

Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009

Shetland Local Plan District

Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2022 – 2028

Statement regarding Strategic Environmental Assessment screening process

Overview

As part of the preparation of the Shetland Local Flood Risk Management Plan (LFRMP) a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening exercise was carried out in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

An SEA Environmental report was previously carried out by SEPA when preparing the Flood Risk Management Strategies (FRMS) for Scotland. The LFRMP adds additional detail to the flood risk management actions proposed in the FRMS but does not add any new proposals and in carrying out the SEA screening exercise, the Shetland Islands Council has concluded that it will not introduce any additional significant effects beyond those previously covered in SEPA's SEA for the FRMS, and so no new SEA Scoping report is required for this plan.

Key facts about the Local Flood Risk Management Plan

Responsible Authority	Shetland Islands Council (SIC)
Title	Shetland Local Flood Risk Management Plan
Purpose	To provide local detail regarding the actions developed in the Flood Risk Management Strategy for the sustainable management of flood risk
What prompted the Local Flood Risk Management Plan	The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, which transposes the EU Directive (2007/60/EC) on the assessment and management of flood risks
Period covered	December 2022 to December 2028
Frequency of updates	Every 6 years
Area covered	Shetland
Objectives of Flood Risk Management Strategies	The objective is to reduce overall flood risk in the most sustainable way

Flood Risk Management approach

The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 requires the production of Flood Risk Management Plans covering each Local Plan District, including Shetland. This is being delivered by a set of complementary plans for each Local Plan District: a Flood Risk Management Strategy which has already been published by SEPA, and a Shetland Local Flood Risk Management Plan produced by Shetland Islands Council and due to be published in December 2022.

The Flood Risk Management Strategies have already had Strategic Environmental Assessment scoping and environmental reports carried out by SEPA.

The Flood Risk Management Strategy for Shetland focuses on Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs) that SEPA has identified as containing significant flood risk. For each PVA, the Flood Risk Management Strategies identifies the main flood hazards and impacts, set out objectives for reducing risk, and select the best combination of measures to meet the objectives, such as the appropriateness of an alleviation scheme or improving flood warning arrangements.

The Shetland LFRMP explains what actions will be taken, by whom and at what time, to deliver the relevant objectives within a six-year planning cycle.

The location specific actions proposed in the LFRMP involve a range of activities, from gathering more information on the existing situation, and on the level of flood risk involved, to carrying out physical protection works. Construction of new physical works would first be developed to an outline design stage, so that costs and land requirements can be assessed and potential schemes compared, but detailed design and construction would lie outside the scope of the SEA for this LFRMP and would be undertaken for individual works if and when they were to be progressed.

Environmental impacts of the LFRMP

It is considered that any effects resulting from work connected to the FRMP will all be positive in nature. Effects are likely to include:

The FRMP will address risk to human health from flooding and will therefore have a positive effect on human health and wellbeing;

The FRMP should have largely positive effects through the management of flood risk and the emphasis on restoring and enhancing the landscapes natural ability to slow and store water. While there could be negative effects on the hydromorphology through any proposed future construction activity resulting from development of the Plan's actions, these would be subject to EIA;

The FRMP will include aims and objectives that address both adaptation to and mitigation of climatic factors and will therefore have a positive effect on climatic factors;

The FRMP may have a positive effect on material assets through the protection of existing material assets from flooding including the built environment, transport network and community facilities;

The FRMP actions may result in future physical works with positive (e.g. decrease in flood risk) and negative (e.g. from construction activity) effects on cultural heritage and the historic environment – all these works are likely to be subject to EIA.

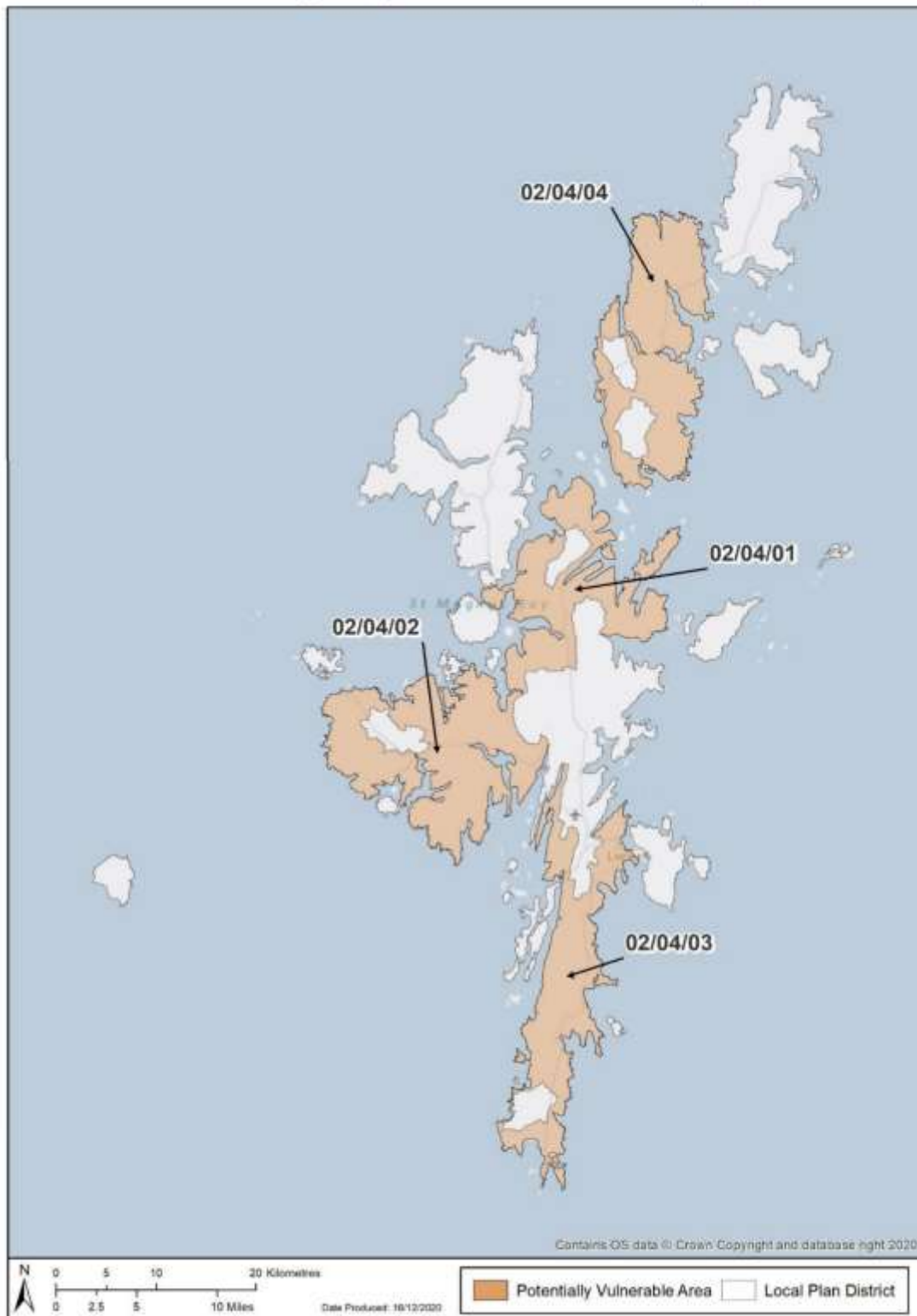
The FRMP is unlikely to have any significant impacts on local landscape character.

Determination

In light of the content of the plan, Shetland Islands Council as the Responsible Authority considers that the FRMP is unlikely to have significant environmental effects and therefore consider that an SEA of the Flood Risk Management Strategies will not be required.

Appendix 1 - Area covered by the Shetland Local Flood Risk Management Plan

The Shetland Local Plan District includes all of the Shetland Islands and contains 4 PVAs, numbered on the plan below.



Reproduced from Shetland Flood Risk Management Strategy, SEPA (December 2021)