



YOUR COMMUNITY YOUR INVERCLYDE

Inverclyde Strategic Environmental Assessment, Scoping Report January 2025

**CREATE A LOCAL PLACE PLAN
HELP TO SHAPE YOUR INVERCLYDE**

Inverclyde
council




SEA SCOPING REPORT (COVER NOTE)	
PART 1	
To:	SEA.gateway@gov.scot or SEA Gateway Team Scottish Government Area 2 H (South) Victoria Quay Edinburgh EH6 6QQ
PART 2	
An SEA Scoping Report is attached for the plan, programme or strategy (PPS) entitled:	
Inverclyde Local Development Plan 4 (LDP4)	
The Responsible Authority is:	
Inverclyde Council	
PART 3	
Scoping is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our view is that:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The plans, programmes and strategies fall under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. <u>or</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	The plans, programmes and strategies fall under the scope of Section 5 (4) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. <u>or</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	The plans, programmes and strategies does not require an SEA under the Environmental Assessment Act 2005. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, as this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 5-week timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed.

SEA SCOPING REPORT (COVER NOTE)

PART 4 CONTACT DETAILS

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PART 5

Signature (electronic Signature is acceptable)		
DATE	04/03/2025	



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1. INTRODUCTION

Inverclyde Council has commenced work on the Inverclyde Local Development Plan 4 (LDP4), which once adopted will form part of the statutory local development plan for the area and will replace the current LDP3 (2019). LDP4 will set out a spatial strategy for the next 10-20 years and will guide the use of land and inform decisions on new development. LDP4 is the first local development plan being prepared by Inverclyde Council since the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 introduced changes to the form, content and process of preparing local development plans.

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 sets out requirements for Plans, Programmes, and Strategies (PPS) to be the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA is an important tool in ensuring that public bodies take into account the implications of PPS on the environment, and consider reasonable alternatives to avoid, reduce or mitigate likely significant effects.

Under section 5(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, LDP4 qualifies for SEA because of the likely impact its implementation could have on a wide range of environmental receptors, including people and communities (population), biodiversity, landscape, cultural heritage, the water environment and the climate. In this case, an SEA Screening determination is not required as an SEA will be undertaken by the Council.

This SEA Scoping Report sets out the proposed scope, assessment methodology and the consultation period for the Environmental Report, which will be published for consultation alongside the Draft Inverclyde LDP4. It provides information to assist the Consultation Authorities in providing their views on the Council's proposed approach to the environmental assessment. This Scoping Report has also informed preparation of the Evidence Report for LDP4, which is the first stage in the plan-making process.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act (2005) and has taken account of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidance (The Scottish Government, 2013) and Scotland's Guiding Principles on the Environment: Statutory Guidance (The Scottish Government, 2023).

This report will be submitted to the SEA Consultation Authorities (Historic Environment Scotland, NatureScot and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency) for their views, which will be taken into account when preparing the Environmental Report.



2.0 KEY FACTS ABOUT THE INVERCLYDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 4

SEA SCOPING REPORT	
KEY FACTS	
Responsible Authority	Inverclyde Council
Title of plans, programmes and strategies	Inverclyde Local Development Plan 4 (LDP4)
What prompted the plan	Legislative requirement of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended
Subject	Local Development Planning
Period covered by plans, programmes and strategies	10 years (estimated 2027-2037)
Frequency of updates	No later than every 10 years
Area covered by plans, programmes and strategies (km²)	Inverclyde Council Area, see map in Appendix D
SEA and the relationship with LDP4	Both the SEA and LDP4 are informed by similar data and information on the state of the environment and key issues. This Scoping Report has been prepared alongside the evidence on the environment gathered for the Evidence Report.
Purpose and/or objectives of plans, programmes and strategies	LDP4 will provide a spatial strategy to guide decisions on land use and future development in Inverclyde, and will set out policies which, together with the National Planning Framework, will form the statutory development plan which planning applications and other decisions on land use will be assessed against. It will be prepared taking into account other PPS from national to local level which will inform and influence decisions on land use, including the Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan 2023-33, and registered Local Place Plans prepared by community bodies.



3 DESCRIPTION OF PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES CONTENT

Inverclyde Local Development Plan 4 (LDP4)

LDP4 will provide a spatial and policy framework, which will direct new development and assess the acceptability of land use change within the Local Authority area aligned with current national planning policy (NPF4). Specifically, LDP4 will set out a vision, development strategy, identify development sites and include a range of policies. Together, these will form the basis for determining the acceptability of new development proposals and ensuring that the natural and built environments are protected and, where appropriate, enhanced.

LDP4 is being prepared taking account of Scottish Government Local Development Planning Guidance 2023 and will focus on the main areas of change which need to be considered in order to ensure alignment with the requirements of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and other relevant legislation, the strategy and policy of NPF4, and local priorities.

The first stage of LDP4 is the preparation of an Evidence Report which will be submitted to the Scottish Government for a Gatecheck assessment. This SEA Scoping Report will accompany that submission. Thereafter an Environmental Report will be prepared alongside the preparation of a Proposed Plan, setting out the Council's vision, objectives and spatial strategy, with locally specific policies and development allocations. The Development Plan Scheme and Participation Statement sets out the engagement that is ongoing throughout each of these stages, and the Proposed Plan and Environmental Report will be the subject of formal consultation. The timetable for the preparation of LDP4 and the accompanying Environmental Report (ER) is set out in Table 4.

Relationship with Other PPS and Environmental Objectives

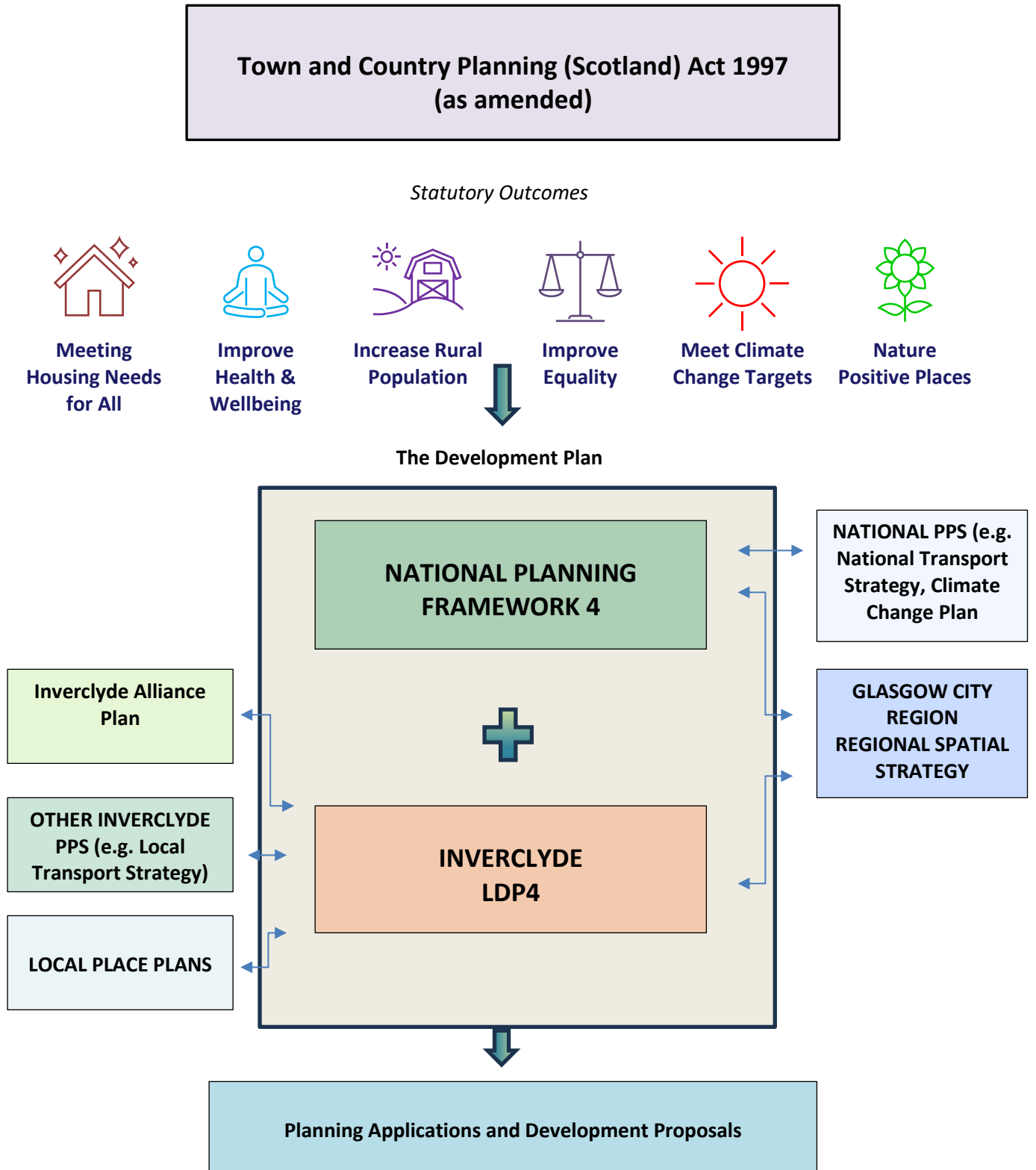
LDP4 will sit within a hierarchy of PPS, as shown in Figure 1. Those considered relevant to LDP4 are listed with a summary of their environmental objectives in Appendix A. Please note that the identification of relevant PPS has excluded those plans above the Scottish and UK level, as it is understood that all International and European PPS (where still applicable following the UK Withdrawal from the European Union) are incorporated into relevant Scottish and UK PPS.

Relevant PPS need to be taken into account during the preparation of LDP4 in order to ensure that it is consistent with a wide range of environmental objectives. LDP4 will also influence other local PPS, such as the local housing and transport strategies for Inverclyde. The relationship between LDP4 and the relevant PPS will be analysed in the Environmental Report, based on the environmental topics set out in Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act (2005). The objectives of the relevant PPS have already, where appropriate, informed the environmental objectives set out in Table 2.



FIGURE 1:

INTER-RELATIONSHIP OF LDP4 WITH OTHER PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES



Relevant Aspects of the Current State of the Environment

To enable an accurate assessment of what effects LDP4 could have, a reliable picture of the current state of the environment and the environmental issues/problems relevant to LDP4 is required. This Scoping Report accompanies the Evidence Report for LDP4, which describes the environmental baseline for Inverclyde and has informed the responses to the objectives and assessment questions set out in Table 2. The Evidence Report has been prepared following engagement and consultation with relevant stakeholders (see the Inverclyde Local Development Plan Development Plan Scheme and Participation Statement, January 2024). An environmental context map is provided in the Evidence Report, which will be used in the analysis of spatial strategy options, site specific proposals (including those lodged during the Call for Ideas/Sites and other stakeholder engagement), and local policy implications.

Likely Evolution of the Environment without the LDP4

Without the preparation of LDP4, which will include a spatial strategy and allocate land for specific uses or developments, there is a risk that development could be located in areas which will have significant adverse impacts on the environment. For example, a review of existing settlement boundaries and green belt designations, and re-allocation of land outside existing settlements could have significant negative effects on biodiversity, water, landscape, climatic factors and soil.



4.0 SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY PROPOSED FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Scoping of SEA Topics

LDP4 will guide how land is used and where development takes place across the whole authority area over the next 10 years. Taking this into account together with the environmental characteristics and qualities of Inverclyde as described in the Evidence Report, it is considered that all SEA environmental topics have the *potential* to be significantly affected and are in scope for the Environmental Report (ER). This assessment is made having regard to Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act (2005) which provides guidance on the criteria that should be used in determining likely significance:

- the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected, including areas with a recognised international, national, strategic or local protection status;
- the scale and spatial extent of the effects;
- the duration of the impact (short, medium or long term);
- the reversibility of the impact; and
- the potential for significant cumulative effects.

The justification for scoping in each SEA topic for the ER is provided in Table 1. This approach is consistent with the statutory guidance on Scotland's Guiding Principles on the Environment (The Scottish Government, 2023), which advocates that protecting the environment is integrated into the making of policies, and that a precautionary principle approach is taken for the environment.

Table 1 Scoping of SEA Topics

SEA TOPICS	SCOPED IN	JUSTIFICATION
Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna	✓	LDP4 has the potential to positively and negatively affect biodiversity, flora and fauna. Positive effects include identifying and protecting designated and other natural environment areas from development and proposals for enhancement. Negative effects could occur through the loss of existing biodiversity, flora and fauna through allocation of land for built development.
Population & Human Health	✓	LDP4 will provide a strategy and allocate land to meet outcomes for housing, employment, commercial uses and community facilities. LDP4 could potentially have positive effects on population and health through the identification and protection of open space, promoting biodiversity enhancement, active travel routes and improved connectivity and in identifying locations for development



		<p>which align with local living principles.</p> <p>LDP4 could potentially have negative effects on population and human health, for example if not enough land is identified to meet housing need, or if land allocations and infrastructure proposals do not help reduce transport-related emissions with associated impacts on air quality.</p>
Soil	✓	The spatial strategy and land allocations could result in positive and negative effects, for example the remediation and re-use of contaminated land, or the loss, or reduction, of valuable soils.
Water	✓	LDP4 could potentially affect the water environment, e.g. through drainage and morphological works associated with development.
Air	✓	The spatial strategy and individual land allocations have the potential to increase or decrease transport emissions and associated effects on air quality.
Climatic Factors	✓	The spatial strategy and individual land allocations have the potential to increase or decrease greenhouse gas emissions, for example associated with transport, the construction or repurposing of infrastructure and buildings, identifying opportunities for heat networks. LDP4 can support energy efficiency and the use of low or zero carbon energy, including from renewable sources.
Material Assets	✓	The LDP could, potentially, influence resource use/re-use through its approach to waste, vacant and derelict land and renewable energy.
Cultural Heritage	✓	There is potential for significant negative effects on the historic environment, e.g. through the location, scale and design of new development on historic assets or their setting. There is also potential for positive effects through policies seeking to enhance the historic environment.
Landscape	✓	LDP4 could potentially result in significant changes to the landscape, e.g. through the spatial strategy and location of individual developments. There will be opportunities to protect and enhance the landscape.

Methodology for Assessing Environmental Effects

The framework for assessing the environmental effects of LDP4, both positive and negative, has been informed by:

- the guidance in the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act (2005), specifically Schedule 3, which sets out the information required in the Environmental Report.
- the advice and example tables contained in the Scottish Government's SEA Guidance (2013).



- the Scottish Government's Local Development Planning Guidance (2023) which advises on alignment of SEA in the context of the current stages for plan preparation.
- a review of other Council PPS that have been subject to or are undergoing SEA including the Inverclyde Net Zero Action Plan 2022-2027 and the Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy.
- a review of recent SEA Scoping Reports prepared for local development plans in other Scottish local authority areas.

The Spatial Strategy and development allocations for LDP4 will be prepared in the context of National Planning Framework 4. This will follow from a review of the current Spatial Strategy and development / land allocations in LDP3 undertaken as part of the Evidence Report stage. Where practicable, we propose to adopt a proportionate approach to the environmental assessment by using information gathered in the ERs for NPF4, the previous LDP3 and in particular the preparation of the Evidence Report for LDP4. Information gathered in these assessments will be reviewed and updated where necessary, e.g. to take account of changes to the condition/status of environmental receptors.

LDP4 will be subject to the environmental assessments outlined below:

Spatial Strategy and Policy Assessment – NPF4 provides the policy context for the assessment of planning applications, and LDP4 will not duplicate these. However, it is expected that LDP4 will still require some more detailed policies to provide guidance on specific localised issues and development proposals, and to support the Spatial Strategy for Inverclyde. The environmental impacts of the Spatial Strategy, and any such locally-specific policies will be assessed against the SEA objectives in Table 2. These objectives have been developed in line with the environmental topics, and the initial environmental baseline identified in Appendix B. It is important to note that this initial environmental baseline will be updated prior to the assessment of LDP4.

Site Assessment - The environmental impacts of proposed development / land allocations received through the Call for Ideas, and other sites being considered for inclusion will be assessed using the most recent version of the assessment proforma developed by the consultation authorities in consultation with various local authorities (see Appendix C – currently February 2024 revision). The Proforma and Checklist will enable each proposal to be assessed against the broader SEA objectives identified in Table 2 of this report. The proforma, which combines environmental and planning assessment criteria, will also enable the SEA and planning assessments to be largely integrated. The site assessment will also include allocations considered to be carried forward from LDP3.

Reasonable Alternatives

Schedule 3 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act (2005) requires that "reasonable alternatives" be considered. In the context of LDP4 this may include alternatives to the spatial strategy, or to where land is allocated for development.

The Scottish Government Local Development Planning Guidance (May 2023) provides a



step-by-step guide to the preparation of LDPs, and the concurrent stages of SEA. Identification and assessment of reasonable alternatives is undertaken alongside work to inform the Proposed Plan. However, the Evidence Report which precedes this stage will inform the assessment of alternatives and will help provide a guiding framework of whether alternatives are 'reasonable', having regard to:

- existing data sources and further assessments to describe the existing environmental qualities and characteristics of Inverclyde.
- engagement and participation with communities and stakeholders during the Call for Evidence to identify the issues or concerns which are important for LDP4 to address at local level.
- review of other National and Local PPS, in particular National Planning Framework 4 to consider existing policies and requirements that will require to be included and addressed in LDP4.

The ER will report on the assessment of reasonable alternatives to the preferred spatial strategy, land use and development allocations and any local policies to supplement those in NPF4. Where a reasonable alternative has not been identified, a full justification will be provided in the ER. Reasonable Alternatives will be subject to the same assessment in the ER as the Spatial Strategy, allocations or local policies which are taken forward into the Proposed Plan stage for LDP4.



Table 2 SEA Objectives

A series of SEA Objectives have been drafted for each SEA topic taking into account the policy themes and outcomes for NPF4, the most recent SEA Site Assessment Criteria Checklist (see Appendix C) which link to these policy themes and having regard to the previous SEA Objectives for the current LDP3.

SEA Topic	NPF4 Theme	SEA Objective	SEA Checklist Site Assessment Criteria
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood risk and water management Coastal development Blue and green infrastructure Infrastructure first 	To avoid adverse impacts on, and sustain and enhance the ecological status of the water environment.	Could the proposal affect the condition of the water environment (water quality, physical condition, water resources, and the migration of wild fish)?
		To ensure the sustainable use of water sources.	Could the proposal have a direct impact on the water environment (for example, result in the need for watercourse crossings or a large-scale abstraction or allow the de-culverting of a watercourse)?
		To reduce the risk of flooding and damage to people and properties and avoid development in areas which will exacerbate flood risk.	Can the proposal connect to the public water mains? If not, is there a sustainable water source that is resilient to the periods of water scarcity?
		To promote flood risk management and climate adaptation (particularly natural flood risk management through blue and green infrastructure).	Can the proposal connect to the public foul sewer?
			For large scale developments, are there any private or public water supplies within 250m of the site which may be affected?
			Relative to the floodplain, as defined in NPF4 could the proposal be at risk of flooding (from any source) or result in additional flood risk elsewhere? If flood risk is not fully understood, a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) should be undertaken.



			Specify which of the following flood sources are applicable: fluvial, pluvial, sewer, groundwater or coastal.
			Could the development of the site help alleviate any existing flooding problems in the area?
			Are there wetlands or boggy areas on the site?
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Natural Places • Soils 	To avoid adverse impacts to designated habitats and species.	To what extent will the proposal conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity?
		To avoid adverse impacts to undesignated habitats and species.	To what extent will the proposal facilitate the creation of nature networks and improve ecological connectivity?
		To protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity.	International Designations - SAC/SPA, Ramsar, World Heritage Sites. To what extent will the proposal affect these sites including via connectivity?
			National Designations To what extent will the proposal affect national designations – e.g. SSSI, NNR
			To what extent will the proposal affect other designations - and locally important designations such as LNRs.
			To what extent will the proposal affect Non designated – e.g. trees, TPOs, hedges, woodland, (including woodlands in the Ancient, Semi Natural and Long-Established Plantation Woodlands), species rich grasslands
			Protected Species—e.g. bats, otters, etc - can it be ascertained if protected species will be affected and will a site survey be



			required?
			To what extent will local geodiversity sites or wider geodiversity interests that could be affected by the proposal?
			How will habitat connectivity or wildlife corridors be affected by the proposal – will it result in habitat fragmentation or greater connectivity?
Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate mitigation and adaptation Coastal development Blue and Green Infrastructure Infrastructure First 	<p>To reduce sources and levels of lifecycle GHG emissions throughout Inverclyde to contribute towards Scotland's net zero target by 2045.</p> <p>To promote opportunities for climate change adaptation and enhancing resilience of existing and planned infrastructure.</p> <p>To support opportunities for nature-based solutions in new development and land use change.</p>	To what extent will the proposal involve sediment extraction/reclamation or changes in coastal processes that could result in coastal flooding?
			To what extent will the proposal promote and enable adaptation to climate change?
			To what extent does the proposal use nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation?
			To what extent does the proposal maintain and enhance resilience of existing and planned grey and green infrastructure?
			To what extent does the proposal have good proximity to services and good access to existing or proposed public transport and active travel network?
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate mitigation and adaptation Health and Safety 	<p>To avoid adverse impacts to air quality arising from the use of development or land.</p> <p>To promote measures which can reduce emissions of key pollutants which affect air quality (including carbon, Nitrous Dioxide and Particular Matter emissions, dust and odour).</p>	Could the proposal lead to Local Air Quality Management thresholds being breached in an existing Air Quality Management Area?
			Could the proposal lead to the designation of a new Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)



			Does the proposal introduce a new potentially significant air emission to the area (e.g. combined heat and power, an industrial process, large scale quarry etc.)?
			Will the proposal lead to a sensitive use being located close to a site with noise/odour issues or a site regulated for emissions to air by SEPA (e.g. new housing adjacent to a large manufacturing factory)
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design, Quality and place • Local living and 20 min neighbourhoods • Blue and green infrastructure • Play, recreation and sport • Sustainable Transport • Health and safety • Infrastructure First 	To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing through improving the quality of the living environment of people and communities.	Is the proposal within the vicinity of a major accident hazard site or major accident hazard pipeline?
		To promote and enhance access to spaces and places which support wellbeing, including amenity green space, public realm, the historic environment and the countryside.	Will the proposal affect service infrastructure: Education capacity - Secondary School Catchment Area/ Primary school catchment area Health provision/GP capacity
		To maintain and enhance opportunities for active and sustainable travel throughout Inverclyde.	To what extent will the proposal affect the quality and quantity of open space and connectivity and accessibility to open space or result in a loss of open space?
		To maintain and enhance opportunities for education, learning and play (formal and informal) throughout Inverclyde.	To what extent will the proposal affect core path links or other key access networks such as cycle paths, coastal paths and rights of way?
		To improve access to essential community services and employment.	Will the proposal have the opportunity to incorporate new or enhance existing blue and/or green infrastructure providing multiple benefits such as enhanced biodiversity, management of surface



			water?
Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soils • Brownfield, vacant and derelict land • Climate mitigation and adaptation 	To safeguard or improve soil quality, quantity and function of all soil types.	Does the proposal make use of a brownfield site or contaminated and vacant and derelict land? If on brownfield, is the site naturalised?
		To safeguard prime quality agricultural land within Inverclyde.	Are there any contaminated soils issues on the site and if so, will the option employ remedial actions to ensure the site is suitable for use (as defined in PAN 33)?
		To avoid loss of carbon rich soils.	Is the proposal on peat or carbon rich soils and could the development of the site lead to a loss of peat or carbon rich soils?
		To promote opportunities for restoration of peatlands.	Does the proposal result in the loss of prime agricultural land or land that is culturally or locally important for primary use as identified by the LDP?
		To promote the sustainable use of brownfield land (taking account of the biodiversity value of naturalised sites).	
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Places 	To reduce levels of contaminated and vacant and derelict land in Inverclyde.	
		To safeguard and enhance landscape character, scenic value and geodiversity.	National landscape designated sites To what extent will any designated sites be affected – including NSAs, Regional Scenic Areas, and local landscape designations?
		To protect and enhance designated landscape areas.	Regional and local landscape designated sites To what extent will any designated sites be affected – Regional Scenic Areas, and local landscape designations?
			Non designated landscape features and key landscape interests Does the proposal ensure that development does not exceed the



			<p>capacity of the landscape to accommodate it? Such as current settlement boundaries, existing townscape and character of surrounding area and its visual qualities?</p> <p>To what extent will the proposal affect features of landscape interest, including the distinctive character of the landscape and the qualities of wild land?</p>
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic assets and places • Natural Places • Design, quality and place 	<p>To avoid adverse impacts on designated historic environment assets and their setting.</p> <p>To promote opportunities for long-term sustainable re-use and sensitive adaptation of designated historic environment assets.</p> <p>To protect and enhance valued landscapes, historic and archaeological sites and other culturally and historically important features, landscapes and settings.</p>	<p>Does the proposal protect or enhance the site or setting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Heritage Sites* • Scheduled Monuments • Listed buildings • Inventory battlefields • Inventory gardens and designed landscapes • Conservation Areas • Undesignated historic environment assets • Streetscapes and settlement patterns monuments <p>Does the proposal promote or enable the retention, maintenance and sustainable use or re-use of historic buildings and infrastructure?</p> <p>Does the proposal:</p> <p>Support the repair and appropriate retrofit of historic buildings?</p> <p>Support the transition to green energy supply in historic buildings?</p>



			<p>Include adaptation measures to make the historic environment assets and places more resilient to the effects of climate change (e.g. coastal erosion, flooding etc)?</p> <p>Does the proposal:</p> <p>Enable the historic environment to support creation of high-quality places and spaces?</p> <p>Promote sustainable, responsible tourism, recreation and cultural activity?</p>
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero Waste • Design Quality and place • Climate Mitigation and Adaptation • Heat and Cooling 	<p>To reduce material use and waste, and promote circular economy principles in line with the waste hierarchy as defined in Annex F of NPF4.</p> <p>To avoid adverse impacts on material assets including infrastructure for water, energy, heat, flood protection and climate resilience, and promote opportunities for enhancement.</p> <p>To maintain and promote the provision of facilities and infrastructure that will support circular economy principles throughout Inverclyde.</p> <p>To promote opportunities for the sustainable management and re-purposing of existing buildings, land and infrastructure.</p> <p>To safeguard important workable mineral resources from loss to other development or</p>	<p>Will the site be delivered within the LDP timeframe?</p> <p>Other site servicing constraints, e.g. electricity pylons, underground gas pipelines etc.</p> <p>Site aspect – does the site make best use of solar gain? Is the site protected from prevailing winds?</p> <p>Is the site in an area of heat network potential or a designated Heat Network Zone (HNZ)?</p> <p>Vehicular Access constraints or opportunities -</p> <p>Is the network capable of accommodating active travel, public transport, other shared modes, and private vehicle traffic generated?</p> <p>Is the site close to a range of facilities? Can these be accessed by public transport or active travel?</p> <p>Does the proposal minimise demand for</p>



		land use.	primary resources by reusing an existing building?
			For waste infrastructure and facilities (except landfill and EFW) does the proposal comply with the criteria listed in NPF4 policy 12 d)?



All assessments will include consideration of the short-, medium- or long-term effects and any permanent and temporary; secondary, cumulative, and synergistic effects of LDP4. Each assessment will also identify whether effects are positive or negative, significant, neutral or unknown, in line with the scoring guide provided in Table 3. Where a potential impact is unknown, the environmental report will evaluate the need for further investigation. In addition, where negative effects are identified, appropriate mitigation measures will be proposed.

Cross-boundary effects with neighbouring Local Authorities (Renfrewshire, North Ayrshire and Argyll and Bute) will also be considered in the Environmental Report.

The assessment matrix provided in Table 3 will be used to summarise the analysis of LDP4's strategies, policies and proposals in the Environmental Report. The matrix, which should be read in conjunction with Table 2, will identify a pre mitigation score and, where necessary, appropriate mitigation measures and a post mitigation score. The comments column will be used to explain the reasoning which underpins the scoring, particularly in relation to significant, cumulative and synergistic impacts.

The assessment of LDP4's Spatial Strategy, local policies and development allocations will be supported by an updated Constraints Map and environmental baseline.

Table 3 Environmental Assessment/Scoring Matrix

Strategy/Policy/Development Opportunity				
SEA TOPIC	Score Pre-Mitigation	Comments	Mitigation/Enhancement Measures	Score Post Mitigation/Enhancement
Water				
Biodiversity				
Climatic Factors				
Air				
Soil				
Landscape				
Material Assets				
Cultural Heritage				
Population & Health				

Effect	Significant	Positive	Neutral	Unknown	Both	Negative	Significant
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	positive effect	effect	effect	effect	positive and negative effect	effect	negative effect
Score	++	+	0	?	+/-	-	--



5.0 NEXT STEPS

Proposed Consultation Timescales

The Proposed Plan and Environmental Report will be published at the same time and will be subject to a minimum consultation period of 12 weeks.

If modifications to the Proposed Plan are made following the outcome of the consultation, the Environmental Report will be revised to reflect the modifications. Further consultation may be carried out depending on the scope of the modifications.

Table 4 sets out the proposed key stages for preparation of the LDP and ER.

TABLE 4: STAGES FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND SEA

Key Stage (LDP)	Key Stage (SEA)	Actions
Preparation of Evidence Report	Preparation of SEA Scoping Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early engagement as per Inverclyde Development Plan Scheme and Participation Statement
Gate Check	SEA Scoping Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of LDP4 Evidence Report to Scottish Ministers to determine whether sufficient evidence has been gathered to proceed with Proposed Plan. • Submission of SEA Scoping Report to Consultation Bodies for comment (statutory period of 5 weeks for response)
Preparation of Proposed Plan	Preparation of Environmental Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDP4 - Call for ideas/sites, consider strategy options, carry out assessments. • Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement as per Development Plan Scheme and Participation Statement. • Undertaken Environmental Assessment of



		<p>Proposed Plan Strategy, Allocations and Policies, identify and assess Reasonable Alternatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare Proposed Plan, Delivery Programme and Environmental Report for LDP4 • Committee Presentation for approval to Publish
Publication of Proposed Plan and Delivery Programme	Publication of Environmental Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of Proposed Plan and Environmental Report for Consultation • Submit copy of Environmental Report to Consultation Bodies. • <i>Minimum Consultation Period of 12 weeks for Consultation Bodies and public comment.</i>
Modification of Proposed Plan (where appropriate)	Modification of Environmental Report (where appropriate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse responses to Proposed Plan and Consultation Bodies. • Consider any Modifications proposed to LDP4, and/or to Environmental Report. • Publish modifications and amended Environmental Report if required, with schedule of unresolved issues. • Undertake further consultation depending on scope/nature of modification (<i>Minimum</i>



		<i>Consultation Period of 4 weeks if required).</i>
Examination	Amendment of Environmental Report (if required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporter considers unresolved issues at Examination and prepares Report with recommendations. • Further modification of LDP and Environmental Report as necessary. • Submit amended Environmental Report to Scottish Ministers
Adoption and Delivery	SEA Post Adoption Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption and publication of LDP • Prepare and Publish SEA Post Adoption Statement.



Monitoring

The monitoring procedure to be undertaken for LDP4 is provided in Table 5.

TABLE 5 MONITORING FRAMEWORK

SEA Topic	Indicator	Data Source	Frequency of updating
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Adverse impacts on the status of National and/or International natural heritage designations	NatureScot https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/	Annually
	Impact on local natural heritage designations Impact / enhancement of the wider biodiversity, flora and fauna	Inverclyde Council 'Biodiversity Duty Report' Consideration of other sources to measure biodiversity and nature networks enhancement through implementation of NPF4 Policy 3 (during stakeholder engagement through preparation of LDP4)	Every 3 years.
Population and Human Health	Changes in population, household size and tenure	Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Housing Market Partnership 'Housing Need and Demand Assessment'. Inverclyde Council 'Housing Land Survey'	Every 5 years Annually
	Quality, quantity and accessibility of Open Space / Green Space and Play Provision	Inverclyde Open Space Strategy (to be developed) Inverclyde Open Space Audit Inverclyde Play Sufficiency Assessment	To be determined
Soil	Extent of deep peat and prime agricultural soils	GIS data on distribution of deep peat soils (James Hutton Institute) GIS data on distribution of prime agricultural land (James Hutton Institute)	Annually Annually
	Remediation of contaminated land	Inverclyde Council - Contaminated Land Officer	Annually
Water Environment	Impact on the number/location/extent of flood events	Inverclyde Council - Roads monitoring data	Annually



	Impact on water quality Impact on morphology of watercourses	SEPA - Clyde Area Catchment Management Plan	Every 6 years
Climatic Factors and Air	Number of Air Quality Management Areas, and number of exceedances of Air Quality Objectives within monitored areas.	Inverclyde Council – ‘Local Air Quality Monitoring Progress Reports’	Annually
	Increase/decrease in Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Inverclyde Council – Submission to Scottish Public Bodies Climate Change Reporting	Annually
	Development of heat networks and connections to/from new development	Inverclyde Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plans / Monitoring of planning permissions.	Every 5 years
Material Assets	Take-up of vacant and derelict land	Vacant and Derelict Land Survey	Annually
	Planning permissions for renewable energy generation and storage	Monitoring of planning applications for renewable energy and energy storage.	Annually
Cultural Heritage	Impact of new development on Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Archaeological sites	Inverclyde Council - Monitoring of planning applications related to listed buildings, Conservation Areas, Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Archaeological sites.	Annually
Landscape	Impact of development on the Green Belt/Countryside	Glasgow and Clyde Valley Regional Spatial Strategy (as emerging) – Monitoring of Green Belt/Countryside	Every 5 years



Appendix A - RELEVANT OTHER PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

NAME OF PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES	KEY ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES
General	
National Planning Framework 4 (2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of the statutory development plan, setting out national spatial priorities and planning/land use policy for Scotland to 2045. • Sets out a national spatial strategy aiming towards planning and delivery of sustainable, liveable and productive places, based on the statutory outcomes of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. • Key spatial principles for the environment include supporting local living and limiting urban expansion to optimise sustainable use of land and resources, conserving and recycling material assets (including land, buildings and infrastructure, and a just transition to achieve the 2045 targets for net zero. • Key policy principles include ensuring that the global and nature crises are given significant weight in all decisions, promoting development which minimises emissions and helps climate change adaptation, promoting biodiversity enhancement and safeguarding the quality of the natural and built environment, and encouraging development which supports circular economy principles.



NAME OF PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES	KEY ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES
Scotland's Third Land Use Strategy 2021-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides Scottish Ministers' vision, objectives and policy for achieving sustainable land use. • Its vision is that by 2050 in Scotland there is full recognition, understanding and value given to the importance of our land use resources, with improved benefits which enhance wellbeing. • It is based around three objectives for (1) land-based businesses working with nature to contribute more to Scotland's prosperity, (2) responsible stewardship of Scotland's natural resources with more benefits to people and (3) urban and rural communities are better connected to land with more people enjoying it and positively influencing land use.
National Strategy for Economic Transformation (2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out Scottish Government's policy priorities for Scotland's economy up to 2032, with actions to maximise opportunities to achieve a wellbeing economy. • The vision of a wellbeing economy includes economic, social and environmental dimensions which all interlink to achieve prosperity for Scotland's people and places. Respecting environmental limits aligned with the targets for net zero by 2045 and restoring nature are key aims. • Policy programmes are centred around people and entrepreneurship, including maximising growth in green and net zero related industries, and a just transition to enhance skills and workforce to support this growth.



NAME OF PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES	KEY ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES
Choosing our Future: Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the UK shared Sustainable Development Framework in Scotland. • Provide a strategic framework for a number of new and emerging strategies.
The Environment Strategy for Scotland: Vision and Outcomes (2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides an overarching framework for Scotland's existing environmental strategies and plans, including the Climate Change Plan. • Sets three key outcomes – for protection and restoration of Scotland's nature; supporting global efforts to tackle the global climate emergency; and conserving and growing our natural assets with circular economy.
Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park - Park Strategy 2016-2021	<p>The strategy identifies three priorities which focus activity in the Park over the next 5 years. These priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure activity and health; • Education and outdoor learning; • Environmental management.
Adjoining Local Development Plans	<p>Inverclyde is part of the Glasgow City Region area and borders local authorities within and outside GCR. Adjoining Local Development Plans which are relevant are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2 (2019) • Renfrewshire Local Development Plan (2021)
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	
Natura 2000 : European Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora European Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, as amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These European Directives and the 1994 Regulations (as amended) collectively set the regulatory context in the UK for the Natura 2000 network of European protected areas. The requirements of these Directives remain relevant to the management of European designated sites following UK withdrawal from the EU. • Provides for the designation by Scottish Ministers of Special Areas of Conservation to support rare, endangered or vulnerable habitats and species of plants or animals of European importance; and Special Protection Areas designated for significant numbers of wild birds and their habitats. • The Regulations set out the requirements for protected Natura sites and for European Protected Species, and for undertaking Habitat Regulations Appraisal of plans or programmes which may affect the conservation objectives of a designated site.
Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)	<p>UK Legislation which sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the protection of wildlife (birds, and some animals and plants), the countryside and National Parks. • the designation of protected areas, and public rights of way.



NAME OF PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES	KEY ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES
Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amends the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) • To ensure that the legislation regulating the natural environment is fit for purpose. • Includes a range of biodiversity related regulations, including those related to non-native species.
Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act (2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Places a duty on every public body and officeholder to further the conservation of biodiversity as far as possible in exercising their functions. • Introduces the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. • Sets out the duties and offences relating to SSSIs and other sites of interest and how they are to be implemented and monitored.
Scottish Biodiversity Strategy: It's in Your Hands (2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25-year strategy to conserve and enhance biodiversity in Scotland. • Complements the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and ensures that the approach to the conservation of biodiversity is as comprehensive and well informed as possible. • Addresses the bigger picture rather than just individual sites or species. • Sets out 5 strategic objectives relating to species and habitats, people, landscapes and ecosystems, integration and co-ordination and knowledge.
2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity – A Strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland (SG) 2013	<p>To supplement the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy above by updating and providing further detail in relation to certain aspects and responding to new international targets. Its aims are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and restore biodiversity on land and in our seas, and to support healthier ecosystems. • Connect people with the natural world, for their health and wellbeing and to involve them more in decisions about their environment. • Maximise the benefits for Scotland of a diverse natural environment and the services it provides.



NAME OF PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES	KEY ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES
Biodiversity Strategy to 2045: Tackling the Nature Emergency (2023)	<p>Sets out the Scottish Government's strategy and ambition for Scotland to be 'Nature Positive' by 2030, and for restored and regenerated biodiversity across the country by 2045, including land, freshwater and seas. It is part of Scotland's first Biodiversity Delivery Framework which will include a Natural Environment bill, and five-year rolling Delivery Plans. Provides outcomes for land, seascapes, freshwater bodies, marine and coastal environments by 2045. Underpinned by a series of objectives which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerate restoration and regeneration of degraded landscapes and ecosystems. • Protect nature on land and at sea, across and beyond protected areas. • Embed nature friendly farming, fishing and forestry through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and increasing productivity and resilience of production. • Recover and protect vulnerable and important species. • Invest in nature, with Scotland taking a leading role in offering opportunities in investment for enhancing ecosystems while generating sustainable return. • Take action on the indirect drivers of biodiversity loss (e.g. societal values and behaviours which drive consumption and demand).
Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029 and Scotland's Forestry Strategy Implementation Plan 2022-2025.	<p>The Strategy sets out the Scottish Government's 50-year vision for Scotland to have more forests and woodland which are sustainably managed and better integrated with other land uses, providing a resilient and adaptable resource with greater natural capital value to support economy, environment and communities. It has three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the contribution of forests and woodlands to Scotland's sustainable and inclusive economic growth. • Improve the resilience of Scotland's forests and woodlands and increase their contribution to a healthy and high-quality environment. • Increase the use of Scotland's forest and woodland resources to enable more people to improve their health, well-being and life chances.
Policy on Control of Woodland Removal - (Scottish Forestry) 2009	<p>Sets out national level policy on decisions affecting woodland removal in Scotland, from local to national level. It contains a series of principal aims including to support a strategic framework for appropriate woodland removal, support maintenance and enhancement of forest cover and achieve an appropriate balance between forested and non-forested land. It also seeks to support climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>The policy provides a series of guiding principles on decisions affecting woodland removal, with a strong presumption in favour of protecting Scotland's woodland and provides criteria for determining the acceptability of woodland removal.</p>



NAME OF PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES	KEY ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES
Clydeplan Forestry and Woodland Strategy (2020)	Strategy covering the Clydeplan area (Glasgow City Region) including Inverclyde which sets out a vision for 2040, where there are expanded networks of woodland within the Clydeplan area which contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, healthy and empower communities and quality places with a rich, resilient environment and a competitive, inclusive and successful economy. It provides an overview of woodland resources in the area and identifies key strategic priorities and opportunities for future woodland expansion and management. This document will be used to inform the Forestry Schedule of the Evidence Report.
A Strategy for Marine Nature Conservation in Scotland's Seas (2010) (Marine Scotland)	A 10–25-year national strategy including priorities for action for the next 5 years. Seeks to achieve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Environmental Status under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive • the completion of the Marine Protected Area network by 2012 • the promotion of sustainable economic growth. <p>Uses a 3-pillar approach of wider seas policies and measures, species conservation and site protection.</p>
Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2004) and Inverclyde Biodiversity Duty Report (2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes baseline data for flora and fauna identified as particularly important in maintaining the biodiversity of the area and ensure it is maintained and, where appropriate, increased. • Raise awareness of the value of biodiversity and the identified species to landowners, managers and the general public. • The 2023 Biodiversity Duty Report provides an update on actions being taken by the Council to improve and enhance biodiversity including improving skills, workforce and public engagement.
The Inverclyde Greenspace Strategy (2008)	Sets out the policies and measures required to protect and improve the Council's greenspaces. An updated Open Space Strategy is in preparation for the Evidence Report of LDP4.
Area Renewal and the Inverclyde Green Network (2010)	Create strategic legible green links through the urban area between the waterfront and the regional part, making them accessible for both residents and visitors.
Area Renewal and the Inverclyde Green Network: Concept to Case Study (2013)	The project aims to secure a sustainable, long-term future for Inverclyde that can better meet the needs of its local communities. It highlights the opportunity for new investment to provide a balanced community and rebuild routes around existing area assets and both current and future developments. The routes and greenspaces which form the Case Studies will be progressed to enable them to better suit variable needs, protect and create local jobs wherever possible to secure a real change in area perception and in the qualities of place.
Population	
Scotland's Economic Strategy (2015)	Sets out an overarching framework for increasing competitiveness and tackling inequality in Scotland.



NAME OF PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES	KEY ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES
Glasgow City Region Economic Strategy (December 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out the Regional Economic Baseline, and provides evidence reports on the economic challenges facing GCR. Comprises three interlinked missions that by 2030 Glasgow City Region will have the most innovative, inclusive and resilient economy in the UK. It accounts for approximately one third of the Scottish economy and has evolved to a knowledge-based service economy. • Identifies cross cutting priorities relates to missions of an inclusive economy, enhancing productivity and the climate emergency. • Priorities include increasing skills and access to fair work, growing key sectors including the green economy, and embracing emerging technology, increasing innovation and levels of entrepreneurialism.
Inverclyde Economic Development & Regeneration Single Operating Plan 2016-2019	<p>The six key priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To grow and diversify the business base; • To increase Inverclyde's capacity to accommodate private sector jobs; • To boost skill levels and reduce worklessness; • To accelerate the regeneration of strategic employment sites and town centres; • To progress the renewal and economic regeneration of the most disadvantaged areas of Inverclyde; and • To co-ordinate action and investment with our partners.
Scotland Outlook 2030: Responsible Tourism for a Sustainable Future	<p>Six conditions for success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital harnessing the power of technology and data. • Policy Having the right policy and regulatory landscape in place. • Investment Ensuring we have access to investment. • Connectivity proactively investing in the right transport and digital connectivity. • Business network providing a strong support network for our businesses. • Positioning Successful positioning of Scotland and its tourism industry.
Inverclyde Regional Tourism Strategy 2016-2020	<p>Vision – “By 2020 Inverclyde will be recognized as a leading coastal and day visit destination of first-class memorable customer experiences delivered by skilled and passionate hosts. The strategy seeks to grow the value of tourism, the volume of visits, likelihood to return to the area so increasing jobs and the economic contribution tourism makes to the Inverclyde area”.</p> <p>The delivery of the strategy will be through three key themes of: Providing Memorable Experiences, Improving the Customer Journey, Building Local Capabilities</p>



NAME OF PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES	KEY ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES
Homes Fit for the 21st Century: The Scottish Government's Strategy and Action Plan for Housing in the Next Decade: 2011-2020	Sets out the Scottish Government's housing vision and strategy for the decade to 2020.
Scottish Government Strategy Housing to 2040 (2021)	Sets out a vision and route map for housing in Scotland to 2040, for everyone to have a safe, high-quality home that is affordable and meets their needs in the place they want to be.
Inverclyde Local Housing Strategy (2023-2028)	Provides an overarching and integrated strategic direction for all aspects of housing.
Health	
Public Health Priorities for Scotland (2018)	<p>Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Scotland where we live in vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities • A Scotland where we flourish in our early years • A Scotland where we have good mental wellbeing • A Scotland where we reduce the use of, and harm from, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs • A Scotland where we have a sustainable, inclusive economy with equality of outcomes for all • A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active.
GCV Green Network Partnership: Blueprint	<p>The Blueprint incorporates the fundamental functions of a Green Network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Strategic Access Network – facilitating the off-road movement of people around and between communities through Green Active Travel routes and greenspace • a Strategic Habitat Network – facilitating the movement of wildlife through the landscape <p>The Blueprint will contribute to sustainable inclusive economic growth and increase wellbeing by helping to deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a successful, sustainable place where people want to work and live healthy lives • a natural, resilient place that improves and protects the environment • a connected place providing opportunities for exercise and improvements to mental wellbeing • a place that encourages active travel contributing to a low carbon economy
Inverclyde Open Space Review (2012)	Identify areas of open space to go into the Local Development Plan and assist with policy development (a review of open space is being undertaken as part of the Evidence Report).
Inverclyde Open Space Audit (2015)	Assess the quality of all open spaces identified in the LDP and identify future steps for wider Open Space review.



NAME OF PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES	KEY ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES
Inverclyde Open Space Audit and Action Plan	<p>Key aims are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stimulate higher levels of open space use, particularly amongst young people. • Inspire use by using and designing spaces creatively. • Improve personal safety (both perceived and actual). • Involve local people through provision of employment and training. • Make more of the natural heritage value of spaces.
Inverclyde Council Core Paths Plan (2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create a path network that meets people's needs and which they can understand and use with confidence. • Safeguard the essential operation and economic interests of land managers. • Updated in 2019 with a full review of all paths.
Inverclyde Council Play Area Strategy (2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision, management and maintenance of local authority play areas within Inverclyde. • A Play Sufficiency Assessment is in preparation as part of the Evidence Report for LDP4.
Inverclyde Sports Pitches Plan (2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review key leisure sites • Inform investment priorities. • increase sports pitch capacity in terms of facility space and availability.
Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan (2017)	<p>The three Strategic Priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population - Inverclyde's population will be stable and sustainable with an appropriate balance of socio-economic groups that is conducive to local economic prosperity and longer-term population growth. • Inequalities - There will be low levels of poverty and deprivation and the gap in income and health between the richest and poorest members of our communities will be reduced. • Environment, Culture and Heritage - Inverclyde's environment, culture and heritage will be protected and enhanced to create a better place for all Inverclyde residents and an attractive place in which to live, work and visit.
Inverclyde Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation (2007)	<p>Strategy which seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the opportunities for increased physical recreation and sporting participation. • Ensure that the value of sport and physical recreation to Inverclyde and its people is maximised over the next 5-10 years. • Set out a vision for sport and recreation. • Set out 4 strategic goals, each with further proposed action areas and specific actions.
Let's Get Scotland Walking – the National Walking Strategy (2014)	<p>Scottish Government Strategy which advocates the benefits of walking as part of everyday journeys. It has three strategic aims to create a culture of walking for everyday travel, recreation and wellbeing; for better quality walking environments; and to enable easy, convenient and safe independent mobility for everyone.</p>



NAME OF PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES	KEY ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES
A Connected Scotland: our strategy for tackling social isolation and loneliness and building stronger social connections (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scottish Government's first national strategy to tackle social isolation and loneliness, with strategic outcomes including understanding what causes/impacts it and an understanding of what works to reduce it. • Promotes creating opportunities for people to connect, including through opportunities for sport and physical activity, and community networks (e.g. befriending). • Recognises the role of placemaking and planning to enable opportunities for people to interact, and in enabling groups such as older and disabled people to live well and in housing that meets their needs.
A More Active Scotland: Scotland's Physical Activity Delivery Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Government Strategy setting out a vision where people are more active and more often, underpinned by principles to realise the contributions made by physical activity to quality of life, including reducing inequality with resources allocated to those who face the greatest barriers to participation, and providing opportunities across all stages of life. • Sets outcomes for Scotland, including the improvement of active infrastructure for people and places such as boosting investment in walking and cycling and other active travel.
Soil	
The Scottish Soil Framework (2009)	<p>Seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure more sustainable management and protection of soils consistent with the economic, social and environmental needs of Scotland. • encourage better policy integration. • Identify a wide range of activities which contribute toward 13 soil outcomes • Establish a Soil Focus Group to facilitate activities.
Scotland's National Peatland Plan - Working for our future (2015) and Peatland Condition Assessment and Guidance on Development on Peatland (2017).	<p>Sets out the importance of peatland for biodiversity, water quality, flood risks and carbon sequestration and tools for assessment of condition, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to protect, manage and restore peatlands • maintain their natural functions, biodiversity and benefits.
SEPA Regulatory Position Statement –Developments on Peat (2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise peat excavation and disturbance • prevent unnecessary production of waste soils and peat.
Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Green Network's Peatland Initiative (2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To restore an area of 788 of drained peatland. • To increase the rate and scale of peatland restoration to contribute to net zero by 2045.
Draft Carbon-rich soil, deep peat and priority peatland habitats map (NatureScot) 2014	Provides information on the location of Carbon rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitats.



NAME OF PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES	KEY ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES
The Contaminated Land (Scotland) Regulations (2005)	<p>Requires local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> inspect their area to identify contaminated land to ensure it is remediated; and maintain a register of contaminated land which is available for public inspection.
Water	
Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act (2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The protection of the water environment and the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, through the introduction of River Basin Management Planning. Amends the Sewerage (Scotland) Act 1968 and the Water (Scotland) Act 1980 in relation to the provision of water and sewerage services.
Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Act of the Scottish Parliament which makes provision for the assessment and sustainable management of flood risk. Provides a statutory duty on local authorities to work to reduce flood risk, in partnership with other authorities. Requirement to prepare flood risk management plans and associated duties.
The River Basin Management Plan for the Scotland River Basin District 2015-2027	<p>This plan builds on the first river basin management plan for the Scotland river basin district. The plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sets revised objectives for the 12-year period from 2015 to the end of 2027 (Figure 2) and, a strengthened programme of measures for achieving them.
Improving the quality of Scotland's Water Environment - Clyde area management plan 2010–2015	<p>This plan supplements the river basin management plan (RBMP) for the Scotland river basin district.</p> <p>Aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintain and improve the quality of the rivers, lochs, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwaters in the area. focus on local actions highlights the opportunities for partnership working to ensure that we all benefit from improvements to the water environment.



NAME OF PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES	KEY ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES
Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the Marine Management Organisation and set out its objectives and responsibilities. Make provision for the preparation of Marine Policy Statements, Marine Plans and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). Set out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The requirement for a licence for certain marine activities. b) the management of inshore fisheries. c) amendments to other fisheries acts.
Marine (Scotland) Act (2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the Scottish marine area and set a duty to protect and enhance its health where possible. Make provision for marine plans and their implementation, and marine licenses provide for the protection of the marine area and its wildlife through the designation of different types of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the regulation of sea fisheries.
Clyde Marine Planning Partnership – Inner Firth of Clyde and Upper Firth of Clyde Landscape Seascape Study (2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarises coastal characteristics and opportunities/guidance for development.
Scotland's National Marine Plan (2015) and National Marine Plan 2 (emerging)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2015 Plan sets out Scottish Government policy and objectives on the management of the marine environment (inshore and offshore waters). It is not directly applied to terrestrial land use planning, but there are interactions between marine and terrestrial planning in intertidal zones of the marine environment. Its vision is for “Clean, healthy, safe and productive and diverse seas; managed to meet the long-term needs of nature and people”. It sets out policies against which proposals in the marine environment are assessed, including a presumption in favour of sustainable development, providing economic and social benefits to Scottish communities, and making decisions on the best way to mitigate and adapt to climate change. National Marine Plan 2 is in preparation with stakeholder engagement on updates to the plan, which is intended to better support statutory commitments to net zero and helping tackle the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss through marine planning. Progress with this plan will be kept under review.
Flood Risk Management Strategy for the Clyde and Loch Lomond Plan District (2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out the agreed ambition for flood risk management in the district identify priority actions to be taken forward
Flood Risk Management Plan for Clyde and Loch Lomond Plan District (2016)	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid an overall increase in flood risk. Reduce overall flood risk.



NAME OF PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES	KEY ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES
Air	
The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland – DEFRA (2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out air quality objectives and policy options to further improve air quality in the UK. Deliver direct benefits to public health, quality of life and help to protect our environment.
Environment (Scotland) Act 1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirement to publish a national Air Quality Strategy Establishes a system of local air quality management (sometimes shortened to LAQM), for the designation of air quality management areas. Set air quality standards.
Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 – Towards a Better Place for Everyone (2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Scottish Government Strategy for improving air quality to 2026. Aims to protect public health and the environment through dedicated actions across public and private sectors.
Inverclyde Council 2024 Air Quality Annual Progress Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the latest annual reporting by the Council on air quality within its area. There are no Air Quality Management Areas within Inverclyde, and to date pollutants have been below the National Air Quality Objective levels.
Climatic Factors	
Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 as amended by the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduces a new duty on the Council (and all public bodies) to exercise their functions in a way that is best calculated to contribute towards greenhouse gas reduction targets. The current statutory targets are for greenhouse gas emissions to be net zero by 2045, with interim targets in relation to the 1990/1995 baseline of 75% by 2030 and 90% by 2040.
Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: Climate Change Plan 2018-2032 Update (2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update of the 2018 Climate Change Plan which takes account of the enhanced targets in 2019 for net zero emissions by 2045. Includes policies and proposals for various sectors in relation to climate change, including transport, buildings, industry, waste, land use, and electricity generation.
Low Carbon Scotland - Meeting our Emissions Reduction Targets 2013-2027	Set out specific measures for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to meet Scotland's ambitious statutory targets.



NAME OF PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES	KEY ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES
Climate Ready Scotland: Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024	<p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our communities are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe in response to the changing climate • The people in Scotland who are most vulnerable to climate change are able to adapt and climate justice is embedded in climate change adaptation policy • Our inclusive and sustainable economy is flexible, adaptable and responsive to the changing climate. • Our society's supporting systems are resilient to climate change • Our natural environment is valued, enjoyed, protected and enhanced and has increased resilience to climate change • Our coastal and marine environment is valued, enjoyed, protected and enhanced and has increased resilience to climate change • Our international networks are adaptable to climate change
Scottish National Adaptation Plan (2024-29)	<p>Plan by the Scottish Government to set out actions to build Scotland's resilience to climate change. Sets out a long-term vision and Scotland's priorities for the next 5 years, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building climate resilience through regional partnerships and local action. • Improving flood warnings for businesses and infrastructure and building rainwater networks in urban areas to manage flash flooding. • Investment to increase resilience of the rail network. • Investment Plans that connect nature, finance and adaptation outcomes.
The National Transport Strategy 2 (2020)	<p>National Transport Strategy 2 sets out the Scottish Government's priorities for transport networks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce inequalities • take climate action • help deliver inclusive economic growth • improve health and wellbeing. <p>Sets a framework for investment and decisions on transport projects through the Sustainable Travel Hierarchy, and Sustainable Investment Hierarchy.</p>



NAME OF PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES	KEY ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES
Strategic Transport Projects Review 2	<p>A review of the strategic transport network performance that will inform transport investment to 2042, aimed at helping deliver the vision, priorities and outcomes of NTS2.</p> <p>Outcomes are to help make Scotland more accessible for all, to create better connectivity for sustainable, smart and cleaner transport options, and support sustaining Scotland's economic growth.</p> <p>Recommendations are made which cover all areas of Scotland, such as improving active travel connections between settlements, infrastructure for all at railway stations, strategic bus priority measures. Recommendations which will have particular relevance to Inverclyde include supporting integrated journeys at ferry terminals, investing in port infrastructure to support vessel renewal and replacement and progressive decarbonisation.</p>
A Catalyst for Change: The Regional Transport Strategy for the west of Scotland 2008-21 (2008)	Set out SPT's strategic direction to 2021 and the vision, goals, objectives and strategic priorities for transport in the west of Scotland.
Inverclyde Net Zero Strategy 2021-2045	Sets out the Council's route map to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, directly and indirectly particularly in relation to its Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. Considers opportunities for reducing emissions across various sectors including buildings, transport, streetlighting, water and waste.
Scottish Forestry Climate Change Programme (2013)	<p>Seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the response and contribution of Scottish Forestry to the challenges of a changing climate. • Focus on what requires to be done in relation to early actions and increasing awareness.
Material Assets (including Circular Economy and Waste)	
The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand all waste producers (excluding householders) duty of care' to include a requirement to segregate material for recycling. • Require Local authorities to provide a minimum recycling service to householders.
Scotland's Zero Waste Plan (2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set out the Scottish Government's vision for a zero-waste society, one where all types of waste are dealt with, regardless of where they came from. A Scotland where resource use is minimised, valuable resources are not disposed of in landfills, and most waste is sorted, leaving only limited amounts to be treated. • Set recycling and landfill reduction targets to help realise the full resources potential of waste.
Making Things Last: A circular economy strategy for Scotland (2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out the Scottish Government's priorities for moving to a circular economy, where products and materials are kept in high value use for as long as possible, benefiting the environment, economy and communities. • Prioritises four areas of action – food and drink, remanufacturing, construction and the built environment, and energy infrastructure. • Aims for products to be designed for longer lifetimes and improving the capture of items for re-use.



NAME OF PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES	KEY ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES
Going for Green Growth: A Green Jobs Strategy for Scotland (2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims to grab hold of the business opportunities and advantages arising from a belief in and commitment to sustainable development. • Sets a vision of a vibrant, low carbon economy with Scotland as a centre for green enterprise.
2020 Routemap for Renewable Energy in Scotland	An update and extension to the Scottish Renewables Action Plan 2009, which reflects the challenge of our new target to meet an equivalent of 100% demand for electricity from renewable energy by 2020, as well as our target of 11% renewable heat
Onshore Wind Policy Statement (2020)	Scottish Government Policy Statement, setting out the ambition to deploy a minimum of 20GW of onshore wind in Scotland by 2030, requiring an acceleration of scale and pace and supporting rapid decarbonisation of our energy system and the sectors that depend on it. OWPS sets out the intention that although imperative to meet our net zero targets it is also vital that this ambition is delivered in a way that is fully aligned with, and continues to enhance, our rich natural heritage and native flora and fauna, and supports our actions to address the nature crisis and the climate crisis. It sets out policy and guidance on a range of technical and land use considerations.
Draft Energy and Just Transition Plan (2023)	A draft strategy setting out the Scottish Government's proposed route map and actions to delivery net zero energy systems that supply affordable, resilient and clean energy for domestic and commercial use, including policy and legislation intended to be brought forward. The route map is aligned to pathways for green jobs and skills, and decarbonisation of industry and manufacturing, heat, and transport.
Green Industrial Strategy (2024)	Scottish Government strategy which identifies areas of strength and opportunity for Scotland to realise economic growth opportunities from the transition to net zero, for example in the hydrogen sector with opportunities across the supply chain from manufacturing, production, operation, transportation and storage. It seeks to exploit opportunities from Scotland's geography including our physical proximity to key demand centres in NW Europe, and our existing industrial assets including port infrastructure and new Green Freeports. The strategy is a key part of the broader National Strategy for Economic Transformation and links to the Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan.
Heat in Buildings Strategy (2021)	The Scottish Government's strategy for decarbonisation of heat in buildings, with a just transition and helping to address fuel poverty. Sets out a pathway to zero emissions buildings by 2045, with near term actions to set the path ahead. Seeks outcomes whereby heat in buildings no longer contributes to climate change, and the cost of heating homes and businesses is affordable with a high comfort level. Also seeks that demand for heat and poor energy efficiency is no longer a driver of fuel poverty.



NAME OF PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES	KEY ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES
Inverclyde Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (2024)	<p>This place based and locally led strategy has two key aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve energy efficiency and decarbonise the heat supply of all of Inverclyde, and • Reduce inequality by eliminating poor energy efficiency as a driver of fuel poverty. <p>It provides a baseline of existing housing stock and fuel types, areas of fuel poverty, and identifies significant opportunity for heat networks around coastal locations and a potential 'heat highway' across most of the area.</p>
Scotland Heat Map (SG) 2024	<p>Dataset maintained by Scottish Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify where there are opportunities for decentralised energy projects across Scotland. • identify where there are opportunities for heat networks, to assess heat density and proximity to heat sources.
Cultural Heritage	
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act (1997)	Set out the approach for designating listed buildings and conservation areas, and the duties and responsibilities these designations convey on different parties.
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)	Make provision for the protection of scheduled ancient monuments and areas of archaeological importance.



NAME OF PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES	KEY ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES
Historic Environment Policy for Scotland 2019	<p>Sets out national policies for safeguarding and enhancing the historic environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HEP1 - Decisions affecting any part of the historic environment should be informed by an inclusive understanding of its breadth and cultural significance • HEP2- Decisions affecting the historic environment should ensure that its understanding and enjoyment as well as its benefits are secured for present and future generations • HEP3 - Plans, programmes, policies and strategies, and the allocation of resources, should be approached in a way that protects and promotes the historic environment. If detrimental impact on the historic environment is unavoidable, it should be minimized. Steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored, and mitigation measures should be put in place. • HEP4 - Changes to specific assets and their context should be managed in a way that protects the historic environment. Opportunities for enhancement should be identified where appropriate. • If detrimental impact on the historic environment is unavoidable, it should be minimized. Steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored, and mitigation measures should be put in place. • HEP5 - Decisions affecting the historic environment should contribute to the sustainable development of communities and places. • HEP6 - Decisions affecting the historic environment should be informed by an inclusive understanding of the potential consequences for people and communities. Decision-making processes should be collaborative, open, transparent and easy to understand.
Our Past, Our Future – The Strategy for Scotland’s Historic Environment (2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set out priorities for the historic environment, aligned with the mission to sustain and enhance benefits for people and communities. • Priorities and outcomes are around ensuring that the historic environments help mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, that it plays a central role in local communities developing skills to care for the historic environment, and with participation in decisions, and that it plays a key role in building a wellbeing economy including access to fair work’.
Planning Advice Note (PAN) 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology	This PAN is intended to inform the day-to-day work of a range of local authority advisory services and other organisations that have a role in the handling of archaeological matters within the planning process.
Historic Environment Scotland ‘Managing Change’ series	A series of publications providing detailed guidance on making decisions about changes to historic environment assets in the context of national policy, including changes to historic buildings, works that affect other assets including scheduled monuments and historic battlefields, and considering the impacts of development on the setting of historic assets and landscapes.



NAME OF PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES	KEY ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES
Landscape	
NatureScot guidance on local landscape areas (2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out designation and amendment guidance for local authorities for Local Landscape Areas, with the potential to reinforce and support green and blue networks, historic assets and community benefit.
SNH Review 116: Glasgow and Clyde Valley landscape character assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a detailed assessment of the landscape of Glasgow and the Clyde Valley. • Consider the likely pressures and opportunities for change in the landscape. • assesses the sensitivity of landscape to change. • provide guidelines indicating how landscape character may be conserved, enhanced and restructure.
Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Turbine Development in Glasgow and the Clyde Valley - Inverclyde	Provides a strategic view of landscape sensitivity to wind energy development, and available capacity for further development, across the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan area.
Clyde Muirshiel Park Authority Framework Guidance Document for windfarm development proposals (2010)	Consider the impacts of windfarm developments on the Regional Park's attributes and assets as well as the Park Authority's aims and objectives.



Appendix B

Environmental Baseline and Issues/Problems Relevant to the LDP

SEA Topics	Baseline Information	Information Source	Environmental Issues/Problems Relevant to the LDP
Biodiversity, Flora and fauna	<p><u>Woodland</u></p> <p>Ancient woodland – 141ha</p> <p>Semi-Natural woodland – 465ha</p> <p>TPOs – 150.8ha</p> <p><u>European and National Designations</u></p> <p>2 SPAs/Ramsar sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renfrewshire Heights SPA Inner Clyde Estuary SPA <p>1 Ramsar site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inner Clyde Estuary <p>7 SSSIs</p>	<p>NatureScot Ancient Woodland Inventory - http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/natural-spaces/index.jsp</p> <p>Scottish Forestry Native Woodland Survey of Scotland (2013)https://forestry.gov.scot/forests-environment/biodiversity/native-woodlands/native-woodland-survey-of-scotland-nwss</p> <p>Inverclyde Council Schedule of TPO's https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/planning-and-the-environment/tree-preservation-orders#:~:text=in%20Conservation%20Areas-Tree%20Preservation%20Orders%20%26%20Trees%20in%20Conservation%20Areas,in%20the%20interests%20of%20amenity.</p> <p>NatureScot Sitelink https://www.nature.scot/information-hub/snhi-data-services</p>	<p>Development can, potentially, have significant adverse effects on natural heritage assets. In light of this, there is a need to avoid/minimise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> disturbance to protected species loss or fragmentation of designated habitats, green linkages and wildlife corridors. Increases of invasive non-native species <p>There are also opportunities for development to deliver enhancements to biodiversity, e.g. through improvements to habitats linked to new development sites, or the expansion of woodland cover.</p>



SEA Topics	Baseline Information	Information Source	Environmental Issues/Problems Relevant to the LDP
	<p>Scotland's population has risen.</p> <p>The population of Inverclyde was 78,330 in June 2023, remaining static since June 2022. Over the same period, the population of Scotland increased by 0.8%.</p> <p>Between 1998 and 2019, the population of Inverclyde decreased by 9.4%, the lowest percentage change out of the 32 council areas in Scotland. Over the same period, Scotland's population rose by 7.6%.</p> <p>The population of Inverclyde is projected to fall by 5% by 5% between 2022-2028. There is an ageing population, with a 55.5% projected increase in people aged 75+ by 2043.</p> <p>Population density of 488 per square kilometer (Inverclyde has a land area of 160sq km).</p> <p>87% of Inverclyde's population live in the main towns of Port Glasgow, Greenock and Gourock, with 13% in the villages of Inverkip, Wemyss Bay and Kilmacolm.</p> <p><u>Households</u></p> <p>Household projections forecast a</p>	<p>https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/publications/mid-2023-population-estimates/#</p> <p>Inverclyde Strategic Needs Assessment 2022</p> <p>Inverclyde Strategic Needs Assessment 2022 National Records of Scotland Household Projections, 2018</p>	<p>provision of an appropriate range of housing and employment opportunities and an adequate level of service provision.</p> <p>There is a need to improve Inverclyde's health prospects through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate provision of open space, recreational facilities, access routes and green networks • reduction of transport emissions and associated effects on air quality.



SEA Topics	Baseline Information	Information Source	Environmental Issues/Problems Relevant to the LDP
	<p>continual decline in household numbers in Inverclyde, from 37,640 in 2018 to 33,878 in 2043. In contrast, the number of households in Scotland is expected to increase from 2.48M to 2.71M over the same period. The percentage of one adult households is set to increase in Inverclyde t 43% by 2028.</p> <p><u>Health</u></p> <p>In Inverclyde, life expectancy at birth was higher for females (79.6 years) than for males (75.2 years) in 2016-18.</p> <p>In Inverclyde, female and male life expectancy at birth is lower than Scotland overall.</p> <p>Between 2001-03 and 2016-18, male life expectancy has increased more rapidly than female life expectancy. Female life expectancy has risen by 2.4%, which is lower than Scotland overall (+2.8%), with male life expectancy rising by 7.1%, which is higher than Scotland overall (+4.8%).</p> <p><u>Recreational Provision</u></p> <p>There is 179km of core path in Inverclyde.</p>	<p>https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/publications/household-projections-for-scotland-2018-based/#</p> <p>National Records Scotland - Inverclyde Council Area Profile https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files/statistics/council-area-data-sheets/inverclyde-council-profile.html#:~:text=In%20Inverclyde%2C%20life%20expectancy%20at,years)%20in%202016%2D18.</p>	



SEA Topics	Baseline Information	Information Source	Environmental Issues/Problems Relevant to the LDP
	<p>The current LDP identifies a total of 125 open spaces, covering 611.62ha, with 66.4% within settlements and 33.6% within the Greenbelt (Please note that the LDP identifies the most valuable spaces and there is significantly more open space provision across Inverclyde).</p> <p>There are a range of open spaces provided across Inverclyde, including coastal links, public parks, play areas, playing fields and sports pitches, allotments, footpath networks and general amenity areas.</p>	<p>Inverclyde Core Paths Plan - https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/planning-and-the-environment/outdoor-access-in-inverclyde/core-paths-network#:~:text=The%20Core%20Paths%20Plan%20and,enjoying%20the%20outdoors%20for%20recreation.</p> <p>Inverclyde Local Development Plan - https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/planning-and-the-environment/planning-policy/development-planning/ldp</p>	
Soil	<p><u>Vacant and Derelict Land</u></p> <p>Inverclyde's industrial past has left a legacy of vacant and derelict land.</p> <p>There was 146.45ha (86 sites) of vacant and derelict land in Inverclyde at 31 March 2024. Of the land area, 78.95% was vacant land, 0.17% vacant land and buildings, and 20.88% derelict.</p> <p>Over the previous year, the number of vacant and derelict sites decreased by 1.03%, with the land area also decreasing by 0.14%.</p>	<p>Inverclyde Council Vacant and Derelict Land Survey 2024 https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/planning-and-the-environment/planning-policy/land-surveys</p>	<p>The re-development of vacant and derelict land is a key issue for the LDP, as it has potential to remediate contaminated land and deliver environmental improvements. It will also support economic regeneration and area renewal.</p> <p>Development can, potentially, also have significant adverse effects on soil quality. In light of this, there is a need to avoid/minimise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss or degradation of carbon rich soils and prime agricultural land • impacts on all soils through contamination or erosion caused by surface water run-off



SEA Topics	Baseline Information	Information Source	Environmental Issues/Problems Relevant to the LDP
	<p>abstraction/impoundment and morphological alterations, largely related to existing weirs and dams.</p> <p><u>Flooding</u></p> <p>There are 4 Potentially Vulnerable Areas within Inverclyde:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gourock to Port Glasgow – risk of river (30%), coastal (20%) and surface water flooding (50%) These sources may also act in combination. 2. Port Glasgow to Inchinnan - risk of river (1%), coastal (17%) and surface water (82%) flooding. These sources may also act in combination. 3. Gryfe Catchment – risk of surface water (30%) and river (70%) flooding. 4. Kilmacolm (candidate PVA) - risk of surface water (40%) and river (60%) flooding. <p>The Flood Risk Management Strategy for the Clyde (2015) states that flooding will impact on a range of assets across Inverclyde. For example, there is a risk to residential</p>	<p>Flood Risk Management Strategy for the Clyde and Loch Lomond District (2015). http://apps.sepa.org.uk/FRMStrategies/clyde-loch-lomond.html</p> <p>Flood Risk Management Plan for the Clyde and Loch Lomond https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=19470</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased flood risk on individual development sites and/or the wider area <p>There are also opportunities to improve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water quality/ecological status, e.g. through de-culverting and Suds etc. • Reduce existing flooding issues, e.g. through flood prevention schemes and natural flood management measures



SEA Topics	Baseline Information	Information Source	Environmental Issues/Problems Relevant to the LDP
	material assets below).		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • future proof new development • identify any other suitable adaptation measures
Material Assets	<p><u>Renewable Energy</u></p> <p>From 2003-2017, there were 36 planning applications for wind energy developments, totalling 92 turbines. Approval was granted for 71.4% of applications and 38.04% of the total number of turbines.</p> <p>One planning application for Battery Energy Storage System was submitted in 2023, and was granted approval.</p> <p><u>Waste</u></p> <p>Inverclyde has two recycling centres at Pottery Street, Greenock and Kirn Drive, Gourock. There also 44 neighbourhood recycling point.</p> <p>Inverclyde Council had the 5th highest rate of household recycling in Scotland in 2018, with 56% compared to 44.7% across Scotland.</p>	<p>Inverclyde Council - Monitoring of Planning Applications</p> <p>https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/environment/recycling-and-waste-services</p> <p>SEPA Household Water Data Summary (2018) https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/waste/waste-data/waste-data-reporting/household-waste-data/</p>	<p>To ensure the sustainable use/re-use of resources, there is a need to continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote renewable energy (e.g. wind and hydro) • minimise waste during the construction and operational phases of new development • re-develop vacant and derelict land
Cultural Heritage	<p>Inverclyde has a rich cultural heritage, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 x Scheduled Monuments • 247 x listed buildings: 	<p>Historic Scotland http://portal.historic-scotland.gov.uk/hes/web/f?p=1500:300:::NO:RP::</p>	<p>There continues to be development interest on a number of sites with designated cultural heritage assets, e.g. Duchal Estate and Ardgowan Estate.</p> <p>In addition, the development pressure around</p>



SEA Topics	Baseline Information	Information Source	Environmental Issues/Problems Relevant to the LDP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 25 Cat A b) 129 Cat B c) 94 Cat C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 Listed* Buildings at Risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 x Conservation Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Greenock West End b) Greenock Cathcart Square/William St c) Inverkip d) Kilmacolm South East e) Quarrier's Homes f) The Cross, Kilmacolm g) West Bay, Gourock h) Kempock Street/Shore Street, Gourock • 3 x Garden and Designed Landscapes; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ardgowan Estate b) Finlaystone Estate c) Duchal House Estate 	<p>http://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/search/keyword/inverclyde</p> <p>Inverclyde Council https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/planning-and-the-environment/planning-policy/conservation/conservation-areas</p> <p>Inverclyde Council https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/planning-and-the-environment/planning-policy/conservation/gardens-and-designed-landscapes</p>	<p>the fringes of settlements, and in the wider countryside, has potential to impact on cultural heritage assets in these areas.</p> <p>In light of the above, there is a need to avoid/minimise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adverse impacts on cultural heritage sites, including those sites which are not subject to statutory protection. • adverse impacts on the setting of cultural heritage sites <p>There are also opportunities to:</p> <p>Secure the long-term future of historic buildings through appropriate re-use, e.g. restoration or conversion.</p>
Landscape	<p><u>Landscape Character</u></p> <p>Inverclyde has a diverse landscape, with four landscape character types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCT 1 Raised Beach; • LCT 6 Rugged Upland Farmland; • LCT 12 Upland River Valleys; and • LCT 20 Rugged Moorland Hills. 	<p>Glasgow and Clyde Valley Landscape Character Assessment (GCVLCA) http://www.snh.org.uk/publications/online/LCA/glasgow.asp</p>	<p>The urban fringes of settlements, particularly Kilmacolm and Quarriers, continue to be subject to development pressure, mostly for housing. In addition, there is also pressure for housing in the wider countryside.</p> <p>In light of the above, there is a need to avoid/minimise:</p>



SEA Topics	Baseline Information	Information Source	Environmental Issues/Problems Relevant to the LDP
	<p>The Inverclyde coast is also classified as part of the <i>Upper Firth of Clyde Seascope Area</i>, between Skelmorlie and Cloch, and the <i>Inner Firth of Clyde Seascope Area</i>, between Cloch and Port Glasgow.</p> <p><u>Designations</u></p> <p>West Renfrew Hills Scenic Area</p> <p><u>Other</u></p> <p>While Clyde Muirsheil Regional Park does not have a landscape designation, it is nevertheless highly valued for its scenery and tranquillity.</p>	Seascope / Landscape Assessment of the Firth of Clyde (2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adverse impacts on the landscape setting of settlements • impacts on landscape designations • impacts on Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park • incremental erosion of landscape character through the cumulative effect of small-scale developments in the countryside • adverse impacts on significant landscape features
Air	<p>NO2 and PM10 levels in Inverclyde are below the Air Quality Objectives.</p> <p>There has never been an Air Quality Management Area in Inverclyde</p>	<p>2024 Air Quality Annual Progress Report (APR) for Inverclyde Council - https://www.scottishairquality.scot/lagm-reports/inverclyde-council</p>	In order to maintain good air quality in Inverclyde, there is a need for the settlement strategy and land allocations to minimise the need to travel by locating development close to good public transport connections and active travel routes.



Appendix C - Template Site Assessment and SEA Checklist (Updated February 2024)

Site Name:	Source of site suggestion: All landowners/interested parties identified/aware?	Current site reference	Site History/Previous planning applications, existing local plan policies and proposals, historic reference numbers:
Settlement:	GIS Site Ref: Previous ref:	Outside settlement boundary?	
OS Grid Ref:	Site Size (ha):	Is the site an allocation in the adopted LDP; sites proposed through call for ideas or any other sites with potential? No Yes ref. Yes, but different boundary	Summary Description (topography, features, boundaries, neighbouring issues, access, exposure, aspect etc. Site visit/GIS observations:
Current Use e.g. is the site brownfield, vacant and derelict land, greenfield, agricultural?	Proposed Use:	Relevant policies/proposals from LDP or NPF4:	
Insert Location Plan:		Insert Photographs if available:	

Topic – water Related SEA topics – population and human health, material assets, climatic factors	NPF4 Policy Topic	Scoring pre- mitigation	Mitigation	Enhancement	Scoring post- mitigation	Comments/conclusions
Could the proposal affect the condition of the water environment (water quality, physical condition, water resources, and the migration of wild fish)? See RBMPs for further detail on water condition.	Flood risk and water management Coastal development Blue and green infrastructure					
Could the proposal have a direct impact on the water environment (for example, result in the need for watercourse crossings or a large-scale abstraction or allow the de-culverting of a watercourse)?	Flood risk and water management Coastal development Blue and green infrastructure					
Can the proposal connect to the public foul sewer?	Infrastructure first					
Can the proposal connect to the public water mains? If not, is there a sustainable water source that is resilient to the periods of water scarcity?	Flood risk and water management Infrastructure first					
Are there wetlands or boggy areas on the site?	Flood risk and water management					



For large scale developments, are there any private or public water supplies within 250m of the site which may be affected?	Infrastructure first					
Flood Risk Relative to the floodplain, as defined in NPF4 could the proposal be at risk of flooding (from any source) or result in additional flood risk elsewhere? If flood risk is not fully understood, a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) should be undertaken. Specify which of the following flood sources are applicable: fluvial, pluvial, sewer, groundwater or coastal.	Flood Risk and Water Management Coastal development					
Could the development of the site help alleviate any existing flooding problems in the area?	Flood risk and Water management					



Topic – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Related SEA topics – soils, water, climatic factors...	NPF4 Policy Topic	Scoring pre-mitigation	Mitigation	Enhancement	Scoring post-mitigation	Comments/conclusions
To what extent will the proposal conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity?	Biodiversity Natural Places					
To what extent will the proposal facilitate the creation of nature networks and improve ecological connectivity?	Natural places Biodiversity					
International Designations - SAC/SPA, Ramsar, World Heritage Sites. To what extent will the proposal affect these sites including via connectivity?	Natural places Biodiversity					
National Designations To what extent will the proposal affect national designations – e.g. SSSI, NNR	Natural places biodiversity					
To what extent will the proposal affect other designations - and locally important designations such as LNRs.	Natural places Biodiversity					
To what extent will the proposal affect Non designated – e.g. trees, TPOs, hedges, woodland, (including woodlands in the Ancient, Semi Natural and Long Established Plantation Woodlands), species rich grasslands	Natural places Biodiversity					



Protected Species—e.g. bats, otters, etc - can it be ascertained if protected species will be affected and will a site survey be required?	Natural places Biodiversity					
To what extent will local geodiversity sites or wider geodiversity interests that could be affected by the proposal?	Soils Natural place Biodiversity					
How will habitat connectivity or wildlife corridors be affected by the proposal – will it result in habitat fragmentation or greater connectivity?	Biodiversity Tackling the climate and nature crisis Forestry, trees and woodland.					



Topic – Climatic Factors Related SEA topics – population, human health, water, biodiversity, material assets, soils, air, cultural heritage, landscape	NPF4 Policy Topic	Scoring pre- mitigation	Mitigation	Enhancement	Scoring post- mitigation	Comments/conclusions
To what extent will the proposal involve sediment extraction/reclamation or changes in coastal processes that could result in coastal flooding?	Climate mitigation and adaptation Coastal development					
To what extent will the proposal promote and enable adaptation to climate change?	Climate mitigation and adaptation					
To what extent does the proposal use nature based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation?	Climate mitigation and adaptation Infrastructure First Blue and Green infrastructure					
To what extent does the proposal maintain and enhance resilience of existing and planned grey and green infrastructure?	Climate mitigation and adaptation Infrastructure first Blue and Green infrastructure					
To what extent does the proposal have good proximity to services and good access to existing or proposed public transport and active travel network?	Climate mitigation and adaptation Infrastructure First.					



Topic – Air Quality Related SEA topics – climatic factors, soils, population and human health	NPF4 Policy Topic	Scoring pre- mitigation	Mitigation	Enhancement	Scoring post- mitigation	Comments/conclusions
Could the proposal lead to Local Air Quality Management thresholds being breached in an existing Air Quality Management Area?	Climate mitigation and adaptation Health and Safety					
Could the proposal lead to the designation of a new Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)	Health and safety					
Does the proposal introduce a new potentially significant air emission to the area (e.g. combined heat and power, an industrial process, large scale quarry etc.)?	Health and safety					
Will the proposal lead to a sensitive use being located close to a site with noise/odour issues or a site regulated for emissions to air by SEPA (e.g. new housing adjacent to a large manufacturing factory)	Health and safety					



Topic – population and human health Related SEA topics – climatic factors, air, water, soils, material assets	NPF4 Policy Topic	Scoring pre-mitigation	Mitigation	Enhancement	Scoring post-mitigation	Comments/conclusions
Is the proposal within the vicinity of a major accident hazard site or major accident hazard pipeline?	Health and safety					
Will the proposal affect service infrastructure: Education capacity - Secondary School Catchment Area/ Primary school catchment area Health provision/GP capacity						
To what extent will the proposal affect the quality and quantity of open space and connectivity and accessibility to open space or result in a loss of open space?	Design, Quality and place local living and 20 min neighbourhoods Blue and green infrastructure Play, recreation and sport					
To what extent will the proposal affect core path links or other key access networks such as cycle paths, coastal paths and rights of way?	Sustainable Transport Design, quality and place Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods Infrastructure first??					



Will the proposal have the opportunity to incorporate new or enhance existing blue and/or green infrastructure providing multiple benefits such as enhanced biodiversity, management of surface water?

Blue and Green infrastructure
Infrastructure First



Topic – Soils Related SEA topics – landscape, cultural heritage, water, biodiversity, flora and fauna, material assets.	NPF4 Policy Topic	Scoring pre-mitigation	Mitigation	Enhancement	Scoring post-mitigation	Comments/conclusions
Does the proposal make use of a brownfield site or contaminated and vacant and derelict land? If on brownfield, is the site naturalised?	Soils Brownfield, vacant and derelict land					
Are there any contaminated soils issues on the site and if so, will the option employ remedial actions to ensure the site is suitable for use (as defined in PAN 33)?	Soils					
Is the proposal on peat or carbon rich soils and could the development of the site lead to a loss of peat or carbon rich soils?	Soils Climate mitigation and adaptation					
Does the proposal result in the loss of prime agricultural land or land that is culturally or locally important for primary use as identified by the LDP?	Soils					
Topic – Landscape Related SEA topics – climatic factors, air, water, soils, material assets, biodiversity, population and human health	NPF4 Policy Topic	Scoring pre-mitigation	Mitigation	Enhancement	Scoring post-mitigation	Comments/conclusions
National landscape designated sites	Natural Places					



Topic – Landscape Related SEA topics – climatic factors, air, water, soils, material assets, biodiversity, population and human health	NPF4 Policy Topic	Scoring pre- mitigation	Mitigation	Enhancement	Scoring post- mitigation	Comments/conclusions
To what extent will any designated sites be affected – including NSAs, Regional Scenic Areas, and local landscape designations?						
Regional and local landscape designated sites To what extent will any designated sites be affected – Regional Scenic Areas, and local landscape designations?						
Non designated landscape features and key landscape interests Does the proposal ensure that development does not exceed the capacity of the landscape to accommodate it? Such as current settlement boundaries, existing townscape and character of surrounding area and its visual qualities?						
To what extent will the proposal affect features of landscape interest, including the distinctive character of the landscape and the qualities of wild land?	Natural places					



Topic – Landscape Related SEA topics – climatic factors, air, water, soils, material assets, biodiversity, population and human health	NPF4 Policy Topic	Scoring pre- mitigation	Mitigation	Enhancement	Scoring post- mitigation	Comments/conclusions
Topic – Cultural Heritage Related SEA topics – Climatic factors, air, water, soils, material assets, biodiversity, landscape	NPF4 Policy Topic	Scoring pre- mitigation	Mitigation	Enhancement	Scoring post- mitigation	Comments/conclusions
Does the proposal protect or enhance the site or setting of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Heritage Sites • Scheduled Monuments • Listed buildings • Inventory battlefields • Inventory gardens and designed landscapes • Conservation Areas • Undesignated historic environment assets • Streetscapes and settlement patterns monuments 	Historic assets and places Natural Places					



Does the proposal promote or enable the retention, maintenance and sustainable use or re-use of historic buildings and infrastructure?

Historic assets and places

Zero waste

Infrastructure first

Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings

City, town, local and commercial centres

Rural development



Does the proposal:	Historic assets and places					
Support the repair and appropriate retrofit of historic buildings?	Tackling the climate and nature crises					
Support the transition to green energy supply in historic buildings?	Climate mitigation and adaptation					
Include adaptation measures to make the historic environment assets and places more resilient to the effects of climate change (e.g. coastal erosion, flooding etc)?	Design, quality and place					
	Infrastructure first					
	Quality homes					
	Flood risk and water management					
	Rural homes					

Does the proposal:	Tourism					
Enable the historic environment to support creation of high-quality places and spaces?	Culture and creativity					
Promote sustainable, responsible tourism, recreation and cultural activity?	Design, quality and place					
	Play, recreation and sport					
	Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods					



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Topic – Material Assets – Deliverability/ sustainability constraints Related SEA topics – climatic factors, air, water, soils, population and human health.	NPF4 Policy Topic	Scoring pre- mitigation	Mitigation	Enhancement	Scoring post- mitigation	Comments/conclusions
Will the site be delivered within the LDP timeframe? Other site servicing constraints, e.g. electricity pylons, underground gas pipelines etc.						
Site aspect – does the site make best use of solar gain? Is the site protected from prevailing winds?	Design Quality and place Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Heat and Cooling					
Is the site in an area of heat network potential or a designated Heat Network Zone (HNZ)?	Climate Mitigation and adaptation Heat and cooling					
Vehicular Access constraints or opportunities - Is the network capable of accommodating active travel, public transport, other shared modes, and private vehicle traffic generated?	local living and 20 min neighbourhoods Sustainable transport					



Is the site close to a range of facilities? Can these be accessed by public transport or active travel?	local living and 20 min neighbourhoods Sustainable transport City, town, local and commercial centres					
Does the proposal minimise demand for primary resources by reusing an existing building?	Zero waste					
For waste infrastructure and facilities (except landfill and EFW) does the proposal comply with the criteria listed in NPF4 policy 12 d)?	Zero waste					

Other Considerations

Please note any other issues which may be relevant to the assessment of the candidate site. For example:

- Any restrictive covenants relating to the use of the land/ buildings contained within the proposed candidate site?
- Is the candidate site on Common Good Land?
- Is there a requirement to prepare place-based development briefs or masterplans?

Scoring – two columns have been added in the event that it is useful for planning authorities to quickly identify environmental effects from a proposal on a site. Where adverse effects have been identified, it may then also be useful to consider any obvious mitigation measures that might reduce these adverse effects. The second scoring column then allows at a quick glance to see what residual effects might remain following mitigation. There are many scoring techniques currently in use and an example of one option could be:

++	+	0	-	--
Significantly positive	positive	neutral	adverse	Significantly adverse



Appendix D: Inverclyde Council Area



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