## **Appendix C - Policy Assessment**

#### C1.1 Introduction

- C1.1.1 Part 3 of the draft National Planning Framework (NPF4) sets out draft national planning policies ("draft policies") for day to day use: in the preparation of local development plans; local place plans; masterplans and briefs; and for determining the range of planning consents.
- C1.1.2 Part 3 of the draft NPF4 is to be taken as a whole, and all relevant policies are to be applied to each application. In addition, draft policies 1 6 are 'Universal Policies' which are to apply to all planning decisions.
- C1.1.3 The draft policies are set out under 4 themes of: Sustainable Places, (Universal Policies), Liveable Places, Productive Places, and Distinctive Places. This appendix sets out the findings of the assessment of the draft policies. Findings are set out as shown below and follow the same order as they appear in the draft NPF4.

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### C1.2 Alternatives

- C1.2.1 The 2005 Act requires the Environmental Report to identify and assess any 'reasonable alternatives' to the plan or programme, taking into account its objectives and geographical scope. The draft NPF4 makes clear the policies in Part 3 are to be taken as a whole, and all relevant policies should be applied to each application. Nevertheless, and where relevant and applicable, consideration of alternatives to the draft policies is included below. Views are invited on the SEA, including on the consideration of reasonable alternatives, through the consultation process.
- C1.2.2 Table C1.1 sets out the key to the assessment findings.

**Table C1.1 Assessment Findings Key** 

✓	Positive Effect
Χ	Negative Effect
0	Negligible Effect
X√	Mixed Effect
<b>//</b>	Positive Effect (Significant)
XX	Negative Effect (Significant)
?	Uncertain

#### **C1.3** Universal Policies – Sustainable Places

The draft policy notes that to achieve a net zero, nature positive Scotland, the planning system must be rebalanced so that climate change and nature recovery are the primary guiding principles for all plans and decisions. The draft policy also notes that the planning system should apply the Place Principle and take a design-led approach to future development. This should include working with stakeholders and local communities to create



liveable, healthy and sustainable places that improve lives, support sustainable and inclusive growth and contribute to net-zero and environmental ambitions.

To support this, six policies are set out:

- Policy 1: Plan-led approach to sustainable development
- Policy 2: Climate emergency
- Policy 3: Nature crisis
- Policy 4: Human rights and equality
- Policy 5: Community wealth building
- Policy 6: Design, quality and place

BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA					
Avoid adverse impacts to designated habitats and	<b>//</b>	The draft Universal Policies are expected to give rise to long term significant positive			
species		effects for biodiversity, flora and fauna.			
Avoid adverse impacts to	<b>//</b>	Draft <b>Policy 3 - Nature crisis</b> introduces			
undesignated habitats and		new policies on enhancing biodiversity,			
species Protect, maintain and	<b>//</b>	including from new development, and facilitates the creation of nature networks to			
enhance biodiversity		support improved ecological connectivity, the creation of new or restoration of degraded habitats, or through measures to increase populations of priority species.  Focusing on emissions reduction and climate			
		change adaptation, draft <b>Policy 2: Climate emergency</b> should further benefit			
		biodiversity as biodiversity is intrinsically			
		linked to climate and climate change.			
CLIMATIC FACTORS	1				
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas	<b>//</b>	Significant long term positive effects are			
(GHG) emissions Reduce GHG emissions in	//	expected from new draft policy ( <b>Policy 2)</b> requiring planning authorities to give			
order to meet Scotland	<b>//</b>	significant weight to the global <b>climate</b>			
emissions reduction target of		<b>emergency</b> , and through the focus given to			
net zero by 2045.		designing buildings, infrastructure and			
Promote and enable	<b>//</b>	spaces which are adaptable to climate			
adaptation to climate change		change.			
AIR					
Avoid adverse effects on air	<b>//</b>	Draft Policy 2: Climate emergency, should			
quality		lead to significant long term positive effects			

Reduce emissions of key	<b>//</b>	from continuing commitment to emissions
pollutants and improve air	* *	reductions and climate change adaptation,
quality throughout Scotland		for example, through use of blue/green
Reduce levels of nuisance	<b>√</b>	infrastructure, which can help to absorb
e.g. noise, vibration, dust,	`	pollutants.
odour and light		
WATER		
Avoid adverse impacts on	0	Significant long term positive effects are
the ecological status of water		expected from the continuing commitment to
bodies		climate change adaptation. Draft Policy 2:
Ensure the sustainable use	<b>√</b>	Climate emergency notes development
of water resources		proposals for new, or alterations to, buildings,
Reduce the number of	<b>V</b>	infrastructure and spaces, should be
people and properties at risk		designed to be adaptable to the future
of flooding and promote		impacts of climate change.
adaptive flood risk		Indirect positive effects may arise where
management		consideration is given to nature based
Protect, maintain and	0	solutions to climate change adaptation.
improve the ecological status		
and physical state of the		
water environment		
SOIL		
Safeguard and improve soil	✓	Whilst negative impacts may arise where
health, protect soil resource		new development lead to soil sealing, new
and soil functions of all soil		draft policy on enhancing biodiversity and the
types in Scotland		creation of new or restoration of degraded
Safeguard and improve high	✓	habitats ( <b>Policy 3 - Nature crisis</b> ) should
value agricultural land and		lead to indirect benefits from broader
carbon-rich soils		environmental improvements.
Reduce the extent of	✓	
contaminated and vacant		
and derelict land		
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND		
Avoid adverse impacts on	<b>\</b> \	Potential for significant positive effects on
the historic environment and		historic assets and their settings through
its setting	, ,	provisions in draft Policy 6: Design, quality
Protect and enhance valued	<b>\</b> \	and place which seek to achieve high quality
landscapes, historic places		designs that contribute positively to the
and archaeological sites and		character and sense of place, and through
other culturally and		the incorporation of key principles of New
historically important		Design in Historic Settings.
features, landscapes and		
their settings  LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVE	DQITV	,
Avoid adverse effects on		Positive effects on landscape and
	✓	geodiversity may arise as draft <b>Policy 6</b> :
landscapes and geodiversity Safeguard and enhance the	<b>√</b>	Design, quality and place emphasises that
character and diversity of the	<b>'</b>	development proposals should be designed
Scottish landscape and		to a high quality so that the scale and nature
Coomstriandscape and		to a riight quality so that the soule and hattire

areas of valuable landscape and geodiversity		of the development contributes positively to the character and sense of place of the area.
MATERIAL ASSETS		the character and sense of place of the area.
Avoid adversely impacting on material assets	<b>//</b>	This suite of draft policies actively supports long term, positive effects on both natural
Promote the principles of circular economy	✓	and built material assets which has the potential to be significant.
Reduce use and promote sustainable management of natural and built environment resources	✓	
Promote the sustainable design, use and management of new and existing assets/infrastructure to support the development of high-quality places	✓	
POPULATION AND HUMAN I	I HFAL T	<u>I.</u> ГН
Reduce the health gap and inequalities and improve healthy life expectancy	√√	Positive effects through draft Policy 4: Human rights and equality which requires all planning to respect, protect and fulfil
Promote and enhance/improve access to open space, greenspace and the wider countryside	0	human rights, and seeks to eliminate discrimination and promote equality. Positive effects should arise from the focus on community wealth building (draft Policy
To protect and improve human health and wellbeing through improving the quality of the living environment of people and communities	✓	5) supporting a people-centric approach to local economic development. Benefits can be maximised where this is focused on areas experiencing economic inequalities.
Increase sustainable access to essential services, employment and the natural and historic environment	<b>//</b>	

#### **Alternatives**

- C1.3.1 The draft Universal policies include key provisions aligned to wider statutory and policy requirements, including on meeting emissions reductions targets, securing positive effects for biodiversity, and on achieving Scotland's national outcomes (within the meaning of Part 1 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- C1.3.2 They also introduce new targeted requirements which apply to certain scales or types of development this is the case for draft provisions on contributing to community wealth building and on enhancing biodiversity. It follows that were such requirements to apply to a broader or narrower range of planning applications, the potential benefits and / or any adverse effects identified may be either magnified or reduced. However, we do

not consider it possible to meaningfully assess differences arising from the scale of application of the draft policies, taking into account taking the level of uncertainty arising in the application of policy to individual development proposals, and in light of factors such as development viability which may affect policy uptake.

# The Presumption In Favour Of Development That Contributes To Sustainable Development

- C1.3.3 SPP introduced a 'presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development.' Paragraph 29 of the SPP sets out the principles of sustainable development, and paragraphs 32 and 33 explain how the presumption should be applied in development management. Paragraph 32 states that the presumption will be a material consideration for proposals that do not accord with up-to-date development plans. Paragraph 33 states that where relevant policies in a development plan are out-of-date the presumption will be a significant material consideration. Paragraph 33 also gives significant weight to the presumption if there is not enough 'effective' land available for housing development. In July 2020 the Scottish Government published a consultation paper setting out proposed interim changes to SPP, including the removal of the presumption. A subsequent December 2020 update to the SPP was removed following a legal challenge at the Court of Session in August 2021. Overall, views on the July 2020 proposals were divided.
- C1.3.4 Once adopted, the finalised NPF4 would replace SPP, including the 'presumption in favour'. The draft NPF4: Sustainable Places sets out the need to rebalance the planning system so that climate change and nature recovery are the primary guiding principles for plans and decisions. In drafting part 3 of the draft NPF4, the Scottish Government has taken into account new statutory requirements introduced into the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, in particular the new status of the NPF in day to day decision making¹. The policies also take into account, and align with, new and updated policy objectives including on climate and nature recovery.
- C1.3.5 It is recognised that there are a range of approaches that could be taken to updating planning policy in light of these wider changes. There is also the potential for changes to national planning policies to impact on all environmental topics. The nature and scale of the impacts will however depend on a range of factors, including the detail of the policy proposed, and the wider policy and statutory framework within which it would be given effect.
- C1.3.6 The discussion on 'quality homes' and on housing land requirements in the Liveable Places section below is also relevant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> NPF4 will have the status of development plan for planning purposes. This is a change to the current position, and will mean that its policies will have a stronger role in informing day to day decision making.

#### C1.4 **Liveable Places**

## 20 minute neighbourhoods - local living

The draft policy aims to support development that contributes to the creation of walkable, liveable and thriving places that provide communities with local access to the facilities and services needed.

The draft policy notes this can be achieved by building on the Place Principle in the creation of 20 Minute Neighbourhoods - a method of achieving complete, connected and often compact neighbourhoods, designed in such a way that people can meet



the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable walk, wheel or cycle.			
BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA		•	
Avoid adverse impacts to	✓	Positive effects may arise long term	
designated habitats and species		through the creation of parks, green	
Avoid adverse impacts to	✓	streets and spaces and community	
undesignated habitats and species		gardens.	
Protect, maintain and enhance	✓		
biodiversity			
CLIMATIC FACTORS			
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas	<b>/</b> /	Long term significant positive effects	
(GHG) emissions		are expected to arise as a shift to more	
Reduce GHG emissions in order	✓	sustainable modes of travel should lead	
to meet Scotland emissions		to reductions in GHG emissions.	
reduction target of net zero by		Incorporating blue green infrastructure	
2045.		into existing and new neighbourhoods	
Promote and enable adaptation to	✓	can create climate change adaptation	
climate change		opportunities, aligning with wider	
		placemaking aims of draft NPF4.	
AIR			
Avoid adverse effects on air	$\checkmark\checkmark$	Significant long term positive effects	
quality		are expected through potential	
Reduce emissions of key	$\checkmark\checkmark$	increased uptake of low and zero	
pollutants and improve air quality		emissions modes of travel benefitting	
throughout Scotland		air quality, with positive effects also	
Reduce levels of nuisance e.g.	<b>\</b> \	likely to be experienced at a local level.	
noise, vibration, dust, odour and		Uptake of more sustainable modes of	
light		travel, combined with green travel	
		practices, should also lead to reduced	
WATER	<u> </u>	exposure to noise pollution.	
WATER			
Avoid adverse impacts on the ecological status of water bodies	0	Overall, no significant effects on the water environment are expected from	
Ensure the sustainable use of	0	<del>-</del>	
water resources	0	the draft policy. Secondary positive impacts could arise	
Reduce the number of people and	0	long term where modal shift reduces	
properties at risk of flooding and		atmospheric pollution, which can	
promote adaptive flood risk		impact on the water environment.	
management		impact off the water environment.	
папаустнені	1		

Protect, maintain and improve the ecological status and physical state of the water environment	?√	
SOIL		
	V /	Potential offects are expected to be
Safeguard and improve soil	X√	Potential effects are expected to be
health, protect soil resource and soil functions of all soil types in		mixed and will be influenced by factors such as geographic location, soil
Scotland		properties and type of projects
Safeguard and improve high value	0	undertaken. There is potential for
agricultural land and carbon-rich	U	negative effects from new
soils		infrastructure. However these can be
Reduce the extent of	<b>√</b>	reduced through appropriate design
contaminated and vacant and	<b>V</b>	and mitigation measures and where a
derelict land		focus is given to green infrastructure
derende land		and broader environmental
		improvements.
		Positive impacts have the potential to
		arise where priority is given to the re-
		use and re-purposing of existing
		assets, particularly where previously
		developed sites are utilised, including
		vacant and derelict land. Additional
		benefits may also arise where from
		support for the creation of habitats,
		such as parks, and community
		gardens.
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTO	ORIC E	ENVIRONMENT
Avoid adverse impacts on the	0	Effects are uncertain. There is potential
historic environment and its setting		for temporary or localised effects
Protect and enhance valued	0	arising from development of new or
landscapes, historic places and		improved infrastructure, however the
archaeological sites and other		emphasis on placemaking within the
culturally and historically important		overall draft NPF4 and the
features, landscapes and their		requirements of the Historic Assets and
settings		Places draft policy, can reasonably be
		expected to limit potentially negative
		impacts. Additionally, there is an
		opportunity to maintain, restore and
		repurpose historic assets to support
		sustainable placemaking. Cultural
		activity can also drive local economy
		growth and benefit community cohesion <sup>2</sup> .
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVERSITY	<u> </u>	COLIGOROLL .
LANDSCAFE AND GEODIVERSIT	<u> </u>	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Local Government Association (2017) People, culture, place – the role of culture in placemaking [online] Available at: <a href="https://static.a-n.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/People-culture-place-the-role-of-culture-in-placemaking-WEB.pdf">https://static.a-n.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/People-culture-place-the-role-of-culture-in-placemaking-WEB.pdf</a> (accessed 28/10/2021)

	1	
Avoid adverse effects on	0	No significant effects on landscapes
landscapes and geodiversity		expected.
Safeguard and enhance the	?√	Potential for positive effects to arise
character and diversity of the		over the longer term for local
Scottish landscape and areas of		landscapes where development
valuable landscape and		supports improvements. For example,
geodiversity		where green infrastructure and broader
		environmental improvements are
		supported.
MATERIAL ASSETS		
Avoid adversely impacting on	<b>V</b>	Significant positive effects are expected
material assets		due to improved connectivity and
Promote the principles of circular	<b>√</b>	emphasis on localism objectives.
economy		
Reduce use and promote	<b>√</b>	1
sustainable management of		
natural and built environment		
resources		
Promote the sustainable design,	<b>/</b>	
use and management of new and	\ \ \	
existing assets/infrastructure to		
support the development of high-		
quality places		
POPULATION AND HUMAN HEAL	<del>L</del>	
Reduce the health gap and	   √	Potential significant positive effects are
inequalities and improve healthy	\ \ \	expected.
life expectancy		Health and wellbeing benefits arise
Promote and enhance/improve	<b>//</b>	where policies lead to more people
access to open space,	~ ~	walking, wheeling and cycling.
greenspace and the wider		Increased physical activity, improved
countryside		access to outdoors, education, facilities
To protect and improve human	<b>//</b>	and services, quality local green
health and wellbeing through	<b>~ ~</b>	spaces are likely to have long term
		significant positive effects on physical
improving the quality of the living		and mental health. Potential shift to
environment of people and		
communities		more sustainable transport modes
Increase sustainable access to	✓	should lead to improvements in air quality and reduced pollution and
essential services, employment		· · ·
and the natural and historic		exposure to noise.
environment		Positive impacts could also arise from
		improved sense of place including
		societal benefits. The benefits of this
		could be maximised where focus is
		given to areas experiencing current
		levels of disadvantage.

#### Infrastructure First

The draft Infrastructure First policy supports an approach to planning which aims to put infrastructure considerations at the heart of place making. This approach is intended to support the provision of the infrastructure services and facilities that are necessary to create liveable and sustainable places. It can also support the drive towards a more sustainable use of infrastructure, making better use of existing assets and prioritising low-carbon infrastructure.



BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA Avoid adverse impacts to designated habitats and species  Avoid adverse impacts to undesignated habitats and species  Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity  Biolius and service	low-carbon innastructure.					
designated habitats and species  Avoid adverse impacts to undesignated habitats and species  Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity  Protect, maintain and enhance, including bassts. For example, where this leads to reducing the need for new infrastructure in the first instance, with associated benefits through reducing pressure on natural resources. Additional benefits may also arise from potential increased consideration of natural infrastructure <sup>3</sup> and nature based solutions to flood risk management, aligning with wider draft policy.  Where required, new infrastructure or upgrades to existing infrastructure or upgrades to existing infrastructure or upgrades to existing and operation, including loss of habitat and disruption to habitat networks. Potential for negative impacts to be minimised through siting and design and enhancement measures applied in keeping with draft Policy 3 - Nature crisis.  CLIMATIC FACTORS  Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions  Potential for benefits to arise where the draft policy leads to support for greater sustainability in the use of infrastructure, including through making better use of existing assets and prioritising low-carbon infrastructure. This has the potential to lead to significant benefits through reducing associated GHG emissions.	BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA					
species  Avoid adverse impacts to undesignated habitats and species  Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity  Protect, maintain and enhance, with associated benefits through reducing pressure on natural resources. Additional benefits may also arise from potential increased consideration of natural infrastructure <sup>3</sup> and nature based solutions to flood risk management, aligning with wider draft policy.  Where required, new infrastructure or upgrades to existing infrastructure or upgrades to existing infrastructure or upgrades to existing infrastructure may lead to associated adverse impacts from construction and operation, including loss of habitat and disruption to habitat networks. Potential for negative impacts to be minimised through siting and design and enhancement measures applied in keeping with draft Policy 3 - Nature crisis.  CLIMATIC FACTORS  Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions  Reduce GHG emissions in order to meet Scotland emissions reduction target of net zero by 2045.  Promote and enable adaptation to climate change	·	?X√	·			
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Scottish Government (2021) A National Mission with Local Impact: Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland 2021-22 to 2025-2026 [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-mission-local-impact-infrastructure-investment-plan-scotland-2021-22-2025-26/documents/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-mission-local-impact-infrastructure-investment-plan-scotland-2021-22-2025-26/documents/</a> (accessed 29/10/2021)

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		infrastructure facilitates adaptation to climate change. Where the draft policy leads to infrastructure which facilitates a shift to more sustainable modes of transport, additional benefits may arise from associated reductions in emissions. Operational activities could also lead to associated emissions depending on activities, for example, more intensive use could give rise to increased associated GHG emissions from increased energy requirements.  Additional benefits may also arise where the draft policy leads to greater consideration of the need to adapt to the impacts of climate change to support the creation of liveable and sustainable places, with opportunities to align with wider draft policy on placemaking and natural solutions to flood risk management and blue and green infrastructure.
AIR		illiastructure.
Avoid adverse effects on air	?X√	Secondary overall positive impacts could
quality	, VA	arise. For example, where the greater
Reduce emissions of key pollutants and improve air quality throughout Scotland	?X√	consideration of the role of infrastructure in creating liveable and sustainable places, leads to co-location and sharing of
Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise, vibration, dust, odour and light	?X√	resources, and in turn, reduced travel. Conversely, localised negative air quality impacts could arise where the draft policy leads to potential intensification in use of sites. This should be minimised through a focus on improved placemaking, including where opportunities are taken to align with wider draft policy on sustainable travel and transport.
WATER		
Avoid adverse impacts on the ecological status of water bodies	?√	Secondary benefits may arise over the longer term. For example, where the draft policy leads supports greater
Ensure the sustainable use of water resources	?√	sustainability in the use of infrastructure, including making best use of existing
Reduce the number of people and properties at risk of flooding and promote adaptive flood risk management	?√	infrastructure, leading to reduced pressure on natural resources. Secondary positive impacts may arise where the draft policy leads to increased consideration of nature based solutions to
Protect, maintain and improve the ecological status	?√	

and physical state of the water environment		flood management <sup>4</sup> . Additionally, there the draft policy leads to the development or upgrading of waste water treatment infrastructure, positive impacts may arise. Where undertaken, infrastructure developments have potential to create localised negative impacts on the water environment.
SOIL		
Safeguard and improve soil health, protect soil resource and soil functions of all soil types in Scotland	?√	Secondary positive impacts may arise over the longer term where the draft policy leads to reduced pressure on natural resources. For example, where
Safeguard and improve high value agricultural land and carbon-rich soils	0	this supports making the best use of existing infrastructure, alongside opportunities for greater consideration of
Reduce the extent of contaminated and vacant and derelict land	?	the use of natural infrastructure. Localised effects may occur associated with new infrastructure proposals. Effects would vary depending on geographic conditions, soil physical properties and type of projects proposed for development. Appropriate design and mitigation measures would reduce impacts.
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND	HISTORI	C ENVIRONMENT
Avoid adverse impacts on the historic environment and its setting	?√	Where the draft policy leads to reduced requirements for new infrastructure, there is the potential that long term positive
Protect and enhance valued landscapes, historic places and archaeological sites and other culturally and historically important features, landscapes and their settings	?√	impacts could arise. There is an opportunity to maintain, restore and repurpose these assets to support sustainable placemaking. Additionally, in some instances, some infrastructure is also an important historical asset in its own right.  Localised negative impacts could arise from infrastructure requirements, including on setting.
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVE		
Avoid adverse effects on landscapes and geodiversity Safeguard and enhance the	?√	Where the draft policy leads to reduced need for infrastructure, benefits could arise.
character and diversity of the Scottish landscape and	. •	There are also opportunities to improve local landscapes, particularly where focus

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Green4Grey (2020) Integrated planning for multifunctional land use [online] Available at: <a href="https://green4grey.be/en/project-objective#integrale%20planning%20voor%20een%20veelzijdig%20landgebruik">https://green4grey.be/en/project-objective#integrale%20planning%20voor%20een%20veelzijdig%20landgebruik</a> (accessed 25/08/2021)

areas of valuable landscape and geodiversity		is given to restoration and enhancement to support the creation of liveable and sustainable places. Additionally, well-designed and managed green infrastructure assets, particularly those that engage local communities and which relate to landscape character and heritage, can enhance local sense of place and foster community spirit <sup>5</sup> .
		Localised effects may occur associated with new infrastructure proposals.
MATERIAL ASSETS	1	man non mindottactare proposate.
Avoid adversely impacting on material assets	<b>√</b>	Support for making the best use of and maximising existing assets before building
Promote the principles of circular economy	<b>//</b>	new, should lead to long term significant positive impacts, including where this
Reduce use and promote sustainable management of natural and built environment resources	<b>√</b> √	leads to reduced pressure on natural resources and generation of waste, aligning with circular economy principles. Long term positive should also arise from
Promote the sustainable design, use and management of new and existing assets/infrastructure to support the development of high-quality places	<b>√</b> √	the draft policy emphasis on basing Local Development Plans and delivery programmes on an infrastructure-first approach and ensuring infrastructure considerations are integral to planning decision making, including where this leads to improved placemaking.
POPULATION AND HUMAN I	HEALTH	
Reduce the health gap and inequalities and improve healthy life expectancy	<b>√</b>	Potential for positive impacts where infrastructure considerations are embedded at the heart of place making
Promote and enhance/improve access to open space, greenspace and the wider countryside	✓	and support improved access to goods and services, particularly to vital services such as employment. Wider societal benefits may arise where a focus is given
To protect and improve human health and wellbeing through improving the quality of the living environment of people and communities	<b>√</b>	to reducing barriers for individuals or communities with specific needs, and where inequalities currently exist.  There may be opportunities to improve health and wellbeing through facilitating
Increase sustainable access to essential services, employment and the natural and historic environment	<b>√</b>	access to certain types of infrastructure and where consideration is given to active travel in infrastructure design, including through the use of natural infrastructure.  For example, natural infrastructure can

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Landscape Institute (2009) Green Infrastructure: connected and multifunctional landscapes [online] Available at: <a href="https://landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2016/03/GreenInfrastructurepositionstatement13May09.pdf">https://landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2016/03/GreenInfrastructurepositionstatement13May09.pdf</a> (accessed 29/09/2021)

contribute to the quality of place and to wellbeing by supporting sustainable everyday living and strengthening community resilience<sup>6</sup>. Further, where opportunities are sought to ensure that current infrastructure is repurposed and reused in a way that meets wider or changing user needs or is multifunctional, benefits should arise. Potential benefits could be maximised where focus is given to areas experiencing current levels of disadvantage or where barriers to accessibility exist. Where implemented, natural infrastructure contributes to quality of place and wellbeing by supporting sustainable everyday living and strengthening community resilience<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Scottish Government (2021) A National Missions with Local Impact Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland 2021-22 to 2025-2026 [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-mission-local-impact-infrastructure-investment-plan-scotland-2021-22-2025-26/documents/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-mission-local-impact-infrastructure-investment-plan-scotland-2021-22-2025-26/documents/</a> (accessed 29/10/2021)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Scottish Government (2021) A National Missions with Local Impact Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland 2021-22 to 2025-2026 [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-mission-local-impact-infrastructure-investment-plan-scotland-2021-22-2025-26/documents/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-mission-local-impact-infrastructure-investment-plan-scotland-2021-22-2025-26/documents/</a> (accessed 29/10/2021)

#### **Quality Homes**

The draft policy notes that good quality homes should be at the heart of great places and contribute to strengthening the health and wellbeing of Scotland's communities. The draft policy also notes that energy efficient, net zero emissions homes are required to help tackle climate change. The draft policy highlights the role delivery of homes has in supporting inclusive growth and potential to help build community wealth.



The draft NPF4 also proposes Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement (MATHLR) for each planning authority in Scotland.

Avoid adverse impacts to designated habitats and species  Avoid adverse impacts to undesignated habitats and species  Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity  Potential negative effects may arise, including loss of habitat and disruption to habitat networks housing developments. Effects on non-protected sites and species are more likely, as designated areas will be protected through recognition of their value and vulnerability. Potential for negative impacts to minimised through siting and design and enhancement measures applied in keeping with draft Universal policy 3.  CLIMATIC FACTORS  Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions Reduce GHG emissions in order to meet Scotland emissions reduction target of net zero by 2045.  Promote and enable adaptation to climate change  Avoid adverse effects on air quality throughout Scotland  Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise, vibration, dust, odour and light  Potential negative effects may arise, including loss of habitat and disruption to habitat networks housing developments. Effects on non-protected sites and species are more likely, as designated areas will be protected through recognition of their value and vulnerability. Potential for negative impacts to minimised through sites and species are more likely, as designated areas will be protected through recognition of their value and vulnerability. Potential for negative impacts to minimised through itself areas will be protected through recognition of their value and vulnerability. Potential for negative impacts to minimised through recognition of their value and vulnerability. Potential for negative impacts to minimised through recognition of their value and vulnerability. Potential for negative impacts to minimised through recognition of their value and vulnerability. Potential for negative impacts to minimised through recognition of their value and vulnerability. Potential for negative impacts to minimised through recognition of their value and vulnerability. Potential for negative impacts to minimised through	DIODITY ELOPA O FALINA				
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Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions  Reduce GHG emissions in order to meet Scotland emissions reduction target of net zero by 2045.  Promote and enable adaptation to climate change  Promote and enable adaptation to climate change  AVOID adverse effects on air quality Pollutants and improve air quality throughout Scotland  Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise, vibration of new homes has the potential to lead to negative direct effects, for GHG emissions, however, the draft policy supports the incorporation of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy and waste technologies, thereby contributing to long term reductions in GHG emissions. Additionally, there is an opportunity to align with wider draft policies that support the use of construction materials with the lowest forms of embodied emissions.  Positive effects should arise where land for new homes is allocated in line with the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods, potentially reducing travel requirements and associated emissions.			applied in keeping with draft Universal		
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions  Reduce GHG emissions in order to meet Scotland emissions reduction target of net zero by 2045.  Promote and enable adaptation to climate change  Promote and enable adaptation to climate change  Avoid adverse effects on air quality throughout Scotland  Reduce elevels of nuisance e.g. noise, vibration, dust, odour and light  Avoid new Greenhouse Gas  Overall positive effects are expected long term.  Construction of new homes has the potential to lead to negative direct effects, for GHG emissions, however, the draft policy supports the incorporation of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy and waste technologies, thereby contributing to long term reductions in GHG emissions.  Additionally, there is an opportunity to align with wider draft policies that support the use of construction materials with the lowest forms of embodied emissions.  Positive effects should arise where land for new homes is allocated in line with the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods, potentially reducing travel requirements and associated emissions.			,		
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to meet Scotland emissions reduction target of net zero by 2045.  Promote and enable adaptation to climate change  Promote and enable adaptation to climate plicy supports the ure draft policy supports the incorporation of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy and waste technologies, thereby contributing to long term reductions in GHG emissions.  Additionally, there is an opportunity to align with wider draft policies that support the use of construction materials with the lowest forms of embodied emissions.  Promote and enable adaptation to climate place in corporation of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy and waste technologies, thereby contributing to long term reductions in GHG emissions.  Additionally, there is an opportunity to align with wider draft policies that support the use of construction materials with the lowest forms of embodied emissions.  Prositive effects should arise where land for new homes is allocated in line with the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods, potentially reducing travel requirements and associated emissions.	(GHG) emissions		long term.		
reduction target of net zero by 2045.  Promote and enable adaptation to climate change  Promote and enable adaptation to the draft policy supports the incorporation of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy and waste technologies, thereby contributing to long term reductions in GHG emissions. Additionally, there is an opportunity to align with wider draft policies that support the use of construction materials with the lowest forms of embodied emissions.  Positive effects should arise where land for new homes is allocated in line with the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods, potentially reducing travel requirements and associated emissions.  Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise, vibration, dust, odour and light	Reduce GHG emissions in order	<b>√</b>	Construction of new homes has the		
2045.  Promote and enable adaptation to climate change    Value   Climate change   The promote and enable adaptation to climate change   Value   Val	to meet Scotland emissions		potential to lead to negative direct		
2045.  Promote and enable adaptation to climate change  the draft policy supports the incorporation of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy and waste technologies, thereby contributing to long term reductions in GHG emissions. Additionally, there is an opportunity to align with wider draft policies that support the use of construction materials with the lowest forms of embodied emissions.  AIR  Avoid adverse effects on air quality Reduce emissions of key pollutants and improve air quality throughout Scotland  Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise, vibration, dust, odour and light  the draft policy supports the incorporation of energy efficiency measures, renewable energy and waste technologies, thereby contributing to long term reductions in GHG emissions.  Additionally, there is an opportunity to align with wider draft policies that support the use of construction materials with the lowest forms of embodied emissions.  Positive effects should arise where land for new homes is allocated in line with the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods, potentially reducing travel requirements and associated emissions.	reduction target of net zero by		effects, for GHG emissions, however,		
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technologies, thereby contributing to long term reductions in GHG emissions. Additionally, there is an opportunity to align with wider draft policies that support the use of construction materials with the lowest forms of embodied emissions  AIR  Avoid adverse effects on air quality Reduce emissions of key pollutants and improve air quality throughout Scotland  Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise, vibration, dust, odour and light  Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. vibration, dust, odour and light	Promote and enable adaptation to	<b>√</b>	incorporation of energy efficiency		
Iong term reductions in GHG emissions. Additionally, there is an opportunity to align with wider draft policies that support the use of construction materials with the lowest forms of embodied emissions.  AIR  Avoid adverse effects on air quality Reduce emissions of key pollutants and improve air quality throughout Scotland  Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise, vibration, dust, odour and light  Iong term reductions in GHG emissions.  Additionally, there is an opportunity to align with wider draft policies that support the use of construction materials with the lowest forms of embodied emissions.  Positive effects should arise where land for new homes is allocated in line with the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods, potentially reducing travel requirements and associated emissions.	•		measures, renewable energy and waste		
Additionally, there is an opportunity to align with wider draft policies that support the use of construction materials with the lowest forms of embodied emissions  AIR  Avoid adverse effects on air quality Reduce emissions of key pollutants and improve air quality throughout Scotland  Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise, vibration, dust, odour and light  Additionally, there is an opportunity to align with wider draft policies that support the use of construction materials with the lowest forms of embodied emissions.  Positive effects should arise where land for new homes is allocated in line with the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods, potentially reducing travel requirements and associated emissions.			technologies, thereby contributing to		
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quality  Reduce emissions of key pollutants and improve air quality throughout Scotland  Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise, vibration, dust, odour and light  for new homes is allocated in line with the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods, potentially reducing travel requirements and associated emissions.  ✓ missions.					
quality  Reduce emissions of key pollutants and improve air quality throughout Scotland  Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise, vibration, dust, odour and light  for new homes is allocated in line with the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods, potentially reducing travel requirements and associated emissions.  ✓ missions.	Avoid adverse effects on air	<b>√</b>	Positive effects should arise where land		
pollutants and improve air quality throughout Scotland  Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise, vibration, dust, odour and light  neighbourhoods, potentially reducing travel requirements and associated emissions.	quality		for new homes is allocated in line with		
pollutants and improve air quality throughout Scotland  Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise, vibration, dust, odour and light  neighbourhoods, potentially reducing travel requirements and associated emissions.	Reduce emissions of key	<b>√</b>	the principles of 20 minute		
throughout Scotland travel requirements and associated emissions.  travel requirements and associated emissions.	pollutants and improve air quality		neighbourhoods, potentially reducing		
noise, vibration, dust, odour and light			travel requirements and associated		
noise, vibration, dust, odour and light	Reduce levels of nuisance e.g.	<b>√</b>	emissions.		
light					
٧٧/\  =   \	WATER	•	,		

Avoid adverse impacts on the ecological status of water bodies	0	Effects on the water environment are uncertain. Effects will be site specific,		
Ensure the sustainable use of	0	and managed at plan and project		
water resources		consenting stages.		
Reduce the number of people and	0			
properties at risk of flooding and				
promote adaptive flood risk				
management				
Protect, maintain and improve the	0			
ecological status and physical	U			
state of the water environment				
SOIL	\ \ \ \ \	There is not out in for negative offects as		
Safeguard and improve soil	X√	There is potential for negative effects as		
health, protect soil resource and		use of additional land could result in soil		
soil functions of all soil types in		sealing.		
Scotland		Wider draft policies aim to encourage		
Safeguard and improve high value	?	the re-use of existing buildings and use		
agricultural land and carbon-rich		of vacant and derelict land, potentially		
soils		reducing pressure on soil resources.		
Reduce the extent of	$\checkmark$			
contaminated and vacant and				
derelict land				
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HIST	<u>ORIC</u>	ENVIRONMENT		
Avoid adverse impacts on the	?	The emphasis on placemaking within the		
historic environment and its		overall draft NPF4, including the		
setting		requirements of the Historic Assets and		
Protect and enhance valued	?√	Places draft policy, should limit potential		
landscapes, historic places and		for any direct negative impacts to arise.		
archaeological sites and other		Potential for positive impacts where		
culturally and historically important		opportunities are sought to bring historic		
features, landscapes and their		buildings at risk back into use, including		
settings		where consideration is given to their role		
		in placemaking and town centre		
		regeneration.		
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVERSIT	Y			
Avoid adverse effects on	?	Effects on landscapes are uncertain and		
landscapes and geodiversity		will be influenced by factors including		
Safeguard and enhance the	?	the location and scale of development.		
character and diversity of the		The emphasis on placemaking within the		
Scottish landscape and areas of		overall draft NPF4, including draft policy		
valuable landscape and		relating to Natural Places, should help to		
geodiversity		limit any potentially negative impacts		
3		and could lead to opportunities for		
		improvements to localised landscapes.		
MATERIAL ASSETS				
Avoid adversely impacting on	X√	Positive, long term impacts are expected		
material assets	^``	where this leads to the provision of good		
Promote the principles of circular	<b>√</b>	quality and energy efficient housing		
economy	*	stock. Construction of new		
	1			

Reduce use and promote sustainable management of natural and built environment resources  Promote the sustainable design, use and management of new and existing assets/infrastructure to support the development of high-quality places	√ ✓	developments could result in resource consumption, with potential to negatively impact natural material assets.  Positive effects should arise where reuse of existing buildings and improved resource efficiency is supported and would contribute to promoting the principles of circular economy
POPULATION AND HUMAN HEAL	<u>TH </u>	
Reduce the health gap and	$\checkmark\checkmark$	Provision of sufficient, good quality
inequalities and improve healthy		housing, linked to need and demand
life expectancy		within an area, has potential to result in
Promote and enhance/improve	✓	significant positive effects. Additionally,
access to open space,		the emphasis on energy efficient homes
greenspace and the wider		has potential to contribute to reducing
countryside		fuel poverty, with associated benefits.
To protect and improve human	$\checkmark\checkmark$	The draft policy promotes an equalities
health and wellbeing through		led approach and aims to ensure that
improving the quality of the living		specific needs are met, with homes
environment of people and		adaptable to change and diverse needs
communities		and lifestyles.
Increase sustainable access to	<b>√</b>	Significant benefits should also arise
essential services, employment		where land allocation is consistent with
and the natural and historic		the principles of 20 minute
environment		neighbourhoods.

#### **Sustainable Travel and Transport**

The draft policy notes Scotland's transport system should contribute to the creation of great places through prioritising the need to reduce inequalities; taking climate action; helping to deliver inclusive economic growth; and improving health and wellbeing. It also notes that the planning system should support development that minimises the need to travel unsustainably and prioritises walking, wheeling, cycling, public transport and shared transport options in preference to single occupancy private car use for the movement of people.



movement of people.			
BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA			
Avoid adverse impacts to designated habitats and species	?√	Potential for long term negative effects, including loss of habitat and disruption to habitat networks, associated with the	
Avoid adverse impacts to undesignated habitats and species	?X√	construction of new transport infrastructure. Impacts on non-protected sites and species are more likely, as designated areas will be	
Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity	?X√	protected through recognition of their value and vulnerability. Impacts will be managed at plan and project stages.  Positive effects should arise where blue and green infrastructure and nature rich habitats are incorporated into design of new infrastructure, as encouraged in the draft NPF4. In keeping with national policy, biodiversity enhancement measures should be incorporated into proposals.	
CLIMATIC FACTORS			
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions	<b>//</b>	Potential for long term significant positive effects.	
Reduce GHG emissions in order to meet Scotland emissions reduction target of net zero by 2045.  Promote and enable adaptation to climate change	√ ✓	Domestic transport was the largest source of net GHG emissions in Scotland in 2019 <sup>8</sup> . Reducing the need to travel unsustainably, managing transport demand and promoting active travel choices, has been recognised as vital to reducing emissions associated with transport <sup>9</sup> . Opportunity to increase the resilience of the transport network to the predicted effects of climate change. Benefits could also arise from potential increased use of blue and	

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Scottish Government (2021) Scottish Greenhouse Gas statistics: 1990-2019 [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-greenhouse-gas-statistics-1990-2019/documents/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-greenhouse-gas-statistics-1990-2019/documents/</a> (accessed 15/10/2021)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Scottish Government (2020) Update to the Climate Change Plan 2018-2032 [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/securing-green-recovery-path-net-zero-update-climate-change-plan-20182032/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/securing-green-recovery-path-net-zero-update-climate-change-plan-20182032/</a> (accessed 15/10/2021)

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		green infrastructure which can play a key role in climate change adaptation.
AIR	1	The state of the s
Avoid adverse effects on air quality  Reduce emissions of key	<b>√√</b>	Road transport in urban areas is a significant contributor to poor air quality <sup>10</sup> which can also impact on human health.
pollutants and improve air quality throughout Scotland		Through seeking to improve consideration of the role that transport can play in
Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise, vibration, dust, odour and light	✓	reducing inequalities; taking climate action; and improving health and wellbeing there is potential for long term significant positive effects to arise. This could be of particular relevance in areas where air quality issues currently exist such as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and to those most vulnerable to the impacts of atmospheric pollution.  Additional secondary benefits should also arise where a modal shift leads to improved air quality and reduced exposure to noise, particularly in urban locations. Reducing the noise impacts of transport directly benefits health, improves the ambience of street environments, and encourages active travel and human interaction <sup>11</sup> .
WATER		
Avoid adverse impacts on the ecological status of water bodies	0	Localised negative impacts may arise from construction and operation of upgraded or new infrastructure and should be managed
Ensure the sustainable use of water resources	0	at plan and project consenting stages.
Reduce the number of people and properties at risk of flooding and promote adaptive flood risk management	0	Secondary benefits could arise where natural infrastructure is enhanced or created to support increased uptake of active travel.
Protect, maintain and improve the ecological status and physical state of the water environment	?√	
SOIL	1	
Safeguard and improve soil health, protect soil resource	X√	Potential for long term negative impacts where infrastructure requirements could

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Scottish Government (2021) Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/cleaner-air-scotland-2-towards-better-place-everyone/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/cleaner-air-scotland-2-towards-better-place-everyone/</a> (Accessed 15/10/2021)

<sup>11</sup> Public Health England (2018) Healthy High Streets [online] Available at <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/69">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/69</a>
9295/26.01.18 Healthy High Streets Full Report Final version 3.pdf (Accessed 21/11/2021)

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and soil functions of all soil		result in compaction leading to loss of soil
types in Scotland		function.
Safeguard and improve high	0	Secondary benefits could arise where
value agricultural land and		natural infrastructure is enhanced or
carbon-rich soils		created to support increased uptake of
Reduce the extent of	<b>√</b>	active travel.
contaminated and vacant and	•	
derelict land		
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND H	ISTOF	RIC ENVIRONMENT
Avoid adverse impacts on the	0	The emphasis on placemaking within the
historic environment and its		overall draft NPF4 and the requirements of
setting		the Historic Assets and Places draft policy,
Protect and enhance valued	0	
	U	should limit any potentially negative
landscapes, historic places		impacts. Impacts will be subject to further
and archaeological sites and		consideration at plan and project
other culturally and historically		consenting stages
important features,		
landscapes and their settings		
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVER	RSITY	
Avoid adverse effects on	?X√	Long term effects on landscapes will
landscapes and geodiversity		depend on the location of development,
Safeguard and enhance the	?X√	however the emphasis on placemaking
character and diversity of the		within the overall draft NPF4 can limit
Scottish landscape and areas		negative impacts. Possible localised
of valuable landscape and		impacts will be subject to further
geodiversity		consideration at plan and protect
		consenting stages.
MATERIAL ASSETS		
Avoid adversely impacting on	<b>//</b>	Long term positive benefits are expected
material assets		from the support given to making best use
Promote the principles of	0	of existing infrastructure, including where
circular economy		this leads to reduced pressure on natural
Reduce use and promote	<b>/</b>	resources. Positive impacts should also
sustainable management of	•	arise where consideration of transport
natural and built environment		infrastructure capacity in the decision
resources		making process leads to an integrated
Promote the sustainable	//	transport system that supports multi-mode
	$\checkmark\checkmark$	travel and improved placemaking.
design, use and management		Taver and improved placemaking.
of new and existing		
assets/infrastructure to		
support the development of		
high-quality places	<u> </u>	
POPULATION AND HUMAN H		
Reduce the health gap and	$\checkmark\checkmark$	Potential for long term significant positive
inequalities and improve		effects to arise where draft policy leads to a
healthy life expectancy		reduction in traffic volumes. Road transport
Promote and	$\checkmark$	in urban areas is a significant contributor to
enhance/improve access to		poor air quality, which can be particularly

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open space, greenspace and		relevant for the more vulnerable members
the wider countryside		of society including the very young and the
To protect and improve human health and wellbeing through improving the quality of the living environment of	✓	elderly or those with existing health conditions, which makes air quality an important health inequalities issue 12. Further benefits may arise where the draft
people and communities		policy supports improvement of national
Increase sustainable access to essential services, employment and the natural and historic environment	✓ 	and local routes that encourage increased uptake of active travel leading to increased physical activity.  Ensuring the diverse needs of all population groups are recognised, and through increased accessibility to goods and services, especially vital services such as health care, should lead to positive impacts. This could be particularly relevant where a focus is given to reducing barriers for individuals or communities with specific needs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Scottish Government (2021) Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/cleaner-air-scotland-2-towards-better-place-everyone/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/cleaner-air-scotland-2-towards-better-place-everyone/</a> (Accessed 15/10/2021)

#### **Heat and Cooling**

The draft policy recognises the role of our places in helping to achieve zero emissions from heating and cooling our buildings and adapting to changing climates. It also sets out the role of heat networks in contributing to Scotland's net zero ambitions by using and storing heat from low or zero emissions sources, such as surplus or waste heat, heat from large scale heat pumps, particularly in conjunction with geothermal systems or bodies of water or clean hydrogen to provide zero emissions heat to



homes. Examples of potential sources of waste heat include energy from waste, data centres, hydrogen production, the waste water system and industrial processes.

BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA				
Avoid adverse impacts to designated habitats and species	0	Potential impacts on biodiversity are uncertain and would be managed at plan or project level. Possible negative effects,		
Avoid adverse impacts to undesignated habitats and species	0	include disruption of habitats, habitat networks or species Effects on non-protected sites and species		
Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity	?X	are more likely, as designated areas will be protected through recognition of their value and vulnerability.		
CLIMATIC FACTORS				
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions	<b>//</b>	Significant long term positive effects should arise from support provided for a transition		
Reduce GHG emissions in order to meet Scotland emissions reduction target of net zero by 2045.	✓	away from more polluting forms of energy for the heating and cooling of buildings, leading to reductions in associated GHG emissions.		
Promote and enable adaptation to climate change	✓	Increased diversity of technologies within the energy network can also support reduced risk of disruption and increased resilience, including to the impacts of climate change.		
AIR				
Avoid adverse effects on air quality	<b>√</b>	Positive long term effects are expected where heat energy is generated from low or		
Reduce emissions of key pollutants and improve air quality throughout Scotland	✓	zero emissions sources, including through reducing associated atmospheric emissions from more polluting sources of energy.		
Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise, vibration, dust, odour and light  WATER	0	The draft policy notes domestic biomass energy systems should not be supported where networked systems are available. Additionally, where no alternatives are available, is it required that that the impact on local air quality and of smoke on neighbouring properties be considered.		
WAIER				

	ı	
Avoid adverse impacts on the	?X	Overall, no significant effects on water are
ecological status of water		expected, however consideration may need
bodies		to be given to longer term impacts on water
Ensure the sustainable use of	0	quality from individual technologies for
water resources		example, where water is used as a source
Reduce the number of people	0	of heat such as geothermal energy from
and properties at risk of		minewater.
flooding and promote adaptive		
flood risk management		
Protect, maintain and improve	0	
the ecological status and		
physical state of the water		
environment		
SOIL		
Safeguard and improve soil	0	Installation of heat network infrastructure
health, protect soil resource		may have negative effects on soils. This
and soil functions of all soil		should be managed at plan or project level.
types in Scotland		Should be managed at plan of project level.
Safeguard and improve high	0	
value agricultural land and		
carbon-rich soils		
Reduce the extent of	0	
contaminated and vacant and	U	
derelict land		
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND H	ISTO	I DIC ENIVIDONIMENT
	?	New infrastructure has potential to
Avoid adverse impacts on the historic environment and its	f	negatively impacts historic assets and their
setting		setting, however the emphasis on
Protect and enhance valued	?	placemaking within the overall draft NPF4
	f	and the requirements of the Historic Assets
landscapes, historic places		•
and archaeological sites and		and Places draft policy, should limit where
other culturally and historically		potentially negative impacts could arise.
important features, landscapes		
and their settings	CITV	
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVER	311 Y ?	There is not onticl for leading describes
Avoid adverse effects on	١ (	There is potential for localised negative
landscapes and geodiversity	2	impacts associated with new infrastructure.
Safeguard and enhance the	?	These will be site specific and would be
character and diversity of the		managed through the plan and project
Scottish landscape and areas		consenting stages.
of valuable landscape and		
geodiversity		
MATERIAL ASSETS		D 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10
Avoid adversely impacting on	$\checkmark$	Positive effects on built material assets
material assets		may arise. Utilising surplus or waste heat
Promote the principles of	$\checkmark$	from low or zero emissions sources is
circular economy		aligned with circular economy principles.
Reduce use and promote	$\checkmark$	
sustainable management of		

natural and built environment		
resources		
Promote the sustainable	$\checkmark$	
design, use and management		
of new and existing		
assets/infrastructure to		
support the development of		
high-quality places		
POPULATION AND HUMAN HE	EALTH	ł
Reduce the health gap and	<b>√</b>	Positive effects on population and health
inequalities and improve		are expected to arise.
healthy life expectancy		Heat networks have the potential to provide
Promote and enhance/improve	0	sustainable and affordable forms of heat,
access to open space,		which can help address health inequalities.
greenspace and the wider		For example, this has the potential to be of
countryside		greater relevance to those experiencing
To protect and improve human	✓	fuel poverty.
health and wellbeing through		Support provided for localised and
improving the quality of the		community energy schemes also has the
living environment of people		potential for long term benefits from
and communities		increased resilience within the energy
Increase sustainable access to	0	network. Adaptation measures such as
essential services,		cooling are also likely to become of key
employment and the natural		importance, for example, due to increased
and historic environment		occurrences and risk of extreme heat
		events.

#### Blue and green infrastructure, play and sport

The draft policy notes networks of blue and green infrastructure (such as green spaces, sustainable urban drainage systems, urban trees and green roofs and walls) are an integral part of successful places and can offer a wide range of benefits. Their role in supporting lifelong health and wellbeing, climate resilience, flood risk management, temperature regulation in urban areas, reduction of air and noise pollution, biodiversity and



nature networks, while also supporting good, green jobs is also noted. The draft policy on play recognises the importance of providing play opportunities in the natural and built environments to support children's physical, social and cognitive development, and uphold their right to play and relaxation.

development, and uphold their right to play and relaxation.			
BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAU	JNA		
Avoid adverse impacts to	✓	Significant positive effects should arise	
designated habitats and		from the draft policy, particularly where this	
species		leads to enhancement of multifunctional	
Avoid adverse impacts to	✓	green networks which support net zero,	
undesignated habitats and		nature-positive, and climate-resilient	
species		places.	
Protect, maintain and	$\checkmark\checkmark$		
enhance biodiversity			
CLIMATIC FACTORS			
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas	$\checkmark\checkmark$	Significant positive effects are expected	
(GHG) emissions		where blue-green infrastructure which	
Reduce GHG emissions in	✓	supports improved sequestration of carbon	
order to meet Scotland		and increased resilience to flood risk.	
emissions reduction target of			
net zero by 2045.			
Promote and enable	✓		
adaptation to climate change			
AIR			
Avoid adverse effects on air	$\checkmark$	Overall positive effects should arise where	
quality		green infrastructure is utilised, including	
Reduce emissions of key	✓	where this leads to increased uptake of	
pollutants and improve air		active travel options. Opportunities for	
quality throughout Scotland		benefits to be optimised where focus is	
Reduce levels of nuisance	0	given to areas where air pollution is an	
e.g. noise, vibration, dust,		existing problem, such as AQMAs.	
odour and light			
WATER			
Avoid adverse impacts on the	$\checkmark\checkmark$	Significant positive effects should arise	
ecological status of water		where the draft policies leads to blue-green	
bodies		infrastructure including sustainable urban	
Ensure the sustainable use of	0	drainage systems (SUDS) and Natural	
water resources		Flood Management which can reduce the	
Reduce the number of people	$\checkmark\checkmark$	risk of surface water flooding from	
and properties at risk of			
flooding and promote adaptive			
flood risk management			

Protect, maintain and improve	$\checkmark\checkmark$	development <sup>13</sup> . SUDs can also contribute				
the ecological status and		to water quality objectives by reducing the impacts of diffuse pollution <sup>14</sup> .				
physical state of the water environment		impacts of diffuse politition.				
SOIL	<u> </u>					
Safeguard and improve soil	?√	Development of new infrastructure may				
health, protect soil resource		lead to soil sealing, however the overall				
and soil functions of all soil		positive effects on soils may arise through				
types in Scotland		improved soil condition associated with				
Safeguard and improve high	0	blue-green infrastructure. Benefits may be				
value agricultural land and		maximised where areas of unused or				
carbon-rich soils		underused land are utilised.				
Reduce the extent of	<b>√</b>					
contaminated and vacant and	*					
derelict land						
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT						
Avoid adverse impacts on the	?√	Mixed effects from this draft policy may				
historic environment and its		arise. Development of blue-green				
setting		infrastructure may negatively impact on				
Protect and enhance valued	?√	known and unknown cultural heritage and				
landscapes, historic places		historic environment features through				
and archaeological sites and		ground disturbance. However, the use of				
other culturally and historically		blue-green infrastructure may also benefit				
important features,		the setting of historic assets and places.				
landscapes and their settings						
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVER	1	1				
Avoid adverse effects on	?√	The overall effects are uncertain and could				
landscapes and geodiversity		be site specific. However, blue-green				
Safeguard and enhance the	?√	infrastructure can be used to improve				
character and diversity of the		landscapes, particularly in urban areas				
Scottish landscape and areas		where vacant and derelict land exists.				
of valuable landscape and						
geodiversity						
MATERIAL ASSETS	, ,	The emphasic within the dreft nation on				
Avoid adversely impacting on material assets	<b>\</b> \	The emphasis within the draft policy on facilitating this type of infrastructure is				
	0	expected to result in positive effects on				
Promote the principles of circular economy	0	natural material assets. Additionally, the				
Reduce use and promote	<b>√</b>	"green" and "blue" features of the natural				
sustainable management of	<b>'</b>	and built environment are widely				
natural and built environment		and same orivinorities and widery				
resources						
100001000	1					

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Environment Agency (2021) Valuing the benefits of blue-green infrastructure. [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-research-reports/valuing-the-benefits-of-blue-green-infrastructure">https://www.gov.uk/flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-research-reports/valuing-the-benefits-of-blue-green-infrastructure</a> (accessed 18/10/2021)

of-blue-green-infrastructure (accessed 18/10/2021)

14 SEPA (2021) Diffuse pollution in the urban environment (SUDS) [online] Available at: https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/water/diffuse-pollution/diffuse-pollution-in-the-urban-environment/ (accessed 18/10/2021)

Promote the sustainable	$\checkmark\checkmark$	recognised and valued as essential
design, use and management		components of successful places <sup>15</sup> .
of new and existing		
assets/infrastructure to		
support the development of		
high-quality places		
POPULATION AND HUMAN HI	EALTH	
Reduce the health gap and	<b>//</b>	Significant positive effects are expected to
inequalities and improve		arise. Green infrastructure, including green
healthy life expectancy		networks, can encourage active travel,
Promote and	<b>//</b>	improve accessibility and connectivity, and
enhance/improve access to		can lead to wider benefits for health
open space, greenspace and		through increased physical activity and
the wider countryside		improved air quality. They can provide
To protect and improve	<b>J J</b>	spaces to take part in sport, physical
human health and wellbeing	` `	activity, play and other activities such as
through improving the quality		community growing, with the potential to
of the living environment of		improve mental health and wellbeing. Blue-
people and communities		green infrastructure can also provide
Increase sustainable access	1	spaces for social interaction and social
to essential services,	•	cohesion through the creation of attractive
employment and the natural		open spaces.
and historic environment		

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Nature Scotland (2019) the Place Principle – our contribution to place-based working [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.nature.scot/place-principle-our-contribution-place-based-working">https://www.nature.scot/place-principle-our-contribution-place-based-working</a> (accessed 25/08/2021)

#### Sustainable flood risk and water management

The draft policy aims to ensure places are resilient to future flood risk and to make efficient and sustainable use of water resources. It is also noted that the planning system should strengthen future resilience to flood risk by reducing the vulnerability of existing and future development to flooding, including encouraging the use of natural flood risk management to provide wider benefits for people and nature.



BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA				
Avoid adverse impacts to designated habitats and species Avoid adverse impacts to undesignated habitats and species Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity	? ?X√ ✓	Effects on biodiversity may be mixed. There is potential for negative effects to arise where actions may disrupt natural processes and where built engineered structures are implemented. However, overall, natural flood risk management measures and blue-green infrastructure can provide opportunities to enhance biodiversity through the creation and/or restoration of habitats, as also supported by wider draft policies, and if undertaken at catchment scale.		
CLIMATIC FACTORS	1			
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions	0	Significant positive impacts should arise through improved resilience and adaptation		
Reduce GHG emissions in order to meet Scotland emissions reduction target of net zero by 2045.	0	to flood risk and by reducing the vulnerability of existing and future development to flooding.		
Promote and enable adaptation to climate change	<b>/ /</b>			
AIR Avoid adverse effects on air	0	No significant effects are expected.		
quality  Reduce emissions of key pollutants and improve air quality throughout Scotland	?	Wider secondary benefits could arise through the role of natural infrastructure in improving air quality <sup>16</sup> though the scale of this is uncertain.		
Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise, vibration, dust, odour and light	0			
WATER Avoid adverse impacts on the ecological status of water bodies	?√	Significant long term positive effects are expected as this draft policy aims to reduce exposure to the impact of floods and		

https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/green\_infrastruture\_air\_pollution\_may\_19.pdf (accessed 08/11/2021)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Greater London Authority (2019) Using green infrastructure to protect people from air pollution [online] Available at:

	1	
Ensure the sustainable use of water resources	✓	supports the sustainable management of the water environment. There is an
Reduce the number of people	$\checkmark\checkmark$	opportunity to support River Basin
and properties at risk of		Management Plan objectives to improve
flooding and promote adaptive		water quality status.
flood risk management		Where built engineered structures are
Protect, maintain and improve	?√	implemented, local level negative impacts
the ecological status and		could arise. These should be managed at
physical state of the water		plan and project level.
environment		
SOIL	l	
Safeguard and improve soil	?√	No significant effects are expected.
health, protect soil resource	! ٧	Potential benefits may arise if high value
and soil functions of all soil		
		agricultural and carbon-rich soils are
types in Scotland		protected from future flooding.
Safeguard and improve high	?√	Where natural solutions to flood risk
value agricultural land and		management are implemented, there is
carbon-rich soils		potential for secondary long term positive
Reduce the extent of	?	effects from habitat creation.
contaminated and vacant and		
derelict land		
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND H	IISTOF	RIC ENVIRONMENT
Avoid adverse impacts on the	<b>√</b>	Positive effects are expected to arise
historic environment and its	\ \ \	where this leads to increased protection
setting		and reduced flood risk for cultural heritage
Protect and enhance valued	0 /	and historic environment assets.
	?√	
landscapes, historic places		Potential impacts on the setting of cultural
and archaeological sites and		heritage assets should be considered in the
other culturally and historically		design of flood protection measures to
important features,		avoid negative impacts and identify
landscapes and their settings		opportunities for enhancement and
		mitigation.
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVER		
Avoid adverse effects on	?	No significant effects on landscape and
landscapes and geodiversity		geodiversity are expected. The use of blue
Safeguard and enhance the	0	and green infrastructure to support natural
character and diversity of the		flood risk management can create
Scottish landscape and areas		opportunities for the enhancement of local
of valuable landscape and		landscapes.
geodiversity		Engineered flood management or defence
goodiversity		measures have potential to negatively
		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
		impact some landscapes, depending on the
		type, design and location. Potential
		negative impacts would however be
		localised, and managed at plan and project
		consenting stages.
MATERIAL ASSETS	1	10. 10. 11.
Avoid adversely impacting on	$\checkmark\checkmark$	Significant long term positive effects are
material assets		expected where this leads to improved

Promote the principles of	0	resilience, reducing the vulnerability of
circular economy		existing and future development to flood
Reduce use and promote	$\checkmark\checkmark$	risk. Additional benefits could also arise
sustainable management of		from the potential to reduce pressure on
natural and built environment		existing water treatment assets.
resources		
Promote the sustainable	<b>//</b>	
design, use and management		
of new and existing		
assets/infrastructure to		
support the development of		
high-quality places		
POPULATION AND HUMAN H	EALTH	ł
Reduce the health gap and	<b>√</b>	Significant benefits are expected through
inequalities and improve		strengthened resilience to the impacts of
healthy life expectancy		climate change and reduced flood impacts.
Promote and	<b>√</b>	Where natural solutions to flood risk
enhance/improve access to		management are implemented indirect
open space, greenspace and		positive impacts can arise from habitat
the wider countryside		creation, including wider societal benefits
To protect and improve	<b>//</b>	such as access to greenspace and an
human health and wellbeing		improved sense of place.
through improving the quality		The impacts of climate change are likely to
of the living environment of		be disproportionately severe in areas of
people and communities		high deprivation because of the reduced
Increase sustainable access	0	ability of individuals and communities in
to essential services,		these areas to prepare, respond and
employment and the natural		recover <sup>17</sup> .
and historic environment		
	•	

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Scottish Government (2019) Climate Ready Scotland: climate change adaptation programme 2019-2024. [online] Available at <a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/climate-ready-scotland-second-scottish-climate-change-adaptation-programme-2019-2024/pages/9/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/climate-ready-scotland-second-scottish-climate-change-adaptation-programme-2019-2024/pages/9/</a> (accessed 21/11/2021)

## Lifelong health, wellbeing and safety

The draft policy notes planning should support development that reduces health inequalities and supports long and healthy life expectancy.



BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA		
Avoid adverse impacts to designated	0	No significant effects on biodiversity
habitats and species		are expected.
Avoid adverse impacts to	0	
undesignated habitats and species		
Protect, maintain and enhance	0	
biodiversity		
CLIMATIC FACTORS		
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	0	No significant effects are expected.
emissions		
Reduce GHG emissions in order to	0	
meet Scotland emissions reduction		
target of net zero by 2045.		
Promote and enable adaptation to	0	
climate change		
AIR		
Avoid adverse effects on air quality	<b>//</b>	Significant positive effects should
Reduce emissions of key pollutants	$\checkmark\checkmark$	arise as the draft policy notes
and improve air quality throughout		developments which would have a
Scotland		significant adverse effect on air
Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise,	<b>//</b>	quality or result in unacceptable
vibration, dust, odour and light		levels of noise should not be
WATER		supported.
WATER		
Avoid adverse impacts on the	0	No significant effects on the water
ecological status of water bodies	_	environment are expected.
Ensure the sustainable use of water	0	
resources	0	
Reduce the number of people and	0	
properties at risk of flooding and		
promote adaptive flood risk		
management	0	
Protect, maintain and improve the	0	
ecological status and physical state of		
the water environment SOIL		
	0	No significant effects are expected.
Safeguard and improve soil health, protect soil resource and soil functions	١	ino significant effects are expected.
of all soil types in Scotland		
Safeguard and improve high value	0	
agricultural land and carbon-rich soils		

Reduce the extent of contaminated	0		
and vacant and derelict land			
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTORI	1		
Avoid adverse impacts on the historic	0	No significant effects are expected.	
environment and its setting			
Protect and enhance valued	0		
landscapes, historic places and			
archaeological sites and other			
culturally and historically important			
features, landscapes and their			
settings			
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVERSITY			
Avoid adverse effects on landscapes	0	No significant effects are expected.	
and geodiversity			
Safeguard and enhance the character	0		
and diversity of the Scottish landscape			
and areas of valuable landscape and			
geodiversity			
MATERIAL ASSETS	•		
Avoid adversely impacting on material	0	No significant effects are expected.	
assets			
Promote the principles of circular	0		
economy			
Reduce use and promote sustainable	0		
management of natural and built			
environment resources			
Promote the sustainable design, use	0		
and management of new and existing			
assets/infrastructure to support the			
development of high-quality places			
POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH			
Reduce the health gap and	//	The emphasis of the draft policy on	
inequalities and improve healthy life	* *	creating vibrant, healthier and safer	
expectancy		places is expected to have	
Promote and enhance/improve access	0	significant positive effects on	
to open space, greenspace and the		population and human health.	
wider countryside		Benefits could be maximised were	
To protect and improve human health	<b>//</b>	efforts to tackle health inequalities	
and wellbeing through improving the	\	are targeted to areas or	
quality of the living environment of		communities experiencing the most	
people and communities		disadvantages.	
Increase sustainable access to	0	<b>3</b>	
essential services, employment and			
the natural and historic environment			
the natural and motoric crivitorinicit	L		

## **Alternatives**

## • 20 minute neighbourhoods

- C1.4.1 The pandemic highlighted the inequalities that can arise when amenities in a neighbourhood are insufficient. The '20 Minute Neighbourhood' is not a new strategy in urban design terms, but is the terminology that has become most recognised globally, gaining considerable momentum and support as a means of living locally with holistic benefits, for people, place and planet. A 'do nothing' option was not considered reasonable given the scale of the challenges we are presented with in recovering from the pandemic, tackling climate change, and tackling inequality.
- C1.4.2 20 minutes (800m) is considered to be the optimum time/distance people are comfortable walking, wheeling or cycling to access services and facilities, taking account of the different abilities within communities. Whilst some might consider the time/ distance could be more tightly or more broadly drawn, research undertaken by Climate Xchange looked at applying the concept across Scotland, in all settlement types and scales. The 20 minute neighbourhood was seen as a flexible model which is the most applicable when taking into account the varied geography in Scotland. As a concept, it draws together the main objectives of NPF4 and is a means of working to the Place Principle to achieve climate resilience, improved health and equality by focusing on quality of place.

#### Quality Homes

C1.4.3 New policies are introduced to set out how we will support the delivery of quality homes. The policy has been informed by extensive debate on the current (SPP2014) policy on planning for housing and takes into account new requirements introduced into the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, including on the status of NPF; and, new provisions on the time frame for the review of local development plans. The Act also introduced new requirements on meeting the housing needs of older people and disabled people. In light of this new legislative context and issues resulting from implementation of the current policy, the Scottish Government does not consider that retention of existing SPP policies on housing is a 'reasonable alternative'.

#### Housing Land Requirements

C1.4.4 The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, introduces the requirement for NPF to contain 'targets for the use of land in different areas of Scotland for housing'. The draft NPF4 meets this requirement through proposing Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirements (MATHLR) for each planning authority in Scotland. This introduces a long-term, strategic and public interest approach that consistently and transparently establishes the housing land requirement earlier in the plan preparation process. Were a different / alternative methodology applied in determining MATHLR, this could lead to either higher or lower requirements and consequently to either more or less housing land being allocated, the precise location and scale of which is unknown. It follows that the likely significant effects identified above, both positive and negative, are likely to be either magnified or reduced. Additionally, were a

different / alternative methodology to lead to lower housing land requirements, this may give rise to more speculative planning applications, and could create greater uncertainty for infrastructure planning and for communities.

- Play provision; Lifelong health and wellbeing
- C1.4.5 New policy is also introduced on **play provision**, which seek to protect children's outdoor play provision and design-in new opportunities for play in the built environment. There is also new policy on **lifelong health and wellbeing**, which aims to create healthier places and requires a Health Impact Assessment of any proposals considered likely to generate significant health effects. It follows that under a **'do nothing' option** these new policies would not be introduced, and the likely benefits, including for population and human health, may not be fully realised.

#### C1.5 Productive Places

### Land and Premises for Business and Employment

The draft policy aims to support a green economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting good, green jobs, businesses and industries for the future. It notes ambitions to build a wellbeing economy that maximises economic, social and environmental wellbeing. The role of planning in supporting business, industry and innovation is highlighted, with emphasis on growth that is sustainable and inclusive and support the health and wellbeing of communities and environment.

and environment.		
BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA		
Avoid adverse impacts to	?X	Potential for negative effects where
designated habitats and species		increased levels of land allocation
Avoid adverse impacts to	?X	arise. However this can be minimised
undesignated habitats and species		through consideration of wider
Protect, maintain and enhance	?X	national policies, including those
biodiversity		related to biodiversity enhancement
		and making best use of existing
		assets where possible.
		Effects on non-protected sites and
		species are more likely, as
		designated areas will be protected through recognition of their value and
		vulnerability.
CLIMATIC FACTORS		vaniorability.
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	<b>/</b>	Indirect positive effects are expected
emissions	•	from support provided for the
Reduce GHG emissions in order to	<b>√</b>	identification of sustainable locations
meet Scotland emissions reduction		for employment land, infrastructure
target of net zero by 2045.		and investment, and promoting
Promote and enable adaptation to	0	alternative ways of working that
climate change		reduce travel.
AIR	_	
Avoid adverse effects on air quality	0	There is potential for negative
Reduce emissions of key pollutants	0	localised impacts on air quality and
and improve air quality throughout		noise from operation activities. The
Scotland		draft policy notes proposals will be
Reduce levels of nuisance e.g.	0	supported where environmental
noise, vibration, dust, odour and		impacts have been assessed and
light		considered acceptable. Additionally,
		wider draft policies seek to reduce
		travel requirements, including taking
WATER		an infrastructure first approach.
Avoid adverse impacts on the	0	Generally neutral effects on the
ecological status of water bodies		water environment are expected as a
Ensure the sustainable use of water	0	result of the emphasis on sustainable
resources		locations and placemaking, in
100001000	1	1

Reduce the number of people and properties at risk of flooding and promote adaptive flood risk management	0	combination with wider draft policies relating to improved consideration of flooding risks and adaption.
Protect, maintain and improve the ecological status and physical state of the water environment  SOIL	0	
Safeguard and improve soil health, protect soil resource and soil functions of all soil types in Scotland	0	Development in general has the potential to impact on soils through soil sealing. The extent of potential
Safeguard and improve high value agricultural land and carbon-rich soils	0	for negative localised impacts will depend on the nature and location of sites identified in the development
Reduce the extent of contaminated and vacant and derelict land	0	plans. The draft policy notes proposals will be supported where environmental impacts have been assessed and considered acceptable.
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTO	RIC EN	VIRONMENT
Avoid adverse impacts on the	0	New developments have potential to
historic environment and its setting		negatively impact cultural heritage
Protect and enhance valued	0	and historic environment assets,
landscapes, historic places and		however the draft policy notes
archaeological sites and other		development proposals must take
culturally and historically important		into account historic environment
features, landscapes and their		assets and their settings.
settings		
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVERSITY		
Avoid adverse effects on	0	Effects on landscapes are uncertain.
landscapes and geodiversity		Impacts at the local scale will depend
Safeguard and enhance the character and diversity of the Scottish landscape and areas of valuable landscape and geodiversity	0	on factors including the nature and scale of the development. Possible adverse impacts should be reduced by wider draft policy which supports an emphasis on placemaking, and should be managed at plan and project stages.
MATERIAL ASSETS		
Avoid adversely impacting on	✓	Positive effects expect from a focus
material assets		on plans meeting requirements for
Promote the principles of circular	0	employment land and infrastructure
economy		to support sustainable growth.
Reduce use and promote	0	Construction of new developments
sustainable management of natural		will result in resource consumption.
and built environment resources		There is an opportunity to make the
Promote the sustainable design,	<b>√</b>	best use of existing assets and
use and management of new and		ensure developments are energy and
existing assets/infrastructure to		resource efficient, in line with wider
		draft policy.

support the development of high- quality places POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH	<del> </del>	
Reduce the health gap and inequalities and improve healthy life expectancy	✓	Positive impacts should arise through aims to stimulate a wellbeing economy through meeting
Promote and enhance/improve access to open space, greenspace and the wider countryside  To protect and improve human health and wellbeing through improving the quality of the living environment of people and communities	0	requirements for employment land, infrastructure and investment. Potential benefits should be maximised where development proposals take into account population health and wellbeing, including inequalities.
Increase sustainable access to essential services, employment and the natural and historic environment	<b>//</b>	

#### **Sustainable Tourism**

The draft policy notes that tourism can bring a wealth of economic, social and cultural benefits to our communities, cities and regions, perpetuating growth and stimulating job creation. Challenges facing this sector, including the recovery from COVID-19, are acknowledged. The draft policy notes the role of the planning system in supporting the recovery of the sector, ensuring that communities have a share in tourism benefits and that tourism uses are sustainable and safeguard our environmental, cultural and community assets.



Community accords.		
BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA	1	1
Avoid adverse impacts to	?X	Potential for largely indirect negative
designated habitats and species		impacts arising where draft policy
Avoid adverse impacts to	?X	leads to new infrastructure
undesignated habitats and species		requirements and increased visitor
Protect, maintain and enhance	?X	numbers, which can place pressure
biodiversity		on habitats. Effects are uncertain at
		this stage and are likely to be
		influenced by the scale and nature of
		development, and the sensitivity of the receiving environment.
		Impacts would be managed at plan
		and project consenting stages.
CLIMATIC FACTORS	1	and project consenting stages.
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	0	No significant effects on climatic
emissions		factors are expected.
Reduce GHG emissions in order to	0	Potential negative effects may arise
meet Scotland emissions reduction		from transportation and construction
target of net zero by 2045.		of new developments. However, the
Promote and enable adaptation to	0	overall focus on climate conscious
climate change		places and wider draft policies,
		including sustainable transport, aim
		to reduce emissions.
AIR	1	1
Avoid adverse effects on air quality	0	No significant effects are expected.
Reduce emissions of key pollutants	0	Potential localised effects may arise
and improve air quality throughout		from transportation where new
Scotland		tourism developments are
Reduce levels of nuisance e.g.	0	considered to support sustainable
noise, vibration, dust, odour and		growth of the tourism sector.
light		However, wider draft policies
		including those supporting sustainable transport, aim to
		encourage a modal shift to more
		sustainable modes of transport.
WATER	1	- Cactamable modes of transport.
Avoid adverse impacts on the	0	No significant effects are expected.
ecological status of water bodies		Potential localised impacts to be
2 2 2 1 2 3 1 2 2 1 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 2 1 2 2 2 2	·	

Encure the custoinable use of water	Δ	managed at plan and project atoms
Ensure the sustainable use of water	0	managed at plan and project stages
resources	0	where necessary.
Reduce the number of people and	0	
properties at risk of flooding and		
promote adaptive flood risk		
management	_	
Protect, maintain and improve the	0	
ecological status and physical state		
of the water environment		
SOIL	T	
Safeguard and improve soil health,	0	New developments have potential to
protect soil resource and soil		lead to localised impacts on soils, for
functions of all soil types in Scotland		example, through soil sealing.
Safeguard and improve high value	0	Impacts will be managed at plan and
agricultural land and carbon-rich		project consenting stages where
soils		necessary.
Reduce the extent of contaminated	0	-
and vacant and derelict land		
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTO	RIC EN	VIRONMENT
Avoid adverse impacts on the	?	Increased visitor numbers may
historic environment and its setting	-	create pressures on cultural heritage
Protect and enhance valued	?	assets, and new or extended tourist
landscapes, historic places and	•	facilities may affect the wider setting
archaeological sites and other		of historic environment assets and
culturally and historically important		sites. Possible local impacts will be
features, landscapes and their		managed at plan and project
settings		consenting stages. Additionally,
Settings		wider draft policies, such as Historic
		Assets and Places, set out aims to
		protect and enhance assets.
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVERSITY	1	protoot and chinarioe assets.
Avoid adverse effects on	?	Potential to impact landscapes,
		however, the draft policy notes
landscapes and geodiversity	?	, , ,
Safeguard and enhance the	<b>'</b>	proposals should be compatible in
character and diversity of the		terms of scale and nature of the
Scottish landscape and areas of		activity with the surrounding areas.
valuable landscape and geodiversity	]	
MATERIAL ASSETS	1	
Avoid adversely impacting on	$\checkmark$	Positive impacts on built material
material assets		assets may arise due to focus on
Promote the principles of circular	0	plans supporting the sustainable
economy		growth of the tourism sector.
Reduce use and promote	0	
sustainable management of natural		
and built environment resources		
Promote the sustainable design, use	0	
and management of new and		
existing assets/infrastructure to		
The state of the s	1	

support the development of high-		
quality places	<u> </u>	
POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH	1	
Reduce the health gap and	0	There is the potential to create
inequalities and improve healthy life		positive effects on employment due
expectancy		to the emphasis on supporting the
Promote and enhance/improve	0	sustainable growth of the tourism
access to open space, greenspace		sectors. Benefits should also arise
and the wider countryside		where the draft policy sets out that
To protect and improve human	?√	consideration is given to the capacity
health and wellbeing through		of existing facilities and services in
improving the quality of the living		areas where existing tourism
environment of people and		provision is having adverse impacts,
communities		to ensure proposals are only
Increase sustainable access to	$\checkmark\checkmark$	supported if satisfactory measures
essential services, employment and		are proposed to alleviate existing
the natural and historic environment		pressures and prevent further
		adverse impacts. This has the
		potential to lead to benefits through
		ensuring the health and well-being of
		communities are maintained and
		potentially improved.

# **Culture and Creativity**

The draft policy recognises the important of culture and the creative industries to Scotland's wellbeing and cultural, social, economic and environmental prosperity. It also notes this can be an important catalyst for regeneration and town centre vibrancy that strengthens the sense of place.



The draft policy notes the planning system should support the expansion of Scotland's creative industries and ensure that there are suitable opportunities available for local communities to participate in artistic and cultural activities.

artistic and cultural activities.		
BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA		
Avoid adverse impacts to designated		No significant effects are
habitats and species		expected.
Avoid adverse impacts to undesignated	0	
habitats and species		
Protect, maintain and enhance	0	
biodiversity		
CLIMATIC FACTORS	1	
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	0	No significant effects are
emissions		expected.
Reduce GHG emissions in order to meet	0	
Scotland emissions reduction target of		
net zero by 2045.	_	
Promote and enable adaptation to	0	
climate change		
AIR	1	
Avoid adverse effects on air quality	0	Potential for positive effects
Reduce emissions of key pollutants and	0	where the Agent of Change
improve air quality throughout Scotland		principle ensures noise levels
Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise,	$\checkmark$	for new development in the
vibration, dust, odour and light		vicinity of existing arts venues
14/4755		are managed.
WATER	1 -	
Avoid adverse impacts on the ecological	0	No significant effects are
status of water bodies		expected.
Ensure the sustainable use of water	0	
resources		4
Reduce the number of people and	0	
properties at risk of flooding and promote		
adaptive flood risk management		_
Protect, maintain and improve the	0	
ecological status and physical state of the		
water environment		
SOIL	10	NI - danificant officers
Safeguard and improve soil health,	0	No significant effects are
protect soil resource and soil functions of		expected.
all soil types in Scotland		4
Safeguard and improve high value	0	
agricultural land and carbon-rich soils		

	1	1
Reduce the extent of contaminated and	0	
vacant and derelict land		
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTORIC E	1	
Avoid adverse impacts on the historic environment and its setting	?√	Positive impacts should arise where management decisions
Protect and enhance valued landscapes, historic places and archaeological sites and other culturally and historically important features, landscapes and their settings	?√	affecting places of cultural significance focus on avoiding or minimising adverse impacts <sup>18</sup> to support the draft policy. Particularly where consideration is given to the role these assets can play in placemaking and where the draft policy leads to increased awareness and understanding of cultural heritage and historic environment assets.
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVERSITY	T	
Avoid adverse effects on landscapes and	0	No significant effects are
geodiversity		expected.
Safeguard and enhance the character	0	
and diversity of the Scottish landscape		
and areas of valuable landscape and		
geodiversity		
MATERIAL ASSETS	Т	
Avoid adversely impacting on material	?√	Potential for benefits to arise
assets		from draft policy aims to
Promote the principles of circular	0	support the protection of
economy		cultural venues. Additional
Reduce use and promote sustainable	?√	benefits should arise where
management of natural and built		greater consideration is given
environment resources		to the role cultural assets can
Promote the sustainable design, use and	?√	play in providing a sense of
management of new and existing		place and aligning with
assets/infrastructure to support the		emphasis on placemaking
development of high-quality places		within the overall draft NPF4,
		including the requirements of
		the Historic Assets and Places
DODLII ATIONI AND LUMAAN LUGALTU		draft policy.
POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH		
Reduce the health gap and inequalities	0	Significant positive effects are
and improve healthy life expectancy		expected. Attracting investment

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28/10/2021)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Historic Environment Scotland (2019) Historic Environment Policy for Scotland [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationld=1bcfa7b1-28fb-4d4b-b1e6-aa2500f942e7">https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationld=1bcfa7b1-28fb-4d4b-b1e6-aa2500f942e7</a> (accessed

Promote and enhance/improve access to open space, greenspace and the wider countryside	0	into the cultural sector can help achieve outcomes related to health (physical and mental),
To protect and improve human health and wellbeing through improving the quality of the living environment of people and communities	<b>/</b> /	the local economy (jobs and training) or quality of life <sup>19</sup> . Cultural activity can also drive local economy growth and
Increase sustainable access to essential services, employment and the natural and historic environment	<b>√√</b>	benefit community cohesion <sup>20</sup> . Further, the combined physical, social and cultural environment has an important influence on health and health inequalities <sup>21</sup> .

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Local Government Association (2017) People, culture, place – the role of culture in placemaking [online] Available at: <a href="https://static.a-n.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/People-culture-place-the-role-of-culture-in-placemaking-WEB.pdf">https://static.a-n.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/People-culture-place-the-role-of-culture-in-placemaking-WEB.pdf</a> (accessed 28/10/2021)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Local Government Association (2017) People, culture, place – the role of culture in placemaking [online] Available at: <a href="https://static.a-n.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/People-culture-place-the-role-of-culture-in-placemaking-WEB.pdf">https://static.a-n.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/People-culture-place-the-role-of-culture-in-placemaking-WEB.pdf</a> (accessed 28/10/2021)

<sup>21</sup> NHS Scotland (2016) Place and communities [online] Available at:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> NHS Scotland (2016) Place and communities [online] Available at: <a href="http://www.healthscotland.scot/media/1088/27414-place-and-communities-06-16.pdf">http://www.healthscotland.scot/media/1088/27414-place-and-communities-06-16.pdf</a> (accessed 28/10/2021)

# **Green Energy**

The draft policy notes that the planning system should support all forms of renewable energy development and energy storage, together with new and replacement transmission and distribution infrastructure. It should also support new and emerging technology including hydrogen and carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS).



BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUN	1		
Avoid adverse impacts to designated habitats and species	?X	Potential negative effects could arise, including loss of habitat and disruption to habitat networks from the continued	
Avoid adverse impacts to undesignated habitats and species	?X	expansion of low-carbon and net zero technologies. Effects on non-protected sites and species are more likely, as	
Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity	?X	designated areas will be protected through recognition of their value and vulnerability.  The draft policy sets out that potential effects on the natural heritage, including birds, must be taken into account.  Potential impacts would be managed at plan and project consenting stages. Opportunities to enhance biodiversity should be identified at these stages, including through improved management of, and /or the creation of new habitats.	
CLIMATIC FACTORS			
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions	<b>/</b> /	The draft policy seeks to aid the decarbonisation of the energy sector	
Reduce GHG emissions in order to meet Scotland emissions reduction target of net zero by 2045.	<b>√</b> √	through support for renewable and low carbon technologies with abatement.  Potential for long term significant benefits to arise through support for	
Promote and enable adaptation to climate change	✓	increased diversification of the energy mix and energy storage leading to greater system flexibility and efficiencies, helping to manage fluctuations in energy demand and support resilience from disruption, including from the impacts of climate change. However, consideration will need to be given to where development could give rise to releases of carbon through disturbance to peat and carbon rich soils. This will require appropriate	

AID		siting to avoid/reduce negative effects. Support for repowering existing sites can also help to reduce/minimise possible impacts.
AIR		
Avoid adverse effects on air quality  Reduce emissions of key	<b>√√</b>	Positive effects are expected where the draft policy supports a transition from non-renewable energy
pollutants and improve air quality throughout Scotland		generation, which should also be beneficial for human health where this
Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise, vibration, dust, odour and light	0	leads to a reduction in air pollutants. Scale of potential benefits will depend on factors such as level of uptake and type of technologies, but could be significant. Potential for localised implications to arise from operational activities depending on type of technology, such as, shadow flicker and low-frequency noise, potentially impacting populations in close proximity. Factors such as location and scale of uptake will influence potential effects. Design adjustments and planning conditions can mitigate potential impacts, for example through the consideration of matters such as hours of operation and noise attenuation.
WATER	I	,
Avoid adverse impacts on the ecological status of water bodies	?X	Renewable energy developments including hydro, offshore renewable have potential to impact the water
Ensure the sustainable use of water resources	?X	environment. Technologies such as hydrogen and CCUS could also lead
Reduce the number of people and properties at risk of flooding and promote adaptive flood risk management  Protect, maintain and improve	0 ?X	to implications, for example disturbance of the seabed and there is potential for accidental CO2 leaks. Hydrogen production is also reliant on water supply <sup>22</sup> .
the ecological status and physical state of the water environment		The draft policy sets a requirement for consideration to be given to effects on hydrology, the water environment and flood risk.  Impacts should be also be managed
		at plan and project stages.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Scottish Government (2021) SEA of Draft Hydrogen Action Plan for Scotland scoping report [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.gov.scot/policies/environmental-assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment-sea/">https://www.gov.scot/policies/environmental-assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment-sea/</a> (accessed 25/08/2021)

SOIL		
Safeguard and improve soil health, protect soil resource and soil functions of all soil types in Scotland	?X	Potential for negative effects to arise where developments disturb soils and their function. Impacts are likely to vary based on the type of
Safeguard and improve high value agricultural land and carbon-rich soils	?X	development and the location, as well as the quality of soil, its condition and properties.
Reduce the extent of contaminated and vacant and derelict land	0	Where peatland /carbon rich soils are present there is potential for negative impacts associated with disturbance, degradation, erosion or draining of functional peatland. The draft policy sets out a requirement that consideration must be given to potential impacts on carbon rise soils. Opportunities arise at individual project level through careful siting and design to minimise adverse effects and for restoration measures to be applied in alignment with wider draft policy.  Depending on the technology, operational impacts could also arise, for example, through potential CO2 leakage from reservoirs and pipelines <sup>23</sup> .
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HI	<u>STORIC E</u>	
Avoid adverse impacts on the historic environment and its setting	?X	Potential for negative effects arising from development of new or improved infrastructure. The draft policy sets out
Protect and enhance valued landscapes, historic places and archaeological sites and other culturally and historically important features, landscapes and their settings	?X	that the potential impacts on historic environment assets, including on setting, must be taken into account. Additionally, the emphasis on placemaking within the overall draft NPF4, including the requirements of the Historic Assets and Places draft policy, should limit any potentially negative impacts. Impacts will be managed at plan and project consenting stages.
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVERS		
Avoid adverse effects on landscapes and geodiversity	X	Long term negative impacts could arise from siting of infrastructure in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Nature Communications (2018) Estimating geological CO2 storage security to deliver on climate mitigation (online) Available at: <a href="https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-018-04423-1">https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-018-04423-1</a> (accessed 05/11/2021)

Safeguard and enhance the character and diversity of the Scottish landscape and areas of valuable landscape and geodiversity	X	landscapes, particularly where new infrastructure is required or the landscape is sensitive to visual impacts. Careful attention to landscape designation criteria and other sensitivity factors should help inform design and mitigation, to enable possible negative impacts to be minimised.  Significance of impacts will depend on a number of factors, including location, scale of development, and area characteristics. For example, this could include the extent to which development is taken forward within the context of existing developed and industrial landscapes. In some instances, existing infrastructure may be reused.  The draft policy sets out that the potential landscape and visual impacts, including possible impacts on wild land, must be taken into account. The construction of the new and refurbishment of existing pipelines, and near shore geological storage facilities where required, also has the potential to impact on the seabed floor and activities such as increased anchoring of vessels could lead to negative impacts on the seabed, including long term damage.
MATERIAL ASSETS		
Avoid adversely impacting on material assets  Promote the principles of	√√ ✓	Significant positive effects are likely to arise where this leads to promotion of green energy technologies and
circular economy  Reduce use and promote sustainable management of natural and built environment	<b>√</b>	greater diversification of technologies with the energy network, including where this leads to improved flexibility and security of supply.
resources		Positive impacts could also arise
Promote the sustainable	0	where opportunities are sought to
design, use and management		support the re-use of infrastructure
of new and existing		and extend lifetime operations, for
assets/infrastructure to support		example, through the repowering of existing wind farms, aligning with
the development of high-quality places		wider policy ambitions.
POPULATION AND HUMAN HE	ALTH	

Reduce the health gap and inequalities and improve healthy life expectancy Promote and enhance/improve access to open space, greenspace and the wider countryside	0	Overall positive effects should arise where the promotion of green energy supports a transition to net zero, with associated benefits for air quality. The significance of benefits will be influenced by factors such as scale of uptake, displacement of more
To protect and improve human health and wellbeing through improving the quality of the living environment of people and communities  Increase sustainable access to essential services, employment and the natural and historic environment	?✓	polluting forms of energy generation and the individual technologies. For example, there is on-going debate on the association between health outcomes and those living and working in close proximity to wind turbine developments <sup>24</sup> . Benefits can arise where greater diversity of technologies and energy storage leads to reduced risk of disruption, including from the impacts of climate change. For example, greater uptake of small scale local and community energy generation could be of particular relevance in rural, remote and fragile locations where there can be increased risk of disruption from extreme weather events.

Public Health Scotland (2021) National Planning Framework 4: Briefing on health and proposed National Developments [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.publichealthscotland.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4-briefing-on-health-">https://www.publichealthscotland.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4-briefing-on-health-</a>

and-proposed-national-developments/ (accessed 4/11/2021)

### **Zero Waste**

The draft policy notes that the circular economy represents a significant economic and environmental opportunity to manage waste and resources in a way that contributes to Scotland's net zero ambitions and green recovery.



The draft policy supports development which reflects the waste hierarchy, prioritising the reduction and re-use of materials, and facilitates the delivery of new infrastructure required to achieve this.

racilitates the delivery of new infrastructure required to achieve this.			
BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA			
Avoid adverse impacts to designated	0	Significant long term benefits	
habitats and species		should arise where greater	
Avoid adverse impacts to undesignated	0	efficiencies in resource use	
habitats and species		leads to reduced pressure on	
Protect, maintain and enhance	$\checkmark\checkmark$	natural resources.	
biodiversity			
CLIMATIC FACTORS			
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	$\checkmark\checkmark$	Significant positive effects	
emissions		are expected.	
Reduce GHG emissions in order to meet	✓	The draft policy emphasises	
Scotland emissions reduction target of net		the application of the waste	
zero by 2045.		hierarchy to prioritise the	
Promote and enable adaptation to climate	0	reduction and re-use of	
change		materials. This should lead to	
		benefits through emissions	
		savings, for example from	
		manufacturing processes,	
		the extraction of materials	
		and those that arise from the	
		disposal of waste to landfill.	
		The draft policy also	
		supports proposals for the	
		capture, and distribution or	
		use of gasses from landfill	
		sites or waste water	
		treatment plants.	
AIR	1		
Avoid adverse effects on air quality	? X ✓	Overall benefits should arise	
Reduce emissions of key pollutants and	? X ✓	long term through potential	
improve air quality throughout Scotland		reductions in air pollutants	
Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise,	?	associated with	
vibration, dust, odour and light		manufacturing processes	
		and the landfilling of waste.	
		Operational activities	
		undertaken by some types of	
		waste infrastructure may	
		generate emissions to air,	
		odour, dust or noise, and are	
		subject to management	

MATER		through existing regulatory processes. Significant effects on AQMAs are not expected from this type of development
WATER	?X	Cocondany positive effects
Avoid adverse impacts on the ecological status of water bodies		Secondary positive effects may be achieved, including
Ensure the sustainable use of water resources	?√	through the emphasis on reducing volumes of waste
Reduce the number of people and properties at risk of flooding and promote adaptive flood risk management	0	sent to landfill, thereby decreasing risks to the water environment. Additionally,
Protect, maintain and improve the ecological status and physical state of the water environment	?√	reduced pressure on natural resources can also lead to secondary benefits
SOIL		secondary benefits
Safeguard and improve soil health,	<b>√</b>	Positive effects on soils may
protect soil resource and soil functions of all soil types in Scotland	·	be achieved overall through the emphasis on reducing
Safeguard and improve high value agricultural land and carbon-rich soils	0	volumes of waste sent to landfill, thereby decreasing
Reduce the extent of contaminated and vacant and derelict land	✓	risks to soils. Potential benefits through support for the reuse of existing buildings and infrastructure. Additionally, reduced pressure on natural resources should also lead to secondary benefits.
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTORIC E	NVIRON	MENT
Avoid adverse impacts on the historic environment and its setting	?√	No significant effects on cultural heritage are
Protect and enhance valued landscapes, historic places and archaeological sites and other culturally and historically important features, landscapes and their settings	?√	expected. Overall, positive impacts could arise where the draft policy leads to the continued use and maintenance of existing cultural heritage and historic environment assets. There are opportunities to maximise benefits where this supports improved placemaking. The draft policy may result in increased infrastructure to support the circular economy, however, it is not expected these would generate significant effects

		on cultural heritage, and would be managed at plan and project level.
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVERSITY		
Avoid adverse effects on landscapes and geodiversity	?X√	Infrastructure requirements can lead to both positive and
Safeguard and enhance the character and diversity of the Scottish landscape and areas of valuable landscape and geodiversity	?X√	negative impacts on landscape. Positive impacts could arise overall where the draft policy leads to making best use of existing assets, reducing pressure and minimising possible changes to landscapes. The draft policy may result in increased infrastructure to support the circular economy, effects on landscapes would be site-specific and managed at plan and project level.
MATERIAL ASSETS		
Avoid adversely impacting on material assets	<b>/</b> /	The effects on material assets are expected to be
Promote the principles of circular economy	<b>//</b>	significant positive. The draft policy emphasises
Reduce use and promote sustainable management of natural and built environment resources	<b>/</b> /	the application of the waste hierarchy, prioritising the reduction and re-use of
Promote the sustainable design, use and management of new and existing assets/ infrastructure to support the development of high-quality places	<b>\</b> \	materials, and facilitating the delivery of new infrastructure required to support this.
POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH		
Reduce the health gap and inequalities and improve healthy life expectancy	<b>√</b>	Potential to have positive effects, including where this
Promote and enhance/improve access to open space, greenspace and the wider countryside	0	leads to greater efficiencies in resource use, benefiting the wider environment.
To protect and improve human health and wellbeing through improving the quality of the living environment of people and communities	?√	Impacts to local communities associated with the construction and operation of new infrastructure to support
Increase sustainable access to essential services, employment and the natural and historic environment	0	the circular economy will be managed at project stage.

# **Sustainable Aquaculture**

The draft policy emphasises the importance of the aquaculture sector, and its contribution to sustained economic growth, in the rural and coastal communities of the north and west. The draft policy supports the sustainable growth of the finfish and shellfish sectors, including by guiding new development to coastal locations that reflect industry needs and take into account wider marine planning.



BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA		
Avoid adverse impacts to	?X	There is potential for overall direct and
designated habitats and species		indirect negative impacts on species
Avoid adverse impacts to	?X	and habitats, particularly given the
undesignated habitats and		transient nature of some species.
species		These may include displacement of
Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity	?X	native species from existing habitats, risk of parasite and disease transfer to wild fish, introduction of non-native species and altered genetic integrity of wild stocks arising from interbreeding with escaped farm fish. The draft policy identifies the need to guide new aquaculture development to locations that take account of environmental impact, including cumulative impacts, and wider marine planning, to reduce/mitigate potential negative impacts. The draft policy further notes that salmon and trout open pen fish farm developments on the north and east coasts of mainland Scotland should not be supported in order to safeguard migratory fish species. Potential impacts would also be addressed through the project consenting process.
CLIMATIC FACTORS		
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions	0	No significant effects are expected.  Long term adaptation to climate
Reduce GHG emissions in order	0	change impacts would require
to meet Scotland emissions		consideration, in line with the draft
reduction target of net zero by		policy on climate conscious places.
2045.		
Promote and enable adaptation to	?	
climate change		
AIR		
Avoid adverse effects on air	0	There is potential for impacts

	1	
Reduce emissions of key	0	including noise, light, waste,
pollutants and improve air quality		aquaculture litter and odour. The draft
throughout Scotland		policy requires fish farm developments
Reduce levels of nuisance e.g.	?X	to demonstrate operational activities
noise, vibration, dust, odour and		are acceptable, and would be
light		assessed at project consenting stages.
WATER		,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
Avoid adverse impacts on the	?	Aquaculture has potential to generate
ecological status of water bodies		negative localised impacts on the
Ensure the sustainable use of	?	water column and benthic
water resources		environment. The draft policy aims to
Reduce the number of people and	0	avoid significant impacts, through
	0	setting a requirement to take account
properties at risk of flooding and		of environmental impact, including
promote adaptive flood risk		· · ·
management		cumulative impacts, to reduce/mitigate
Protect, maintain and improve the	?	potential impacts.
ecological status and physical		Potential impacts would also be
state of the water environment		considered during plan development
		and project consenting stages.
SOIL	1	
Safeguard and improve soil	0	No significant effects are expected.
health, protect soil resource and		
soil functions of all soil types in		
Scotland		
Safeguard and improve high	0	
value agricultural land and		
carbon-rich soils		
Reduce the extent of	0	
contaminated and vacant and		
derelict land		
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HIST		L ENIVIRONMENT
Avoid adverse impacts on the		Potential impacts are not expected to
historic environment and its	0	
		be significant and will be localised in
setting		nature, potentially impacting on the
Protect and enhance valued	0	historic environment and its setting.
landscapes, historic places and		This would be managed at plan and
archaeological sites and other		project consenting stages.
culturally and historically		
important features, landscapes		
and their settings		
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVERSIT	Υ	
Avoid adverse effects on	0	There is potential for localised negative
landscapes and geodiversity		impacts on landscapes associated with
Safeguard and enhance the	0	aquaculture infrastructure. These have
character and diversity of the		the potential to be site specific and
Scottish landscape and areas of		would be managed through the plan
valuable landscape and		and project stages.
geodiversity		
MATERIAL ASSETS	<u>I</u>	<u> </u>
WINTERNIAL AGOLTO		

Avoid adversely impacting on material assets	0	No significant effects are expected to arise.
Promote the principles of circular	0	anse.
economy		
Reduce use and promote	0	
sustainable management of		
natural and built environment		
resources		
Promote the sustainable design,	0	
use and management of new and		
existing assets/infrastructure to		
support the development of high- quality places		
POPULATION AND HUMAN HEAL	<u> </u> T⊔	
Reduce the health gap and	0	The draft policy notes the increasing
inequalities and improve healthy	"	importance of the aquaculture industry
life expectancy		by helping to sustain economic growth
Promote and enhance/improve	0	in rural and coastal communities.
access to open space,		Potential impacts that could arise from
greenspace and the wider		operational activities, are required to
countryside		be managed by requirements set out in
To protect and improve human	?√	the draft policy.
health and wellbeing through		
improving the quality of the living		
environment of people and		
communities		
Increase sustainable access to	$\checkmark$	
essential services, employment		
and the natural and historic		
environment		

#### **Minerals**

The draft policy aims to safeguard important mineral resources and ensure that sufficient resources are available to meet the demands of industry in a way that minimises the impacts of extraction on the environment and local communities.

It sets out a requirement that local development plans promote sustainable resource management and identify a landbank of permitted reserves for construction aggregates of at least 10 years at all times in relevant market areas.

The draft policy notes that planning applications that seek to explore, develop and produce fossil fuels will not be supported other than in exceptional circumstances, and that the Scottish Government does not support the development of unconventional oil and gas (UOG) in Scotland.

unconventional oil and gas (UOG) in	<u>Scotian</u>	u.
BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA		
Avoid adverse impacts to	?	Potential effects on biodiversity are
designated habitats and species		uncertain. Minerals extraction can
Avoid adverse impacts to	?	have negative impacts on
undesignated habitats and species		biodiversity. Impacts will be site
Protect, maintain and enhance	?X√	specific and managed at plan and
biodiversity		project consenting level.
		However the draft policy notes
		proposals should be supported
		where they will not result in adverse
		impacts on biodiversity.
		The draft policy also sets out that
		proposals should be supported
		where they include schemes for a
		high standard of restoration and
		aftercare, with the potential for benefits to arise, for example,
		through habitat creation.
CLIMATIC FACTORS		inough habitat creation.
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	<b>//</b>	Significant positive effects through
emissions	V V	draft policy which restricts fossil fuel
Reduce GHG emissions in order to	<b>√</b>	extraction in line with climate change
meet Scotland emissions reduction	•	objectives and wider Scottish
target of net zero by 2045.		Government energy policy.
Promote and enable adaptation to	0	]
climate change		Mineral extraction activities can lead
		to associated GHG emissions,
		through both the extraction process
		and transportation requirements.
		Potential for GHG emissions to be
		reduced long term where the draft
		policy leads to improved sustainable
		management of resources.
		Additionally, support provided in the
		1

AID		water, should also seek to minimise associated transport GHG emissions.
AIR		Circlificant positive effects the contract
Avoid adverse effects on air quality Reduce emissions of key pollutants and improve air quality throughout Scotland Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise, vibration, dust, odour and light	?	Significant positive effects through draft policy which restricts fossil fuel extraction in line with wider Scottish Government energy policy leading to emissions avoided.  Mineral extraction activities, including transportation requirements, can lead to localised negative impacts. The draft policy requires proposals to demonstrate acceptable levels (including cumulative impact) of noise, dust, vibration and potential pollution of air. The draft policy also sets out that proposals should be supported where they minimise transport impacts through the number and length of lorry trips and by using rail
		or water transport wherever practical.
WATER		,
Avoid adverse impacts on the ecological status of water bodies  Ensure the sustainable use of water	? ?X	Potential for negative impacts to arise from minerals extraction activities. The draft policy requires
resources  Reduce the number of people and properties at risk of flooding and promote adaptive flood risk management	0	proposals to demonstrate acceptable levels of potential pollution of land and water.  Effects will also require mitigation at consenting stage. The draft policy
Protect, maintain and improve the ecological status and physical state of the water environment  SOIL	?X	also requires that proposals includ schemes for a high standard of restoration and aftercare and that commitment is provided that such work is undertaken, which could potentially lead to secondary benefits through habitat creation.
Safeguard and improve soil health, protect soil resource and soil functions of all soil types in Scotland	?X	Minerals extraction has potential to negatively impact on soil, including through direct loss of resources and impacts on stability. Effects will
Safeguard and improve high value agricultural land and carbon-rich soils	0	require mitigation at consenting stage. The draft policy also requires that proposals include schemes for a
Reduce the extent of contaminated and vacant and derelict land	0	high standard of restoration and aftercare and that commitment is

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT  Avoid adverse impacts on the historic environment and its setting  Protect and enhance valued landscapes, historic places and other culturally and historically important features, landscapes and other settings  LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVERSITY  Avoid adverse effects on landscape and geodiversity  Safeguard and enhance the character and diversity of the Scottish landscape and geodiversity  Safeguard and enhance the character and diversity of the Scottish landscape and geodiversity  Bound and geodiversity  Minerals extraction can negatively important features, landscapes and other culturally and historically important features, landscapes and their settings. The potential impacts could be long term and lead to permanent loss of assets. The draft policy sets out to support development proposals that will not result in adverse impacts on the natural and the historic environment.  LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVERSITY  Avoid adverse effects on 2xl Minerals extraction may impact on landscapes and there remains a legacy of landscape change in areas where extraction has historically taken place.  The draft policy sets out that proposals will be supported where they will not result in negative landscape and visual impacts. The draft policy also requires that proposals will be supported where they will not result in negative landscape and visual impacts. The draft policy also requires that proposals will be required to be managed at a local level.  MATERIAL ASSETS  Avoid adversely impacting on 4 material assets  Promote the principles of circular economy economy economy economy experiment of new and existing assets/infrastructure to support the development of high-quality places  Promote the health gap and inequalities and improve healthy life expectancy effects on people, health and living environments. However,			provided that such work is
lead to secondary benefits through habitat creation.			1 •
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	Reduce the health gap and	?	Minerals extraction could result in
expectancy and living environments. However,			
	expectancy		and living environments. However,

Day of the second second second	_	d - 1 (c P P
Promote and enhance/improve	0	the draft policy includes a number of
access to open space, greenspace		requirements that are aimed
and the wider countryside		specifically at ensuring any potential
To protect and improve human	?	adverse impacts (including
health and wellbeing through		cumulative impact) on any nearby
improving the quality of the living		homes, local communities and
environment of people and		known sensitive receptors and
communities		designations are at acceptable
Increase sustainable access to	0	levels.
essential services, employment and		
the natural and historic environment		

# **Digital Infrastructure**

The draft policy continues to support the roll-out of digital infrastructure across all of Scotland, recognising the importance of future-proofing infrastructure provision whilst addressing impacts on local communities and the natural and historic environment.



BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA				
Avoid adverse impacts to	0	No significant effects are expected.		
designated habitats and species		Infrastructure requirements have the		
Avoid adverse impacts to	?X	potential to negatively impact on		
undesignated habitats and species		biodiversity, including impacts such as		
Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity	?X	disturbance on marine and terrestrial mammals, fish and habitats during construction, and operational effects, ranging from temporary to permanent Potential impacts are likely to be site specific and be influence by factors such as route and sensitivity of the receiving environment.  Effects on protected species may require mitigation, and would be managed at project level.		
CLIMATIC FACTORS				
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas	$\checkmark$	Indirect positive effects are expected.		
(GHG) emissions		The emphasis within the overall draft		
Reduce GHG emissions in order	$\checkmark$	NPF4 on facilitating digital		
to meet Scotland emissions		infrastructure is expected to result in		
reduction target of net zero by		indirect positive effects on climate		
2045.		change mitigation objectives, by		
Promote and enable adaptation to	0	helping to reduce the need to travel		
climate change		through improved virtual connectivity.		
		As described within the baseline		
		section of this report (Section 3),		
		domestic transport was the largest		
		source of net greenhouse gas		
		emissions in Scotland in 2019 <sup>25</sup> .		
		Greater levels of remote and flexible		
		working could potentially enhance national levels of productivity, reducing		
		travel and associated carbon		
		emissions <sup>26</sup> .		
AIR		CHII3310113 .		
AllX				

Scottish Government (2021) Scottish Greenhouse Gas statistics: 1990-2019 [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-greenhouse-gas-statistics-1990-2019/documents/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-greenhouse-gas-statistics-1990-2019/documents/</a> (accessed 15/10/2021)
 Scottish Government (2018) 5G: Strategy for Scotland [online] Available at:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Scottish Government (2018) 5G: Strategy for Scotland [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/forging-digital-future-5g-strategy-scotland/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/forging-digital-future-5g-strategy-scotland/</a> (accessed 30/08/2021)

	1	
Avoid adverse effects on air quality	0	No significant effects are expected.
Reduce emissions of key	0	
pollutants and improve air quality		
throughout Scotland		
Reduce levels of nuisance e.g.	0	
noise, vibration, dust, odour and	١٠	
light		
WATER		
	0	No significant offects are expected
Avoid adverse impacts on the	0	No significant effects are expected.
ecological status of water bodies	0	Development of digital infrastructure
Ensure the sustainable use of	0	and community hubs, installation of
water resources		underground cables both onshore and
Reduce the number of people and	0	offshore and have the potential to
properties at risk of flooding and		impact on coastal and marine
promote adaptive flood risk		environment with potential impacts
management		likely to be site specific.
Protect, maintain and improve the	0	
ecological status and physical		
state of the water environment		
SOIL	1	
Safeguard and improve soil	0	No significant effects are expected to
health, protect soil resource and		arise.
soil functions of all soil types in		
Scotland		
Safeguard and improve high value	0	
agricultural land and carbon-rich		
soils		
Reduce the extent of	0	
contaminated and vacant and		
derelict land		
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTO	ORIC	ENVIRONMENT
Avoid adverse impacts on the	?X	There is the potential for individual and
historic environment and its setting		cumulative negative impacts on cultural
Protect and enhance valued	?X	heritage and historic environment
landscapes, historic places and		assets. However the draft policy notes
archaeological sites and other		that the historic environment should be
culturally and historically important		addressed, with careful design
features, landscapes and their		considerations to reduce any potential
settings		impacts.
		Existing regulatory mechanisms
		including Listed Building Consent
		apply.
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVERSITY	<u> </u>	
Avoid adverse effects on	?X	Telecommunications developments
landscapes and geodiversity	-7.	have potential to have negative effects
Safeguard and enhance the	?X	on landscape. The draft policy notes
character and diversity of the	.,.	telecommunications developments
Scottish landscape and areas of		should only be supported where the
233 Morrianaooapo ana aroao or	I	silvana oring as supported miloto tilo

valuable landscape and geodiversity		visual and amenity impact of the proposed development has been minimised through careful siting, design and where appropriate landscaping.
MATERIAL ASSETS		
Avoid adversely impacting on material assets	<b>//</b>	Positive effects should arise from support provided to delivery of digital
Promote the principles of circular economy	0	infrastructure, particularly in areas with gaps in connectivity and barriers to
Reduce use and promote sustainable management of natural and built environment resources	0	digital access.
Promote the sustainable design, use and management of new and existing assets/infrastructure to support the development of high-quality places	✓	
POPULATION AND HUMAN HEAL	TH	
Reduce the health gap and inequalities and improve healthy life expectancy	<b>✓</b>	Potential for positive effects on population and human health objectives where the draft policy leads to
Promote and enhance/improve access to open space, greenspace and the wider countryside	0	improved digital connectivity across Scotland. The focus on areas with gaps in connectivity and barriers to digital access could also support reducing
To protect and improve human health and wellbeing through improving the quality of the living environment of people and communities	0	inequalities and digital exclusion and access to getting online in the most deprived areas in Scotland is lower (82%) than in the most affluent areas (96%) <sup>27</sup> .
Increase sustainable access to essential services, employment and the natural and historic environment	<b>✓</b>	Benefits may also arise where the draft policy supports improved access to essential services including healthcare and education.  Monitoring of radio waves is undertaken as a matter of course to ensure it complies with requirements and standards. A wide safety margin is allowed for within these requirements.

## **Alternatives**

## Sustainable tourism

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Scottish Government (2020) Scottish household survey 2019: annual report [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-household-survey-2019-annual-report/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-household-survey-2019-annual-report/</a> (accessed 18/10/2021)

C1.5.1 New policies are proposed on sustainable tourism, supporting the growth of the sector in a way which manages impacts on local communities in keeping with wider policy and statutory outcomes, and introducing new policy to manage short term holiday letting aligned to provisions in the Planning Act. A 'do nothing option' is not considered to be a reasonable alternative.

# Culture and Creativity

C1.5.2 New policy on culture and creativity recognises the importance of the sector, requires proposals to make provision for public art, and reflects the agent of change principle<sup>28</sup>. Without new express provision the likely environmental effects identified including for cultural heritage and the historic environment; material assets; and population and human health may not be fully realised.

# • Green energy

- C1.5.3 Draft policy 19 takes a more permissive approach than the current Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) in actively supporting the roll out of renewable energy developments, other than in National Parks and National Scenic Areas, to help meet our statutory climate change targets. Wider restrictions, such as environmental designations, would still be relevant considerations and all applications would still require full site specific assessments, including Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats Regulations Appraisal where applicable.
- C1.5.4 It is recognised that an **alternative approach** would be to retain the current spatial framework set out in SPP. However, the Scottish Government considers that this more strategic approach could inadvertently rule out good quality development which is needed to meet our climate change objectives.
- C1.5.5 It is difficult to predict in any meaningful way how impacts may differ between the proposed green energy policy and the current SPP, taking into account the level of uncertainty arising in the application of policy to individual developments. Nonetheless, it is likely that were the current SPP retained, benefits for climate objectives are likely to be reduced, however a greater level of protection may be afforded particularly to undesignated sites and species, including to wild land.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Agent of change: Chief Planner letter February 2018 - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

# **C1.6** Distinctive Places

# City, Town, Commercial and Local Centres

The draft policy notes that the planning system should consider the economic, environmental and societal challenges faced by city, town and local centres, and address these to create centres which are vibrant, creative, enterprising, accessible and resilient places for people to live, work, enjoy and visit.



BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA		
Avoid adverse impacts to designated	0	No significant effects on biodiversity
habitats and species		are expected from this draft policy.
Avoid adverse impacts to	0	Indirect positive effects could arise
undesignated habitats and species		from reduced development pressure
Protect, maintain and enhance	?√	on green spaces.
biodiversity		There is an opportunity for
		secondary benefits to arise where blue/green infrastructure is
		incorporated, as supported by wider
		draft policy.
CLIMATIC FACTORS	1	1 E
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	<b>√</b>	Reducing the need for travel and
emissions		repurposing vacant properties could
Reduce GHG emissions in order to	$\checkmark$	have positive effects in relation to
meet Scotland emissions reduction		the need to reduce emissions.
target of net zero by 2045.		Higher density within existing
Promote and enable adaptation to	0	settlements can also support the
climate change		implementation of low carbon technologies, such as heat
		networks.
AIR	1	, notworks
Avoid adverse effects on air quality	<b>√</b>	Improved public transport
Reduce emissions of key pollutants	<b>√</b>	connections may reduce motorised
and improve air quality throughout		travel needs; and increased access
Scotland		to and uptake of low and zero
Reduce levels of nuisance e.g.	✓	emissions modes of travel are likely
noise, vibration, dust, odour and light		to have positive effects long term,
		including on local air quality. The
		draft policy notes alignment with 20 minute neighbourhoods and the
		need for proposals to take into
		account connections with public
		transport and active travel.
		This could be of particular relevance
		with many AQMAs in Scotland have
		been designated in, or close, to
		existing town centres.
WATER		

	1 -	
Avoid adverse impacts on the	0	Generally neutral effects are
ecological status of water bodies		expected.
Ensure the sustainable use of water	0	
resources	<u> </u>	
Reduce the number of people and	0	
properties at risk of flooding and		
promote adaptive flood risk		
management		
Protect, maintain and improve the	0	
ecological status and physical state		
of the water environment		
SOIL		
Safeguard and improve soil health,	0	Generally neutral effects on soils are
protect soil resource and soil		expected.
functions of all soil types in Scotland		Secondary minor positive effects
Safeguard and improve high value	0	could arise by reducing out of town
agricultural land and carbon-rich		developments, avoiding additional
soils		soil sealing. The re-use of existing
Reduce the extent of contaminated	0	assets is also supported by wider
and vacant and derelict land		draft policy.
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTOR	IC EN	•
Avoid adverse impacts on the	?X√	Effects may be mixed, and will be at
historic environment and its setting	: 🔨	managed at plan and project
Protect and enhance valued	?X√	consenting stages.
landscapes, historic places and	! 🔨	There is an opportunity to lead to
archaeological sites and other		positive impacts through support
culturally and historically important		given to improving town centres,
features, landscapes and their		alongside making use of existing
settings		buildings.
Settings		Benefits could also arise where
		consideration is given to the intrinsic
		cultural heritage value and
		importance of town centres and to
		use this as an asset upon which
		local distinctiveness and identity can
		be strengthened. Aligning with wider
		placemaking aims of draft NPF4 can
		help in providing a sense of place.
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVERSITY		
Avoid adverse effects on landscapes	?√	No significant effects are expected.
and geodiversity		Secondary positive effects could
Safeguard and enhance the	?√	arise by reducing out of town
character and diversity of the		development and focussing on
Scottish landscape and areas of		making best use of existing town
valuable landscape and geodiversity		centres, in turn, reducing possible
		changes to local landscapes.
MATERIAL ASSETS		
Avoid adversely impacting on	<b>√</b>	Potential for positive effects given
material assets		emphasis on built assets, including
	1	

Promote the principles of circular economy	✓	where this supports improved placemaking and bringing vacant
Reduce use and promote	<b>/</b>	properties back into use.
sustainable management of natural	<b>\</b>	properties back into use.
and built environment resources		
Promote the sustainable design, use	<b>√</b>	
	<b>\</b>	
and management of new and existing assets/infrastructure to		
1		
support the development of high-		
quality places	<u> </u>	
POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH		0
Reduce the health gap and	$\checkmark$	Generally positive impacts are
inequalities and improve healthy life		expected from improving centres
expectancy	ļ	and responding to social and
Promote and enhance/improve	0	economic priorities, including
access to open space, greenspace		through support for improved
and the wider countryside		accessibility to key goods and
To protect and improve human	$\checkmark$	services.
health and wellbeing through		The draft policy also sets out to
improving the quality of the living		avoid the additional density of non-
environment of people and		retail uses that could have an
communities		adverse effect on health and
Increase sustainable access to	✓	wellbeing and promotes
essential services, employment and		consideration of access to
the natural and historic environment		convenience goods/fresh healthier
		food and drink provision, especially
		in disadvantaged or remoter areas
		which could help improve diet
		through access to a variety of and
		healthier food.

#### **Historic Assets and Places**

The draft policy aims to protect and enhance the historic environment, and support the reuse of redundant or neglected historic buildings.

The draft policy also notes the planning system should protect and enhance historic environment assets and places and recognise their cultural heritage benefits and associated social, environmental and economic value to our national, regional and local economies, cultural identity, and for their potential to support

health and wellbeing, the circular economy, and climate change adaptation.

nealth and wellbeing, the circular economy, and climate change adaptation.				
BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA	1	T		
Avoid adverse impacts to designated	?X	No significant effects on		
habitats and species		biodiversity are expected. The draft		
Avoid adverse impacts to	?	policy notes development		
undesignated habitats and species		proposals should ensure that		
Protect, maintain and enhance	0	existing natural features which		
biodiversity		contribute to the character of a		
		conservation area are retained		
		which may have potential positive		
		effects on biodiversity.		
		Support provided for the		
		decarbonisation of historic		
		environment assets could lead to		
		secondary negative impacts. For		
		example, the implementation of		
		energy efficiency measures and		
		low carbon energy technologies		
		could lead to the disturbance of		
		Protected Species through works to		
		the building fabric of historic assets		
		and places.		
CLIMATIC FACTORS				
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	✓	No significant effects are expected.		
emissions		Where the draft policy supports the		
Reduce GHG emissions in order to	?√	decarbonisation of historic		
meet Scotland emissions reduction		environment assets, for example,		
target of net zero by 2045.		the implementation of measures to		
Promote and enable adaptation to	?√	enable energy efficiency and the		
climate change		decarbonisation of energy sources,		
		potential positive impacts should		
		arise from associated reductions in		
		GHG emissions.		
		The draft policy notes that Local		
		Development Plans and their		
		spatial strategies should identify,		
		protect, manage and enhance		
		historic assets and places, and		
		consider climate change adaptation		

		measures, in line with wider draft
		polices.
AIR		
Avoid adverse effects on air quality	0	No significant effects are expected.
Reduce emissions of key pollutants	0	
and improve air quality throughout		
Scotland		
Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise,	0	
vibration, dust, odour and light		
WATER		1
Avoid adverse impacts on the	0	No significant effects are expected.
ecological status of water bodies	_	9 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10
Ensure the sustainable use of water	0	
resources		
Reduce the number of people and	0	
properties at risk of flooding and		
promote adaptive flood risk		
management		
Protect, maintain and improve the	0	
ecological status and physical state of		
the water environment		
SOIL		1
Safeguard and improve soil health,	0	No significant effects are expected.
protect soil resource and soil functions		
of all soil types in Scotland		
Safeguard and improve high value	0	
agricultural land and carbon-rich soils		
Reduce the extent of contaminated	0	
and vacant and derelict land		
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTORIC	C ENV	/IRONMENT
Avoid adverse impacts on the historic	$\checkmark\checkmark$	The draft policy should provide
environment and its setting		significant positive effects by
Protect and enhance valued	$\checkmark\checkmark$	ensuring cultural heritage and the
landscapes, historic places and		historic environment remains a key
archaeological sites and other		consideration in the planning
culturally and historically important		process.
features, landscapes and their settings		
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVERSITY		
Avoid adverse effects on landscapes	<b>√</b>	Positive effects on landscape are
and geodiversity		expected. This could include direct
Safeguard and enhance the character	<b>√</b>	effects, for example, through the
and diversity of the Scottish landscape		protection given to Inventory
and areas of valuable landscape and		Gardens and Designed
geodiversity		Landscapes, and also indirect
		effects from the commitment to
		protecting the wider setting of
		historic assets and places.
MATERIAL ASSETS		

Avoid adversely impacting on material assets	<b>✓</b>	The draft policy sets out to retain, re-use and/or adapt historic assets
Promote the principles of circular	<b>/</b>	and places, aligning with circular
economy		economy principles, with potential
Reduce use and promote sustainable	<b>√</b>	for positive impacts to arise, in
management of natural and built		particular where opportunities are
environment resources		taken to consider the role of
Promote the sustainable design, use	✓	existing assets in supporting wider
and management of new and existing		draft policy ambitions on improved
assets/infrastructure to support the		placemaking.
development of high-quality places		
POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH		
Reduce the health gap and	0	Generally positive effects are
inequalities and improve healthy life		expected as result of the
expectancy		contribution that the draft policy
Promote and enhance/improve access	0	could make to protecting and
to open space, greenspace and the		enhancing the quality of
wider countryside		settlements and places.
To protect and improve human health	✓	
and wellbeing through improving the		
quality of the living environment of		
people and communities		
Increase sustainable access to	$\checkmark$	
essential services, employment and		
the natural and historic environment		

# Urban edges and the green belt

The draft policy notes the role green belts play as a settlement management tool around Scotland's towns and cities to help to direct growth to the most appropriate, sustainable locations. Their role in protecting and enhancing the character, landscape setting and identity of settlements and providing access to green networks is also noted.



BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA		
Avoid adverse impacts to designated	<b>//</b>	Significant positive effects
habitats and species		expected. Limiting
Avoid adverse impacts to undesignated	<b>//</b>	development on greenbelt has
habitats and species		the potential to help avoid
Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity	<b>//</b>	habitat loss and fragmentation.
CLIMATIC FACTORS		
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	0	Potential for long term positive
emissions		effects should through
Reduce GHG emissions in order to meet	?X√	sequestration of CO <sub>2</sub> , including
Scotland emissions reduction target of net		through trees and woodlands
zero by 2045.		and vegetated habitats. Green
Promote and enable adaptation to climate	✓	belts can be used to direct
change		growth to the most appropriate
		sustainable locations,
		influencing travel needs and
		associated emissions. There is
		the potential for emissions
		reductions where commuting
		needs are reduced. However there are mixed views on
		whether green belts can conversely direct development
		out beyond their boundaries,
		potentially giving rise to
		additional and/or longer
		commuting times <sup>29</sup> .
		Secondary benefits could also
		arise where localising food
		production could lead to
		reductions in associated
		transport requirements.
		Greenbelts can also support
		resilience and adaptation to
		the impacts of climate change.
AIR		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Scottish Government (2006) Review of Green Belt Policy in Scotland [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/archive/20161020183614/http://www.gov.scot/Publications/204/08/19785/41555">https://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/archive/20161020183614/http://www.gov.scot/Publications/204/08/19785/41555</a> (accessed 09/11/2021)

		To
Avoid adverse effects on air quality	✓	Secondary long term positive
Reduce emissions of key pollutants and	✓	effects should arise as green
improve air quality throughout Scotland		networks can help remove
Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise,	0	pollutants including ozone,
vibration, dust, odour and light		ammonia and particulates.
WATER AND COASTAL MARINE		
Avoid adverse impacts on the ecological	<b>_</b>	Long term positive effects are
status of water bodies		expected as green networks
Ensure the sustainable use of water	0	can improve water quality and
resources		flow management by reducing
Reduce the number of people and	?√	rainwater run-off, and retaining
properties at risk of flooding and promote	. •	sediments and other
adaptive flood risk management		contaminants from entering
Protect, maintain and improve the	<b>/</b>	watercourses.
ecological status and physical state of the	\ \ \	
water environment		
SOIL	1	1
Safeguard and improve soil health, protect	<b>/</b>	Long term positive effects are
soil resource and soil functions of all soil	`	expected from reduced
types in Scotland		disturbance of soil resources.
Safeguard and improve high value	<b>√</b>	Additional benefits should arise
agricultural land and carbon-rich soils	<b>'</b>	where the draft policy leads to
Reduce the extent of contaminated and	?√	reduced infrastructure
vacant and derelict land	. v	requirements through making
vacant and defence land		best use of existing assets,
		including the use of vacant and
		derelict land, as supported in
		wider draft policy.
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTORIC EN	IVIRO	
Avoid adverse impacts on the historic	0	Effects are likely to be positive
environment and its setting	0	as loss of green belt may affect
Protect and enhance valued landscapes,	,	the setting of historic assets
historic places and archaeological sites	✓	and places. The draft policy
and other culturally and historically		notes development proposals
important features, landscapes and their		should safeguard historic
settings		environment assets.
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVERSITY		environment assets.
	,	Effects are likely to be positive
Avoid adverse effects on landscapes and	$\checkmark$	Effects are likely to be positive
geodiversity	,	as loss of green belt may
Safeguard and enhance the character and	$\checkmark$	impact landscapes. The draft
diversity of the Scottish landscape and		policy requires development
areas of valuable landscape and		proposals to be fully
geodiversity		compatible with the
		surrounding established
		countryside and landscape
MATERIAL ASSETS		character.
MATERIAL ASSETS	/ /	The droft policy feets as
Avoid adversely impacting on material	$\checkmark\checkmark$	The draft policy focus on
assets	<u> </u>	protecting green belt should

Promote the principles of circular economy	0	have positive effects on natural
Reduce use and promote sustainable	✓	material assets.
management of natural and built		
environment resources		
Promote the sustainable design, use and	✓	
management of new and existing		
assets/infrastructure to support the		
development of high-quality places		
POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH		
Reduce the health gap and inequalities	0	Long term significant positive
and improve healthy life expectancy		impacts may arise through
Promote and enhance/improve access to	$\checkmark\checkmark$	protecting outdoor access to
open space, greenspace and the wider		green networks and where the
countryside		broader benefits for
To protect and improve human health and	$\checkmark\checkmark$	environmental quality arise.
wellbeing through improving the quality of		Additionally, community
the living environment of people and		growing spaces and access to
communities		locally grown food can lead to
Increase sustainable access to essential	✓	positive impacts, including
services, employment and the natural and		physical and mental health
historic environment		benefits.

# **Vacant and Derelict Land and Empty Buildings**

The draft policy notes that the reuse of vacant and derelict land and properties can contribute to climate change targets and support biodiversity, health and wellbeing improvements and sustainable, inclusive, economic growth by providing communities with much needed greenspace, growing spaces and other community benefits. It also notes that redevelopment for housing or businesses can also turn an underutilised and latent asset into productive use and limit the need for urban expansion.



The draft policy prioritises the use of vacant and derelict land and properties, including supporting temporary uses where proposals for permanent development are unlikely to be imminent.

are uninterly to be infillinent.		
BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA	1	
Avoid adverse impacts to designated	$\checkmark$	Positive effects should arise
habitats and species		through the proactive greening of
Avoid adverse impacts to undesignated	$\checkmark$	vacant and derelict land,
habitats and species		including habitat creation and
Protect, maintain and enhance	$\checkmark$	reduced fragmentation,
biodiversity		particularly where opportunities
		are taken to support biodiversity
		enhancement, in line with wider
		draft policy. However, consideration may need to be
		given to the potential
		displacement of species that
		might have colonised these sites.
		Benefits should also arise where
		the remediation of contaminated
		sites is undertaken.
		Indirect positive effects are
		expected due to the promotion of
		a 'brownfield first' approach
		which may reduce pressure on
		greenfield land.
CLIMATIC FACTORS		T
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	$\checkmark$	Bringing land into productive use
emissions		can also have positive effects on
Reduce GHG emissions in order to meet	$\checkmark$	climatic factors through carbon
Scotland emissions reduction target of		sequestration, however the scale
net zero by 2045.		of benefits will depend on the
Promote and enable adaptation to	$\checkmark$	type of redevelopment activity
climate change		undertaken. For example, the
		creation of green infrastructure should lead to benefits through
		improved carbon sequestration.
		Minimising loss of greenfield land
		may also have secondary
		impacts through reducing
1	1	i inpacto un ough roudonig

AIR		pressure on assets that play a role in carbon sequestration. Additionally, the re-use of vacant and derelict land can also create more walkable and liveable environments, including through supporting active travel routes, with potential benefits associated with reduced GHG emissions where a modal shift arises. Potential for additional benefits to arise where remediation of vacant and derelict land supports climate change adaptation, for example, through broader benefits to ecosystem services leading to increased resilience or the provision of sustainable flood management infrastructure (e.g. SUDS).
Avoid adverse effects on air quality	/	Secondary benefits could arise
Reduce emissions of key pollutants and	√ √	where the draft policy supports
improve air quality throughout Scotland	<b>V</b>	modal shift and habitat creation.
Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise,	0	Contaminated sites can result in
vibration, dust, odour and light		potential for airborne pollution
		which can also have implications for human health and
		biodiversity. Positive localised
		impacts should also arise where
		remediation works are
		undertaken.
WATER		Effects on the surface of the second
Avoid adverse impacts on the ecological status of water bodies	$\checkmark$	Effects on the water environment may be positive as contaminated
Ensure the sustainable use of water	0	sites can result in the pollution of
resources		watercourses, which can also
Reduce the number of people and	0	have implications for human
properties at risk of flooding and		health and biodiversity.
promote adaptive flood risk management		
Protect, maintain and improve the	?√	
ecological status and physical state of the water environment		
SOIL		
Safeguard and improve soil health,	<b>/</b>	Long term significant positive
protect soil resource and soil functions of		effects are expected from the
all soil types in Scotland		'brownfield first' approach,
Safeguard and improve high value	?√	prioritising the use of vacant and
agricultural land and carbon-rich soils		derelict land. Additionally,

Reduce the extent of contaminated and vacant and derelict land	<b>\</b> \	significant benefits should arise where contamination is present and could be decontaminated through the development process. However, development can also impact on soils, for example by increasing soil sealing.
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTORIC	<b>ENVIR</b>	RONMENT
Avoid adverse impacts on the historic environment and its setting  Protect and enhance valued landscapes, historic places and archaeological sites and other culturally and historically important features, landscapes and their settings	√ ✓	Potential for long term positive effects on cultural heritage and historic environment assets due to re-use of buildings at risk and sensitive integration into development proposals.  Additional benefits should arise where the draft policy leads to
		maintaining cultural heritage and preserving the legacy of former industrial landscape.
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVERSITY	T	
Avoid adverse effects on landscapes and geodiversity	<b>//</b>	Potential for significant positive impacts through the restoration
Safeguard and enhance the character and diversity of the Scottish landscape and areas of valuable landscape and geodiversity	<b>√</b>	of vacant and derelict land, which has a poor landscape quality. Positive effects on townscapes may be achieved by reuse of vacant and derelict land, and redundant buildings.
MATERIAL ASSETS	•	<u> </u>
Avoid adversely impacting on material assets	<b>✓</b>	Effects are likely to be significant positive. The draft policy seeks to
Promote the principles of circular economy	<b>//</b>	re-use vacant and derelict land and redundant buildings as a
Reduce use and promote sustainable management of natural and built environment resources	<b>\</b>	priority, potentially reducing waste and consumption of new resources, aligning with wider
Promote the sustainable design, use and management of new and existing assets/infrastructure to support the development of high-quality places	<b>\</b> \	draft policy on making the best use of existing assets and placemaking.
POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH		
Reduce the health gap and inequalities and improve healthy life expectancy	<b>√</b>	Positive effects are expected due to the promotion of
Promote and enhance/improve access to open space, greenspace and the wider countryside	<b>√</b>	redevelopment of vacant and derelict land, buildings at risk, and brownfield land.
To protect and improve human health and wellbeing through improving the	✓	The draft policy requires priority to be given to establishing new

quality of the living environment of	uses for vacant and derelict land
people and communities	in, or adjacent to, areas where
people and communities Increase sustainable access to essential services, employment and the natural and historic environment	there are high levels of deprivation as identified in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. Evidence suggests that communities in areas of higher deprivation interact with vacant and derelict land more regularly, with disproportionate impacts on their health and wellbeing. There is evidence of a
	spatial association between interaction with vacant and derelict land and impacts on physical health with regard to poorer health outcomes, population health and life expectancy <sup>30</sup> .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Scottish Land Commission Scotland (2019) Vacant and Derelict Land in Scotland, Assessing the impact of vacant and derelict land on communities [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.landcommission.gov.scot/downloads/5dd7d4dfa39b6\_VDL%20in%20Scotland%20Final%20Report%2020191008.pdf">https://www.landcommission.gov.scot/downloads/5dd7d4dfa39b6\_VDL%20in%20Scotland%20Final%20Report%2020191008.pdf</a> (accessed 03/11/2021)

#### **Rural Places**

The draft policy encourages development that helps to support, sustain and grow rural areas and stimulate economic growth and sustainability whilst safeguarding and growing the natural assets that underpin businesses and jobs. The draft policy notes rural economic activity, innovation, and diversification should be encouraged, while ensuring that the distinctive character of the rural area, the service function of small towns and natural assets and cultural heritage are safeguarded and enhanced.



and cultural neritage are safeguarde	a ana (	ennanced.
BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA		
Avoid adverse impacts to	X√	Potential effects could be mixed.
designated habitats and species		The draft policy supports sustainable
Avoid adverse impacts to	X√	economic growth in rural areas, and
undesignated habitats and species		associated development generally. It
Protect, maintain and enhance	X√	notes the need to safeguard and
biodiversity		enhance natural and cultural heritage.
		Effects on non-protected sites and
		species are more likely, as designated
		areas will be protected through
		recognition of their value and
		vulnerability.
CLIMATIC FACTORS	I _	
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	?	Potential for increased GHG
emissions		emissions to arise from possible
Reduce GHG emissions in order to	?X	increases in surface traffic. This could
meet Scotland emissions reduction		be of particular relevance as there can
target of net zero by 2045.		be heavy reliance on private car and
Promote and enable adaptation to	0	road transport within rural and remote
climate change		areas. The draft policy sets out
		support for critical infrastructure
		required to support transport or digital
		connectivity, minimising any potential
		increased emissions associated with
		transport requirements. Additionally,
		wider draft policies, including those
		related to 20 minute neighbourhoods
		and sustainable transport aim to
		encourage a modal shift more
		sustainable modes of transport.
		The draft policy also emphasises that
		development proposals should be
		consistent with climate change
AID		mitigation targets.
AVOID adverse effects on air quality	<u> </u>	No significant effects on air quality are
Avoid adverse effects on air quality	0	No significant effects on air quality are
Reduce emissions of key pollutants	١٠	expected.
and improve air quality throughout		Potential localised effects may arise
Scotland		from transportation where new

Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise, vibration, dust, odour and light	0	connections or improvement to existing infrastructure are considered to promote rural economic growth. However, wider draft policies including 20 minute neighbourhoods and sustainable transport aim to encourage a modal shift more sustainable modes of transport.
Avoid adverse impacts on the ecological status of water bodies	0	No significant impacts are expected.
Ensure the sustainable use of water resources	0	
Reduce the number of people and properties at risk of flooding and promote adaptive flood risk management	0	
Protect, maintain and improve the ecological status and physical state of the water environment	0	
SOIL Safeguard and improve soil health, protect soil resource and soil functions of all soil types in Scotland	?X√	The draft policy notes the importance of preventing the loss of prime agricultural or land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for
Safeguard and improve high value agricultural land and carbon-rich soils	?X√	primary use except in specific circumstances. However, the overall emphasis on facilitating development
Reduce the extent of contaminated and vacant and derelict land	?√	in rural areas could result in higher levels of development. This could result in localised impacts through soil sealing, which may have cumulative impacts. Benefits could also arise where the draft policy leads to increased reuse of vacant and derelict land or "brownfield" where a return to a natural state is not likely, aligning with wider draft policy.
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTO	RIC E	NVIRONMENT
Avoid adverse impacts on the historic environment and its setting Protect and enhance valued	?	There is the potential for positive effects on cultural heritage and historic assets and places.
landscapes, historic places and archaeological sites and other culturally and historically important features, landscapes and their settings	<b>✓</b>	The draft policy notes development in rural areas should be supported where the proposal provides an appropriate use of a historic environment asset or is appropriate enabling development to secure the future of historic environment assets. However, the aim of facilitating more development in

LANDSCADE AND CEODIVEDSITY		rural areas could lead to adverse impacts to the historic environmental and its setting, including archaeology. This should be managed at plan and project consenting stages. There is an opportunity to bring rural buildings at risk back into use, aligning with wider draft policy on making the best use of existing assets.
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVERSITY		Detential offects are uncontain and
Avoid adverse effects on	?√	Potential effects are uncertain and
landscapes and geodiversity		could be mixed in nature.
Safeguard and enhance the	?√	The draft policy notes development in
character and diversity of the		rural areas should be supported where
Scottish landscape and areas of		the proposals are suitably scaled,
valuable landscape and		sited, and designed to be in keeping
geodiversity		with the rural character of the area.
MATERIAL ASSETS		No significant offerte are expected
Avoid adversely impacting on	0	No significant effects are expected.
material assets	0	
Promote the principles of circular	0	
economy Deduce was and promote	0	
Reduce use and promote	0	
sustainable management of natural and built environment resources		
	0	
Promote the sustainable design,	0	
use and management of new and existing assets/infrastructure to		
support the development of high- quality places		
POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALT		
Reduce the health gap and		Potential for significant positive effects
inequalities and improve healthy	$\checkmark$	through facilitating development that
life expectancy		supports sustainable and inclusive
Promote and enhance/improve	<b>√</b>	growth of rural communities and
access to open space, greenspace	<b>V</b>	economies, while safeguarding and
and the wider countryside		growing natural assets.
To protect and improve human	<b>//</b>	growing natural assets.
health and wellbeing through	V V	
improving the quality of the living		
environment of people and		
communities		
Increase sustainable access to	<b>//</b>	
essential services, employment	` `	
and the natural and historic		
environment		
OHVITOHIHOH	l	

### **Natural Places**

The draft policy aims to protect and restore Scotland's natural environment.

It notes that the planning system should protect, restore and enhance Scotland's natural assets; make best use of nature based solutions; and actively support our national commitment to reverse biodiversity loss, and by facilitating the growth and connection of nature networks.



BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA		
Avoid adverse impacts to designated	<b>//</b>	Significant positive effects expected
habitats and species		where the draft policy gives rise to
Avoid adverse impacts to	$\checkmark\checkmark$	increased protection of locally,
undesignated habitats and species		regionally, nationally and
Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity	<b>\</b>	internationally valued natural assets, landscapes, species and habitats. The draft policy notes that spatial strategies should prevent fragmentation or isolation of habitats and identify opportunities to restore and enhance links which have been broken, including as part of wider green networks and active travel routes. Positive benefit should also be gained from integration of nature based solutions into development design.  Protecting and enhancing the value of natural ecosystems in terms of the ecosystem services they provide in regulating the environment are also likely to have long-term positive benefits.
CLIMATIC FACTORS		
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions  Reduce GHG emissions in order to	√ √√	Long term, significant positive effects may be achieved through CO <sub>2</sub> sequestration by protecting and
meet Scotland emissions reduction target of net zero by 2045.		enhancing the natural assets, contributing to wider targets for
Promote and enable adaptation to climate change	<b>√</b>	emission reduction.
AIR	•	
Avoid adverse effects on air quality	<b>√</b>	Long term positive effects have the
Reduce emissions of key pollutants and improve air quality throughout Scotland	√	potential to arise as natural assets can improve air quality through the removal of pollutants including
Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise, vibration, dust, odour and light	<b>√</b>	ozone, ammonia and particles.
WATER		

	1	T .
Avoid adverse impacts on the	$\checkmark$	Long term, positive effects are
ecological status of water bodies		expected as natural assets can
Ensure the sustainable use of water	0	improve water quality and flow
resources		management by reducing rainwater
Reduce the number of people and	$\checkmark$	run-off, and retaining sediments and
properties at risk of flooding and		other contaminants from entering
promote adaptive flood risk		watercourses.
management		
Protect, maintain and improve the	<b>√</b>	
ecological status and physical state		
of the water environment		
SOIL		
Safeguard and improve soil health,	<b>√</b>	Positive effects are expected to
protect soil resource and soil	\ \ \	arise.
functions of all soil types in Scotland		anos.
Safeguard and improve high value	<b>√</b>	
agricultural land and carbon-rich soils	<b>V</b>	
Reduce the extent of contaminated	/	
	$\checkmark$	
and vacant and derelict land		IVIDONIMENT
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTOR	1	
Avoid adverse impacts on the historic	$\checkmark$	Positive effects on cultural heritage
environment and its setting		and historic environment assets are
Protect and enhance valued	$\checkmark$	expected from this draft policy.
landscapes, historic places and		
archaeological sites and other		
culturally and historically important		
features, landscapes and their		
settings		
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVERSITY	1	
Avoid adverse effects on landscapes	$\checkmark\checkmark$	Significant benefits are expected to
and geodiversity		arise long term. The draft policy
Safeguard and enhance the	$\checkmark\checkmark$	supports protection of locally,
character and diversity of the Scottish		regionally, nationally and
landscape and areas of valuable		internationally valued landscapes.
landscape and geodiversity		·
MATERIAL ASSETS		
Avoid adversely impacting on	<b>√</b>	Positive effects are expected where
material assets	•	the draft policy leads to protection,
Promote the principles of circular	0	restoration and enhancement of
economy		Scotland's natural assets.
Reduce use and promote sustainable	<b>/</b>	
management of natural and built	<b>'</b>	
environment resources		
Promote the sustainable design, use	0	
and management of new and existing		
assets/infrastructure to support the		
development of high-quality places		
POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH		

Reduce the health gap and inequalities and improve healthy life	✓	Long term significant positive effects are expected where this draft policy
expectancy		gives support to protecting and
Promote and enhance/improve	$\checkmark\checkmark$	restoring open space and natural
access to open space, greenspace		environments.
and the wider countryside		
To protect and improve human health	$\checkmark\checkmark$	
and wellbeing through improving the		
quality of the living environment of		
people and communities		
Increase sustainable access to	$\checkmark$	
essential services, employment and		
the natural and historic environment		

### **Peat and Carbon Rich Soils**

The draft policy aims to protect carbon rich soils and preserve and restore peat, including through restricting peatland extraction. The draft policy notes peat and carbon rich soils play a critical role in helping to achieve net zero targets through sequestration of carbon, provide essential ecosystem services for nature, people and economy, with a key role in adapting to future climate change.



BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA		
Avoid adverse impacts to designated	$\checkmark\checkmark$	Long term, significant positive
habitats and species		effects on biodiversity are expected
Avoid adverse impacts to	<b>√</b> √	due to the draft policy intention to
undesignated habitats and species		protect locally, regionally, nationally
Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity	<b>//</b>	and internationally valued soils.
CLIMATIC FACTORS	1	
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	<b>//</b>	Long term significant positive
emissions		effects should arise where the draft
Reduce GHG emissions in order to	<b>V</b> V	policy leads supports carbon
meet Scotland emissions reduction		sequestration by peat and carbon-
target of net zero by 2045.		rich soils. As peatlands are
Promote and enable adaptation to	<b>√</b>	Scotland's largest natural carbon
climate change		sink, however degraded peat can
_		function as a source of carbon
		emissions <sup>31</sup> .
		Peatlands influence water
		regulation with intact peat bogs
		storing water. Natural and restored
		peatland provide reduced
		downstream flood risks, thereby
		contributing to climate change
AID		adaptation.
AIR		Donitive offerte and likely whom this
Avoid adverse effects on air quality	✓	Positive effects are likely where this
Reduce emissions of key pollutants	$\checkmark$	draft policy gives rise to enhanced carbon sequestration by peat and
and improve air quality throughout		carbon sequestration by peat and carbon-rich soils.
Scotland		- Carbon-fich soils.
Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise,	0	
vibration, dust, odour and light	<u> </u>	
WATER	Τ.,	0: :::
Avoid adverse impacts on the	<b>/ /</b>	Significant positive effects should
ecological status of water bodies	<u> </u>	arise as peatlands can play an
Ensure the sustainable use of water	0	
resources		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> NatureScot (2015) Scotland's National Peatland Plan [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.nature.scot/scotlands-national-peatland-plan-working-our-future">https://www.nature.scot/scotlands-national-peatland-plan-working-our-future</a> (accessed 06/10/21)

Reduce the number of people and properties at risk of flooding and promote adaptive flood risk management	<b>√</b>	important role in maintaining water quality and regulation flow <sup>32</sup> .
Protect, maintain and improve the ecological status and physical state of the water environment	<b>//</b>	
SolL		Cignificant lang tarm positive offsets
Safeguard and improve soil health,	$\checkmark\checkmark$	Significant long term positive effects
protect soil resource and soil		are expected through focus on the
functions of all soil types in Scotland		protection of peat and carbon rich
Safeguard and improve high value agricultural land and carbon-rich soils	<b>V</b>	soils, including by restricting peat extraction.
Reduce the extent of contaminated	0	extraction.
and vacant and derelict land	0	
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTOR		/IDONMENT
Avoid adverse impacts on the historic	✓	Protection of peats and carbon rich
environment and its setting	<b>'</b>	soils is likely to have positive effects
Protect and enhance valued	<b>√</b>	on the cultural heritage, historic
landscapes, historic places and	*	environment assets and their
archaeological sites and other		setting.
culturally and historically important		Journal of the state of the sta
features, landscapes and their		
settings		
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVERSITY	•	
Avoid adverse effects on landscapes	<b>√</b>	Protection of peat and carbon rich
and geodiversity		soils should help to minimise
Safeguard and enhance the character	<b>√</b>	impacts on landscapes.
and diversity of the Scottish		
landscape and areas of valuable		
landscape and geodiversity		
MATERIAL ASSETS		
Avoid adversely impacting on	$\checkmark\checkmark$	Protection of peat and carbon rich
material assets		soils has potential for long term,
Promote the principles of circular	0	significant positive effects on
economy		natural material assets.
Reduce use and promote sustainable	✓	
management of natural and built		
environment resources		
Promote the sustainable design, use	0	
and management of new and existing		
assets/infrastructure to support the		
development of high-quality places		
POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH		

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> NatureScot (Scottish Natural Heritage) (2015) Scotland's National Peatland Plan [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.nature.scot/scotlands-national-peatland-plan-working-our-future">https://www.nature.scot/scotlands-national-peatland-plan-working-our-future</a> (accessed 01/10/2021)

Reduce the health gap and inequalities and improve healthy life	0	No significant effect are expected.
expectancy		The restoration and management of
Promote and enhance/improve access to open space, greenspace and the wider countryside	0	peatland can lead to multiple benefits, including indirectly where the income from this helps to
To protect and improve human health and wellbeing through improving the quality of the living environment of people and communities	0	maintain rural skills and employment <sup>33</sup> .
Increase sustainable access to essential services, employment and the natural and historic environment	?√	

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> NatureScot (Scottish Natural Heritage) (2015) Scotland's National Peatland Plan [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.nature.scot/scotlands-national-peatland-plan-working-our-future">https://www.nature.scot/scotlands-national-peatland-plan-working-our-future</a> (accessed 01/10/21)

## **Trees, Woodland and Forestry**

The draft policy aims to expand woodland cover, and protect existing woodlands, limiting woodland removal in association with development. It recognises the critical role trees and woodland play in helping to achieve net zero targets.

The draft policy also notes trees and woodlands provide essential ecosystem services for nature, people and economy, with a key role in adapting to future climate change.



BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA	1	
Avoid adverse impacts to	$\checkmark\checkmark$	Long term significant positive effects on
designated habitats and species		biodiversity are expected. Benefits may
Avoid adverse impacts to	$\checkmark\checkmark$	arise as the draft policy requires Local
undesignated habitats and species		Development Plans to identify existing
Protect, maintain and enhance	$\checkmark\checkmark$	woodland and potential for its
biodiversity		protection, enhancement or expansion
		to avoid habitat fragmentation and
		improve ecological connectivity.
CLIMATIC FACTORS	1	
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas	$\checkmark$	Long term significant positive effects
(GHG) emissions		may be achieved by through CO <sub>2</sub>
Reduce GHG emissions in order	$\checkmark\checkmark$	sequestration by trees and woodland.
to meet Scotland emissions		The scale of effects will be influenced
reduction target of net zero by		by the scale of planting, and type of
2045.		tree planted. Research indicates faster-
Promote and enable adaptation to	$\checkmark$	growing, generally coniferous tree
climate change		species can sequester carbon quickly
		in the medium to long term (<50 years)
		and can avoid indirect emissions in the
		very long term (>50 years) by providing
		renewable wood products and fuel to
		replace non-wood products that can
		involve high GHG emission in their
		manufacture. Whereas, slower-growing
		broadleaf tree species can accumulate
		high carbon reserves within the
		woodland itself in the very long term
		(>50-100+ years), but cannot provide
		the same indirect benefits by replacing
		non-wood products <sup>34</sup> .
		The future development of Negative
		Emissions Technologies, for example,
		the use of biogenic feedstocks with
		CCS could also play a key role in GHG emissions reductions. Supplies of
		· ·
		sustainable biomass, and competing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Scottish Forestry (2020) Climate Mitigation: Woodland creation and management [online] Available at: <a href="https://forestry.gov.scot/forests-environment/climate-change">https://forestry.gov.scot/forests-environment/climate-change</a> (accessed 05/10/21)

		demands for this, could limit the potential for role of bioenergy with CCS.  Potential indirect benefits where the draft policy leads to increased tree cover in urban areas as strategically placed vegetation can contribute to overall temperature regulation of cities <sup>35</sup> .  Potential for benefits to arise through the key role trees and woodlands can play in adapting to the impacts of climate change. Conversely, a changing climate, in combination with novel pests and pathogens, can negatively impact on these assets <sup>36</sup> which could impact on the ambitions of the draft policy. For example, in order to enhance adaptability and resilience of new planting programmes both the current climate and the relatively uncertain projections of the future climate should be taken into account.
AIR Avoid adverse effects on air	<b>//</b>	Long term significant positive effects
quality	, ,	may be achieved should the draft policy
Reduce emissions of key	$\checkmark\checkmark$	lead to increased tree cover,
pollutants and improve air quality throughout Scotland		particularly in urban areas, as forests and woodlands can improve air quality
Reduce levels of nuisance e.g.	?√	through the removal of pollutants
noise, vibration, dust, odour and		including ozone, ammonia, sulphur
light		dioxide, oxides of nitrogen and
		particulate matter <sup>37</sup> . The scale of effect will be influenced by tree species and
		local conditions.
WATER		
Avoid adverse impacts on the	✓	Long term positive effects are
ecological status of water bodies  Ensure the sustainable use of	0	expected.
water resources	U	Poorly designed, managed, or unsuitably located woodland can have
	1	and an abij is sais a mosaidira sair riavo

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https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/urban-regeneration-and-greenspace-partnership/greenspace-in-practice/benefits-of-greenspace/improving-air-quality/ (accessed 05/10/21)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Forest Research (2013) Air temperature regulation by urban trees and green infrastructure [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/air-temperature-regulation-by-urban-trees-and-green-infrastructure/">https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/air-temperature-regulation-by-urban-trees-and-green-infrastructure/</a> (accessed 05/10/21)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> NatureScot (2020) Woodland and climate change [online] Available at: https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/land-and-sea-management/managing-land/forests-and-woodlands/woodland-and-climate-change (accessed 29/10/2021)

woodlands/woodland-and-climate-change (accessed 29/10/2021)
<sup>37</sup> Forest Research (2021) Improving Air Quality [online] Available at:

Reduce the number of people and properties at risk of flooding and promote adaptive flood risk management  Protect, maintain and improve the ecological status and physical state of the water environment	✓ ✓	negative effects on water by exacerbating the effects of acid deposition, causing eutrophication, increasing sediment delivery, affecting water colour and contributing to local flooding. These impacts can be minimised through sustainable forest management <sup>38</sup> .  Appropriately sited and sustainably managed, forestry and woodland can provide many benefits including improved water quality, and flow management by reducing rainwater run-off, and retaining sediments and other contaminants from entering watercourses.
SOIL Safeguard and improve soil health, protect soil resource and soil functions of all soil types in Scotland Safeguard and improve high value agricultural land and carbon-rich soils Reduce the extent of	√ √ ?	Positive impacts should arise as forests and woodlands can lead to positive impacts through reduced soil erosion and regulation of water run-off. The expansion of forestry & woodlands, and activities including planting and felling, planting and harvesting, has potential to negatively impact soils by acidification, compaction,
contaminated and vacant and derelict land		contamination and erosion <sup>39</sup> .  Disturbance from forestry activities cans also result in altered nutrient dynamics, and can lead to increased soil carbon loss in peaty and carbonrich soils, reducing its value as a carbon store <sup>40</sup> . These impacts can however be minimised through sustainable forest management <sup>41</sup> .  There is an opportunity to use woodland to decontaminate soils on
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTO	ORIC E	post-industrial sites. ENVIRONMENT

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Scottish Government (2019) Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029 [online] Available at: https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-forestry-strategy-20192029/ (accessed 05/10/2021)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Forestry Commission (2017) The UK Forestry Standard [online] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-forestry-standard (accessed 05/10/2021)

Forest Research (2021) Woodland creation and soil carbon and nutrient dynamics [online]
 Available at: <a href="https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/soil-sustainability/woodland-creation-and-soil-carbon-and-nutrient-dynamics/">https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/soil-sustainability/woodland-creation-and-soil-carbon-and-nutrient-dynamics/</a> (accessed 05/10/2021)
 Scottish Government (2019) Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029 [online] Available at:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Scottish Government (2019) Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029 [online] Available at: <a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-forestry-strategy-20192029/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-forestry-strategy-20192029/</a> (accessed 05/10/2021)

Avoid adverse impacts on the	? √	Increasing tree cover has potential to
historic environment and its setting		physically impact historic assets, and
Protect and enhance valued	?√	can change the setting. Effects are
landscapes, historic places and		uncertain, site specific and will be
archaeological sites and other		managed at plan and project level.
culturally and historically important		Planting in accordance with the Right
features, landscapes and their		Tree in the Right Place guidance
settings		should minimise negative impacts, and
		facilitate identification of enhancement
		opportunities.
		Depending on the species grown, there
		may also be benefits for cultural
		heritage. There are also a number of
		cultural heritage sites and features that
		are located within the forest or
		woodlands (typically scheduled ancient
		monuments) and sites and features of
		the forest (such as ancient trees,
		stands and landscapes)42.
LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVERSIT		
Avoid adverse effects on	?	Increasing tree cover may change
landscapes and geodiversity		landscapes. Effects are uncertain, site
Safeguard and enhance the	?	specific and will be managed at plan
character and diversity of the		and project level. Planting in
Scottish landscape and areas of		accordance with the Right Tree in the
valuable landscape and		Right Place <sup>43</sup> guidance should
geodiversity		minimise negative impacts.
MATERIAL ASSETS	<u> </u>	
Avoid adversely impacting on	$\checkmark\checkmark$	Long term significant positive effects
material assets	0	are expected on natural material assets
Promote the principles of circular	0	where the draft policy leads to
economy		increased woodland cover and
Reduce use and promote	$\checkmark\checkmark$	sustainably managed forests.
sustainable management of		Increased availability of locally grown
natural and built environment		timber may also promote its use as a
resources		building material.
Promote the sustainable design,	$\checkmark$	
use and management of new and		
existing assets/infrastructure to		
support the development of high-		
quality places		

<sup>42</sup> Forest Research (undated) Cultural and heritage [online] Available at:

https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/urban-regeneration-and-greenspace-partnership/greenspace-in-practice/benefits-of-greenspace/culture-and-heritage/ (accessed 29/10/2021)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Forestry Commission Scotland (2010) The Right Tree in the Right Place [online] Available at: https://forestry.gov.scot/publications/support-and-regulations/control-of-woodland-removal/the-planning-system/96-the-right-tree-in-the-right-place-planning-for-forestry-and-woodlands (accessed 04/10/2021)

POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH		
Reduce the health gap and inequalities and improve healthy life expectancy	✓	Long term significant positive impacts may arise where the draft policy increases provision of accessible
Promote and enhance/improve access to open space, greenspace and the wider countryside	<b>/ /</b>	woodland space which can be used for recreational purposes thereby providing opportunities to improve health and wellbeing. Increased tree planting can
To protect and improve human health and wellbeing through improving the quality of the living environment of people and communities	✓	also enhance the environmental quality of urban areas and support adaption to the impacts of climate change, such as providing solutions to flood risk management.
Increase sustainable access to essential services, employment and the natural and historic environment	<b>√</b>	

#### Coasts

The draft policy notes the role that Scotland's coastal areas and their communities play in supporting important economic sectors like tourism, outdoor recreation and food and drink. The draft policy also identifies a need to address the long-term resilience of some coastal communities against the impacts of climate change and notes the planning system should provide a framework for protecting coastal communities and assets.



BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA		
Avoid adverse impacts to designated	?	Impacts on biodiversity are
habitats and species		uncertain, and subject to
Avoid adverse impacts to undesignated	?	consideration at plan and project
habitats and species		consenting stages.
Protect, maintain and enhance	$\checkmark$	Opportunities to enhance
biodiversity		biodiversity should be identified
		at project level, for example,
		through the use of natural solutions to flood risk
		management.
CLIMATIC FACTORS		managomoni.
Avoid new Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	?√	The use of natural solutions for
emissions		coastal flood and erosion
Reduce GHG emissions in order to	✓	management can play a key role
meet Scotland emissions reduction		in carbon sequestration, with
target of net zero by 2045.		long term positive impacts
Promote and enable adaptation to	$\checkmark\checkmark$	expected to arise. The use of
climate change		built engineered structures often
		require materials with high
		associated embodied carbon,
		such as concrete.
		Significantly positive impacts should arise from the continuing
		commitment to climate change
		mitigation and adaptation. The
		draft policy requires planning to
		consider the long term impacts of
		climate change and provide a
		framework for protecting coastal
		communities and assets.
		The draft policy also notes
		proposals in undeveloped
		coastal areas should only be
		supported if the proposal is
		necessary to support the blue
		economy or net-zero emissions,
		and that any such developments should be also be designed to
		have a very short lifespan or be
		Thave a very short mespan of be

		Programme discount of the control of
		in a location that will remain
AID		supportable in the long term.
AIR		No simulficant effects on six
Avoid adverse effects on air quality	0	No significant effects on air
Reduce emissions of key pollutants and	0	quality are expected.
improve air quality throughout Scotland		
Reduce levels of nuisance e.g. noise,	0	
vibration, dust, odour and light		
WATER	T 0	
Avoid adverse impacts on the ecological	0	Long term significant positive
status of water bodies		effects are expected to arise.
Ensure the sustainable use of water	0	The draft policy requires plans to
resources		recognise that rising sea levels
Reduce the number of people and	$\checkmark\checkmark$	and more extreme weather
properties at risk of flooding and		events will potentially have a
promote adaptive flood risk		significant impact on coastal and
management		islands areas, and that a
Protect, maintain and improve the	$\checkmark$	precautionary approach to flood
ecological status and physical state of		risk including by inundation
the water environment		should be taken.
SOIL	1	
Safeguard and improve soil health,	0	No significant effects are
protect soil resource and soil functions		expected.
of all soil types in Scotland		The draft policy notes
Safeguard and improve high value	0	development proposals in
agricultural land and carbon-rich soils		undeveloped coastal areas
Reduce the extent of contaminated and	0	should not result in increased
vacant and derelict land		risk to people of coastal erosion,
		including through the loss of
		natural coastal defences
	L	including dune systems.
CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTORIC		
Avoid adverse impacts on the historic	?√	No significant effects are
environment and its setting		expected. Positive impacts
Protect and enhance valued	?√	should arise where the draft
landscapes, historic places and		policy helps to reduce the risks of
archaeological sites and other culturally		flooding and coastal erosion, as
and historically important features,		many historic landscapes and
landscapes and their settings		sites located in the coastal zone
		are particularly vulnerable to the
		impacts of climate change. Any
		negative impacts on cultural
		heritage and historic environment
		assets would be minimised
		though application of the
		principles within the Historic
		Assets and Places draft policy,
		and would be managed at plan
		and project consent stages.

LANDSCAPE AND GEODIVERSITY		
Avoid adverse effects on landscapes	?	Coastal defence measures have
and geodiversity	•	potential to impact coastal
Safeguard and enhance the character	?	landscapes. The draft policy
and diversity of the Scottish landscape	•	notes proposals should only be
and areas of valuable landscape and		supported if consistent with any
geodiversity		relevant coastal or marine plans
geodiversity		with natural solutions utilised with
		any in-perpetuity hard defence
		measures demonstrated to be
		necessary. Impacts should be
		managed as plan or project
		consenting stage.
MATERIAL ASSETS		consenting stage.
Avoid adversely impacting on material	<b>//</b>	Significant positive effects are
assets	* *	expected due to the emphasis on
Promote the principles of circular	0	protecting coastal communities
economy	-	and assets, with the coast and
Reduce use and promote sustainable	<b>√</b>	foreshore considered to be at
management of natural and built		particular risk, from both sea
environment resources		level rise and coastal erosion.
Promote the sustainable design, use	<b>√</b>	The draft policy notes It requires
and management of new and existing	*	a precautionary approach to
assets/infrastructure to support the		flood risk including by inundation
development of high-quality places		thereby minimising adverse
		impacts of flooding associated
		with climate change.
POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH		
Reduce the health gap and inequalities	?√	Measures to address the long-
and improve healthy life expectancy		term resilience of some coastal
Promote and enhance/improve access	?√	communities may create long-
to open space, greenspace and the		term indirect positive effects on
wider countryside		employment with the draft policy
To protect and improve human health	<b>√</b>	recognising that coastal areas
and wellbeing through improving the		support important economic
quality of the living environment of		sectors including tourism,
people and communities		outdoor recreation and food and
Increase sustainable access to essential	<b>//</b>	drink.
services, employment and the natural		Long term benefits should also
and historic environment		arise where increased
		consideration is given to
		improving resilience to impacts of
		climate change, with coastal
		assets particularly, for example,
		from rising sea levels and coastal
		erosion. Where implemented,
		nature based solutions to flood
		management should also lead to

benefits through creation of
attractive open spaces <sup>44</sup> .

#### **Alternatives**

## Urban edges and the green belt

C1.6.1 Updated policy on urban edges and the green belt aims to protect countryside around cities and towns, and limits the circumstances where green belt development can be acceptable to specific uses. There are a wide range of views held on the role the greenbelt can play, with some stakeholders advocating for the most stringent protections whilst others argue for abolishing the greenbelt altogether. There were also differing views on the types of uses acceptable in green belt areas. The assessment identifies the potential for positive effects from the draft policy across the SEA topics, and it follows that without the draft policy these effects may not be fully realised. The assessment findings note there are mixed views on the role the greenbelt may play in commuting distances, and consequently in helping to reduce GHG emissions.

#### Natural Places – wild land

- C1.6.2 Draft Natural Places policy takes a more flexible and nuanced approach to wild land than the current Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), the overall objective of which is to open up wild land for more development where this supports rural repopulation and climate change targets, in keeping with statutory outcomes for NPF.
- C1.6.3 It follows that an **alternative** approach would be to retain current policy on wild land as set out in SPP. However, the Scottish Government considers draft NPF4 policy 32 strikes an appropriate balance in protecting our natural places whilst meeting statutory outcomes on increasing the population of rural areas of Scotland, and on meeting emissions reductions targets.
- C1.6.4 It is difficult to predict in any meaningful way how impacts may differ between the proposed policy 32 (i) and the current SPP, taking into account the level of uncertainty arising in the application of policy to individual developments. Nonetheless, it is likely that were the current SPP retained, benefits for climate objectives and in meeting population and human health objectives for sustainable access to essential services and employment may be reduced, whilst positive effects for landscape and biodiversity could be enhanced.

# Peat and carbon rich soils

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Green4Grey (2020) Integrated planning for multifunctional land use [online] Available at: <a href="https://green4grey.be/en/project-objective#integrale%20planning%20voor%20een%20veelzijdig%20landgebruik">https://green4grey.be/en/project-objective#integrale%20planning%20voor%20een%20veelzijdig%20landgebruik</a> (accessed 25/08/2021)

C1.6.5 Currently, SPP sets a high bar for the protection of peat from commercial extraction. Building on this existing protection, and in keeping with statutory requirements in the Planning Act for the Scottish Ministers to have regard to the desirability of preserving peatland when preparing the revised NPF, the draft NPF4 introduces new restrictions on commercial peat extraction. The draft policy sets out that development proposals for new commercial peat extraction, including extensions to existing sites. should not be supported except in certain limited circumstances. Overall the draft policy aims to balance the highest levels of protection for peatland whilst protecting the nationally important whisky industry. It follows that, were the policy exceptions to be removed or further tightened, the potential for positive effects for the environment identified as arising from the draft policy may be further magnified. It is understood that peat extraction for whisky production is much less than that extracted for other purposes including horticulture.

## Trees, woodland and forestry

- C1.6.6 We are aware of calls from some stakeholders for the introduction of new policy on 'buffer zones' around certain trees, including ancient and veteran trees. The draft NPF4 does not include such provision and we are not minded to introduce such provision, for the reasons set out below. Draft policy 34(b) does however include draft policy such that development proposals should not be supported where they would result in 'any loss of ancient woodlands, ancient and veteran trees, or adverse impact on their ecological condition'. It is considered that this approach will ensure high levels of protection whilst taking into account the circumstances of the individual case, including on matters such as topography, and of the condition of the tree(s) concerned, helping to avoid unintended consequences which could arise from a 'one size fits all' approach. This is complemented by the existing statutory duty on planning authorities, to ensure, whenever it is appropriate, that in granting planning permission for any development adequate provision is made, by the imposition of conditions, for the preservation or planting of trees. (Section 159 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended).
- C1.6.7 We are also aware of calls from some stakeholders for NPF4 to introduce targets for canopy cover. The Scottish Government is not minded to introduce such a requirement, for the reasons set out below.
- C1.6.8 Whilst not every development proposal will be suitable for trees, there is an existing statutory duty on planning authorities, to ensure, whenever it is appropriate, that in granting planning permission for any development adequate provision is made, by the imposition of conditions, for the preservation or planting of trees. (Section 159 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended). The draft NPF4 includes provision such that local development plans should identify and protect existing woodland and potential for its enhancement or expansion. The spatial strategy should also identify and set out proposals for the development of forestry and woodlands in their area, in associated Forestry and Woodland Strategies, including their development, protection

and enhancement, in accordance with The Right Tree in the Right Place guidance.