

Biodiversity Duty Report for Shetland Islands Council

2018-2020



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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Biodiversity is the diversity of wildlife around us. It includes animals, plants, fungi, bacteria and other micro-organisms, genetic variation within species, and the variety of habitats and ecosystems.
- 1.2 The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 places a duty on all public bodies in Scotland to further the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their functions. The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 further requires all public bodies in Scotland to provide a publicly available report, every three years, on the actions they have taken to meet this biodiversity duty.
- 1.3 This report sets out how the Council has complied with the biodiversity duty for the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020. The format for this year remains unchanged from the previous report and addresses the following themes:
 - Mainstreaming - incorporating biodiversity measures into other areas of policy, strategies or initiatives
 - Actions taken to improve biodiversity conservation
 - Partnership working and biodiversity communications.
 - Biodiversity highlights and challenges.
 - Contribution to targets – e.g. AICHI, 2020 Vision.
- 1.4 The Shetland Islands include over 100 islands that stretch around 110km (70 miles) from North to South with 15 inhabited. Shetland lies on a latitude between 59° and 61°N, 477km north of Edinburgh and just 644km south of the Arctic Circle. The Shetland archipelago extends to about 1468km² with a coastline of approximately 2700km. Shetland has a mild climate with higher average temperatures than its latitude might suggest as a result of the warming effect of the north Atlantic Drift (or Gulf Stream). Rainfall is relatively low averaging only 1200mm per annum, which is less than half of the rainfall experienced in the West Highlands of Scotland. The most significant features of the climate of Shetland are the relatively narrow range of average temperatures and almost constant change and force of the wind.
- 1.5 Shetland's landscape has been shaped over millions of years by rain, wind, ice and waves and the geology that underlies its landscape is some of the most complex and diverse in the UK. Shetland carries some of Scotland's oldest rocks, a sliver of deep ocean crust and a host of unusual minerals has been sculpted from this diverse geology by rivers, glaciers and the sea over the past few million years. Major landforms survive from before the Ice Age, notably Ronas Hill, while hundreds of lochans, voes and sounds evidence deep glacial erosion across the isles. Shetland's outer coast displays some of the most spectacular cliff scenery in the world whilst her inner coast is dotted with a myriad of sandy beaches and ayres.

- 1.6 The richness of this geology and geomorphology is the foundation for the many layers of natural habitat and human history that make Shetland so special and, in recognition of this outstanding geological heritage Shetland has been included into the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.
- 1.7 Shetland's biodiversity is hugely significant, locally, nationally and internationally and the following summarises some key biodiversity interests.
- 18 species of seabirds (including Red-throated Diver and Eider) breed in Shetland in nationally important numbers (i.e., 1% or more of the UK population)
 - High densities of breeding waders breed, including 10 species in nationally important numbers - 1% or more of the UK population
 - In terms of wintering sea ducks, divers and grebes - 7 species winter in Shetland in nationally important numbers, 1% or more of the UK wintering population
 - There are a number of protected species in Shetland as listed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Nature conservation (Scotland) Act 2004) these include:
 - 9 breeding birds listed under Schedule 1
 - 3 other animals listed under Schedule 5
 - 4 plants listed under Schedule 8
 - As a consequence of Shetland being an archipelago, endemism (term to describe species only found in a single defined geographic location) is a notable feature of these islands' biodiversity. These are 3 endemic bird taxa (2 wrens and a starling), 24 endemic plant taxa and several endemic invertebrates
 - Shetland is important for a range of important habitats; many of these are integral to the designated sites below
 - The most extensive important terrestrial habitat is blanket bog and very large areas of this are priority habitat, as defined in the EU Habitats Directive (essentially this means that it is actively forming peat). The Scottish Government's Carbon and Peatland 2016 map predicts the presence of such peatland on over 14,000Ha, though only a small fraction of this is formally designated
 - Terrestrial designated sites. (Note that a number of these overlap, for example, all terrestrial SACs and SPAs are already designated SSSIs)
 - 78 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (this includes 40 that include earth sciences interests and about 30 that include marine biological features; some SSSIs have a combination of interest types)
 - 12 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
 - 12 Special Protection Areas (SPA) (5 of these have marine extensions)
 - 1 Ramsar Site
 - 2 National Nature Reserves

- The diversity of marine biotopes found around the Shetland Islands provide a wealth of habitats for marine life, including species and features considered to be of international, national and local importance. These habitats, species and features support a range of ecosystem services. Some key habitats include maerl, horse mussel beds and extensive kelp forest along the coastline
- Marine designated sites are
 - 3 SPAs (note that one of these is offshore)
 - 5 marine extensions to terrestrial SPAs
 - 2 Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas (MPA)
 - 1 Demonstration and Research Marine Protected Area
 - 49 Seal Haul Out Sites (including 2 sites included within SACs)
- Within the Shetland marine region 50 priority marine features (species or habitats) are known to occur. While some of these are the protected features of designated sites, they are also found in other (non-designated) areas across Shetland
- There are a number of non-statutory natural heritage sites, including
 - 4 Marine Consultation Areas
 - 53 Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS); this list includes:
 - 9 identified for geology
 - 4 that have been surveyed and recorded as important but have not yet been adopted
 - Shetland is a UNESCO Global Geopark

2. Mainstreaming

- 2.1 Shetland Islands Council (SIC) is responsible for providing a very wide range of public services and owns or manages an extensive estate. In addition, it produces numerous strategic policy and planning documents to guide its direction and operations. All of these factors mean that the Council, its staff, contractors, agents and activity all have the potential to impact on furthering the conservation of biodiversity.
- 2.2 The Council is made up of 22 elected members who represent 7 wards across Shetland and whom set overall policy and direction. It operates through a system of committees with officers reporting to committees on relevant matters. Corporate governance is provided by the elected members through 5 directorates that manage the delivery of public services with the Chief Executive in overall charge of Council operations.
- 2.3 The Council's 5 directorates are:
- Children's Services
 - Community Health and Social Care
 - Development Services
 - Infrastructure Services
 - Corporate Services
- 2.4 The Council must produce a range of key documents that guide how it will plan for economic, social and environmental progress and in providing its services. The key strategies that directly impact how the Council will further the conservation of biodiversity are as follows.
- Corporate Plan - "Our Plan 2016-2020" (note that a replacement plan, "Our Ambition" was adopted by the Council on 16 December 2020).
 - Local Outcomes Improvement Plan - "Shetland's Partnership Plan 2018-2028"
 - Shetland Local Development Plan 2014
 - Local Housing Strategy (submitted to the Scottish Government 30/08/2011)
 - Regional Transport Strategy - "Shetland Transport Strategy Refresh 2018-2028"
 - Shetland Islands' Marine Spatial Plan
- 2.5 Only the Local Development Plan 2014 contains specific policies in respect of biodiversity and it, as well as the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and the Regional Transport Strategy were all subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- 2.6 Biodiversity is a cross-cutting theme, with all Council services subject to the duty to further its conservation.

3. Actions taken to improve biodiversity conservation

3.1 The Council has been involved in a number of actions that could benefit biodiversity, either directly or through application and interpretation of policy and guidance. It also worked in partnership with others to further the conservation of biodiversity.

3.2 Policy Development and Implementation

- The Local Development Plan (LDP) is the principal planning policy document and has a significant role in furthering the conservation of biodiversity. It is supported by Supplementary Guidance (SG) and these underpin the planning policy and development management actions below.
- The Council adopted Supplementary Guidance Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) in 2015, which identifies Shetland's best local sites for nature. The Supplementary Guidance sets out detailed policy advice to help developers meet the requirements of the Local Development Plan and conserve local biodiversity. It expands on the Planning Policy NH4 Local Designations with regard to Local Nature Conservation Sites, providing further information and maps of the LNCS
 - LNCS surveys and assessments – surveys, assessments and ongoing monitoring of existing and possible candidate new LNCS are ongoing, undertaken by Shetland Biological Records Centre, under contract
- The Natural Heritage SG (draft) provides guidance to developers on how to interpret natural heritage legislation and policy, primarily for development management purposes, including for marine development
- Habitat Regulations appraisals are undertaken for any projects likely to have a significant impact on EU Natura Sites through the Development Management process, including for marine development
- Biodiversity (habitat and species gains) as a result of the Natural Heritage Officer's advice as part of the Development Management process e.g. leading to appropriate ecological surveys and assessment for planning and marine development applications that have the potential to impact on protected biodiversity, including requiring avoidance and mitigation measures where necessary. Approximately 325 planning and 16 marine applications are received every year and SBRC screen them for potential impacts on, or opportunities for, biodiversity, with an average of about 10% requiring some advice on biodiversity. Through identifying the need for species or habitat survey, negotiation or the use of conditions biodiversity has been conserved or enhanced at a number of developments and locations

3.3 Practical Actions

- The Planning Service works closely with Shetland Biological Records Centre (SBRC) which provides the Ranger Service for the Council that requires
 - Survey and monitoring of condition and change affecting LNCS as well as identifying potential new LNCS
 - Survey and monitoring of Selected Biodiversity indicators
 - Provide baseline data for natural heritage indicators, e.g. for incorporation into SEA reports

- SBRC also provides the following services, which are utilised by the Planning Service during local development planning and development management
 - Review of all planning applications for potential natural heritage impacts
 - Organise, undertake and supervise biological surveys and data collection
 - Manage the database of biological records for Shetland, mostly contributed by a network of Recorders and local and national organisations, but also collected during its coordination of or involvement in other surveys (e.g. Wetland Bird Survey, Breeding Bird Survey)

- A number of bodies in Shetland are pursuing peatland survey and restoration, and the Council included baseline survey work to establish the extent of active blanket bog in Shetland, the work being undertaken as part of the Rangers contract. Shetland Amenity Trust has been leading a programme to restore peatland and SNH funding has enabled the Trust to employ a Peatland Officer during the reporting period (and until next year), to help land managers restore degraded peatland across Shetland. The Peatland Officer has established the Peatland Mire Conservation Working Group which has a wide membership of bodies and individuals interested in peatland, including the Natural Heritage Officer. The Trust has managed peat restoration at a further 4 areas during the period of this report totalling approximately 190Ha in area and approximately £820,000 in value.

- ECO Schools are used to plan action on environmental issues that form the criteria for the Green Flag Award. To earn a Green Flag Award, a school needs to follow the Seven Elements, which ensure that it is pupil-led, linked to the curriculum and involves the whole school and wider community. 32 schools in Shetland are registered with the programme and 3 Green Flags have been awarded

- The Shetland Nature Festival, organised by a partnership led by Shetland Amenity Trust, was held during July in 2 of the three reporting years (2018 and 2019). In 2019 the festival took place over 9 days and over 1000 people took part in 70 events and it was supported by 5 principal partners - SAT, RSPB, SNH (NatureScot), Shetland Arts and Shetland Islands Council. Also, a number of local individuals, communities, businesses and other groups/ organisations provided, organised and assisted with events and facilities.

4. Partnership working and biodiversity communications

- 4.1 The Council works with a range of partners across a number of areas of activity to further the conservation of biodiversity, for example in its development planning and development management services.
- 4.2 Current partnerships that are furthering the conservation of biodiversity are:
- 4.3 LNCS Steering Group - proposed all the current Local Nature Conservation Sites that have been adopted as Supplementary Guidance as part of the 2014 Shetland LDP; coordinates site monitoring and review of existing sites and evaluation of potential new sites. The Council leads this group such that the necessary survey, monitoring and reporting is completed. The Council also prepared and adopted the formal supplementary guidance to the Local Development Plan and is responsible for keeping that under review.
- 4.4 Shetland Mire Conservation Group - which aims to actively encourage mire (or blanket bog) conservation in Shetland and promote the value of blanket bog in terms of ecosystem services (e.g. regulating water flow, purifying water, carbon storage, carbon sequestration etc.) and to biodiversity as part of wider efforts towards sustainable development. The Council contributes to this work as a member of the Group and also by including the carrying out of surveys to identify and assess condition of areas of active blanket bog under the Rangers Service contract.
- 4.5 Rangers Service - the Council contracts with Shetland Amenity Trust to provide a Rangers Service that undertakes biodiversity action, monitoring and educational work as well as outdoors access work on its behalf.
- 4.6 Shetland Biological Records Centre maintains and provides access to biodiversity data and advice to the Council generally and the Planning Service in particular in its work to further the conservation of biodiversity. This work is part of the core funded work undertaken by Shetland Amenity Trust with the aid of an annual grant from Shetland Charitable Trust.
- 4.7 Shetland Nature Festival is one of the main ways that conservation of biodiversity is communicated, to Shetland residents and visitors. This is an important partnership event that has now been running annually for 10 years. The Council has contributed resources and staffing during the period of this report. The event was unable to take place in 2020.
- 4.8 The seas around Fair Isle were designated as a Demonstration and Research MPA and this is overseen by a partnership managed by NatureScot who employ a project officer. The purpose of the MPA is to demonstrate and research sustainable methods of marine management or exploitation. The Natural Heritage Officer represents the Council on the steering group that includes a wide range of relevant local industry, community, conservation and statutory bodies and organisations.

- 4.9 The Council's Natural Heritage Officer has been working with RSPB and representatives of local farming and crofting bodies to influence the development of more locally relevant agri-environment schemes, post CAP and after Brexit. During 2019-20, the Group has undertaken 2 projects:
- Parklife Project This aimed to empower the farming/crofting community in Shetland to take a leadership role in managing its environmental resources for the benefit of biodiversity. It focused on trialling farmer participation in the monitoring of the impact of land management practices on breeding waders to help create best-practice guidance, to support land management for waders at the landscape scale in the long-term.
 - Devised a Wader Guide booklet and Score Card to assist land managers make their actions more likely to be beneficial for waders, and setting standards for measuring habitat quality on farmland.
- 4.10 The Council's Natural Heritage Officer attends National Biodiversity Network meetings.
- 4.11 The Council's Natural Heritage Officer is a member of the Shetland Oiled Wildlife Network (SOWN). SOWN is a forum for knowledge sharing and information transfer between Shetland's oiled wildlife stakeholders. The function of the network is to facilitate informed communication and cooperation between stakeholders, but the network itself is not responsible for delivering the oiled wildlife response
- 4.12 The aims of the network are:
- Shared awareness of the oiled wildlife resources and provisions held by each stakeholder
 - Shared awareness of modern-day oil spill response planning.

5 Biodiversity highlights and challenges.

5.1 The main biodiversity conservation highlights over the reporting period are:

- Supplementary Guidance Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS), adopted by the Council in 2015. These identify Shetland's best local sites for nature and the information and maps about the sites' interests they provide are used to help ensure that development takes into account the important and sensitive features of these sites and, where appropriate, protect those interests from harmful development
- Biodiversity Monitoring - during the reporting period the SBRC continued to monitor and report on selected biodiversity indicators to the Planning Service under contract, such that clear evidence across a range of coordinated and representative datasets continues to be collated in a methodical way. These data are essential components of the baseline that are used across the Council in producing SEA and other reports

5.2 Future challenges - the main challenges in the next three years are likely to be the continued pressure on resources across all services and any changes to the regulatory framework currently in place for the natural environment, for example:

- Brexit and whether the UK may have to incorporate additional EU environmental commitments as part of those treaties
- The new Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, expected in the first half of the outlook period.
- Implications of the National Planning Framework 4 and replacement Scottish Planning Policy
- Consequential changes resulting from international developments and treaties, for example the new Global Biodiversity Framework, updating and replacement of the Aichi targets and other implications arising from the UK's commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Seek improved outcomes in terms of furthering the conservation of biodiversity in all that the Council does
- In recognition of the Council not having made funding available to protect and conserve LNCS (and biodiversity generally in Shetland) review how to achieve its objectives and obligations in this regard
- Consider how best to deal with declines, deterioration in quality and secure improvements and outcomes for LNCS, protected species and habitats
- Attempting to ensure biodiversity is properly accounted for as extraordinary pressure for economic and social objectives arise in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic
- Further embed the principle of 'no net loss of biodiversity' in the development management process to ensure all applications are supported by sufficient ecological information and assessment and seek to achieve biodiversity net gain when appropriate

- Respond to anticipated statutory duties to achieve biodiversity net gain resulting from changes in planning and biodiversity legislation and policy during the outlook period
- Biosecurity is already a challenge - contribution to the development of strategy and development/ implementation of existing and developing policy at the local level is required during the outlook period
- Ensure peatland protection and restoration results in benefits for habitat value as well as for climate change reasons
- Update the existing biodiversity audit
- Consider whether, and if so, how best, to update the LBAP process and plans
- Responding to introduced, non-native species may well become a greater challenge as the environment warms
- Seek to find means to extend biodiversity monitoring to ensure that it's more representative of changes in biodiversity across Shetland

6 Monitoring

- 6.1 The majority of biodiversity monitoring undertaken on behalf of the Council is carried out by Shetland Biological Records Centre (SBRC), where a wide range of biodiversity data for Shetland is received from very many sources and curated on behalf of Shetland. Specific biodiversity monitoring is undertaken under contract to the Council but the much wider range of data held is called on when required to input to, for example, development planning or development management activity. The SBRC also provides training in biological identification and recording skills to the local community, which also contributes to the records collected. With the exception of the selected biodiversity monitoring undertaken by SBRC under contract, the Council undertakes no active monitoring of biodiversity.
- 6.2 Local Nature Conservation Sites. These sites are not statutory designations and are not a barrier to development, so impacts can occur. However, the Natural Heritage Officer provides advice and guidance in the development management process to minimise and avoid adverse impacts. The Council has now established a monitoring programme for these sites with SBRC that includes monitoring survey visits on a rolling basis, with some sites being visited more frequently than others, depending upon sensitivity, perceived likelihood of change and other specific insights about the sites. These data are reported back to the LNCS Steering Group for consideration of any recommendations and/ or actions, though it remains the case that no resources are available to undertake any follow up actions that may be necessary. In addition, there is no protection against activity that doesn't require planning consent and the Council may only become aware of adverse impacts after they have taken place.
- 6.3 Other monitoring work. In addition to the monitoring described above, many species monitoring activities have been developed by other organisations and bodies; examples include Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) or the Breeding Bird Survey and work undertaken by voluntary and other organisations, such as SOTEAG (Shetland Oil Terminal Advisory Group). Much of these data are deposited with the SBRC which can use them in the preparation of monitoring data and reports for the ES and LNCS
- 6.4 Monitoring Outcomes. For LNCS, the majority of sites are reported as having favourable status, however, the most recent monitoring report (which includes monitoring data up to the 2016-17 field season) shows that 6 sites have unfavourable status (4%), up from 4 in the previous Report while 12 out of the 60 species of rare plants monitored also have unfavourable status (7%), down from 12 in the previous period. For birds 10 out of 27 of the monitored species have unfavourable status, down from 12 in the previous report. For mammals, the 2 out of the 3 species monitored are reported as having favourable status, down from 3 in the previous period.
- 6.5 Trends: the only datasets that have been monitored long enough to show trends are in relation to birds and the 3 mammal species monitored. There are well known significant adverse trends in relation to a number of seabirds,

waders and songbirds; possible causes often relate to climate change and pressure from human activity. In relation to mammals, populations of both species of seal are either stable or declining and otter populations are currently stable.

7. Contribution to Scottish Biodiversity Strategy targets

| Targets/key steps from Chapter 1 (Healthy ecosystems) of the "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" | Contribution to key step? | Justification |
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| (1.1) Encourage and support ecosystem restoration and management, especially in catchments that have experienced the greatest degradation | ✓ | Peatland restoration at 4 sites |
| (1.2) Use assessments of ecosystem health at a catchment level to determine what needs to be done | ✓ | LNCS and peatland habitat monitoring |
| (1.3) Government and public bodies, including SNH, SEPA and FCS, will work together towards a shared agenda for action to restore ecosystem health at a catchment-scale across Scotland | N/A | N/A |
| (1.4) Establish plans and decisions about land use based on an understanding of ecosystems. Take full account of land use impacts on the ecosystems services that underpin social, economic and environmental health | Partial | Land use plans and decisions are not based on an understanding of ecosystems do not take full account of land use impacts on ecosystems services - though natural heritage information is taken into account in the planning process, especially on designated sites or where protected species occur. |
| Targets/key steps from Chapter 3 (Biodiversity, health and quality of life) of the "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" | Contribution to key step? | Justification |
| (3.1) Provide opportunities for everyone to experience and enjoy nature regularly, with a particular focus on disadvantaged groups | ✓ | LNCS Outdoors Access/ Core Paths Shetland Nature Festival SBRC courses Rangers Service However, focus on disadvantaged groups remains lacking |
| (3.2) Support local authorities and communities to improve local environments and enhance biodiversity using green space and green networks, allowing nature to flourish and so | ✓ | Access improvements Eco Schools |

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| enhancing the quality of life for people who live there | | |
| (3.3) Build on good practice being developed by the National Health Service (NHS) and others to help encourage greenspace, green exercise and social prescribing initiatives that will improve health and wellbeing through connecting people with nature | ✓ | The Planning Service continues to work with NHS partners to support these initiatives |
| (3.4) Increase access to nature within and close to schools, and support teachers in developing the role of outdoor learning across the Curriculum for Excellence | ✓ | Eco Schools |
| (3.5) Encourage public organisations and businesses to review their responsibilities and action for biodiversity, and recognise that increasing their positive contribution to nature and landscapes can help meet their corporate priorities and performance | ✓ | Biodiversity conservation addressed through SEA for Plans, Policies and Programmes Consultation responses on such plans consider and address potential biodiversity impacts Work with other services, such as Roads Service to incorporate biodiversity action and mitigate impacts Biodiversity impacts considered during development management process with adverse impacts mitigated or reduced where possible Through the development management process, the Council encourages developers to consider how to ensure development results in no net loss of biodiversity and, where possible, provide options for biodiversity net gain, all in compliance with Shetland Local Development Plan and Scottish Planning Policy. |
| Targets/key steps from Chapter 4 (Wildlife, habitats and protected places) of the "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" | Contribution to key step? | Justification |
| (4.1) Ensure that the management of protected places for nature also provides wider public benefits | ✓ | Public access for education and recreation to LNCS is encouraged wherever practicable, subject to appropriate land management or biodiversity considerations |
| (4.3) Integrate protected areas policy with action for wider habitats to | ✓ | LDP policy NH3 requires development to be considered |

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| combat fragmentation and restore key habitats | | against the Council's obligation to further the conservation of biodiversity and the ecosystem services it delivers, this takes account of the wider environment, as well as designated sites and protected species |
| (4.5) Involve many more people than at present in this work and improve understanding of the poorly known elements of nature | ✓ | Shetland Nature Festival SBRC courses Rangers Service The public is encouraged to submit biological records and such data are also gathered from social media |
| Targets/key steps from Chapter 5 (Land and freshwater management) of the "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" | Contribution to key step? | Justification |
| (5.1) Promote an ecosystem approach to land management that fosters sustainable use of natural resources and puts biodiversity at the heart of land-use planning and decision-making | Partial | LDP policy NH3 requires development to be considered against the Council's obligation to further the conservation of biodiversity and the ecosystem services it delivers, this takes account of the wider environment, as well as designated sites and protected species. However, biodiversity and ecosystem services considerations are seldom more than one of numerous considerations in land use planning decisions. The SEA and EIA processes that attach to public policy planning and implementation also seek to embed biodiversity into relevant decision-making and project implementation across the Council. |
| (5.2) Ensure that measures taken forward under the Common Agricultural Policy encourage land managers to develop and retain the diversity of wildlife habitats and landscape features | ✓ (though these are limited by prescription) | Natural Heritage Officer works with partners to achieve biodiversity benefits in land management where possible. Examples include survey work as a pre-cursor to (e.g.) peatland restoration and providing information to other partners about sites and survey data collected by the Council. |
| (5.3) Support 'High Nature Value' farming and forestry | ✓ | Knowledge transfer and guidance when possible Planning Service is a partner in a local agri-environment group of farmers, crofters, their |

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| | | representatives; and a range of conservation organisations seeking to promote and develop HNV farming and crofting. |
| (5.4) Put in place the management necessary to bring Scotland's protected areas into favourable condition and improve the ecological status of water bodies | Partial | Assist NatureScot and SEPA where appropriate to achieve this aim, especially through the development planning and development management processes |
| (5.5) Ensure that biodiversity and ecosystem objectives are fully integrated into flood risk management plans, and restore wetland habitats and woodlands to provide sustainable flood management | ✓ | Led by SEPA Supported by Strategic Flood Risk Assessment |
| (5.6) Restore and extend natural habitats as a means of building reserves of carbon and to help mitigate climate change | ✓ | Peatland restoration at 4 sites |
| (5.7) Provide clear advice to land and water managers on best practice | ✓ | Through the LDP, Supplementary Guidance and during the development management process |
| Targets/key steps from Chapter 6 (Marine and coastal) of the "2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity" | Contribution to key step? | Justification |
| (6.4) Achieve good environmental status for Scottish seas | ✓ | Shetland Islands Marine Spatial Plan Aquaculture Supplementary Guidance Coastal Development Management process Biosecurity Plan for the Shetland Islands" and publication of various information on Introduced Non-Native Species. |