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Morag Watson

Director of Policy

Scottish Renewables

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Leaders Debate: The Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan – what are the implications for planning?

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 etp



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Barry Carruthers

Managing Director, Onshore UK & Ireland

ScottishPower Renewables



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RENEWABLES

Implementation of NPF4 - supportive policy framework

Shift from policy development to delivery – strong leadership essential

Repowering at pace – turning a challenge into an opportunity

Energy Strategy & JTP - Achieve 20GW by 2030 onshore, increase offshore ambition & address planning workstreams



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Kirsty MacArthur

Director & Co-Owner, MacArthur Green

Andy Sloan

Project Development Director, Low Carbon

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The thorny issue of consenting timelines

Chaired by Gary McGovern, Planning & Environment Partner, Pinsent Masons



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Mary Fisher

Partner – Landscape Planner & Expert Witness

Abseline



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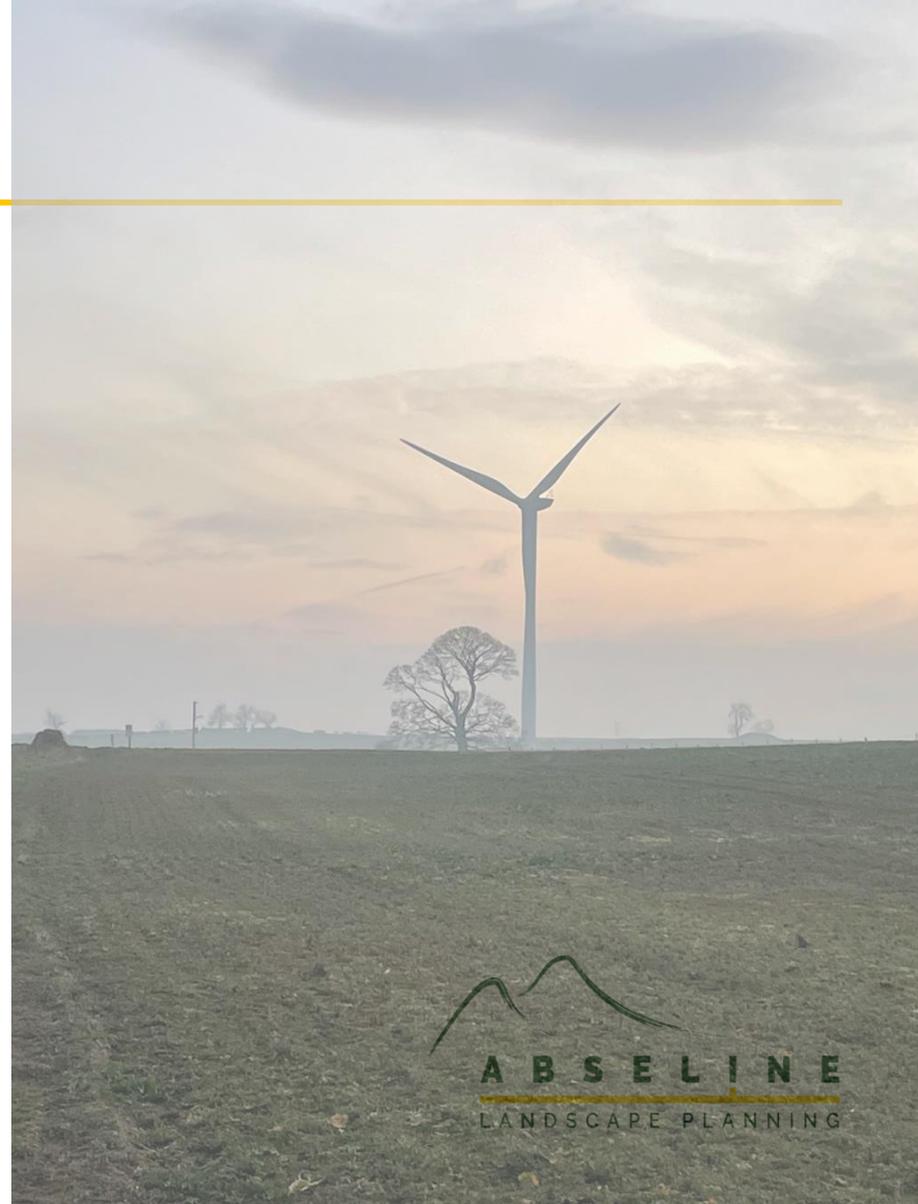
Consenting Timelines



It takes a while ...

... because it matters.

- Planning is how we decide
 - democratically,
 - if a proposal's benefits
 - are worth the harms,
 - or not.
- Involving people and careful consideration takes time.



Is faster better?

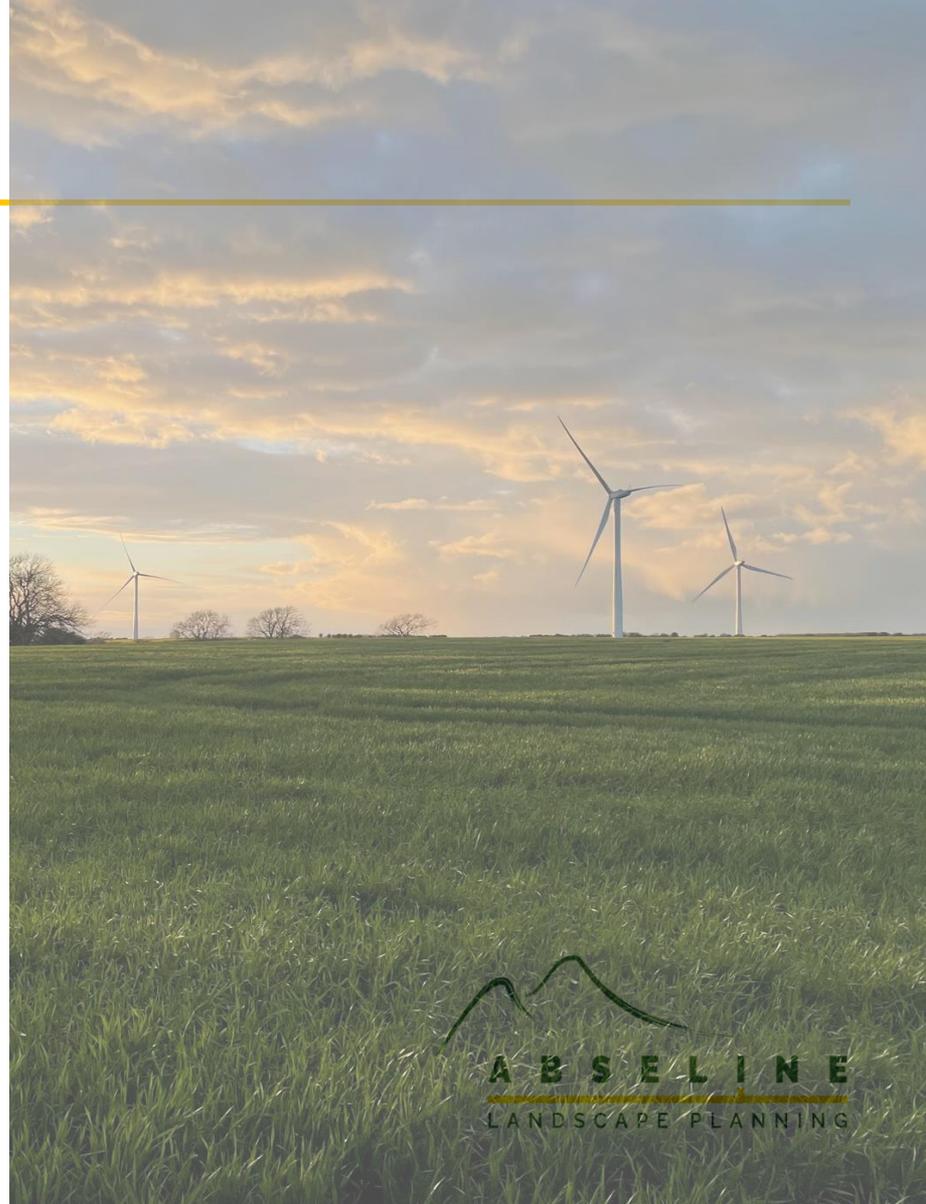
... or genuinely faster?

- DCO/NSIP process
 - 'Fixed' timescales
 - Likely to be consented
- But
 - Application right first time
 - Consultation emphasised
 - Detail needed
 - Demanding process
 - Expensive



What can be done

- Clarify planning policy ✓
- Change the system ...
(but that would take a long time)
- Good quality applications
- Positive consultation



Marcus Trinick KC



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Ruth Findlay

Head of Energy Consents Unit

The Scottish Government



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Scottish Renewables Planning Conference 2023

Ruth Findlay

**Head of Energy Consents Unit
The Scottish Government**



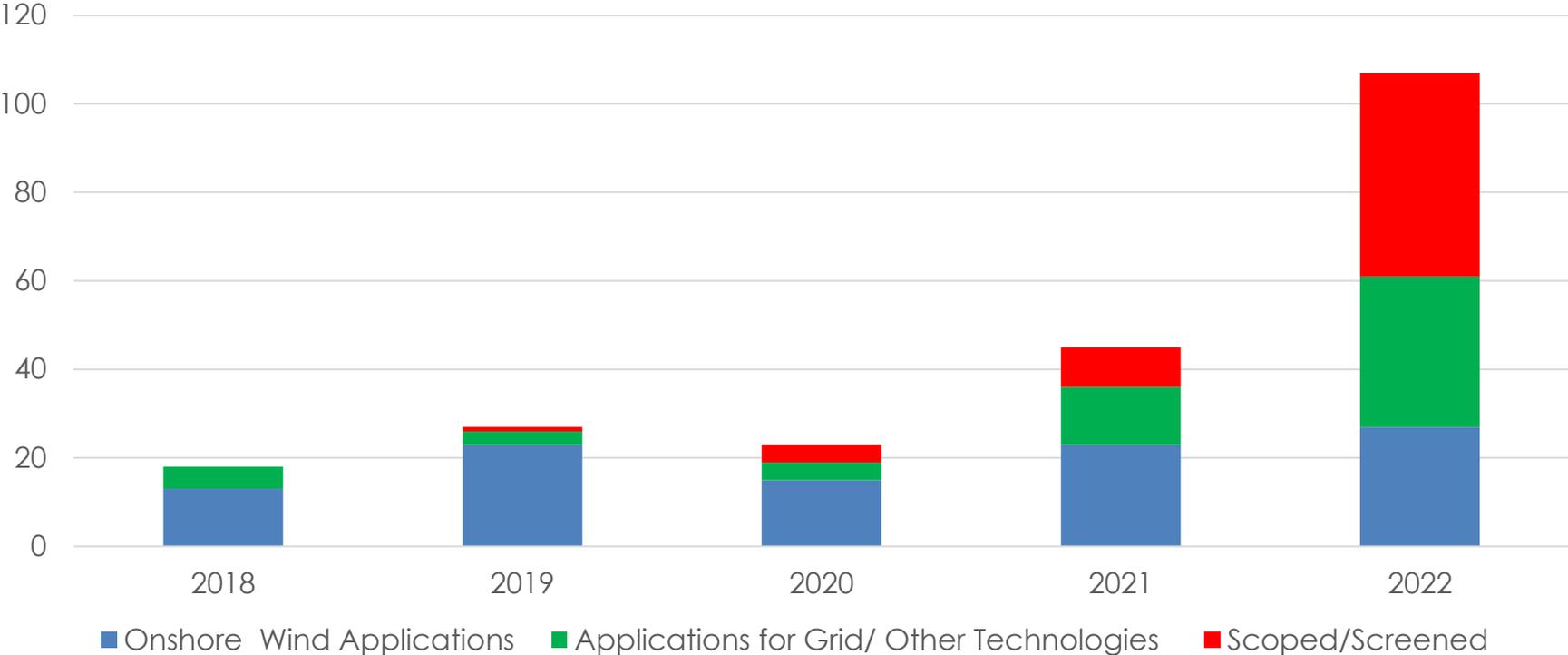
APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED 2010 - 2022

■ Consented ■ Refused ■ Undetermined

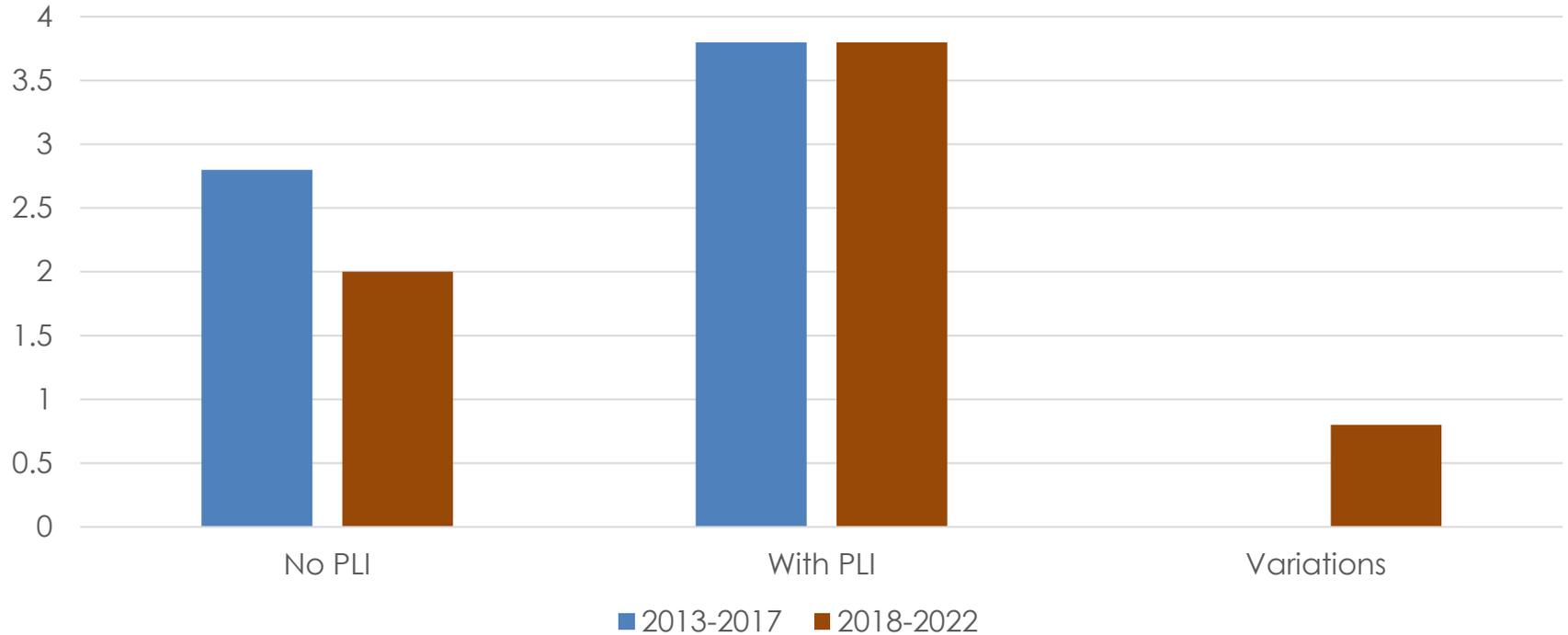


Application Timescales

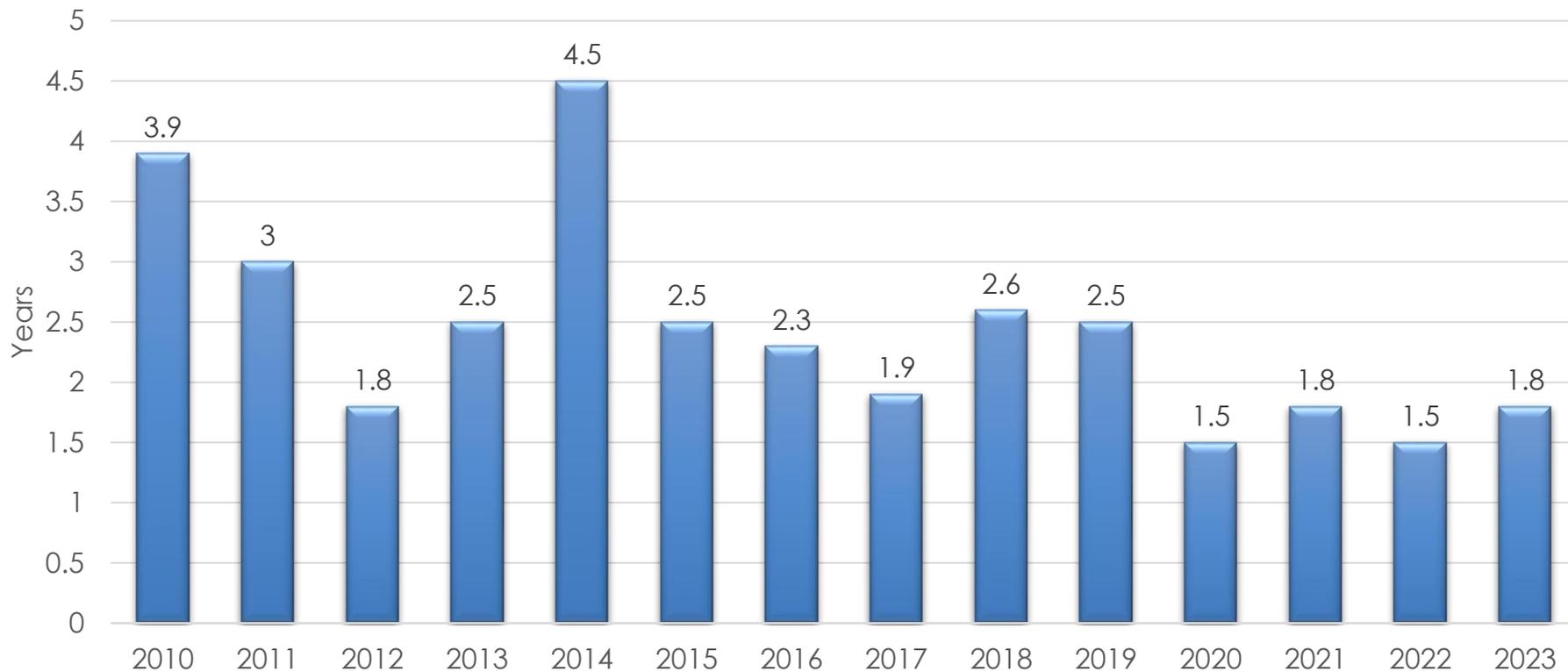
Future Look



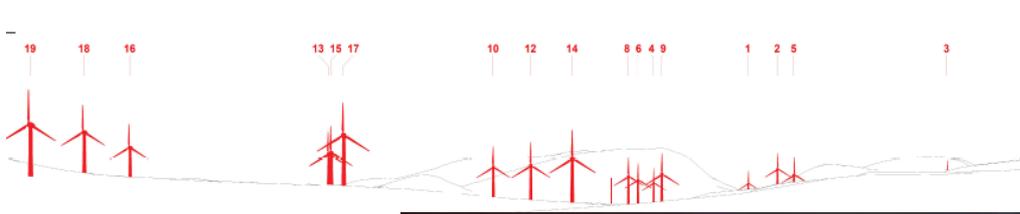
Average decision timescales



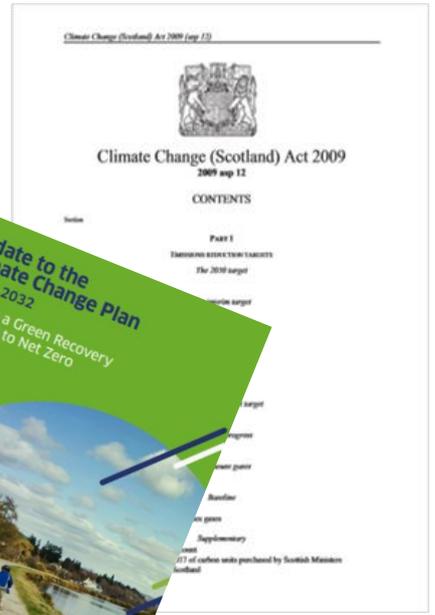
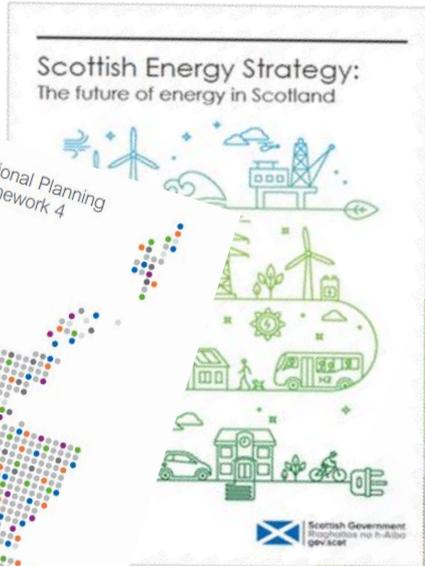
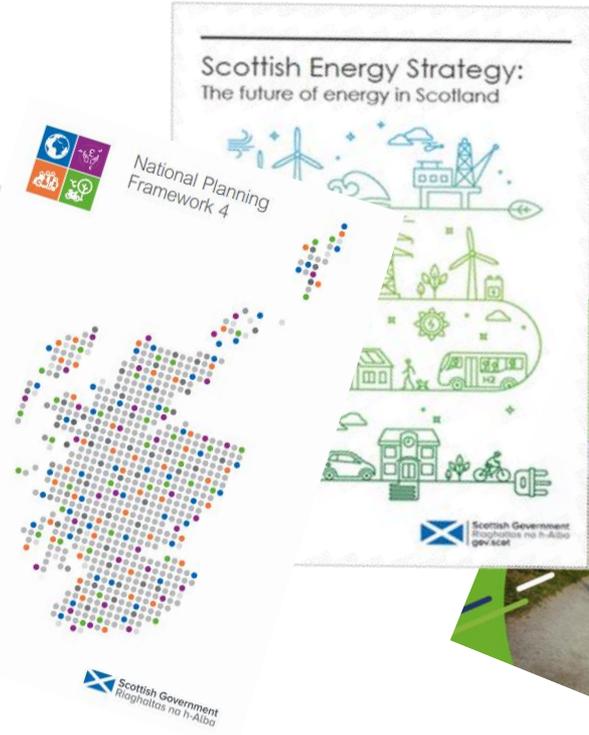
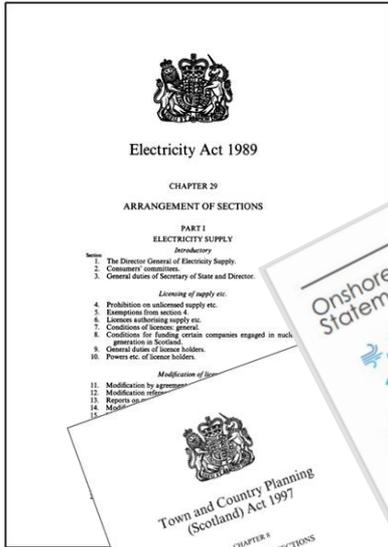
Onshore Wind - Decision Timescales 2010 - 2023



Applications and Additional Information



Ruth Findlay, Head of Energy Consents Unit
Email: ruth.findlay2@gov.scot Mobile: 07827 990480





Scott Ferrie
Chief Reporter, Planning &
Environmental Appeals Division
(DPEA)
The Scottish Government



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Scott Ferrie
Chief Reporter, DPEA



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DPEA handles a wide range of casework

- Planning appeals
 - Compulsory purchase orders
 - Roads and stopping up orders
 - Traffic regulation orders
 - **S36 and S37 Electricity Act cases**
 - **Wayleaves**
 - High hedges
 - Historic Environment Appeals
 - Low Emission Zones
 - Workplace Parking Levy
 - Forestry appeals
- Currently about **220** live cases on hand
 - **15** S36 cases
 - **5** S37 cases



Code of Practice

Code of Practice for
Handling Inquiries
under Section 62 and
Schedule 8 to the
Electricity Act 1989



Encourages more proportionate process:

- Move away from all-encompassing inquiry
- Allow the reporter to focus on matters of contention
- But requires agreement of parties



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Timescales and outcomes

- Average DPEA processing times:
 - PPA windfarm **35** weeks
 - S36 windfarm **75** weeks
- Success rates PPA windfarms:
 - Written process: **56%**
 - Inquiry process: **40%**





Each case is unique and must be considered on its merits. It is for the person appointed to determine the case to satisfy him/herself that the application of the practice contained in this note is appropriate to the circumstances of the case. A reporter who intends to depart from the guidance should advise his/her SGL so issues emerging can be considered for future case work.

Guidance note for:	Reporters and parties
Relating to:	Managing an efficient inquiry process
Background:	<p>Relatively few appeals or other cases progress to an inquiry or hearing process. However where this is the case these can, on occasion, result in a protracted process. Such cases will generally take longer than cases dealt with solely by written procedure. Generally there will be legitimate reasons why they take longer: complex and extended procedure may be required properly to address all the substantive issues and interests involved, for instance, in major development proposals.</p> <p>Delays that arise in such procedure will often be outwith the control of the reporter. Nonetheless, to minimise delay, such cases require to be managed efficiently so that the process does not become protracted.</p> <p>This note has been produced to set out the main steps required to ensure a tightly managed and efficient inquiry process. A consequent indicative timeline is attached to this note.</p>



Key messages of GN 23

- Start with fit for purpose **position statements**
- Scheme should **not change** at this stage
- Limited **FEI**
- Early PEM; parties agree to inquiry dates offered
- Everyone must follow the agreed timeline



Key messages of GN 23

- Proportionate process – oral procedure only where adds value
- Narrow the scope of evidence – what is in dispute?
- Focussed and succinct evidence
- Summaries of cases at end of procedure



Where we need to be:

- An **inclusive** and **thorough**, but **efficient** and **proportionate** process
- Drive down DPEA processing time from **74** weeks to **50** weeks
- But we can go further (**35** weeks for PPA windfarms...)



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Mary Fisher

Partner – Landscape Planner & Expert Witness, Abseline

Marcus Trinick KC

Ruth Findlay

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The Scottish Government



Scottish Renewables

24,583 followers

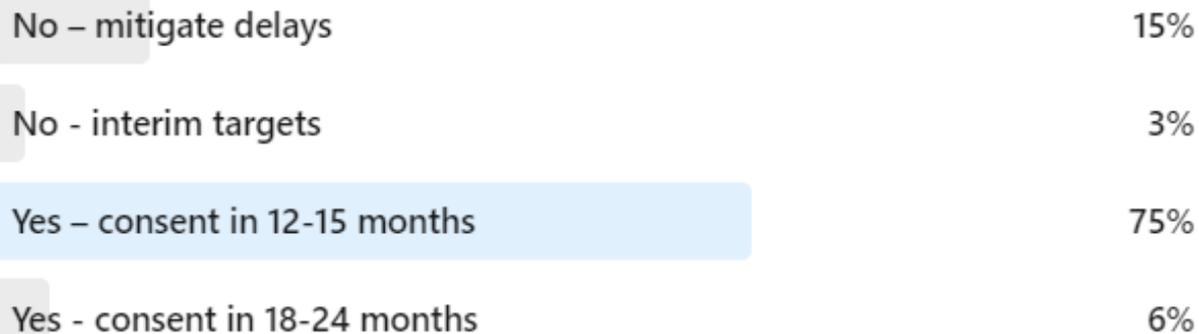
2w • Edited •



National Planning Framework 4 is on its way to adoption. As its new policies are applied, we're asking: "Should we set an ambition for how long onshore wind planning decisions in Scotland take?" [...see more](#)

Should we set an ambition for how long onshore wind planning decisions in Scotland take?

The author can see how you vote. [Learn more](#)



202 votes • Poll closed

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Mary Fisher

Partner – Landscape Planner & Expert Witness, Abseline

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Should we set an ambition for how long onshore wind planning decisions in Scotland take?

66 

No - focus instead on mitigating reasons for delays



No - focus on net-zero/legal interim targets



Yes - the ambition should be to consent onshore wind farms in 12-15 months



Yes - the ambition should be to consent onshore wind farms in 18-24 months





National Planning Framework 4 – game changer or just hot air?

Chaired by Neil Collar, Head of Planning Law,
Brodie's LLP

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Tony Rose

Director of Strategy, Place & Economy

Scottish Futures Trust



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**Scottish
Renewables
Planning Conference**

Tony Rose

Strategy, Economy & Place Director

NPF4 – cross cutting approach

Spatial Principles

Spatial Themes

Outcomes

National Developments

Regional Spatial Priorities

Just transition
Conserve & recycle assets

Sustainable Places

Reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions
Improving biodiversity

Local living
Compact urban growth

Liveable places

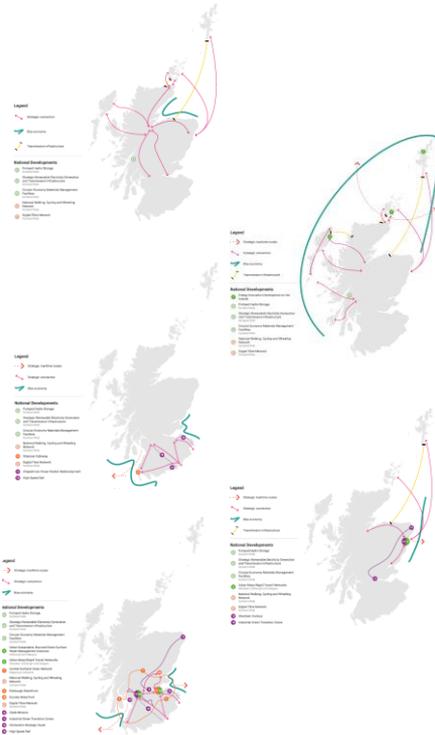
Fair & inclusive planning system
Homes for diverse needs

Rebalancing development
Rural revitalisation

Productive Places

Rural revitalisation
Lifelong learning and wellbeing

- 1 Energy Innovation Development on the Islands
- 2 Pumped Hydro Storage
Scotland Wide
- 3 Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
Scotland Wide
- 4 Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities
Scotland Wide
- 5 Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions
Edinburgh and Glasgow
- 6 Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks
Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow
- 7 Central Scotland Green Network
- 8 National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
Scotland Wide
- 9 Edinburgh Waterfront
- 10 Dundee Waterfront
- 11 Stranraer Gateway
- 12 Digital Fibre Network
Scotland Wide
- 13 Clyde Mission
- 14 Aberdeen Harbour
- 15 Industrial Green Transition Zones
- 16 Hunterston Strategic Asset
- 17 Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment
- 18 High Speed Rail



National Development Delivery

3. Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure



Need

- Renewables electricity generation
- Storage technology and capacity
- Transmission and distribution networks – onshore and offshore
- Domestic and export use
- Decarbonise heat, transport and industry
- Support jobs, investment and wider economy

Designation

- On and offshore generation and storage >50MW
- New and/or replacement on and offshore high voltage transmission and cables >132kv
- New and/or upgraded infrastructure directly supporting on and offshore high voltage electricity lines, cables, interconnectors and stations

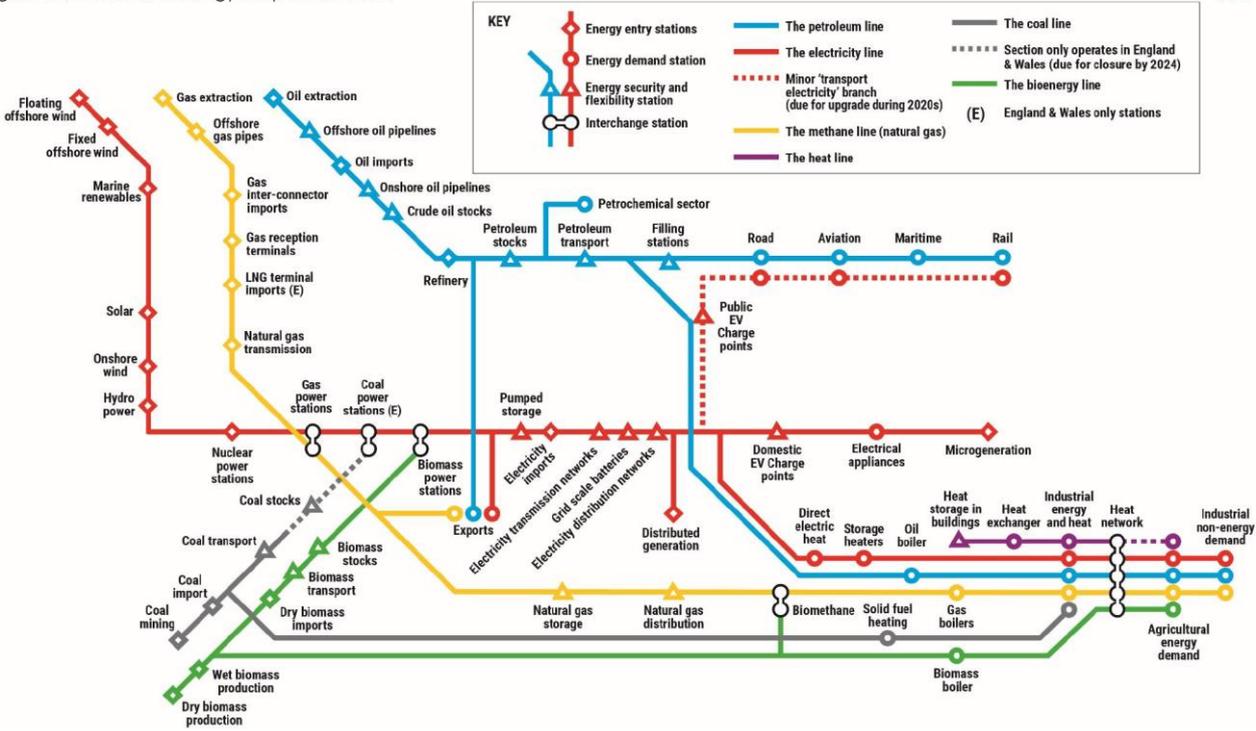
Greenhouse Assessment

- Net positive impact



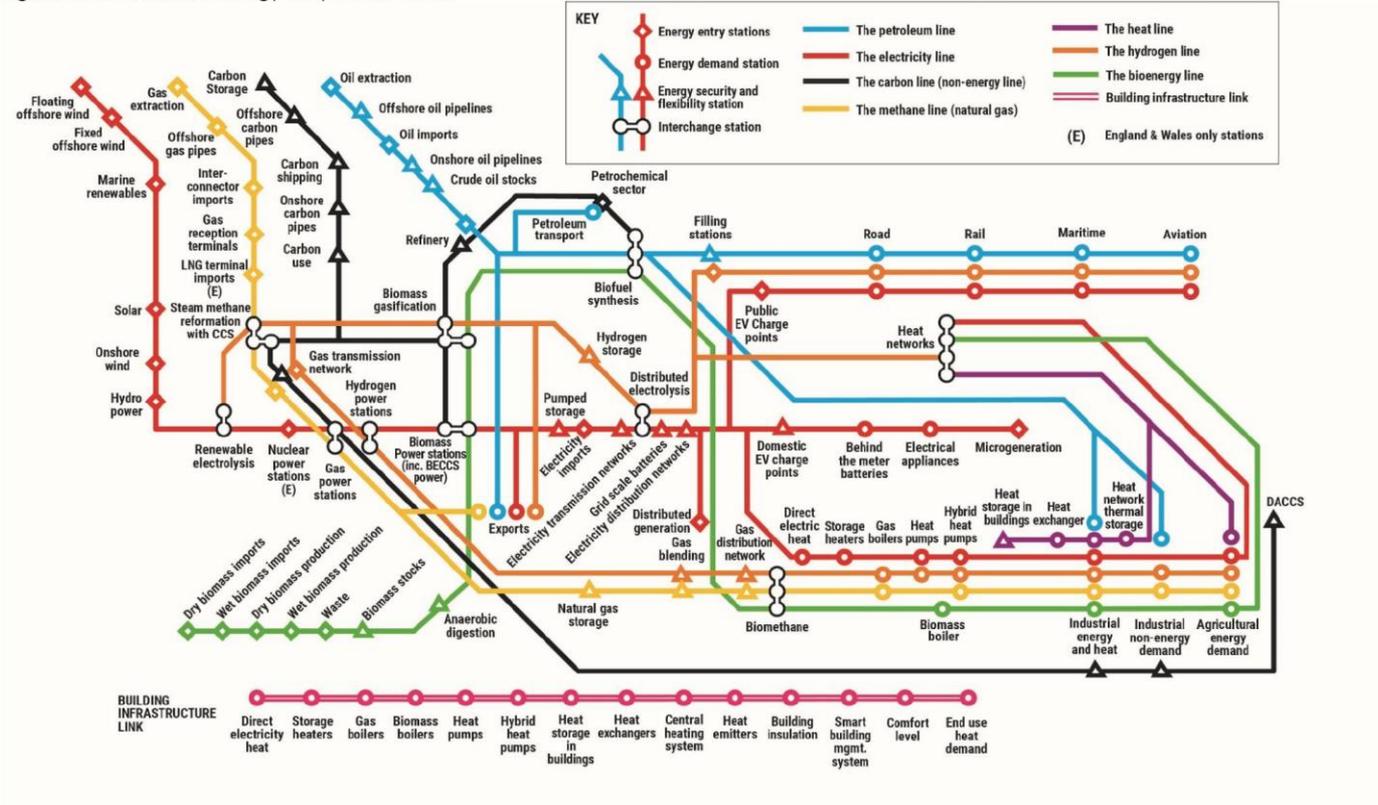
System transformation - from

Figure 36: Scotland's energy map in the 2020s



System transformation - to

Figure 37: Scotland's energy map in the 2030s



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Euan Hutchison

Consenting Associate Director

Locogen



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NPF4 What Happens Next?



Euan Hutchison
Consenting Associate Director



NPF4

The story so far.....

- It has taken a while!
- Strong process of engagement.
- Draft was close.... but not close enough!
- Great effort to turn that around.
- Final document finally brings together land use and energy planning.
- Climate change core theme.
- Renewables recognized as means of delivering climate change.
- Planning balance.

Needs to be **welcomed and embraced**.

But where next....?



NPF4

So what could happen next? Option A:



Newton's lesser known law of Scottish Planning Practice:

To every action (by Scottish Government) there's an equal and opposite reaction (by local government).



Strategic Landscape Capacity Assessment for Wind Energy in Aberdeenshire



Final Report

Ironside Farrar
111 MacCormac Road
Edinburgh
EH9 6HR
March 2014
1955

Or..

Option B: Case Study

Rothes III and Fetteresso Wind Farm Public Inquiries



Rothes III

Fred. Olsen Renewables

Section 36 - Feb 2019

Extension to and existing S36 Wind Farm

Moray Council Landscape Objection

Public Inquiry – Sept 2020

Reporter - Robert Seaton

Approved by Ministers - Oct 2022

Fetteresso

Fred. Olsen Renewables

Section 36 – June 2019

Extension to an existing S36 Wind Farm

Aberdeenshire Council Landscape Objection

Public Inquiry Held – Nov 2021

Reporter – Andrew Sikes

Approved by Ministers - Sept 2022

Case Study

Roths III and Fetteresso Wind Farm Public Inquiries



Before: Culachy Appeal Decision 2018 - Reporter Robert Seaton

There is nothing express in either document (SES, OWPS) to suggest that any increased weight is to be given to the contribution of onshore wind development to meeting renewable energy targets or that less weight is to be given to landscape protection or other environmental considerations. I am not persuaded the Scottish Government would make such a policy change without doing so expressly.

Case Study

Rothes III and Fetteresso Wind Farm Public Inquiries



During: Fetteresso Reporter's Report

Draft NPF4

..... the applicant notes that the draft NPF4 recognises the importance of renewable energy generation in the Scottish Government's strategy for addressing climate change.

..... the council notes that although draft NPF4 places greater emphasis on the challenges associated with climate change, it introduces little in the way of new requirements in the assessment of wind energy development proposals.

Case Study

Rothes III and Fetteresso Wind Farm Public Inquiries



After: Rothes III Reporter's Report

*..., the adverse effects on the park's special **landscape qualities** would be **outweighed** by the environmental benefits arising from the proposed development's **contribution to meeting the emissions-reduction targets and socio-economic benefits** including the investment and job creation for its construction and operation.*

*We consider that consenting the ... proposal would be for Ministers **the action most sustainable and best calculated to achieve the statutory emissions-reduction targets, and therefore the action indicated by their duties under section 44(1) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.***

*Having found that the original proposal's landscape and visual effects are acceptable and taking that together with the benefits of the proposed development, **including its significant short-term economic benefits and substantial contribution to achieving targets for emissions reduction and renewable-energy generation, we consider that the balance lies in favour of granting consent for the proposal.***

Conclusions

Preparation of NPF4 has bridged the timeframe where climate change policy has ramped up significantly.

Importantly NPF4 will operate under different legal framework.

Final NPF4 reflects that.

- Prominence afforded to Climate Change
- Recognition of the importance of renewables.
- Shift in Planning Balance.

Carolyn Wilson

Onshore Consents Team Manager

SSE Renewables



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NPF4 – Addressing the Twin Crises

Carolyn Wilson

February 2023



NPF4 – How Can We Help?

- *“Planning carries great responsibility – decisions about development will impact on generations to come. Putting the twin global climate and nature crises at the heart of our vision for a future Scotland will ensure the decisions we make today will be in the long-term interest of our country.” (Quote from Ministerial Forward)*
- *“Policy 1- When considering all development proposals significant weight will be given to the global climate and nature crises.”*
- **Interaction between Policies: Policy 11- Energy, Policy 4- Natural Places and Policy 3 – Biodiversity.**
- **Is renewable development, in particular onshore wind a problem, or part of the solution?**

The SSER Experience - Dunmaglass Wind Farm



- Rolling programme of **peatland restoration** in collaboration with Dunmaglass Estate
- **70ha** of targeted restoration completed to date
- SSER are also developing the neighbouring **Aberarder Wind Farm** – opportunity for further targeted restoration and enhancement

|| Strathy South & Viking Wind Farms



- **304ha** of peatland restoration at Viking in Shetland
- **1,600ha** of forest to bog restoration underway at Strathy South
- SSER's **largest Habitat Management Plan** to date

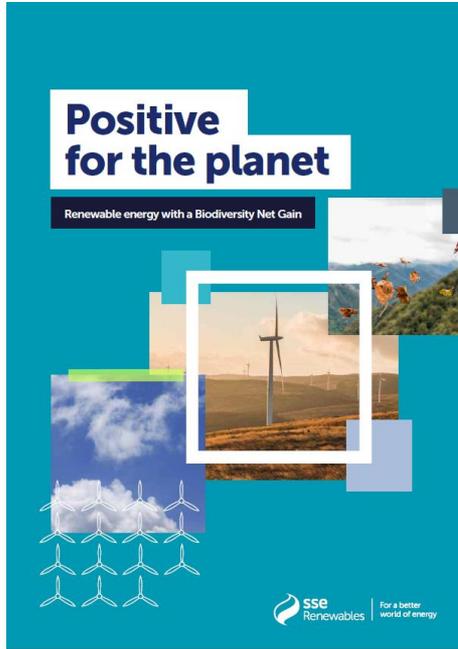


|| **SSER – PART OF THE SOLUTION**

- **Habitat Management Plans delivering quality peatland restoration on our sites; Clyde, Dunmaglas, Viking, Strathy South *the story continues!***
- **Onshore Wind Policy Statement 2022 – Annex 1 “ Best Practice Examples: Enhancing the Natural Environment”**
- **Renewable development can be part of the solution and help address both the climate and the nature crises, but expectations must be realistic!**
- **How do we demonstrate this and compliance with NPF4 policies?**
- **Biodiversity Net Gain- How to evidence ?**

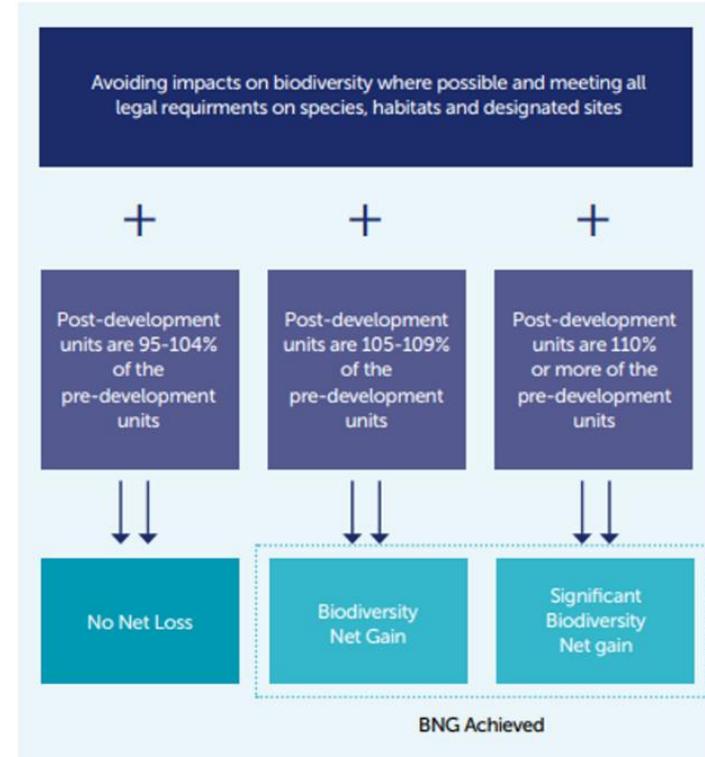
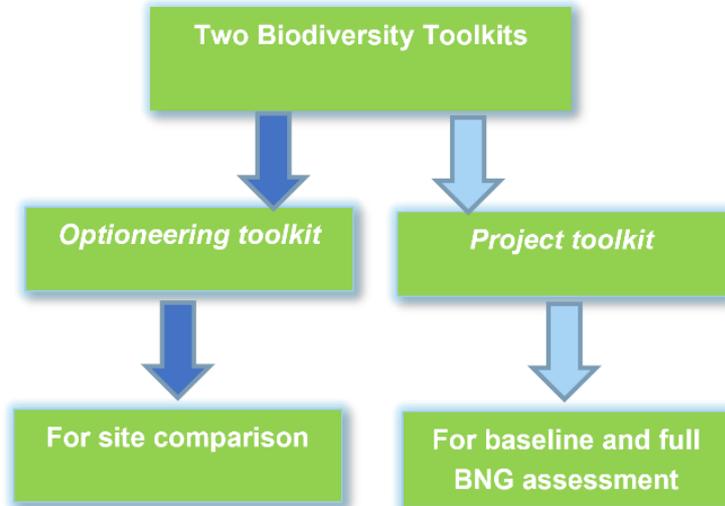
Positive For The Planet

A commitment to credibility, transparency and collaboration



- New **BNG report**, two **BNG toolkits** and user guides all published in full
- Launched on **COP27 Biodiversity Day** at twin events in Edinburgh and Egypt for key stakeholders
- Opportunity to showcase Scotland as a **global leader on BNG**

|| Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain



For more information:

<https://www.sserenewables.com/sustainability/biodiversity-net-gain/>



Cara Davidson

Head of Energy & Environment: Planning, Architecture & Regeneration Division

The Scottish Government



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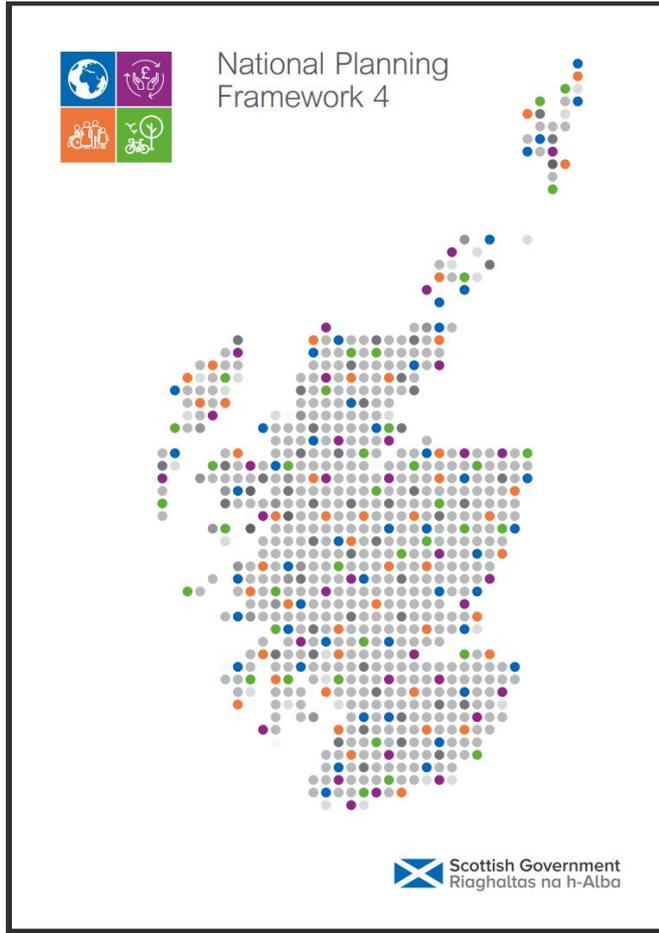
National Planning Framework 4

Scottish Renewables Planning Conference 2023

Cara Davidson



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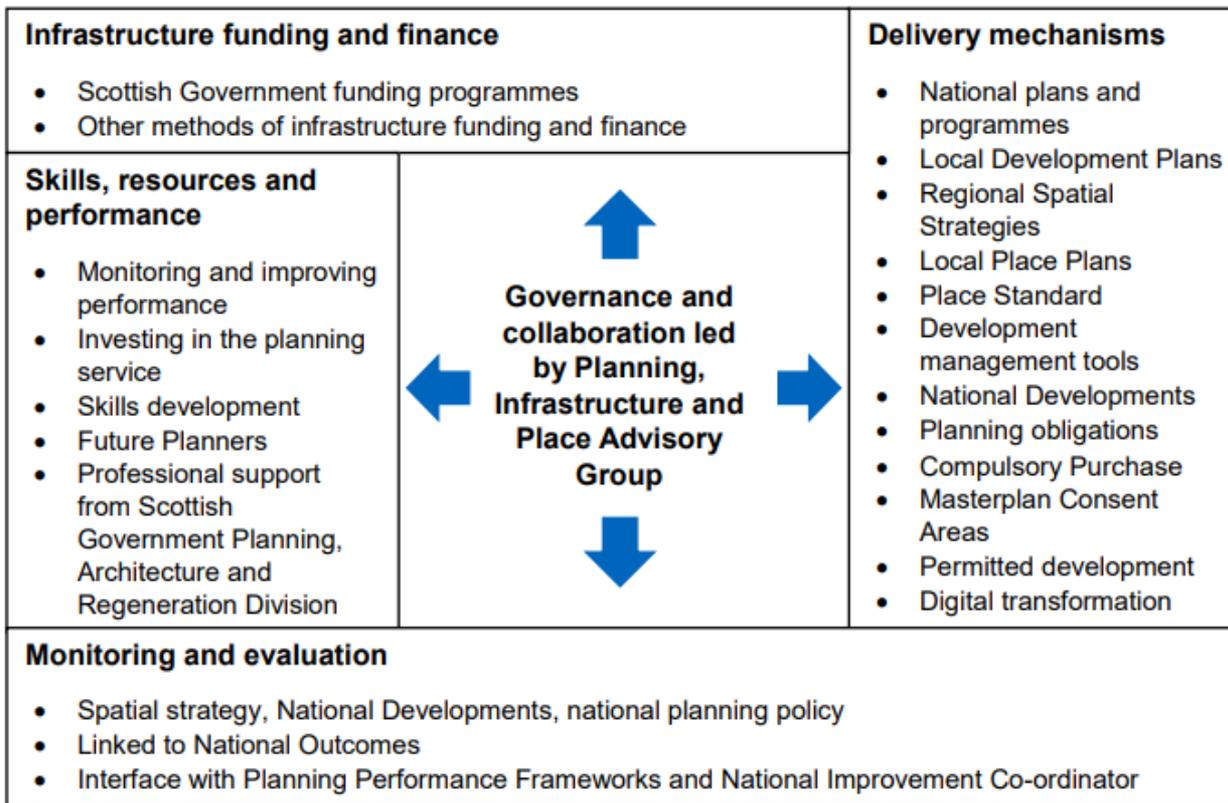


“The process for preparing this strategy has shown what can be achieved when we work together. I greatly appreciate the ideas that people and organisations have contributed.”

Tom Arthur MSP

Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth

Support for delivery



Further information

❑ www.transformingplanning.scot

❑ www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/delivery-programme/

❑ www.gov.scot/collections/chief-planner-letters/



Email Updates



LinkedIn - Digital Planning



Planning and Architecture



Digital Planning



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A landscape for net-zero – tiny tremors or a seismic shift?

Chaired by Mark Richardson, Senior Policy Manager – Onshore Wind & Consenting, Scottish Renewables



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Rory Carmichael

Development Project Manager

EDF Renewables



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Rory Carmichael

Development Project Manager

EDF Renewables UK

The Availability of Viable Sites

and the significance of changes in wild
land policy

What does NPF4 change for onshore wind in relation to wild land?

NPF4 Policy 4 g) "Development proposals will be supported in Nature Scot Wild Land Areas where they will support meeting renewable energy targets;"



What does the change mean?

Unlocking more than 20% of Scotland for renewables development?





What does the change mean in practice?

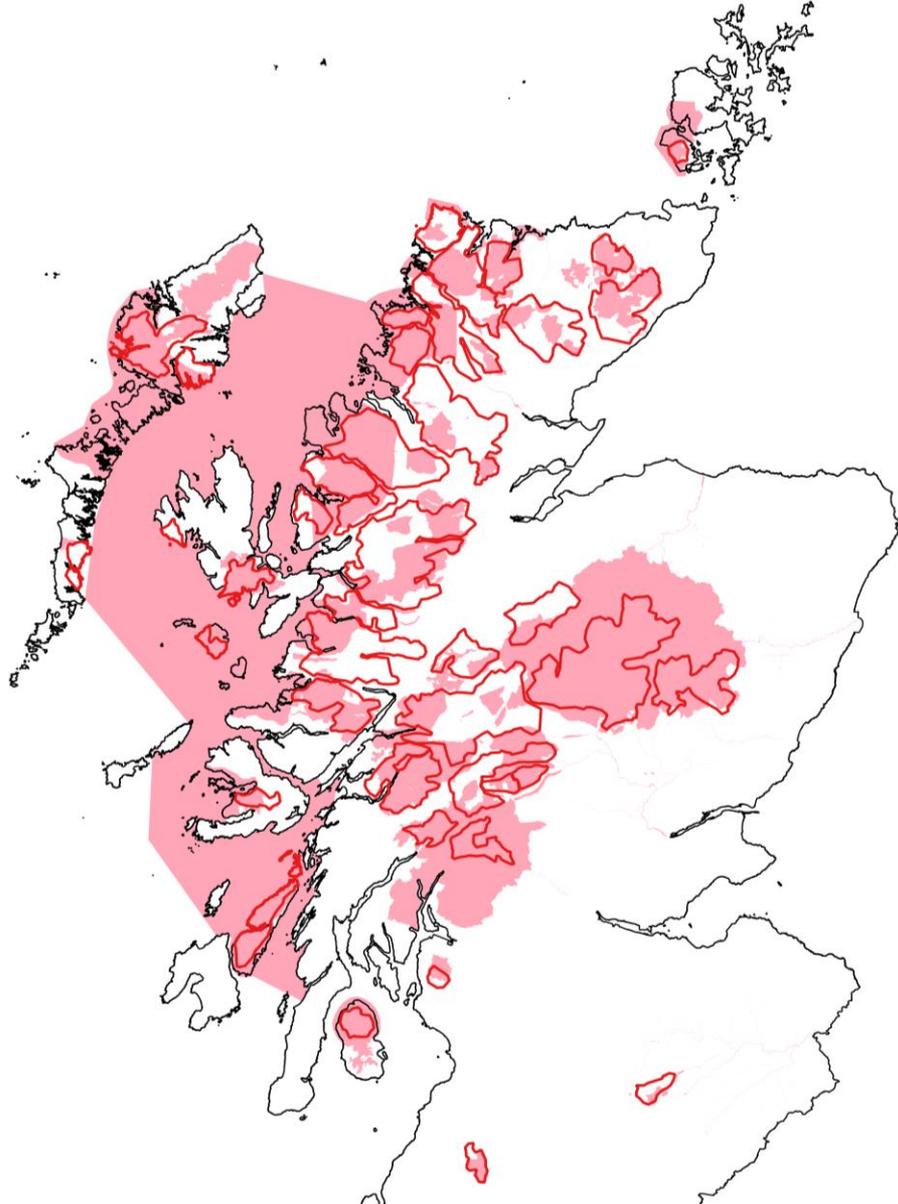
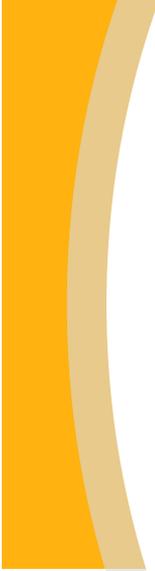
- Other NPF4 Policies
- Other designations



Approximately 63% of mapped wild land is either rivers and lochs or nationally/internationally designated

National and International Designations







Physical attributes used to identify relative wildness

- i. Perceived naturalness.
- ii. Rugged or challenging terrain.
- iii. Remoteness from public mechanised access.
- iv. Lack of built modern artefacts.

Landscape and Visual Impacts



(-) designing in rugged terrain
(-) aviation lighting



(+) NPF4: where impacts are localised and/or appropriate design mitigation has been applied, they will generally be considered to be acceptable.



Stakeholders

- i. Local Planning Authorities
- ii. NatureScot
- iii. Local communities



Conclusions

Richard Baldwin

Head of Consents & Environment

SSEN Transmission



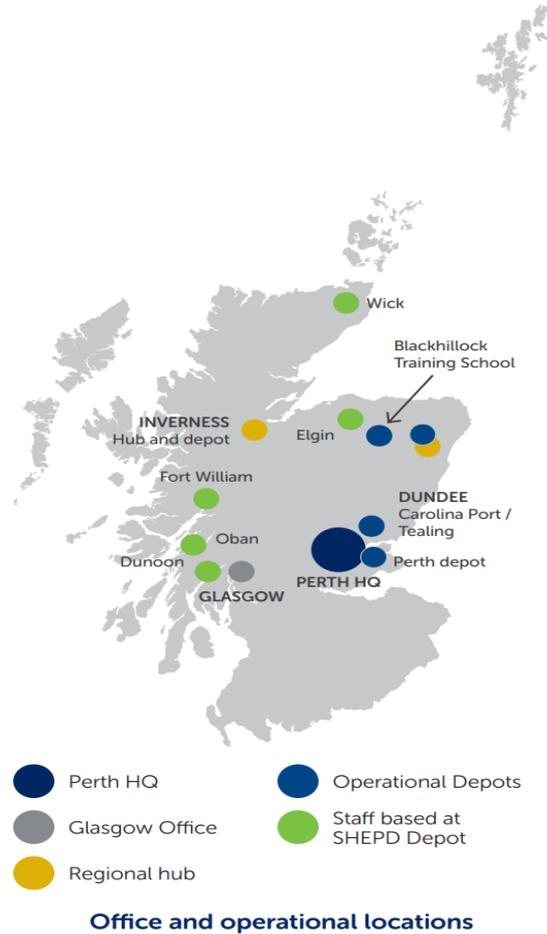
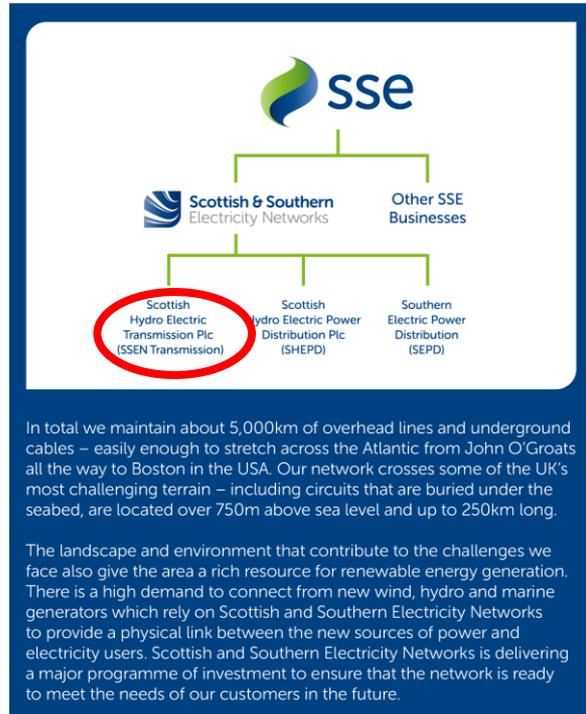
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Delivering a Network for NetZero

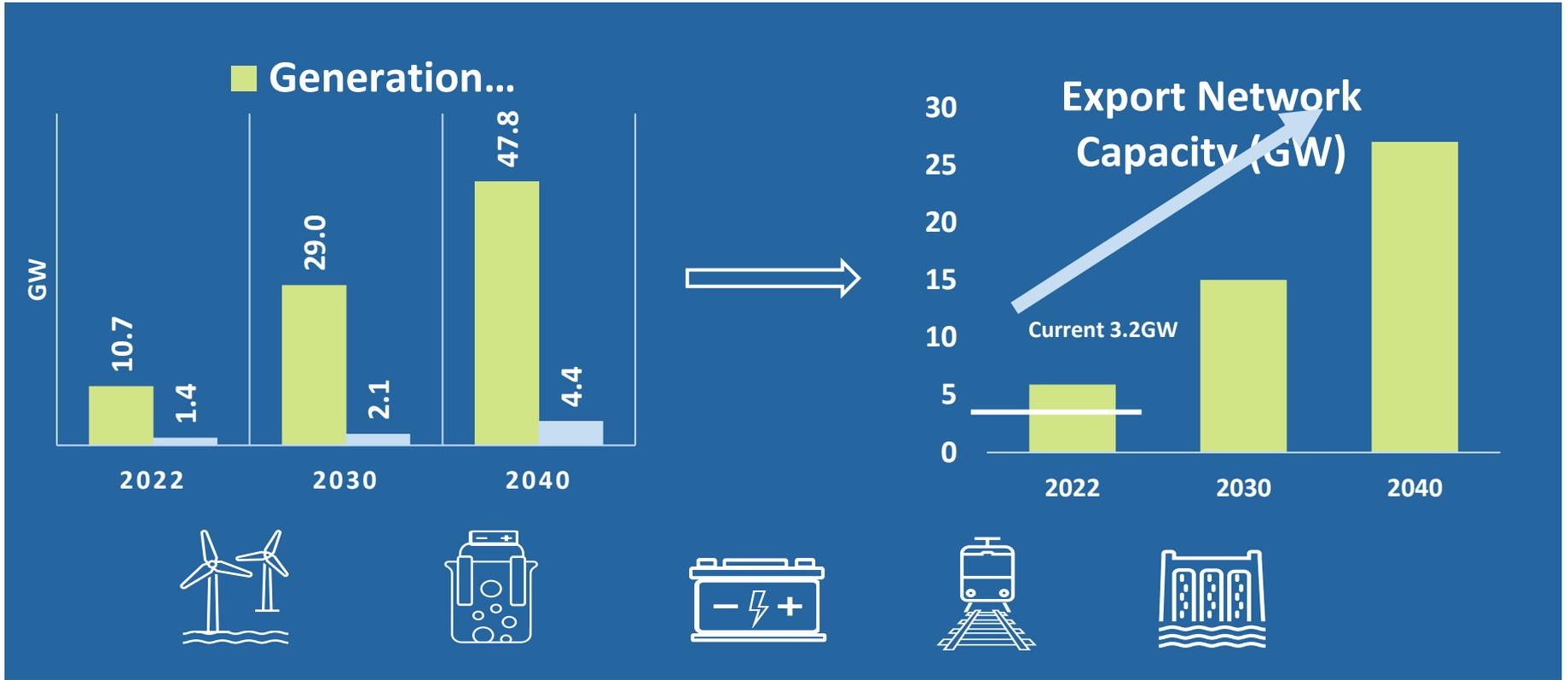
Richard Baldwin

February 2023

SSEN Transmission



SSEN Transmission – Network growth



Main north of Scotland Electricity Transmission Network in 2030

Investments currently in discussion with Ofgem

1. Argyll 275kV strategy
2. Fort Augustus to Skye 132kV upgrade
3. Orkney 220kV AC subsea link

Pathway to 2030 Investments

- 1a. Beaulieu to Loch Buidhe 400kV reinforcement
- 1b. Loch Buidhe to Spittal 400kV reinforcement
- 2a. Beaulieu to Blackhillock 400kV double circuit
- 2b. Blackhillock and Peterhead 400kV double circuit
3. Beaulieu to Denny 275kV circuit to 400kV
4. East Coast Onshore 400kV Phase 2 reinforcement
5. Spittal to Peterhead 2GW HVDC subsea link
6. Peterhead to Drax 2GW HVDC subsea link (EGL2)
7. Peterhead to South Humber 2GW HVDC subsea link (EGL4)
8. Arnish to Beaulieu 1.8GW HVDC Western Isle link
9. Aquila Pathfinder - Peterhead DC switching substation

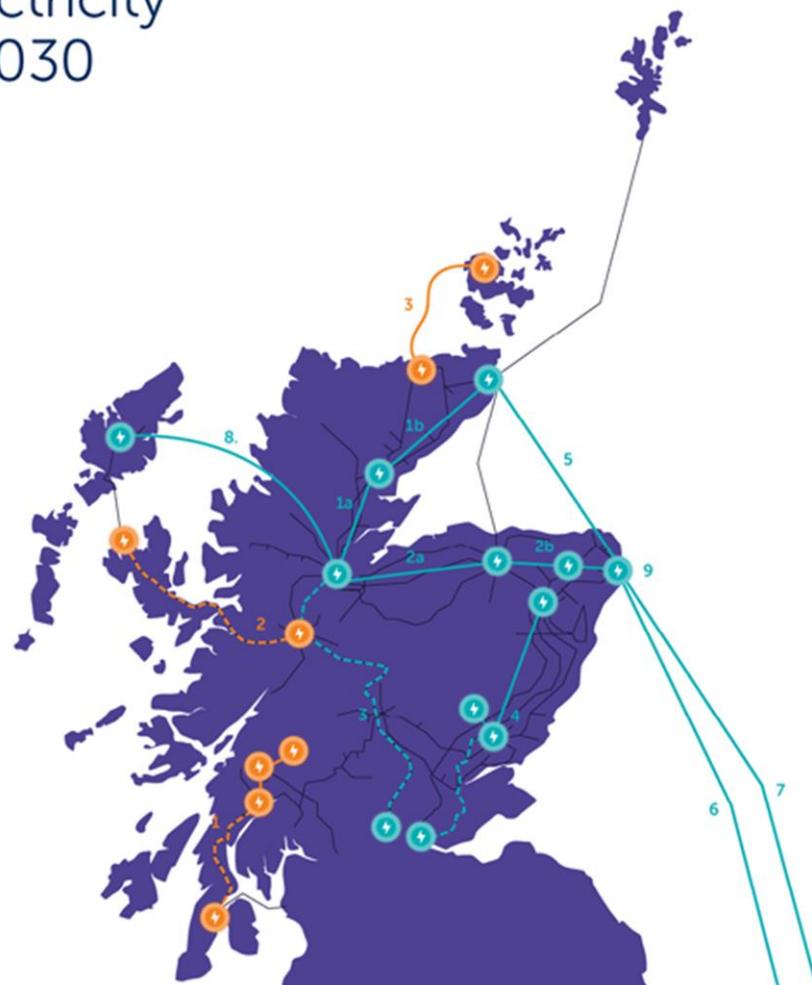
Public Consultation to Inform Project Development

All new reinforcements remain subject to detailed consultation and environmental assessments to help inform route and technology options

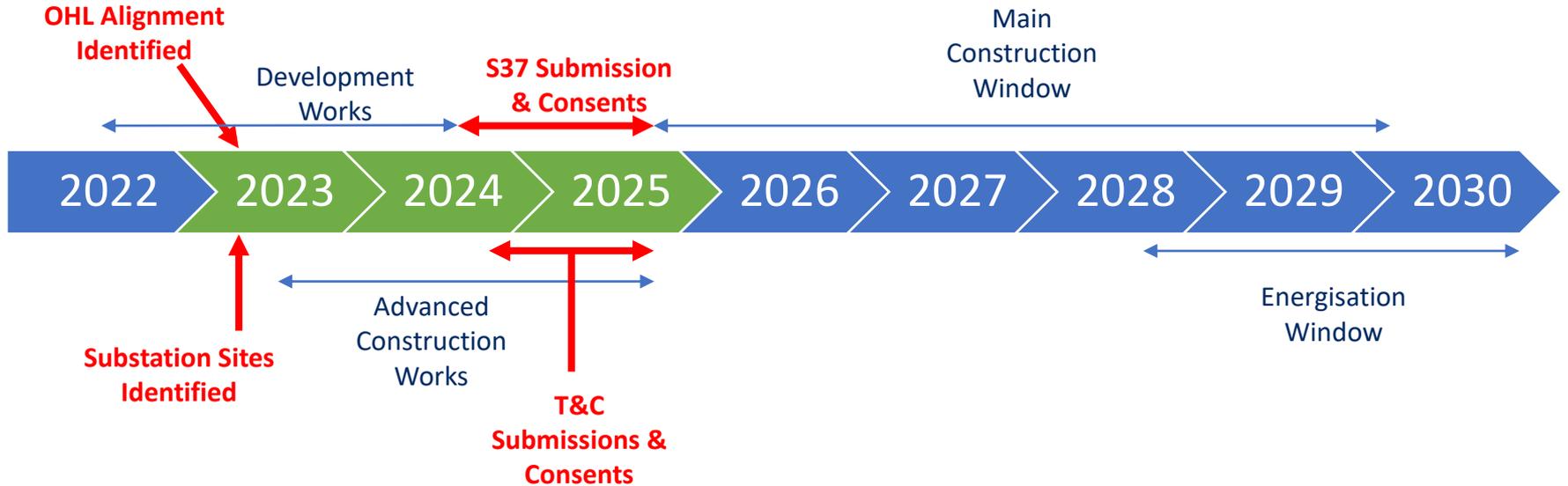
More detail on these projects, including how to sign up for updates, will be made available on SSEN Transmission's website, www.ssen-transmission.co.uk

-  New Infrastructure (Routes shown here are for illustrative purposes)
-  Upgrade/Replacement of Existing Infrastructure
-  Existing Network

Forecast as at 16 Sept 2022



A tight delivery programme



*representation of the timescales across the onshore NOA Schemes.

Planning remains a huge risk

Certainty on determination timescales

- S37 consents
 - Max - 12 months
 - Local authority/Statutory Authority consultations
- Necessary/Compulsory land agreements

Statutory determination timescales

Public Local Inquiry (PLI)

- Electricity Act 1989
- Automatic PLI when Local Authority objects
- Recent objections against officer recommendation:
 - Gills Bay OHL
 - Creag Dhubh to Glen Lochy OHL

Remove PLI trigger in legislation

NPF4 – Tension of policies

- Strongly supportive of vast majority
- Policy 6 - Ancient Woodland
 - Cannot avoid all impacts (Nature of network)
 - ‘Closed’ wording of policy
 - Avenue to objections?

Amend wording to align with Peat

Resources & Prioritisation

- Resource GAP
 - Planning/Statutory Authorities/Industry/Consultancy
 - No short term fix
- Policy support for ‘Need’, but what takes priority?
- How to promote/enforce priorities?

Clear direction on processing priorities

If we wait..... It's too late.....

Stakeholders & Communities

1940 – 1950's



2023 - 2040



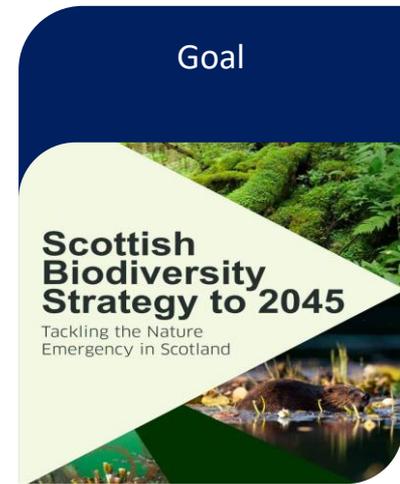
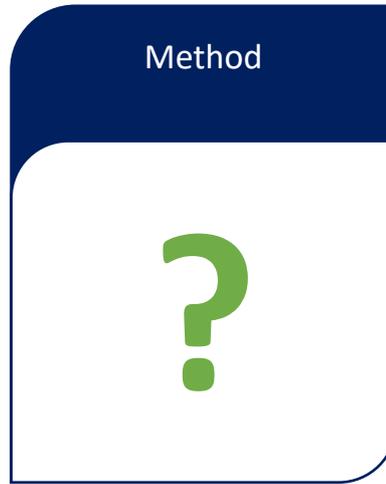
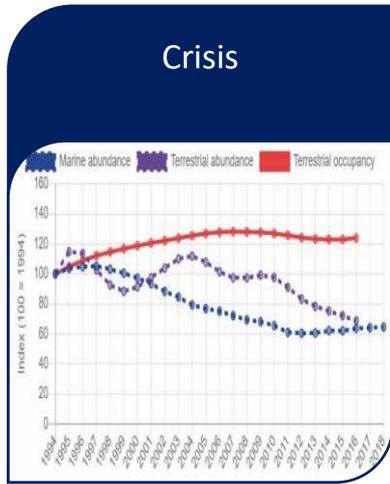
Build awareness of transformation required

Global / National need - Local concerns

Deliver a lasting positive legacy

Coordination

Biodiversity enhancement in planning



Delivery of enhancement

- Consistent
- Measurable
- Impactful

Thank you



Alison Sidgwick

Director of Onshore Planning & Environment Natural Power



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Scottish Renewables Planning Conference 2023

Finding the space to meet the targets

Alison Sidgwick

Director Onshore Planning & Environment Natural Power



Finding the space to meet the targets

- The 2030 challenge – the Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan 2023 and the Onshore Wind Policy Statement 2022
- The National Policies – NPF 4
- Other challenges



Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan

The imperative is clear: in this decisive decade, we must deliver an energy system that meets the challenge of becoming a net zero nation by 2045, supplies safe and secure energy for all, generates economic opportunities, and builds a just transition.

Key ambitions for Scotland's energy future include:

- More than 20GW of additional renewable electricity on and offshore by 2030
- An ambition for hydrogen to provide 5 GW or the equivalent of 15% of Scotland's current energy needs by 2030 and 25 GW of hydrogen production capacity by 2045.
- Increased contributions from solar, hydro and marine energy to our energy mix.
- Generation of surplus electricity, enabling export of electricity and renewable hydrogen to support decarbonisation across Europe.
- Energy security through development of our own resources and additional energy storage.
- A just transition by maintaining or increasing employment in Scotland's energy production sector against a decline in North Sea production.

Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan – delivering a fair and secure zero carbon energy system for Scotland



The Onshore Wind Policy Statement 2022

Ministerial forward

“we must go further and faster than before”

Ambitions and Aspirations

“A minimum installed capacity of 20 GW of onshore wind in Scotland by 2030”

As of June 2022 Scotland had 8.7 GW installed onshore wind

Its taken nearly 30 years from the first consent mid 1990’s to 2022 to get less than 9GW so that’s less than 8 years for a further 11GW

Biodiversity

“as the rate of onshore wind deployment increases in the coming years. We see a great opportunity for wind energy developments to further contribute significantly to our biodiversity ambition”

Landscape and visual amenity and NPF 4

“meeting the ambition of a minimum installed capacity of 20 GW of onshore wind in Scotland by 2030 will require taller and more efficient turbines. This will change the landscape.”

So how to find the space???



Policy 3 Biodiversity

Development proposals for national or major development, or for development that requires an Environmental Impact Assessment **will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposal will conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity**, including nature networks so they are in a demonstrably better state than without intervention.

Policy 4 Natural Places

- a) **Development proposals which by virtue of type, location or scale will have an unacceptable impact on the natural environment, will not be supported.**
- c) **Development proposals that will affect a National Park, National Scenic Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest or a National Nature Reserve will only be supported where:**
 - i. The objectives of designation and the overall integrity of the areas will not be compromised; or
 - ii. Any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of national importance.
- d) **Development proposals that affect a site designated as a local nature conservation site or landscape area in the LDP will only be supported where:**
 - i. Development will not have significant adverse effects on the integrity of the area or the qualities for which it has been identified; or
 - ii. Any significant adverse effects on the integrity of the area are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of at least local importance.

Policy 7 Historic assets and places

- h) **Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where:**
 - i. direct impacts on the scheduled monument are avoided;
 - ii. significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or
 - iii. exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.

Policy 5 Soils

b) Development proposals on prime agricultural land, or land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use, as identified by the LDP, will only be supported where it is for:

iv. The generation of energy from renewable sources or the extraction of minerals and there is secure provision for restoration;

c) Development proposals on peatland, carbon-rich soils and priority peatland habitat will only be supported for:

ii. The generation of energy from renewable sources that optimises the contribution of the area to greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets

d) Where development on peatland, carbon-rich soils or priority peatland habitat is proposed, a detailed site specific assessment will be required to identify:

i. the baseline depth, habitat condition, quality and stability of carbon rich soils;

ii. the likely effects of the development on peatland, including on soil disturbance; and

iii. the likely net effects of the development on climate emissions and loss of carbon.



Is there space to meet the ambition???

- In theory lots of space for renewables – but need to look into the detail
- Challenge of working through NPF 4 but is there time??

Lots of other challenges as well

- Grid and competition for grid
- Just transition
- Community involvement
- Some landowners say no
- People to do what is needed



THANK YOU



Alasdair Sutherland

Partner – Head of Planning & Environment

Burness Paull



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FEBRUARY 2023

Burness Paull

A landscape for net-zero:

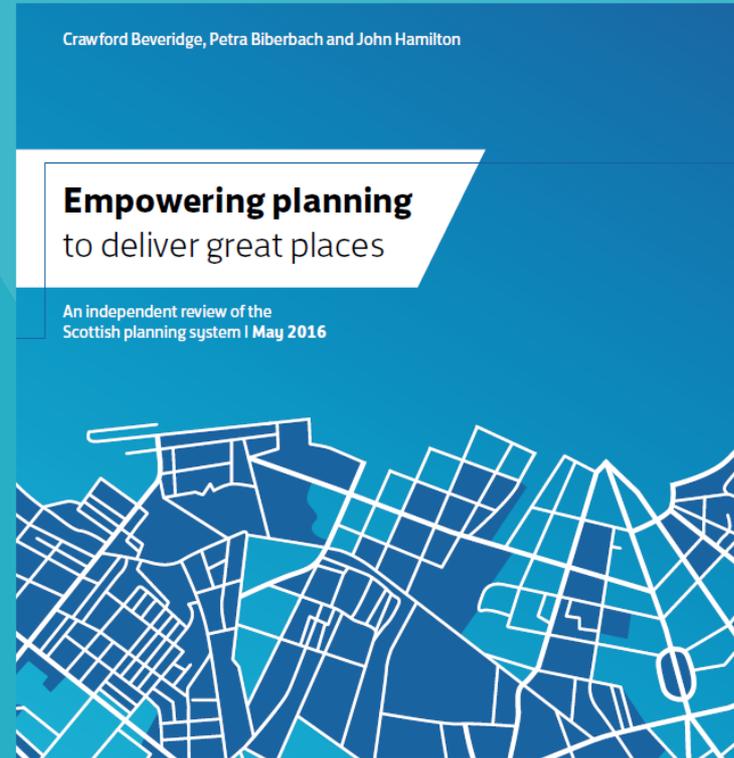


ALASDAIR SUTHERLAND

Taking responsibility

“Them”

2016

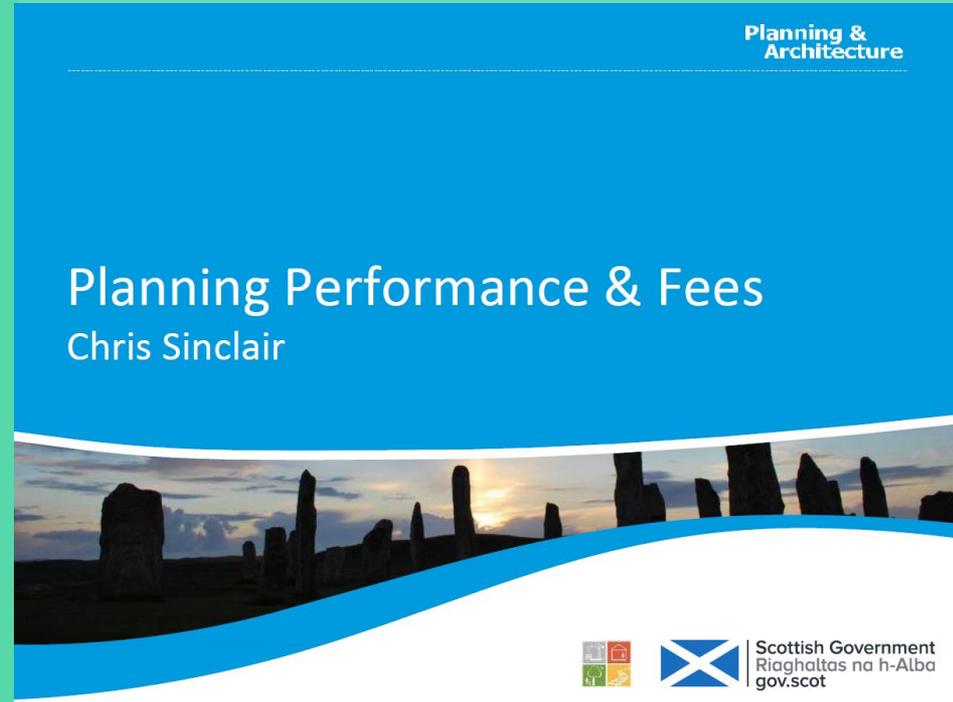


7. Stronger leadership, smarter resourcing and sharing of skills



“Strong leadership is key to changing perceptions. The planning profession needs to be positively promoted, so that planners are recognised as enablers, rather than regulators.”

2019



Leadership and Skills

- Planning services should aspire to become leaders and innovators within the context of public service reform and the Scottish Government and key agencies should lead by example
- Skills development is required in a number of priority areas.
- Local authorities should pursue the establishment of shared services.
- A planning graduate intern programme should be established.



Ongoing...

Scottish Government
Department for Planning
gov.scot

National Planning Framework

Planning Reform

Digital Planning

News

Home - Planning Reform - Work Packages

[What is the Planning Reform Programme?](#)

[How we got here](#)

[Work Programme](#)

[Work Packages](#)

[Community Engagement](#)

[Development Planning](#)

[Development Management](#)

[Leadership, Skills and Resourcing](#)

[Permitted Development](#)

[Planning Obligations](#)

Work Packages

The comprehensive planning reform [Work Programme](#) is being taken forward through several themed work packages which cover different aspects of the Scottish planning system and its operation.

We will frequently publish new information, resources and working group papers on each work package so you can follow progress towards new legislation, guidance and emerging practices.

Community engagement

Actions that are improving local people's involvement and influence over the planning of their areas, including a new right to prepare local place plans.

Development planning

Implementing important changes to the way development plans are produced for our plan-led system and supporting this through

Related News

Data Service Provider appointed
16th January 2023

eDevelopment - Health Check 2022 - update
21st December 2022

Gateway Service Provider appointed
08th November 2022

Local Government and Housing Directorate
Planning, Architecture and Regeneration Division



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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1 July 2022

Dear Colleague

For all of us, we have been working through what has been a particularly busy and important time for Scotland's planning system and planning services. It is an important time for sharing how we will make choices about investment in our places for many years to come.

We write this letter as we are heading into the summer recess period, and want to take the opportunity to provide an update on some aspects of our work programme, which we think you will find interesting and helpful. We share some news about a restructuring of our work programme, an update on progress with the wide-reaching planning reform programme and also on the transition away from the temporary arrangements which have guided the planning system's operation through the coronavirus pandemic.

Planning application fees were increased substantially in April. Yesterday, we published [Planning Circular 2/2022](#), which provides guidance on the new Fees Regulations. We have been pleased to hear from some authorities that the increases are being reinvested in planning budgets and staff recruitment. Through our shared work with the High Level Group on Planning Performance, we are continuing to work towards achieving full cost recovery. We have also been very keen to support the important 'Future Planners' work being led by Heads of Planning Scotland and the Royal Town Planning Institute in Scotland, to help ensure the new planning system is resourced and skilled up for delivery. Another aspect of the planning reform programme we will be progressing further over the coming months is the package involving **elected member training**, guidance on the appointment of **Chief Planning Officers**, new arrangements for **performance management** and the forthcoming appointment of Scotland's first **National Planning Improvement Coordinator**.

Stirling Council

Interim Customer Guidance Note

February 2023

The Application of Development Plan Policy in the Assessment of Planning Applications

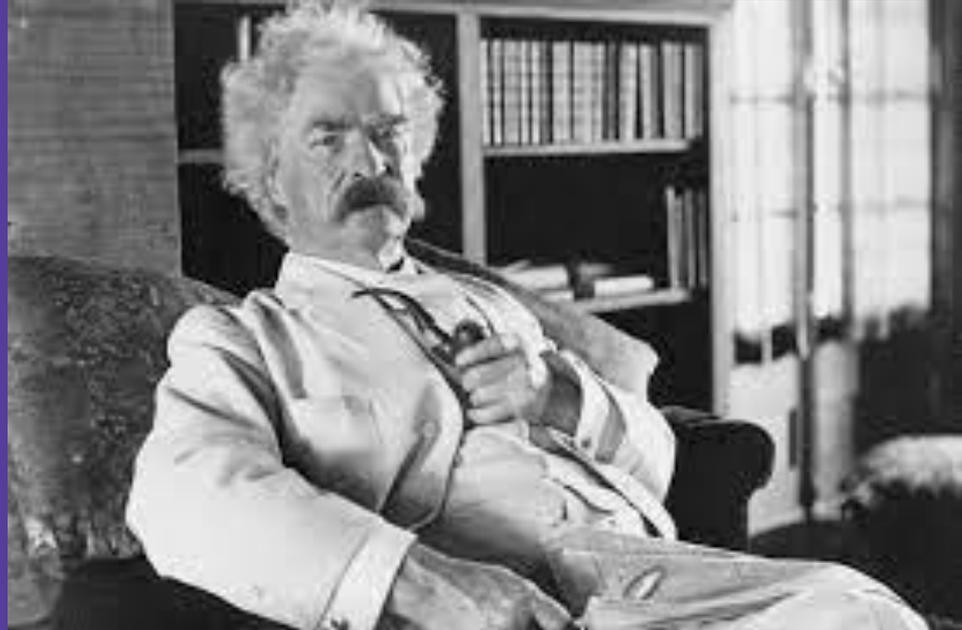
NPF4 Sustainable Places	Local Development Plan	
1. Tackling the climate and nature crises	LDP Policy Del 1 - Developer Contributions and Infrastructure Delivery	
2a – 2c. Climate mitigation and adaptation	LDP Policy Del 2 - City Centre	
3a – 3d. Biodiversity	LDP Policy Del 3 - Edinburgh Waterfront	
4a – 4g. Natural places	LDP Policy Del 4 - Edinburgh Park/South Gyle	
5a – 5e. Soils	LDP Policy Des 1 - Design Quality and Context	
6a – 6d. Forestry, woodland and trees	LDP Policy Des 2 - Co-ordinated Development	
7a – 7o. Historic assets and places	LDP Policy Des 3 - Development Design - Incorporating and Enhancing Existing and Potential Features	
8. Green belts	LDP Policy Des 4 - Development Design – Impact on Setting	
9a – 9d. Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings	LDP Policy Des 5 - Development Design – Amenity	
10a – 10d. Coastal development	LDP Policy Des 6 – Sustainable Buildings-	SUPERSEDED BY NPF4 POLICY 1, 2, 12, 13, 14 & 22c
11a – 11f. Energy	LDP Policy Des 7 - Layout Design	
12a – 21g. Zero waste	LDP Policy Des 8 - Public Realm and Landscape Design	
13a – 13g. Sustainable transport	LDP Policy Des 9 - Urban Edge Development	
NPF4 Liveable Places	LDP Policy Des 10 - Waterside Development	
14a – 14c. Design, quality and place	LDP Policy Des 11 - Tall Buildings – Skyline and Key Views	
15. Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods	LDP Policy Des 12 - Alterations and Extensions	
16a – 16h. Quality homes	LDP Policy Des 13 - Shopfronts	
17a – 17d. Rural homes	LDP Policy Env 1 – World Heritage Sites	SUPERSEDED BY NPF4 POLICY 7i
18a – 18b. Infrastructure first	LDP Policy Env 2 – Listed Buildings – Demolition	SUPERSEDED BY NPF4 POLICY 7b
19a – 19f. Heat and cooling	LDP Policy Env 3 – Listed Buildings – Setting	SUPERSEDED BY NPF4 POLICY 7c
20a – 20e. Blue and green infrastructure	LDP Policy Env 4 – Listed Buildings – Alterations and Extensions	SUPERSEDED BY NPF4 POLICY 7c
21a- 21g. Play, recreation and sport	LDP Policy Env 5 – Conservation Areas – Demolition of Buildings	SUPERSEDED BY NPF4 POLICY 7f & 7g
22a - 22e. Flood risk and water management	LDP Policy Env 6 – Conservation Areas – Development	SUPERSEDED BY NPF4 POLICY 7d, 7e

“Us”

Jerry Maguire



Mark Twain



 Burness Paull

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