construction impacts of unrelated developments being implemented in the vicinity of the path network and therefore the potential for cumulative impacts with development proposals currently in the planning system is not considered further.



# Annex A CPP Consultation

## **SHETLAND CORE PATHS PLAN**



Planning Directorate  
National Planning Framework, Planning Policy and West Division  
SEA Team, 2-H Bridge (Car Park) Mail point 13, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

T: 0131-244 1702 F: 0131-244 «Fax»  
E: Elaine.mccall2@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



Emma Georgeson  
Access Officer  
Planning  
Infrastructure Services  
Grantfield  
Lerwick  
Shetland  
ZE1 ON7

Your ref:

**00164 Scoping - Shetland islands council - Core path plan**

Dear Emma

With reference to the Scoping report you submitted to the SEA Gateway on 5 December 2007.

In accordance with Section 15(2) of the **Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005** the Consultation Authorities have now considered the Scoping report you submitted. The individual responses from the Consultation Authorities to your report are attached to this letter.

As the Consultation Authorities have now expressed their views on the proposed scope and level of detail of the report, you should refer to the Act to consider what your next step should be. You should of course take into account the opinions offered by the Consultation Authorities.

Note, in accordance with Section 15(3) of the **Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act**, (when agreed) you are required to formally write to advise the Scottish Ministers of the period of consultation you intend to specify, both for the public and the Consultation Authorities.

If you have any queries or would like me to clarify any points, please call me on 0131 244 1704.

Yours sincerely

Elaine McCall  
SEA Gateway Officer

Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ  
[www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)



Our Ref: SEA00178  
SG Ref: 00164

Attention: Emma Georgeson

Planning Infrastructure Service  
Grantfield  
Lerwick  
Shetland  
ZE1 0NT

18 December 2007

By email: [sea\\_gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sea_gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Dear Ms Georgeson

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005  
Shetland Islands Council Core Paths Plan – Scoping Consultation**

I refer to your Scoping consultation submitted under the above Act in respect of the above Plan. This was received by SEPA via the Scottish Government SEA Gateway on 5 December 2007. As required under Section 15(2) of the Act, SEPA has considered the document submitted and comments as follows in respect of the scope and level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report (ER).

The Scottish SEA Toolkit (available for download at: [www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/0](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/0)) provides guidance to Responsible Authorities about the type of information that is expected to be provided at each SEA stage. SEPA has used the toolkit to inform this scoping response which is attached as Annex 1.

On completion, the Environmental Report and the Plan to which it relates should be submitted to the Scottish Government SEA Gateway ([sea\\_gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sea_gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)) which will forward it to the Consultation Authorities.

Should you wish to discuss this consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01349 860359 or via SEPA's SEA Gateway at [sea\\_gateway@sepa.org.uk](mailto:sea_gateway@sepa.org.uk).

Yours sincerely,



Susan Haslam  
Senior Planning Officer (SEA)  
Planning Unit (North)

Encs

Chairman  
Sir Ken Collins

Chief Executive  
Dr Campbell Gemmell

SEPA Corporate Office  
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## **Annex 1: Comments on the Scoping Report**

### **1. General Comments**

SEPA is generally satisfied with the scope and level of detailed proposed. Please note that SEPA is the Scottish Environment, *not Environmental*, Protection Agency.

### **2. Detailed Comments**

#### **Section 1 – Introduction**

SEPA is satisfied that all the background information is provided.

#### **Section 2 – Context of the Shetland Core Paths Plan**

The Scoping Report provides a list of the plans, programmes and strategies which might impact upon the Plan. With the exception of the plans and SEPA policies outlined below, this covers all those SEPA would expect to be considered. It could be useful to you to identify which of these documents have themselves undergone SEA. Analysis of the SEA work may assist you with data sources and environmental baseline information for this assessment. This element should be expanded in the ER to include a summary of the key SEA findings that may be relevant to the Plan.

The plans and policies that you may wish to consider for reference in the ER are:

- Shetland Structure Plan;
- Scottish Planning Policy 17 – Sustainable Transport; and
- SEPA Policy 26 – Policy on the Culverting of Watercourses.

In addition to plans, programmes and strategies which might impact on the Plan the ER should also include “the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation”. In relation to this SEPA would expect the Responsible Authority to consider the main European environmental Directives, such as the Water Framework Directive, and legislation that implements it such as the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (as amended).

#### **Section 3 – Environmental Baseline**

In general SEPA would expect baseline data to be provided for all aspects of the environment which might be effected by the Plan. Based on the Responsible Authorities scoping proposals SEPA would therefore expect baseline information on water, soil, air, human health and climatic factors to be included in Table 2.

Many of the environmental data that SEPA holds on water and other issues such as waste and air are now readily available on SEPA's website and a copy of our publications list is available from [www.sepa.org.uk/access/index.htm](http://www.sepa.org.uk/access/index.htm). Other local information may also be available from SEPA's Access to Information unit at Corporate Office (Telephone: 01786 457700). In relation to soil

quality the Responsible Authority could consult Sheet 1 (Orkney and Shetland) of the Soil Survey for Scotland 1:250 000 map and accompanying booklet which is available from the Macaulay Institute in Aberdeen. They may also be able to provide other information on soils and land capacity. The Scottish Governments State of Scottish Soils may also provide background data (available from [www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/09/25102611](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/09/25102611));

SEPA notes that "Alternatives have not been considered, as the Core Paths Plan is a statutory plan." However, Section 14(2) of the Act requires that the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan and reasonable alternatives to the plan must be carried out. Where a plan is statutory alternatives may take the form of policy objectives, approaches or allocations. For this Plan, for example, have a large range of different paths been considered as part of the Plan preparation? If so, it would be reasonable to assess these alternatives.

#### **Section 4 – Scope and Level of detail proposed for the Environmental Assessment SEA Objectives**

● SEPA notes that all the SEA receptors, with the exception of climate change, are proposed to be scoped into the assessment.

SEPA stated in its response at screening stage that it was of the opinion that the plan is unlikely to have significant effects against the air, water, soil, human health and climatic receptors. SEPA notes that it has been identified that coastal erosion may be a significant issue and this could have effect on the water and soil environmental receptors. As this is the case, following the precautionary approach, SEPA welcomes the scoping in of these environmental receptors but would have no concerns if further receptors, ie. air and human health, were subsequently scoped out of the assessment.

Notwithstanding the comments above, SEPA is satisfied with the proposed SEA objectives. Please note that the 'possible SEA criteria for Core Paths' for the water SEA Objectives relate to landscape. It is presumed this is an error. A criterion to consider could be 'Ensure infrastructure is sited and designed to ensure there is no negative impact on the water environment'.

#### **Section 5 – Proposed SEA Methodology**

● SEPA notes that a matrix will be used to record the assessment process. This proposal is acceptable to SEPA if the matrix used is amended to include a comments column and this column is used to fully justify the assessments made. SEPA would wish to be provided with enough information to understand how each result was reached. Full details of the types of issues that should be considered in the assessment for each SEA environmental receptor can be found in Section 6.3.5 to 6.3.16 of the SEA Tool Kit.

For the avoidance of doubt, SEPA would generally expect all aspects of the Plan that could have significant effects on the environment to be assessed.

#### **Section 7 – Proposed Timetable**

SEPA is satisfied with the proposal for a 12 week consultation period for the ER.

### Other issues

SEPA considers that the most important mitigation possible is the changes made to the Plan as a result of the SEA process. SEPA would therefore wish the ER to make it clear how carrying out SEA had impacted upon the Plan.

It would be extremely helpful to set out all mitigation measures in a way that clearly identifies: (1) the measures required, (2) when they would be required and (3) who will be required to implement them. A summary table could be included as part of the preparation of the ER. SEPA provides an example below which may be helpful:

<b><i>Issue / Impact Identified in ER</i></b>	<b><i>Mitigation Measure</i></b>	<b><i>Lead Authority</i></b>	<b><i>Proposed Timescale</i></b>
<i>Insert effect recorded in ER</i>	<i>Insert mitigation measure to address effect</i>	<i>Insert as appropriate</i>	<i>Insert as appropriate</i>
<i>etc</i>	<i>etc</i>	<i>etc</i>	<i>etc</i>

This table is cited as an example, but demonstrates how measures could be clearly identified, allocated to lead authorities and then, through the monitoring process, tracked regarding progress. SEPA would be happy to discuss this further with you.

Emma Georgeson  
Access Officer  
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HSSEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Our ref: AMN/23/170/RJC  
Your ref:

9 January 2008

Dear Ms Georgeson

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005  
Shetland Islands Council Core Paths Plan: Scoping Report**

Thank you for consulting Historic Scotland on the Scoping Report prepared for the environmental assessment of Shetland Island Council's Core Paths Plan, received by the Scottish Government's SEA Gateway on 5 December 2007.

I have reviewed the Scoping Report on behalf of Historic Scotland in its role as a Consultation Authority under the above Act (Section 15). This letter contains the views of Historic Scotland on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report (part 1), and the duration of the proposed consultation period (part 2). I have also provided detailed comments on the Scoping Report in the annex to this letter.

Please note that this response is solely in the context of the SEA Act and our role as a Consultation Authority. Historic Scotland will respond separately to consultations on the Core Paths Plan and, for information, these should be addressed to Miriam McIver, Development Assessment Team, Room E3, Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh EH9 1SH.

**1. Scope of assessment and level of detail**

- 1.1 I found the Scoping Report to be helpful and, subject to the specific comments set out below and in the annex, I am content with the scope and level of detail proposed for the environmental assessment.
- 1.2 My understanding from the Scoping Report is that the environmental assessment will assess the selection criteria, area proposals and the candidate core paths contained in the Core Paths Plan.



1.3 I note that the historic environment has been scoped in to the assessment. Simply for information, the "historic environment" is defined in Section 16(3) of the Public Appointments and Public Bodies etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 as "... any or all of the structures and places in Scotland of historical, archaeological or architectural interest or importance". SHEP 1 (Section 2)<sup>1</sup> builds on this definition by identifying that the historic environment encompasses built heritage features (ancient monuments, archaeological sites and landscapes, historic buildings, townscapes, parks, gardens and designed landscapes, as well as marine heritage) and the context or setting in which they sit, and the patterns of past use, in landscapes and within the soil, and also in our towns, villages and streets. The historic environment also has less tangible aspects recognised as the historical, artistic, literary, linguistic and scenic associations of places and landscapes.

I expect that the environmental assessment will take cognisance of these features, both in the collection of baseline data and in considering the likely impact of the plan on the historic environment.

1.4 Impacts on historic environment features often depend on the land-take associated with infrastructure and supporting activities, and may be avoided through appropriate locational measures. Impacts on the historic environment should be considered in terms of the following:

- direct i.e. loss of and/or damage to a feature of the historic environment
- indirect e.g. effects on setting; changes to surface drainage patterns; removal of peat; etc

I note that the assessment will consider the cumulative effects of the plan.

1.5 As you will be aware, when undertaking the environmental assessment, you may find that some impacts are uncertain at the strategic level. Where this is the case it is important to identify these issues and to be clear how they will be taken into account at lower levels (in this case the project level), and who will be responsible for following them through.

## 2. Consultation period for the Environmental Report

2.1 I am content with the 12-week period proposed for consultation on the Environmental Report. For administrative purposes, Historic Scotland consider that the consultation period commences on receipt of the relevant documents by the SEA Secretariat. I would be grateful if a copy of the draft Core Paths Plan could be included with the Environmental Report.

<sup>1</sup> Historic Scotland are developing a new series of policy documents (Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP)) that both sets out Scottish Ministers' vision and strategic policies for the wider historic environment, and provides greater policy direction for Historic Scotland. SHEP 1 was published in 2007 and is the overarching policy statement for the historic environment (<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/shep1-6.pdf>).



2.2 At the Environmental Report stage, I would prefer to receive paper copies of the report and the draft plan, both of which should be sent via the Scottish Government Gateway in line with the procedures set out in the SEA Tool Kit (available at [www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/45](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/09/13104943/45)).

None of the comments contained in this letter should be construed as constituting a legal interpretation of the requirements of the SEA Act. They are intended rather as helpful advice, as part of Historic Scotland's commitment to capacity-building in SEA. Should you wish to discuss this response please do not hesitate to contact Rosalind Campbell on 0131 668 8575 or by email through HS's SEA gateway at [HSSEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:HSSEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

●  
Amanda Chisholm  
Strategic Environmental Assessment Team Leader

## Annex: Detailed comments on the Scoping Report

For ease of reference the comments in this annex follow the same order as the Scoping Report.

### Introduction and Overview

1. I have no comments to offer for these sections.

### Context of the Shetland Core Paths Plan

2. Table 1 lists the plans, programmes and strategies that will be analysed for their relationship to the Core Paths Plan (CPP) and I note that the Shetland Cultural Strategy will be included. I note that Table 1 largely includes plans, programmes and strategies at the local or regional level. In addition, the Environmental Report (ER) should also review relevant environmental protection objectives and consider how they may affect or influence the CPP. You may wish to consider the following documents that contain environmental protection objectives for the historic environment:
  - *Scottish Historic Environment Policy 1. Scotland's Historic Environment* (available at <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/shep1-6.pdf>)
  - *Scottish Historic Environment Policy 2. Scheduling: protecting Scotland's nationally important monuments* (available at <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/shep2.pdf>)
  - *NPPG5 Archaeology and Planning* at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/1998/10/nppg5>
  - *NPPG18 Planning and the Historic Environment* at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/1999/04/nppg18>
  - *Passed to the Future*. (available at <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/pasttofuture.pdf>) (Please note that the policy elements of this document have been superseded by SHEP 1.)
3. Guidance to support these policies is provided in the following documents:
  - *Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas, Historic Scotland, 1998* (available at <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/policyandguidance/memorandumofguidance.htm>)
  - *PAN 42 Archaeology – The Planning Process and Scheduled Monument Procedures*
4. Simply for information, the Scottish Government is in the process of reviewing NPPGs 5 and 18 and will publish a revised version (SPP23) for consultation later this year (see <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/180957/0051347.pdf>).
5. In summary, the key environmental protection objective of the legislation and policy framework is 'to protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment'.

### Environmental Baseline

6. Table 2 describes the environmental baseline that will be used to inform the environmental assessment and I note that this includes information on:
  - Scheduled Ancient Monuments – including those known as Properties in Care (PIC) which are cared for by Historic Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Ministers
  - Listed Buildings
  - Gardens and Designed Landscapes
7. I would also expect baseline information to be provided for the following features of the historic environment:
  - locally important archaeological sites that are included on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)
  - conservation areas

● This information should be held by Shetland Islands Council.
8. Historic Scotland can provide GIS datasets under licence for scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings, and gardens and designed landscapes (contact [hsgimanager@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hsgimanager@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)). This information is also available for downloading from <http://hsewsf.sedsh.gov.uk/pls/htmldb/f?p=500:1:8448412299472048421>).
9. I have checked Historic Scotland's records and can confirm the following information:
  - 365 Scheduled Ancient Monuments - 8 of which are PICs
  - 348 Listed Buildings:
    - Category A: 18
    - Category B: 173
    - Category C(S): 157
  - 4 Gardens and Designed Landscapes
- 10. I note that information on Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) is provided within the historic environment topic and suggest that they should be considered within the landscape topic. Historic Scotland does not hold information on TPO's.
11. I note that a map is provided showing Shetland's designated areas, which largely includes areas protected for their natural heritage interest. In the ER it would be helpful to provide a map that identifies historic environment features.
12. Please note that, as of March 2007, Historic Scotland is solely responsible for compiling and maintaining the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes and providing statutory responses to planning application consultations where development may affect an Inventory site. Scottish Natural Heritage no longer have a statutory role.

### Environmental Trends and Issues

13. I note that the coastal erosion of routes has been identified as a possible issue for the Core Paths Plan (through increased access to these areas). Simply for information I



have set out below a list of some of the potential impacts on the historic environment that may arise from activities associated with recreation and access:

- creation of new paths may result in loss or damage to archaeological sites and/or their setting
- widening of existing paths may result in loss or damage to archaeological sites and/or their setting
- upgrading and/or maintaining existing paths e.g. bridges, culverts, fences, handrails, benches may have implications for listed buildings and their setting as well as the setting of archaeological sites. Works on listed structures such as bridges are likely to require listed building consent.
- erection of new buildings/facilities may result in loss or damage to archaeological sites and/or their setting
- refurbishment of existing buildings may have positive effects if done appropriately
- erection of signs or interpretation boards may have implications for the setting of archaeological sites and/or listed features
- management of vegetation on or nearby paths may affect archaeological sites
- in general, increased human access may result in erosion of monuments and/or of vulnerable elements of historic landscapes

#### **Evolution of the Environment without the Core Paths Plan**

14. In paragraph 3.4 I note that alternatives to the Core Paths Plan have not been identified as the plan is a statutory requirement. If alternative ways of implementing the plan are being considered, e.g. different criteria for selecting routes or different locations for the proposed routes, these should be assessed and documented in the Environmental Report.

#### **Environmental Information**

15. Please see comments at points 6 to 8 regarding baseline information for the historic environment.

#### **Scope and level of detail proposed for the Environmental Assessment SEA Objectives**

16. I am content that the historic environment has been scoped in to the assessment.
17. My understanding is that the core path selection criteria, the area proposals and the candidate core paths will be subject to assessment, and I confirm that I am content with this. For clarity I would expect the assessment to consider the potential impacts on the historic environment for all candidate core paths, including those that are in current use.
18. Table 3 outlines a set of draft SEA objectives, relevant SEA topics and possible SEA criteria that will be applied to the selection criteria, candidate core paths and any local path network. I welcome the inclusion of the draft SEA objectives for cultural heritage in column 1, but suggest that the word 'conserve' is changed to 'protect' and that the word 'restore' is deleted as some features of the historic environment, e.g.

archaeological sites, do not lend themselves to restoration. This will better reflect the key environmental protection objective for the historic environment set out in point 5 of this annex.

19. I am largely content with the SEA criteria for the historic environment, however suggest that for clarity the term historic environment is used rather than "archaeological/historical/cultural sites". As noted in point 17 I would expect the assessment to consider effects arising from new and existing paths.
20. I note that although landscape is scoped in to the environmental assessment there is no SEA objective for landscape included in Table 3 (although detailed SEA criteria for landscape are included within the water objective). You may wish to review this.

#### **Proposed SEA Methodology**

- 21. I note that in Table 4 you intend to use an assessment matrix to assess the impacts of the Core Paths Plan and support this. When documenting the environmental assessment, it would be helpful to set out any assumptions that are made during the assessment. I would also welcome the inclusion of a commentary box in the assessment matrix, to provide a short explanation of the conclusions of the assessment. This will assist in making the assessment transparent and the results accessible to the general reader.
22. You may also wish to use GIS as a means of assessing proposals. For example, it might be useful to map the baseline data alongside the proposed paths. This will help you to identify any environmental constraints and to consider alternative options. It will also assist us in undertaking the review of the Environmental Report.
- 23. The Environmental Report should describe the measures proposed to mitigate the significant environmental effects of the plan. As you will be aware, mitigation may involve making changes to the plan and/or developing more detailed mitigation proposals to be implemented as the plan is delivered. It would be helpful in the Environmental Report to clearly describe any changes made to the plan as a result of the environmental assessment, and to clearly set out any recommendations or expectations for lower level projects or activities that are identified as mitigation measures. It would also be helpful to identify in the report who will be responsible for ensuring that the mitigation measures are taken forward as the Core Paths Plan is implemented.

#### **Monitoring**

24. I note that the Environmental Report will contain information on the measures proposed to monitor the significant environmental effects of the plan. Indicators chosen for the historic environment should reflect both the actions to be taken within the plan and the potential impacts identified in the course of the SEA. I would be happy to discuss this further with you should you find it helpful.

**Proposed Timescale**

25. Please see point 2.1 of the accompanying letter.



**SCOTTISH  
NATURAL  
HERITAGE**



NORTHERN  
ISLES

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LERWICK  
ZE1 0LL  
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01595 693345

Emma Georgeson  
Access Officer  
Shetland Islands Council  
Planning, Infrastructure  
Services  
Grantfield  
Lerwick  
Shetland ZE1 0NI

Our ref: CNS/LP/SEA/SA PF  
180/07-08

Your ref: 00164 Scoping

Date: 17 December 2007

Dear Emma

**Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005  
00164 Scoping- Shetland Council- Core Path Plan**

Thank you for consulting SNH in relation to the above Scoping Report. This response is in the context of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and our role as Consultation Authority. Our comments below are therefore restricted to natural heritage issues. We understand that we will be separately consulted on our views regarding the Environmental Report and on the Shetland Core Path Plan itself, when resubmitted.

Subject to the specific comments and advice set out in Annex 1, SNH is content with the scope and level of detail proposed for the Environmental Report. We are also content with the proposed 12 week consultation period for the Environmental Report

I hope that these points are of assistance to you. Should you require any further information then do not hesitate to contact Simon Smith, Area Officer, at the above address.

Yours sincerely

John Uttley  
Area Manager  
Northern Isles

Cc

E-mailed to :  
Scottish Executive SEA Gateway: [sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Copy e-mailed to:  
SNH SEA Gateway: [sea\\_gateway@snh.gov.uk](mailto:sea_gateway@snh.gov.uk)  
SEPA SEA Gateway: [sea\\_gateway@sepa.org.uk](mailto:sea_gateway@sepa.org.uk)  
HS SEA Gateway: [hssea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hssea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

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Annex 1: Detailed comments on Shetland Islands Council Core Path Plan Scoping Report

Ref.	Section	SNH comment
1	Table 1	Row 1: The Local Plan also includes policies on biodiversity.
2		Row 4: The Core Path Plan could also help to deliver the LBAP by raising awareness of it through providing better opportunities for people to experience it.
3		Row 7: "preserves" should presumably be "pressures".
4	Table 2	Row 1: This would be better titled "Biodiversity" and expanded to identify the important flora and fauna of the Shetland Isles ... which would include <i>European Protected Species</i> and wider countryside species not included. The key facts should certainly be expanded upon: for example the importance of seabirds, presence of certain specialist plants such as?, popular species such as otters & seals, a list of habitat types, examples of UK BAP species and habitats etc. European Protected Species information sits much better here rather than on a row of its own.
5		Row 2: information presented here could also be expanded. Shetland's geology is internationally important. There are 43 Geological Conservation Review (GCR) sites. Ref to proposed Geopark?
6		Row 6: MCA stands for Marine Consultation Areas (not Conservation).
7		There is a need to stress the importance of landscape. The National Scenic Area information could sit here in row 7 as a "Landscape & Historic Environments" resource (1 NSA comprising 7 discrete areas of Shetland).
8		The information at the foot of the table on Natura sites may be better explained in Section 5.
9		The map: although taken from SNHi, there seems to be a problem with the legend and the NNR symbols are poor on a map of this scale. Since the map includes Gardens & Designed Landscapes and the NSA, it would be more accurately referred to as "designated natural heritage areas in Shetland".
10	3.2	The trends and issues is very lightweight. Climate change, Shetland seabird population decline, development pressures could be mentioned, for example.
11	3.5	GIS data and information on designated sites will more likely be provided by SNH (SNHi/Natural Spaces) than the Biological Records Centre.
12	4.1	It would be useful to explain <u>how</u> any significant environmental effects were determined.
13	Table 3	It would be easier to refer to the objectives if they were numbered
14		Rows 1 and 2 (biodiversity and habitats & species) could be combined, as has been done in Table 4 and as suggested in the Scottish Government SEA Tool Kit. The geological criteria in row 5 (water bodies & water) would be better inserted here. If so, Row 1 could be better titled "biodiversity and geodiversity".
15		Row 1: the criteria needs to be more specific. We suggest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent loss of priority species*</li> <li>• Identify impacts on designated natural heritage sites</li> <li>• Identify impacts on Natura sites and species</li> </ul> <p><i>* priority species are species that are: qualifying criteria of SPAs or SACs; notified features on SSSIs; listed in Annex 1 of the EC Habitats Directive; European Protected Species; listed as of community interest in Annexes II, IV and V of the Habitats Directive; listed in Annex 1 of the EC Birds Directive; species listed in Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the Wildlife &amp; Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); or listed in the UK BAP or Shetland LBAP.</i></p>
16		Row 4 & 9: it would be more accurate to insert "responsibly" in the objective "to enjoy responsibly and appreciate wildlife".
17		Row 8: There is a need to have an objective for landscape and this could also be combined as a "landscape and historic environment" objective.
18	5.1	We suggest that the assessment should also consider all aspects of core path planning including path construction, maintenance and changes to levels and types of recreational use.
19	5.2	An assessment of likely significant effect on Natura sites will need to be made.

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	Accordingly we would recommend that, in the Environmental Report, any likely significant effects on Natura sites are highlighted in a separate section. These will be required to be subject to an Appropriate Assessment.
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# Annex B Review of Plans & Programmes

## **SHETLAND CORE PATHS PLAN**



<b>Level</b>	<b>Name of Plan/Programme</b>	<b>Relevant Objectives (Y/N)</b>	<b>Main Requirements of plan/programme/objective</b>	<b>Legislation giving rise to environmental protection objective</b>	<b>How it affects or is affected by Shetland's Core Paths Plan in terms of SEA issues</b>
International	European Environment and Health Strategy	N	Integrate information on the state of the environment, the ecosystem and human health		
International	European Environment and Health Action Plan 2004-2010	N	Aimed at improving the co-ordination between the health-environment and research sectors		
International	European Biodiversity Strategy	N	Framework for developing Community policies and instruments to integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity	Convention on Biological Diversity 1993; Birds Directive; Habitats Directive; Water Framework Directive.	Compliance with existing policies and legislation with regard to biodiversity is required
International	The European Biodiversity Action Plan on Conservation of Natural Resources	Y	Improve or maintain the status of wild flora and fauna and their ecosystems and habitats; building on and complementing existing Community and environmental legislation and initiatives	Community Biodiversity Strategy	Opportunity to promote biodiversity and improve awareness
National	Securing the Future – The UK Sustainable Development Strategy	Y	Enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life of future generations		Incorporate sustainable development principles in the implementation of a care path network
National	Choosing our Future – Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy	Y	Promote a clear understanding of commitment to sustainable development	UK Framework for Sustainable Development: One future – different paths	Opportunity to play a role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by promoting cycling, walking, natural resource protection and environmental enhancement
National	Inventory of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes	Y	Record of the gardens designed landscapes of regional and national importance	GDP order – Town and Country Planning Act 1992	
National	National Planning Framework for Scotland	Y	Framework for the spatial development of Scotland; Identifies priorities for investment in infrastructure and age regeneration		
National	SPP1 The Planning System	Y	Set out the main purpose and tasks for development planning and control		Supporting better access by foot, cycle and public transport
National	NPPG5 Archaeology and Planning	N	Set out the Government's planning policy on how archaeological remains and discoveries should be handled under the development plan and development control systems		
National	SPP7 Planning and Flooding	N	Prevent development which would have a significant probability of being affected by flooding or which would increase probability of flooding elsewhere		
National	NPPG 14 Natural Heritage	N	Describe the role of the planning system in safeguarding sites of national and international importance		Draws attention to the importance of safeguarding and enhancing natural heritage beyond the confines of designated areas
National	SPP 15 Planning for Rural Development		Encourage a more supportive attitude towards "appropriate" development whilst acknowledging and valuing the diversity of rural Scotland		
National	SPP 17 Planning for Transport	Y	Assist in reducing the need to travel;		Impact of development on pedestrian movement should

			creating the right conditions for greater use of sustainable transport and restricting adverse environmental impacts		be considered and opportunities for enhancement sought
National	NPPG 18 Planning and the Historic Environment	N	Set out Government's planning policies in relation to the historic environment with a view to its protection, conservation and enhancement		
National	SPP 11 Physical Activity and Open Space	Y	Establish a practical minimum standard or set of standards for open space provision in new development, especially new residential development		
National	SPP 23 the Historic Environment – will supersede NPPG 5 and NPPG 18	N	Secure preservation of the historic environment whilst accommodating and remaining responsive to present day needs		
National	PAN 39 Farm and Forestry Buildings	N	Advice on siting and design of new farm and forestry buildings throughout the countryside	Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Order 1992	
National	PAN 42 Archaeology – The Planning Process and Scheduled Monument Procedures	N	Advice on handling of archaeological matters within the planning process	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	
National	PAN 43 Golf Courses and Associated Developments	N	Provide Guidance on considerations of location, siting and design in the development and planning of golf courses	Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Order 1992	
National	PAN 60 Planning for Natural Heritage	N	Advice on how planning development can contribute to conservation, enhancement and enjoyment of Scotland's natural heritage		Ensure conservation and enjoyment of natural heritage benefits local communities and provides opportunities for sustainable social and economic progress
National	PAN 65 Planning and Open Space	Y	Protect and enhance open spaces and provide high quality new spaces		Where possible spaces should link together in a network , providing the landscape and townscape structure in the urban area. Networks can encourage walking and cycling, and green corridors can promote biodiversity
National	PAN 71 Conservation Area Management	N	Conservation area protection and enhancement	Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997	
National	PAN 73 Rural Diversification	Y	Promote sustainable development in rural areas: supporting rural life, communities and economy		Opportunity to develop tourism in remote areas
National	PAN 75 Planning for Transport	Y	Encourage the development of integrated transport solutions for new developments		Enable links for easy movement between different modes of transport, to maximise their potential
National	PAN 77 Design for Safer Places	Y	Help create attractive, well-managed environments which help to discourage antisocial and criminal behaviour		Opportunity to create safer routes and spaces by improving layout and landscaping: encouraging natural surveillance and accessible places
National	PAN 78 Inclusive design	Y	Guidance to the development process of creating and maintaining inclusive environments	Disability Discrimination Act 2005	Prevent unnecessary barriers that could create exclusive environments
National	Scottish Outdoor Access Code	Y	Create awareness with regard to the responsibilities of those exercising access rights and of those managing land and	Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003	Core paths management and use is to be in line with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code

			water		
National	Guidance for Core Paths Plan Local Inquiries	Y	Code of Practice providing guidance on the operation of procedures for local inquiries in case of objection to draft core paths plan	Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003	Access authorities must not adopt the Core Paths Plan if a valid objection is raised and not withdrawn, unless directed to do so by the Scottish Ministers
National	Core Paths Plan, A guide to good practice	Y	Guidance for the process of planning and establishing a core paths system	Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003; The Scottish Outdoor Access Code; Scottish Executive Guidance to access authorities	System of core paths to satisfy the basic path needs of local people and visitors for recreation and getting about
National	A Guide to Conservation Areas in Scotland	Y	New development will only be granted planning permission if it can be demonstrated that it will not harm the character or appearance of the area (cultural heritage, architectural and archaeological heritage)		Requirement of consent and/or planning permission for developments in Conservation Areas
National	UK Biodiversity Action Plan	Y	Conserve and enhance biological diversity within the UK and to contribute to the conservation of global biodiversity through all appropriate mechanisms		Increase public awareness off, and involvement in, conservation biodiversity
National	SHEP 1 – Scotland’s Historic Environment	Y	Identify, protect and manage the historic environment while maximising its role in social and economic regeneration ; realise the historic environments full potential as a economic, educational and cultural resource;		Break down intellectual and physical barriers to the wider accessibility of the historic environment
National	Scotland’s Biodiversity, its in your hands	Y	Create awareness and enhance management of landscapes and ecosystems to promote biodiversity		Engage people and promote biodiversity to strengthen existing measures and management systems for the natural heritage
National	National Cycle Strategy	Y	Quadruple the number of trips by cycle (on 1996 figures) by 2002; create and provide for better, safer access to key destinations	Government’s Green Paper “Transport: The Way Forward”	Cycle accessibility to become an integral part of the Core Paths Plan
National	One Future, Different Paths – UK’s Shared Framework for Sustainable Development	Y	Enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations		Government must promote a clear understanding of, and commitment to, sustainable development so that all people can contribute to the overall goal through their individual decisions
National	Scotland’s National Transport Strategy	Y	Promote economic growth, social inclusion, health and protection of our environment through a safe, integrated, effective and efficient transport system		Requirement to protect our environment and improve health by building and investing in public transport and other types of efficient ad sustainable transport
National	SEPA Policy 26 – Policy on the Culverting of Watercourses	Y			
Local	Shetland Structure Plan	Y	Provide in full for the development needs of Shetland in accordance with the principle of sustainable development, whilst maintaining and enhancing the environmental heritage that underpins the areas quality of life	Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997; Town and Country Planning (Structure and Local Plans) (Scotland) Regulations 1983	Efficient integration of land use and transport by promoting improved access between homes, work, shops and leisure by foot, cycle and public transport
Local	ZetTrans Transport Strategy	Y	Provide people in the isles with a choice of transport which fulfils their needs and provides travel opportunities for work and	1998 White Paper on Transport; 1999 Guidance on Local Transport Strategies; 2002	Reduce the number of people commuting in single occupancy vehicles and minimise the overall need for travel by car

			leisure on a sustainable basis	Transport Delivery Plan	
Local	Local Plan	Y	Policies and proposals for the development and use of land that guides day to day planning decisions		Local plan includes policies on access
Local	Shetland Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Y	Identifies species and contains actions plans, habitat action plans and priority habitats for the area.		an opportunity to effectively manage recreational pressures in fragile area
Local	Shetland Countryside Access Strategy	Y	Provides framework for future management and delivery of outdoor access in accordance with the Land reform (Scotland) act 2003		This strategy provides the over arching context for Shetland Core Paths Plan
Local	Shetland Cultural Strategy		Included policies relating to access development in terms of tourism		
Local	Shetland Community Plan	Y			

# Annex C Individual Route Appraisal

## **SHETLAND CORE PATHS PLAN**



## Annex C Individual Route Appraisal

### **CPPB1:** Noss Sound, Grutwick and Gorie including Bill Deacon memorial

This route provides access to a memorial cairn, archaeological remains, crofting remains and fishing loch. The Burgi Geo Broch is a scheduled monument, which is also accessible from this route. This route is also a biodiversity trail due to its bird species, marine life, flora and fauna and spectacular views of Noss Sound. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

### **CPPB2:** Noss Circular

Noss has high cliffs, which support internationally important breeding populations of migratory birds including fulmar, gannet, great skua, kittiwake and gulliemot. The separate designations that cover this area are a SSSI, SPA and NNR. As there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of this designations shall not be affected by its adoption.

### **CPPB3:** Ward of Bressay

The route is a popular community and boasts some spectacular scenery. The Gungstie Chapel and burial ground are listed as a scheduled monument and are accessible from this route. However, it is envisaged that the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

### **CPPBT01:** Trondra Farm

This route provides access for all abilities through a working croft. This is a very popular attraction with visitors and locals alike. This route is part of an NSA but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of the designation shall not be affected by its adoption.

### **CPPBT02:** Meal Beach and Hamnavoe Circular

This route is to an extremely popular sandy beach frequented by local and visitors all year round. This route is part of an NSA but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of the designation shall not be affected by its adoption.

### **CPPBT03:** Cauldhame to Burra Bridge Coastal

This route is a well-used community route and it promotes a fantastic alternative to driving around the isle. This route is part of an NSA but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of the designation shall not be affected by its adoption.

### **CPPBT04:** Bannamin Beach

This route is to an extremely popular sandy beach frequented by local and visitors all year round. This route is part of an NSA but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of the designation shall not be affected by its adoption.

### **CPPBT05:** Symbister

This route is a well-used community route and has several attractions including amazing scenery, crofting and archaeological remains. This route is part of an NSA



but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of the designation shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPDe01:** Little Ayre to Hams circular

This route is a popular tourist attraction and contributes to attracting people to the area. This route is part of an NSA but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of the designation shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPDe02:** Firth circular

This route is an important community access and it provides an alternative to the car for getting around the village. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimised.

**CP PDe03:** Mossbank

This route is an important community access and it provides an alternative to the car for getting around the village. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimised.

**CPPDe04:** Brae Community Woodland

This route provides a safe route to school and is a popular community link. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimised.

**CPPDe05:** Burravoe Brae

This is a popular community route especially for dog walkers. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimised.

**CPPDe06:** Lower Voe

This route is an important community link providing access to local amenities. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimised.

**CPPDe07:** Loch of Voe

This route is popular both with locals exercising and with anglers. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimised.

**CPPD01:** Jarlshoff to Sumburgh Head

The main attractions of this route are the lighthouse, birds and the impressive view. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimised.

**CPPD02:** St Ninians Circular

This route is on one Shetland's most spectacular spots with a tombola connecting the mainland to St Ninian's Isle. This along with the impressive archaeological remains including the St Ninian's Kirk burial ground, which is a scheduled monument, and coastal scenery make this spot very popular with a variety of visitors. This route is also part of a SSSI but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path, the integrity of the designations shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPD03: Croft Museum to Pool of Virkie**

This route has been included for its incredible scenery and archaeology remains. There are a few scheduled monuments situated along this route, including, Kilder Broch, three burnt mounds and Southvoe Broch. This route is also part of a SSSI but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of these designations shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPD04: Links of Quendale**

This route is to an extremely popular sandy beach frequented by locals and visitors all year round. This route is part of an SSSI but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of the designation shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPD05: Sumburgh Head to Grutness**

The main attractions of this route are the lighthouse, birds and the impressive view. This route is part of an SSSI but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of the designation shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPD06: Fair Isle Circular**

The main attractions of this route are the birds and the beautiful coastal scenery. Certain points of this route fall under a SSSI, SPA, SAC and NSA but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path, the integrity of the designation shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPF02: Loch Funzie – Snap- Beach**

This route is of geological, archaeological and wildlife importance and attracts many visitors annually. The separate designations that cover this area include a SSSI, SPA and SAC. As there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of this designations shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPF03: Haltlands – Finnigarth - Northdale**

This route is attracts visitors interested in birds and archaeology. The separate designations that cover this area include a SSSI, SPA, SAC and scheduled monuments including Stakaberg Cairn and homestead and Whilsa Pund settlement and field system. As there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of these designations shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPF04: Hammersness**

This is a popular tourist walk and it includes crofting remains and a chapel site. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPF 05: Funzie Ness to Everland**

This route is popular with bird watchers. The separate designations that cover this area includes a SSSI, SPA and Inner Broch Settlement is a scheduled monument. As there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of this designations shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPGQC01: Brindister Loch**

This route is popular with dog walkers and anglers. Some minor access improvements will be required for this route but they are expected to have a negligible impact.

**CPPGQC02:** Fladdabister old road

This is a popular all ability, multi-use route used frequently by the local community. It is an old road, so therefore doesn't require any access improvements. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPGQC03:** Fladdabister

The scenery, flora and fauna attracts many visitors to this area. The route also provides access to a popular abseiling area. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPGQC04:** Leebiton to Cunningsburgh

The route provides a non-motorised option of travel between two villages. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPGQC05:** Cunningsburgh Circular

This route is very important community link and provides a safe route to school. This route is part of an SSSI but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of the designation shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPGQC06:** Wester Quarff

This is a circular route that is suitable for multi-use. Although partly encompassed by an NSA, it is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPGQC07:** Lower Hillside to Upper Hillside

This is an important link between two areas within a small village and it also provides access to a bus stop. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPL01:** Clickimin Loch

This is an extremely popular well used, all ability multi-use route. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPL02:** Ness of Sound

This is a very popular well used route leaving the settlement of Lerwick and following the perimeter of a farm and coastline. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPL03:** Clickimin

This is an extremely popular well used, all ability multi-use route. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPL04:** Coastal Walk

This route is a multi-use coastal alternative to getting around Lerwick. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPL05: Cunningham Way**

This is a multi-use community route. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPL06: Staney Hill**

This route links north and south Lerwick. The route is suitable for multi-use and all ability. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPNL01: Vidlin to Burga Water Circular**

This is a multi-use community route used to access a fishing loch and archaeological remains. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPNL02: Laxo Water**

This is a multi-use community route used to access a fishing loch. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPNL03: Lingness**

This is a popular coastal route boasting amazing scenery. The Isthmus boat-shaped setting is listed as scheduled monument but any required access improvements in the area won't be located anywhere near this designation.

**CPPNL04: Stones of Stofast to LunnaNess**

This is a coastal route famous for its geological features, birds, otters and North Sea oil pipeline coming ashore. It also holds interesting flora and fauna and archaeological sites. The separate designations that cover this area include a SSSI and a SAC. As there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of this designations shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPN01: Loch of Brekon**

This route provides access to a popular fishing loch. This route is part of a NSA but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of the designation shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPN02: Stenness to Eshaness coastal route**

This route boasts spectacular scenery and bird watching opportunities. It encompasses 'Da Grind O Da Navir' which is one of Shetland's most popular geological tourist attractions. The designations that cover this area include a SSSI and a NSA. As there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of this designations shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPN03: Tingon**

This route provides access to crofting remains and to a popular rock climbing site. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPN04: Fethaland East**

Spectacular scenery can be viewed throughout this route. The route also boasts the remains one of Shetland's main haaf fishing stations. The designations that cover this area include a SSSI and a NSA. As there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of this designations shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPN0 5: North Roe Cycle Track**

This is a newly developed safe route to school. No further works are required on this route and it is envisaged that there will be no impacts arising from the existing route being designated as a core path.

**CPPN06: Ness of Hillswick**

This is a popular community route that is also enjoyed by many visitors. This is also a biodiversity route because of its Cliff top scenery, birds, otters, seals and coastal flowers. This route is part of a NSA but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of the designation shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPN07: Urafirth**

This route links two communities together and is a proposed safe route to school to be supported by SUSTRANS. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPN08: Access to Ronas Hill**

This route provides access to Shetland's highest hill. This area is very renowned for its exceptional flora and fauna and it also provides access to a popular fishing loch. The designations that cover this area include a SSSI, SPA, SAC and RAMSAR. As there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of this designations shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPN09: Sandvoe to Uyea and Fetherland West**

The scenery is amazing throughout this route with fantastic cliffs and natural arches. This area is a very popular visitor attraction. The designations that cover this area include a SSSI and NSA. As there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of this designations shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPN10: Breawick Beach**

This route provides access to the beach from the café and campsite to view the geology and scenery. This route is part of a NSA but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of the designation shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPN11: Mavis Grind**

There are several points of interest along this route including a viewing point where one can see the Atlantic Ocean on one side and the North Sea on the other. This area is also the site to new geology wall, which is an innovative approach to visitor interpretation. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPN12: Uyea**

This is a multi-use route with a great viewing point. The designations that cover this area include a SSSI, NSA, SPA, SAC and RAMSAR. As there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of this designations shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPN13: Ollaberry Back Sands**

This is a popular circular community route. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPSA01: Aith Marina**

This is a popular community route path the Aith Marina. There are no designations associated with this route. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPSA02: Burn of Lunket**

The attraction of this route is the burn and the waterfall. Locals and visitors use this route all year round. This route is part of a SSSI but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of the designation shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPSA03: Vementry Path**

The route is included because of its scenery and access to fishing lochs. This route is part of a SSSI but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of the designation shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPSA04: Woodland at Sand**

This route is easily accessible, attractive community woodland. It is part of an NSA but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of the designation shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPSA05: Collaster Loch and Northhouse Loch**

Both these routes lead to popular trout fishing lochs. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPSA06: Culswick Broch**

This route provides access to amazing scenery, fishing lochs, crofting remains and a broch. The Culswick Broch is listed as a scheduled monument but it is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPSA07: Aith Woodland**

This route provides access to an all ability community amenity. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPS01: Coastal Route to Hoswick**

This route is a popular scenic community walk. It is also a biodiversity site due to its birdlife, seals and wildflowers. The Broch of Burreland is listed as a scheduled monument but it is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPS02: Houlland**

This route is both a safe route to school and an all ability, multi-use community route. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPS03: Mousa**

This route is circular route around the island of Mousa, which has the largest single colony of breeding common seals within Shetland, which represents about 2% of the total UK common seal population. Another visitor attraction of this island Mousa Broch, which is a scheduled monument. The other designations associated with this route include a SSSI, SAC and a SPA. As there are no physical works planned with designating this as a core path the integrity of this designations shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPS04: Mosquito Memorial Trail**

This route provides access to a site of WW2 airplane crash. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPS05: Burn of Setter**

This route is an important community link and provides access to a tree plantation. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPSC1: Burwick**

This route provides access to archaeology remains, birds and scenery. This route is part of a NSA and the Loch of Houlland Homestead is scheduled monument but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of the designation shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPSk01: Road Walk**

This route is promoted as a walk to health route and suitable for all abilities. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPSk02: Bruary**

This route is a beautiful scenic route, which attracts visitors to isles. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPSk03: North Hill**

This route is a beautiful scenic route, which attracts visitors to isles. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPSk04: South Hill**

This route is a beautiful scenic route, which attracts visitors to isles. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPTWW01: Tingwall Loch**

The route leads to one of Shetland's most popular fishing lochs. This route is part of a SSSI but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of the designation shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPTWW02:** Loch of Hellister

This route is a popular community route and it also provides access to the loch for fishing and model boat sailing. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPTWW03:** Burn of Tactigill to Scord

The main attractions of this route are its geology and birds. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPTWW04:** Binna Ness

This is a popular scenic coastal route. This route is part of a SSSI and the Stromness Voe burnt mound and Hill of Olligarth settlement and field system are scheduled monuments but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of the designation shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPTWW05:** Sandwater Loch

This route provides access to a fishing loch. This route is part of a SSSI but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of the designation shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPU01:** Keen of Hamar

Vegetated calaminarian grassland area on serpentine bedrock and base-rich scree area that support a unique community of plants including a number of rare northern species and one sub-species only found in Unst. The separate designations that cover this area include a SSSI, NNR and SAC. As there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of this designations shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPU02:** Uyeasound to Muness

This is a coastal route linking two communities and features Unst's main historic feature, Muness Castle, which is a scheduled monument. It is also a biodiversity site due to its rich birdlife, otters and spectacular views across to Fetlar. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPU03:** Belmont to Lund

This is a coastal route boasting a variety of archaeological points of interest including a broch, cairns, a homestead and crofting townships, which are all listed as scheduled monuments. As there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of this designations shall not be affected by its adoption. Educationary signage will be displayed to encourage visitors to act responsibly.

**CPPU04:** Hermaness

The sea cliffs and moorland at Hermaness support internationally important breeding populations of fulmer, gannet, great skua, gulliemot and puffin. The designations that cover this area include a SSSI, NNR and SPA. As there are no physical works



associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of this designations shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPU 05:** Hannigarth to Sandwick Beach.

This route provides access to ongoing multi period archaeological works and a Viking graveyard, which is still in use today. There are a few scheduled monuments located near this route including Framgord House, Framgord Chape and gravestones. However, as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of this designation shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPU06:** Underhoull Cirular

This route offers several points of interest including crofting remains, Shetland's tallest standing stone, broch remains and a medieval chape, which are all scheduled monuments. As there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of this designations shall not be affected by its adoption. Educationary signage will be displayed to encourage visitors to act responsibly.

**CPPWS01:** Burrastow Coastal

This routes main attraction is the scenery and views across to the island of Vaila. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPWS02:** Dale of Walls, Huxter Mills to Bousta

This route provides access to spectacular coastal scenery, historic water mills and links into other community walks. The Dale of Walls part of the route is also a biodiversity route because of its sea and shore birds, flora and fauna. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPWS03:** Foula Pier to South Ness and Da Sneck

This route provides access to coastal scenery and crofting remains. As it's a biodiversity site it is also popular due to its birds, flora and fauna. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPWS04:** Watness Coastal

This route provides access to coastal scenery and archaeological remains, including the Loch of Watsness linear earthworks and Loch of Watsness Broch, which are listed as a scheduled monumenst. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPWS05:** Lunga Water Loch

This route provides access to a popular fishing loch. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPWS06:** Pier to Pointataing Circular

This is a part multi-use, all ability circular community route. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPWS07:** Loch of Brouster

This is a multi-use, all ability circular community route, which also provides access for fishing. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPWS08:** Foula North End

This route provides access to coastal scenery and crofting remains. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPWS09:** Rams Head Lighthouse, Whitesness

This is a popular scenic route that provides access to the lighthouse and old crofts. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPWS10:** Papa Stour Circular

This route is along an exposed rocky coastline that is fringed by submerged bedrock and boulder reefs. It provides access to some excellent examples of caves, tunnels and arches, with rich communities of algae and sponges. There are also a few scheduled monuments along this route, including, Northbank's settlement and burnt mound, Housa Voe Stone ring and Tannafielie promontory fort. The other designations that cover this area include a SSSI and a SPA. As there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of this designations shall not be affected by its adoption. Educationary signage will be displayed to encourage visitors to act responsibly.

**CPPWS11** Biggins to Gorda Water

This route gives access to a reconstructed Norse house and a fishing loch. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPW01:** Challister Ness

This is coastal route. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPW02:** Pettigarth field

This route is an off road link between two communities, Skaw and Isbister as well as providing access to the isles most popular archaeological remains. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPW03:** Loch of Houll

This is a popular community route especially for dog walking that also provides access for model boat sailing. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPW04:** Ward of Clett and Hevda Field

This is coastal route with view points on the highest hills. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPY01:** Brekon Coastal

The route is archaeologically important and cairns can be seen along the way. It is also a biodiversity route due to its great views, seals and birds. This route is part of a

SSSI and St Olaf's Kirk is listed as scheduled monument but as there are no physical works associated with designating this as a core path the integrity of these designations shall not be affected by its adoption.

**CPPY02: Littlester Loch**

This is a gentle circular community route that can be accessed by several points within the village of Burravoe. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPY3: Gloup Coastal**

This is coastal route to a fishing disaster memorial. It is also a biodiversity route due to its great views, seals and birds. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPY04: Cullivoe to Basta Voe**

This route links to communities together being the original single track road between the two. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be minimal.

**CPPY 05: White Wife to Aywick**

This is a circular coastal route leading to a single track road. The White Wife statue that commemorates a German shipwreck can be seen along the route. It is envisaged the impacts arising from the adoption of this existing route as a core path will be.

