

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3(a)

#### **LOCAL REVIEW BODY**

**2 OCTOBER 2024** 

#### PLANNING APPLICATION FOR REVIEW

MR EUAN CASKIE
PROPOSED HOLIDAY LODGES, SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
AND ACCESS ROAD
CORNALEES FARM, DUNROD ROAD, INVERKIP (22/0259/IC)

#### **Contents**

- 1. Planning Application dated 14 November 2022 together with Design Statement, Plans, Elevations and Visualisations
- 2. Planning Application Flood Risk Assessment, Landscape Assessment, Compliance Certificate, Insurance Document and Letter from Kaya Consulting Limited
- 3. Appointed Officer's Report of Handling dated 26 April 2024
- 4. Inverciyde Local Development Plan 2019 Policy Extract

To view the Inverciyde Local Development Plan see:
<a href="https://www.inverciyde.gov.uk/planning-and-the-environment/planning-policy/development-planning/ldp">https://www.inverciyde.gov.uk/planning-and-the-environment/planning-policy/development-planning/ldp</a>

- 5. Inverciyde Local Development Plan 2019 Map Extract
- 6. National Planning Framework 4
- 7. Representations in relation to Planning Application
- 8. Decision Notice dated 3 May 2024 issued by Head of Regeneration & Planning
- 9. Notice of Review Form dated 8 July 2024 together with Statement of Appeal and other Supporting Documents
- 10. Suggested Conditions should Planning Permission be Granted on Review

Note: Inverciyde Proposed Local Development Plan 2021 has been attached to the rear of the agenda papers as supplementary content.

1. PLANNING APPLICATION DATED 14 NOVEMBER 2022 TOGETHER WITH DESIGN STATEMENT, PLANS, ELEVATIONS AND VISUALISATIONS



Municipal Buildings Clyde Square Greenock PA15 1LY Tel: 01475 717171 Fax: 01475 712 468 Email: devcont.planning@inverclyde.gov.uk Applications cannot be validated until all the necessary documentation has been submitted and the required fee has been paid. Thank you for completing this application form: ONLINE REFERENCE 100606952-001 The online reference is the unique reference for your online form only. The Planning Authority will allocate an Application Number when your form is validated. Please quote this reference if you need to contact the planning Authority about this application. Type of Application What is this application for? Please select one of the following: \* Application for planning permission (including changes of use and surface mineral working). Application for planning permission in principle. Further application, (including renewal of planning permission, modification, variation or removal of a planning condition etc) Application for Approval of Matters specified in conditions. **Description of Proposal** Please describe the proposal including any change of use: \* (Max 500 characters) Proposed holiday lodges, administration building and access road. Yes 🔀 No Is this a temporary permission? \* ☐ Yes ☒ No If a change of use is to be included in the proposal has it already taken place? (Answer 'No' if there is no change of use.) \* Has the work already been started and/or completed? \* No Yes – Started Yes - Completed **Applicant or Agent Details** 

Are you an applicant or an agent? \* (An agent is an architect, consultant or someone else acting

on behalf of the applicant in connection with this application)

Applicant X Agent

Agent Details			
Please enter Agent detail	s		
Company/Organisation:	Nicholson McShane Architects		
Ref. Number:		You must enter a Building Name or Number, or both: *	
First Name: *	Douglas	Building Name:	Custom House
Last Name: *	Nicholson	Building Number:	1-01
Telephone Number: *	01475 325025	Address 1 (Street): *	Custom House Place
Extension Number:		Address 2:	
Mobile Number:		Town/City: *	Greenock
Fax Number:		Country: *	Scotland
		Postcode: *	PA15 1EQ
Email Address: *	consents@nicholsonmcshane.co.uk		
Is the applicant an individual or an organisation/corporate entity? *  Individual Organisation/Corporate entity			
Applicant Det			
Please enter Applicant de		I	
Title:	Mr	You must enter a Building Name or Number, or both: *	
Other Title:		Building Name:	
First Name: *	Euan	Building Number:	21
Last Name: *	Caskie	Address 1 (Street): *	Dellingburn Street
Company/Organisation		Address 2:	
Telephone Number: *		Town/City: *	Greenock
Extension Number:		Country: *	Scotland
Mobile Number:		Postcode: *	PA16 9LU
Fax Number:			
Email Address: *			

Site Address	Details		
Planning Authority:	Inverclyde Council		
Full postal address of th	e site (including postcode where available):		_
Address 1:	CORNALEES FARM		
Address 2:	DUNROD ROAD		
Address 3:	INVERKIP		
Address 4:			
Address 5:			
Town/City/Settlement:	GREENOCK		
Post Code:	PA16 9LX		
Please identify/describe the location of the site or sites			
Northing	671906	Easting	225034
Pre-Application Discussion			
Have you discussed you	r proposal with the planning authority? *		Ⅺ Yes ☐ No

Pre-Application Di	scussion Details C	Cont.	
In what format was the feedback g	jiven? *		
☐ Meeting ☐ Telephone	e 🗌 Letter 🔀 Em	ail	
agreement [note 1] is currently in p	e feedback you were given and the place or if you are currently discuss lp the authority to deal with this ap	sing a processing agreement wi	ith the planning authority, please
Pre application consultation			
Title:	Mr	Other title:	
First Name:	David	Last Name:	Ashman
Correspondence Reference Number:		Date (dd/mm/yyyy):	12/01/2021
In what format was the feedback g	jiven? *		
☐ Meeting ☐ Telephone	e 🗵 Letter 🗌 Em	ail	
agreement [note 1] is currently in p	e feedback you were given and the place or if you are currently discusselp the authority to deal with this ap	sing a processing agreement wi	ith the planning authority, please
	Mr		
Title:		Other title:	
First Name:	Sean	Last Name:	McDaid
Correspondence Reference Number:		Date (dd/mm/yyyy):	15/11/2021
Note 1. A Processing agreement involves setting out the key stages involved in determining a planning application, identifying what information is required and from whom and setting timescales for the delivery of various stages of the process.			
Site Area			
Please state the site area:	3.43		
Please state the measurement type used:    X   Hectares (ha)   Square Metres (sq.m)			
Existing Use			
Please describe the current or mo	st recent use: * (Max 500 characte	ers)	
Vacant former field.			

Access and Parking	
Are you proposing a new altered vehicle access to or from a public road? *	
If Yes please describe and show on your drawings the position of any existing. Altered or new access p you propose to make. You should also show existing footpaths and note if there will be any impact on the	
Are you proposing any change to public paths, public rights of way or affecting any public right of acces	ss? *
If Yes please show on your drawings the position of any affected areas highlighting the changes you prarrangements for continuing or alternative public access.	opose to make, including
How many vehicle parking spaces (garaging and open parking) currently exist on the application Site?	0
How many vehicle parking spaces (garaging and open parking) do you propose on the site (i.e. the Total of existing and any new spaces or a reduced number of spaces)? *	28
Please show on your drawings the position of existing and proposed parking spaces and identify if thes types of vehicles (e.g. parking for disabled people, coaches, HGV vehicles, cycles spaces).	se are for the use of particular
Water Supply and Drainage Arrangements	
Will your proposal require new or altered water supply or drainage arrangements? *	X Yes No
Are you proposing to connect to the public drainage network (eg. to an existing sewer)? *	
Yes – connecting to public drainage network	
No – proposing to make private drainage arrangements	
☐ Not Applicable – only arrangements for water supply required	
As you have indicated that you are proposing to make private drainage arrangements, please provide f	urther details.
What private arrangements are you proposing? *	
New/Altered septic tank.	
Treatment/Additional treatment (relates to package sewage treatment plants, or passive sewage treatment)	eatment such as a reed bed).
Other private drainage arrangement (such as chemical toilets or composting toilets).	
What private arrangements are you proposing for the New/Altered septic tank? *	
Discharge to land via soakaway.	
Discharge to watercourse(s) (including partial soakaway).	
Discharge to coastal waters.	
Please explain your private drainage arrangements briefly here and show more details on your plans ar	nd supporting information: *
New septic tank and soakaway. Location to be agreed.	

Do your proposals make provision for sustainable drainage of surface water?? * (e.g. SUDS arrangements) *	⊠ Yes □ No
Note:-	
Please include details of SUDS arrangements on your plans	
Selecting 'No' to the above question means that you could be in breach of Environmental legislation.	
Are you proposing to connect to the public water supply network? *	
No, using a private water supply	
No connection required	
If No, using a private water supply, please show on plans the supply and all works needed to provide i	t (on or off site).
Assessment of Flood Risk	
Is the site within an area of known risk of flooding? *	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Don't Know
If the site is within an area of known risk of flooding you may need to submit a Flood Risk Assessment determined. You may wish to contact your Planning Authority or SEPA for advice on what information	
Do you think your proposal may increase the flood risk elsewhere? *	Yes No Don't Know
Trees	
Are there any trees on or adjacent to the application site? *	X Yes ☐ No
If Yes, please mark on your drawings any trees, known protected trees and their canopy spread close any are to be cut back or felled.	to the proposal site and indicate if
Waste Storage and Collection	
Do the plans incorporate areas to store and aid the collection of waste (including recycling)? *	⊠ Yes □ No
If Yes or No, please provide further details: * (Max 500 characters)	
Area for wheeled bins to lodges.	
Residential Units Including Conversion	
Does your proposal include new or additional houses and/or flats? *	⊠ Yes □ No
How many units do you propose in total? * 12	
Please provide full details of the number and types of units on the plans. Additional information may be statement.	e provided in a supporting
All Types of Non Housing Development – Proposed No	ew Floorspace
Does your proposal alter or create non-residential floorspace? *	⊠ Yes □ No

# All Types of Non Housing Development – Proposed New Floorspace **Details** For planning permission in principle applications, if you are unaware of the exact proposed floorspace dimensions please provide an estimate where necessary and provide a fuller explanation in the 'Don't Know' text box below. Please state the use type and proposed floorspace (or number of rooms if you are proposing a hotel or residential institution): \* Class 4 Business (Office/Light Industry) Gross (proposed) floorspace (In square meters, sq.m) or number of new (additional) 67 Rooms (If class 7, 8 or 8a): If Class 1, please give details of internal floorspace: Net trading spaces: Non-trading space: Total: If Class 'Not in a use class' or 'Don't know' is selected, please give more details: (Max 500 characters) Schedule 3 Development X Yes No Don't Know Does the proposal involve a form of development listed in Schedule 3 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure (Scotland) Regulations 2013 \* If yes, your proposal will additionally have to be advertised in a newspaper circulating in the area of the development. Your planning authority will do this on your behalf but will charge you a fee. Please check the planning authority's website for advice on the additional fee and add this to your planning fee. If you are unsure whether your proposal involves a form of development listed in Schedule 3, please check the Help Text and Guidance notes before contacting your planning authority. Planning Service Employee/Elected Member Interest ☐ Yes ☒ No Is the applicant, or the applicant's spouse/partner, either a member of staff within the planning service or an elected member of the planning authority? Certificates and Notices CERTIFICATE AND NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 15 - TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATION 2013 One Certificate must be completed and submitted along with the application form. This is most usually Certificate A, Form 1, Certificate B, Certificate C or Certificate E. X Yes No Are you/the applicant the sole owner of ALL the land? \* ☐ Yes ☒ No Is any of the land part of an agricultural holding? \* Certificate Required The following Land Ownership Certificate is required to complete this section of the proposal: Certificate A

Land O	wnership Certificate
Certificate and No Regulations 2013	otice under Regulation 15 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) 3
Certificate A	
I hereby certify th	at –
lessee under a le	ther than myself/the applicant was an owner (Any person who, in respect of any part of the land, is the owner or is the case thereof of which not less than 7 years remain unexpired.) of any part of the land to which the application relates at the period of 21 days ending with the date of the accompanying application.
(2) - None of the	land to which the application relates constitutes or forms part of an agricultural holding
Signed:	Douglas Nicholson
On behalf of:	Mr Euan Caskie
Date:	14/11/2022
	▼ Please tick here to certify this Certificate. *
Checklist	t – Application for Planning Permission
Town and Countr	ry Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
The Town and Co	ountry Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013
in support of your	v moments to complete the following checklist in order to ensure that you have provided all the necessary information rapplication. Failure to submit sufficient information with your application may result in your application being deemed ning authority will not start processing your application until it is valid.
that effect? *	ner application where there is a variation of conditions attached to a previous consent, have you provided a statement to
∐ Yes ∐ No	Not applicable to this application
you provided a st	colication for planning permission or planning permission in principal where there is a crown interest in the land, have statement to that effect? *  Not applicable to this application
c) If this is an app development belo you provided a Pi	olication for planning permission, planning permission in principle or a further application and the application is for onging to the categories of national or major development (other than one under Section 42 of the planning Act), have re-Application Consultation Report? *  Not applicable to this application
Town and Countr	ry Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
The Town and Co	ountry Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013
major developme Management Pro	olication for planning permission and the application relates to development belonging to the categories of national or ents and you do not benefit from exemption under Regulation 13 of The Town and Country Planning (Development occdure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, have you provided a Design and Access Statement? *  Not applicable to this application
	olication for planning permission and relates to development belonging to the category of local developments (subject (2) and (3) of the Development Management Procedure (Scotland) Regulations 2013) have you provided a Design

f) If your application relates to installation of an antenna to be employed in an electronic communication network, have you provided an ICNIRP Declaration? \*

Yes No Not applicable to this application

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Not applicable to this application

g) If this is an application for planning permission, planning permission in principle, an application for approval conditions or an application for mineral development, have you provided any other plans or drawings as necessary.	
<ul> <li>Site Layout Plan or Block plan.</li> <li>Elevations.</li> <li>Floor plans.</li> <li>Cross sections.</li> <li>Roof plan.</li> <li>Master Plan/Framework Plan.</li> <li>Landscape plan.</li> <li>✓ Photographs and/or photomontages.</li> <li>Other.</li> </ul> If Other, please specify: * (Max 500 characters)	
Totaler, please specify. (Max 500 characters)	
Provide copies of the following documents if applicable:	
A copy of an Environmental Statement. *  A Design Statement or Design and Access Statement. *  A Flood Risk Assessment. *  A Drainage Impact Assessment (including proposals for Sustainable Drainage Systems). *  Drainage/SUDS layout. *  A Transport Assessment or Travel Plan  Contaminated Land Assessment. *  Habitat Survey. *  A Processing Agreement. *	Yes N/A
Other Statements (please specify). (Max 500 characters)  Business Plan and Financial Projections (which will be provided by email)	
Declare – For Application to Planning Authority  I, the applicant/agent certify that this is an application to the planning authority as described in this form. The applications and additional information are provided as a part of this application.	nccompanying
Declaration Name: Mr Douglas Nicholson	
Declaration Date: 14/11/2022	



#### Proposed Holiday Eco-Lodges at Cornalees Farm, Greenock

#### Design and Access Statement revision A

#### Introduction and Description

Our client is the owner of Cornalees Farm which is located to the south of the Compensation Reservoir serving Loch Thom, approximately 4km south of Greenock. The property is a disused farm extending to approximately 4.4Ha. The single track road linking Greenock and Inverkip runs along the southern boundary of the site and gives access to the former farm buildings which comprise the old farmhouse and disused barns grouped around a central courtyard. The majority of the site consists of rough grassland sloping gently from a high point at the south east of the site towards the Compensation Reservoir to the north and west.



Aerial view (overall extent of Cornalees Farm shaded red)

Planning consent has been granted for the conversion of the farmhouse to two dwellings and the conversion of redundant barns to two dwellinghouses (consents 16/0245/IC and



16/0246/IC respectively). A Building Warrant for phase 1 of this development, i.e. the conversion of the barns, was granted in January 2021. The decommissioning of a wind turbine on the site in preparation for its removal (which is a condition of Planning Permission 20/0259/IC for the redevelopment of the barns) has taken place.





Views from east (top) and west (bottom)

# Neighbouring Land Uses and History

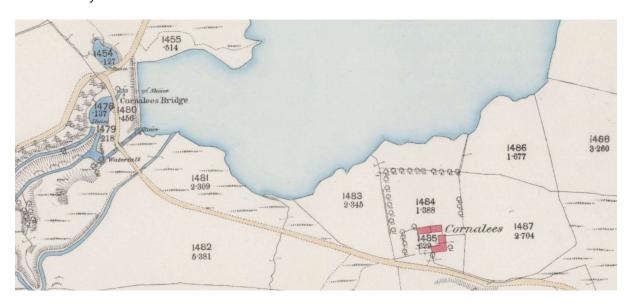
The immediate vicinity of Cornalees Farm accommodates a variety of land uses, as follows:

- Ardgowan Trout Fishery, which includes a shop and cafe facilities in its offering.
- Greenock Cut Visitors Centre and car park.



 The start of the Greenock Cut footpath, the adjoining Nature Trail and the Kelly Cut.

Immediately to the west of the site sits a redundant water pumping station and outbuilding. To the south and east of the site are open areas of rough moorland. The topography of the site is largely man made, having been dramatically altered at the time of the construction of the Compensation Reservoir in the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Cornalees Farm appears on maps of the area dating from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.



#### Planning Designations

Cornalees Farm is designated "Countryside" on the adopted 2019 Local Development Plan proposals map and as such is covered by Policy 14. Forming part of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, the application site also falls within Policy 37. Pre-application consultation indicates that Policies 1,8,9,10,11, 27 and 33 will also apply to the proposal. The 2021 Proposed Local Development Plan similarly shows the application site designated "Countryside", this time covered by Policies 15 and 19.

The ground lies adjacent to the West Renfrew Hills Local Landscape Area.

A core path runs along the single track road to the south of the site. The site is not identified as having additional special designations on the Environmental Constraints map.



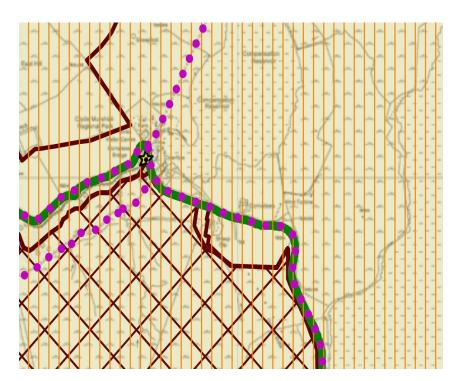
Response to Planning Designations in Local Development Plan 2019.

#### Policy 1 - Creating Successful Places.

The development has the potential to respond positively to the criteria identified in Policy

1. It will be:

- Distinctive in its adoption of vernacular building forms whilst being minimally intrusive into the existing landscape.
- Adaptable in satisfying a demand for this type of accommodation in Inverclyde.
- Resource efficient in construction, servicing and in providing in-demand holiday accommodation on the edge of an urban area.
- Easy to move around and connected to local tourist facilities for pedestrians and cyclists by means of the single track Dunrod Road.
- Safe and pleasant in its location, detailing and servicing.
- Welcoming but low key in its location and visual properties within the landscape.



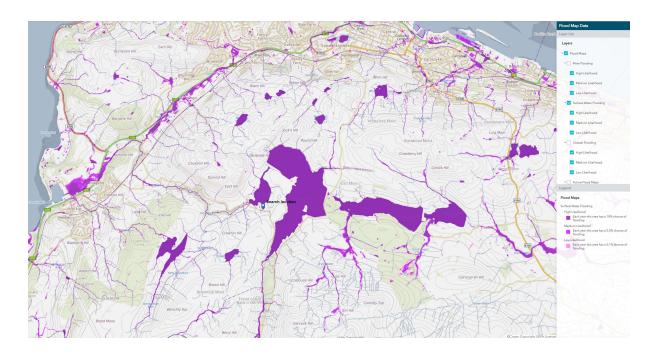
Policy 8 - Managing Flood Risk and Policy 9 - Surface and Waste Water Drainage

The site sits adjacent to the Compensation Reservoir which has a fixed level spillway which maintains a constant upper water level; the site is not identified on SEPA's latest



flood risk maps as being susceptible to flooding. It is intended that surface water from the development will drain into the Compensation Reservoir following 2-stage filtration, and that foul water will be treated by a dedicated sewage treatment plant again with an outflow into the Compensation Reservoir.

A Flood Risk Assessment / Drainage Impact Assessment will be provided to Inverclyde Council as part of the assessment process, in line with the document *Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment: Planning Guidance for Developers.* 



Policy 10 – Promoting Sustainable and Active Travel and Policy 11 – Managing Impact of Development on the Transport Network.

The site lies 6.0 miles by road from Greenock town centre and 2.7 miles by road from the A78 linking Greenock with Inverkip thus giving options for access to the main Invertigate conurbations.

By its very nature the proposed use requires an element of seclusion and a countryside location and it is anticipated that the majority of journeys to the accommodation provided by the development will be by private car. This small-scale development will add little to the demands placed on Dunrod Road (which already serves local tourist and leisure related businesses) and the wider road network.

The car parking and access road layout will comply with the Council's adopted roads guidance and parking standards.



In addition the site is ideally placed for a variety of active travel options including cycling and walking; these are features of the immediate locale with Greenock Cut providing a variety of options for recreation.

Primarily, however, the development will promote sustainable travel by providing "staycation" accommodation and taking advantage of the increasingly prevalent trend for holidaying close to home.

#### Policy 14 - Green Belt and Countryside

The development complies with the requirements of clause (b) of the Policy, i.e. it requires a countryside location. The holiday accommodation will draw on the tranquillity of the immediate surroundings in an area which already has a blend of tourist and active leisure uses, making it an ideal location for this development.

#### Policy 27 - Tourism Development

The development accords with the requirements of this Policy as follows:

- The neighbouring land uses will not be disturbed by this development. Planning
  permission has already been granted for adjacent leisure-orientated land uses
  and the site lies adjacent to one of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park's publicly
  accessible hubs (Greenock Cut Visitor's Centre).
- As outlined previously, the development will promote sustainable travel by providing "staycation" accommodation to satisfy local demand.
- The design responds to the countryside context in scale and use of materials (refer to below).

### Policy 33 - Biodiversity and Geodiversity

The application site is "non designated" in terms of this Policy. As such the development is designed to minimise the effect on local landscape character and is to conserve and enhance biodiversity by the including of landscaping using native species.

# Policy 37 - Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

The development is fully in accordance with the aims of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park in promoting recreational access to the countryside. The application appreciates that a balance neds to be struck between the retention of countryside and the requirements for access and we believe that this modest, unobtrusive development achieves this balance.



In particular, our response to Clyde Muirshiel's stated objectives is as follows:

Aim - To conserve and enhance natural beauty, heritage and natural history resources of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.

Our proposal will be modestly scaled and sympathetically positioned in the environment. This is a relatively unique part of the Park, with the Greenock Cut Visitor Centre and Ardgowan Fishery as neighbours. We are currently working with our landscape consultants to achieve a scheme which has a minimal visual impact whilst allowing long term management of the site.



Aim - To promote enjoyment of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park by both residents and visitors.

Our proposal will increase the opportunity for visitors to stay within and thus fully experience the Park for short recreation, active leisure or study periods. This will provide an authentic and small scale alternative to the existing town-based or "caravan park" type accommodation.



Aim - To promote the social and economic well-being of the people and communities within the Clyde Muirshiel Park area.

The proposal will generate economic activity within the park boundaries and will benefit neighbouring businesses and the local economy generally.



We note from the Park's Annual Report 2019 / 2020 that particular focus is being placed on the Park as a resource to promote physical and mental health, and as a platform for outdoor learning. Our proposal will support these activities by allowing participants to experience the park for days rather than hours at a time, enough time to immerse themselves in the environment and thus benefit to a much greater extent.

# Proposal

Our proposal is for the erection of a small scale tourism and leisure orientated development of around 12 chalet type holiday lodges located between the original farm buildings and the adjacent Compensation Reservoir. Location is key to the proposal; it will contribute to and draw from nearby leisure activities including fishing, walking, birdwatching and simply relaxing in a beautiful spot. In addition, the unique topography of the site will allow spectacular views to Dunrod hill to the north whilst giving shelter from prevailing south westerly winds.



The main features of the design are as follows (please refer to outline proposal):

1. The lodges will be positioned close to the Compensation Reservoir, taking advantage of the fact that the drainage arrangement from this reservoir prevents flood conditions and an increase in water level. This will allow the lodges to sit low within the landscape to minimise their visual impact (with floor levels around 6m lower than the original farm buildings). The lodges will be single storey and 2/3 bedroom. The visibility of the development will be further mitigated by the concealing effect of the higher ground to the east part of the site which will effectively screen the development from the access road to the east and south.



- 2. Visual screening will be enhanced by means of appropriate planting and landscaping using native species. In addition to providing privacy between lodges, this will dramatically reduce visibility from the public realm.
- 3. The lodges will have a rural vernacular aesthetic consistent with the requirements of Planning Application Advice Note no.8 *Siting and Design of Houses in the Green Belt and Countryside.* This will include stone facades. The lodges will also have "green" roofs further encouraging biodiversity and making the development visually discreet from elevated positions.



- 4. Lodges will be accessed by means of a new single track road with passing places, utilising an existing vehicular access from the adjacent public road. Each lodge will have 2no dedicated car parking spaces.
- 5. Lodges will be designed with enhanced environmental standards to minimise energy usage. They will also be barrier free and designed to allow flexible and unfettered access.
- 6. The development will include a small ancillary building of similar design dedicated to administration and servicing of the lodges.



#### Visit Scotland

Consultation has been carried out with Visit Scotland which has provided feedback and statistical support on the proposal (via the Insight Department Greater Glasgow and Clyde valley Factsheet 2019).

Visit Scotland's documented policies, including "Scotland Outlook 2030 Responsible Tourism for a Sustainable Future" have been used to inform the design process. This particular document recognises that tourism is a cornerstone of the Scottish economy with tourist spend at £10.4 billion and a resultant £12 billion economic activity generated



locally as a result. The development will, in its small way, contribute to the attractiveness of Inverclyde and, as a result, of Scotland as a destination for tourism.

Central to Visit Scotland's ethos is sustainability, inclusivity and climate change. The proposed development, in encouraging "staycation" and in its inherent accessibility, will encourage this process. In addition Visit Scotland states that central to their policies for developing responsible tourism is the idea of "Supporting the protection and *considered enjoyment* of Scotland's natural and cultural heritage". We believe that the proposed development serves exactly this purpose.

#### Benefits to Local Economy

In drawing holidaymakers to Inverclyde and encouraging local people to holiday close to home, the proposal will provide a welcome long-term benefit to the local economy. In addition, local companies will benefit at the planning and construction stage.



#### Section 75

The applicant acknowledges that a Section 75 agreement will be required limiting the occupancy of the accommodation to non-permanent tourist use.



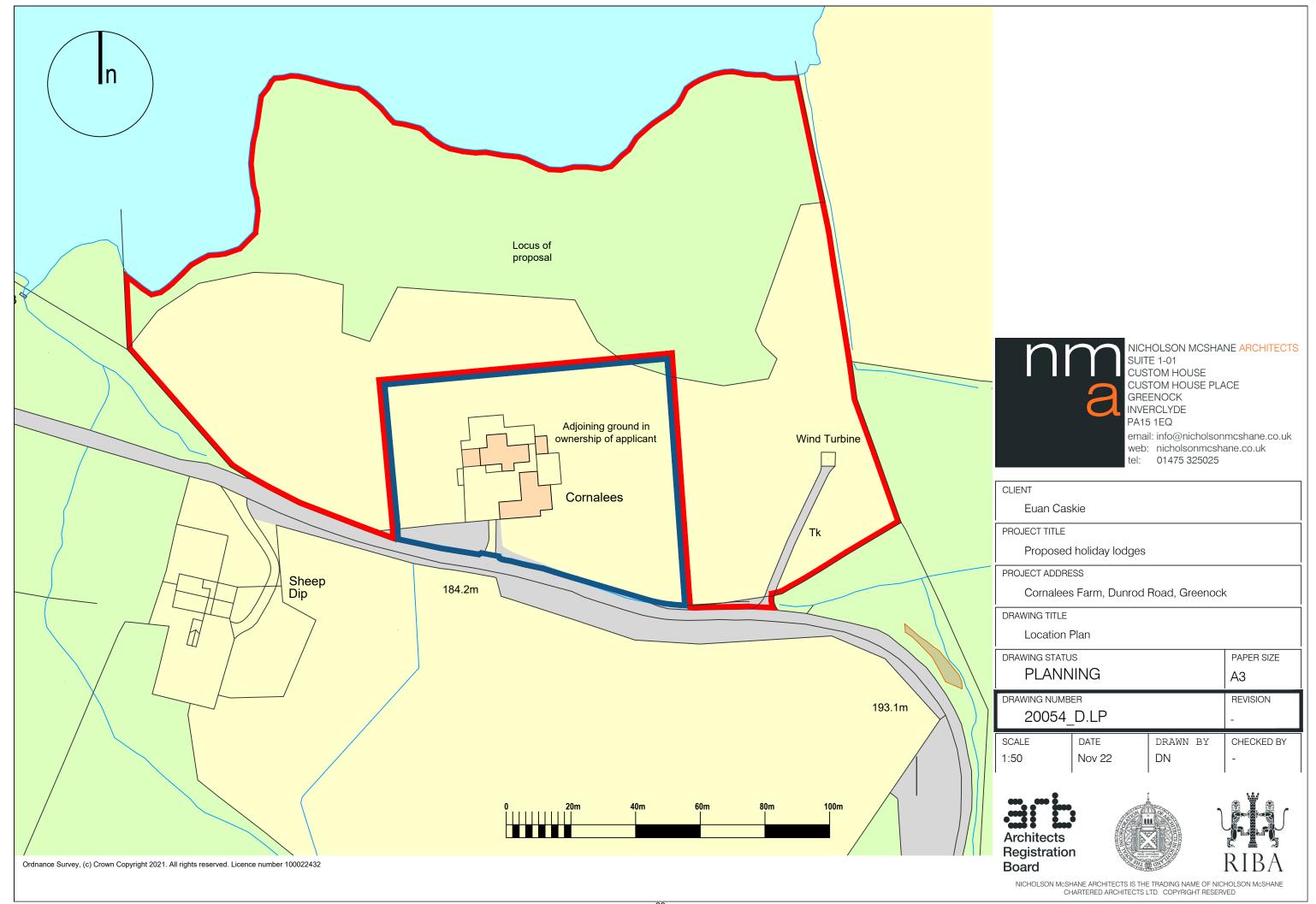
# Summary

Inverclyde will benefit from this modest, attractive development which will encourage responsible and sustainable enjoyment of the natural environment.

# NMA

November 2022.

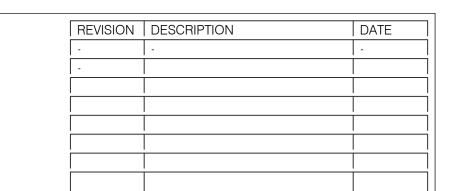


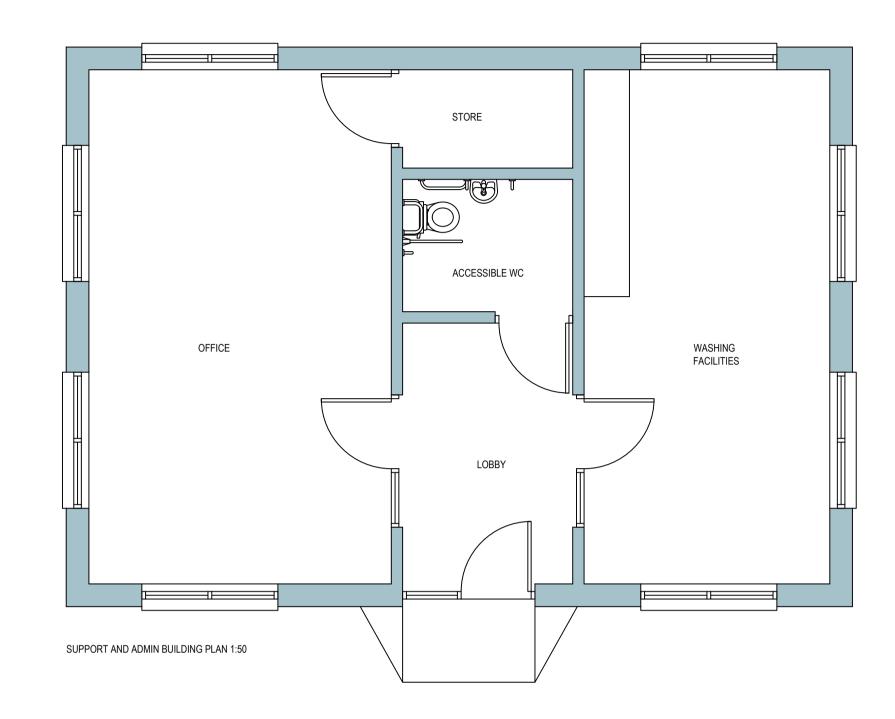


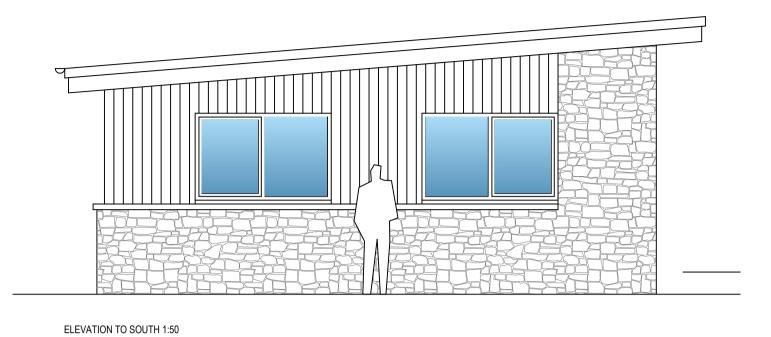


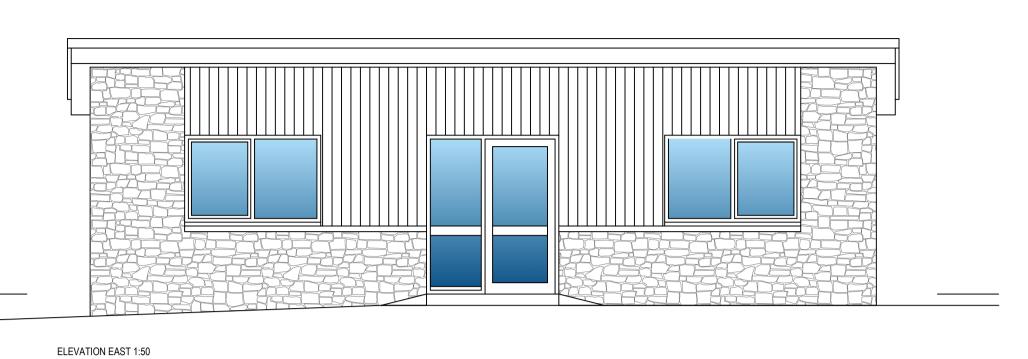


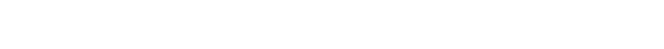


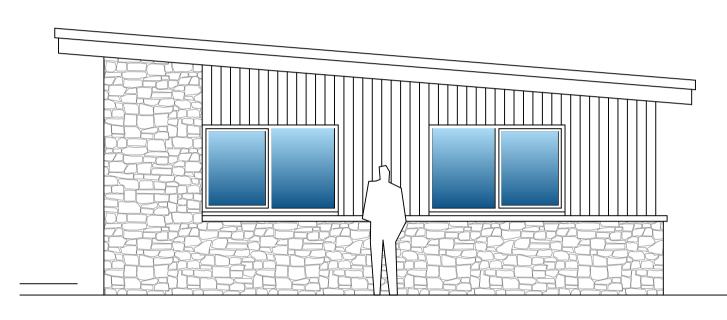


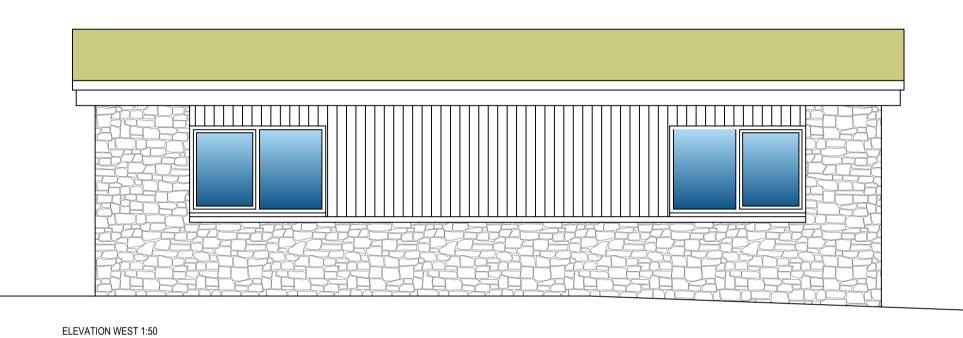




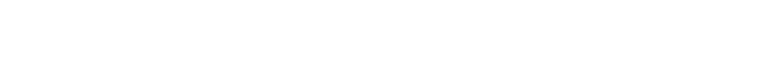








**ELEVATION TO NORTH 1:50** 









NICHOLSON MCSHANE ARCHITECTS
SUITE 1-01
CUSTOM HOUSE
CUSTOM HOUSE PLACE
GREENOCK INVERCLYDE

email: info@nicholsonmcshane.co.uk web: nicholsonmcshane.co.uk tel: 01475 325025

PAPER SIZE

CLIENT Euan Caskie

PROJECT TITLE

Proposed holiday lodges

PROJECT ADDRESS

Cornalees Farm, Dunrod Road, Greenock

DRAWING TITLE

Office / washing facilities building DRAWING STATUS

PLANNING

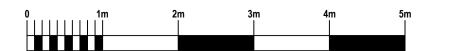
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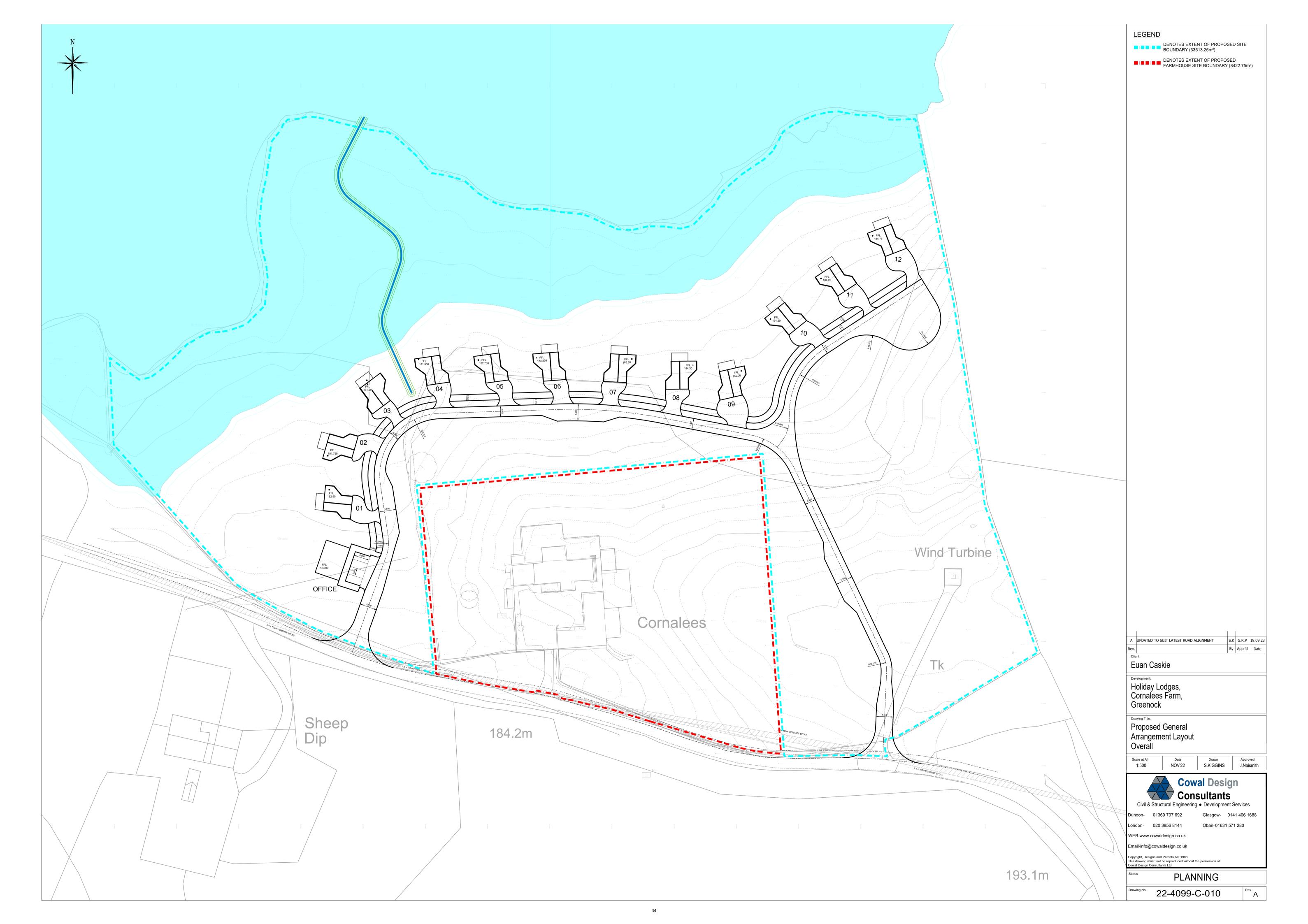
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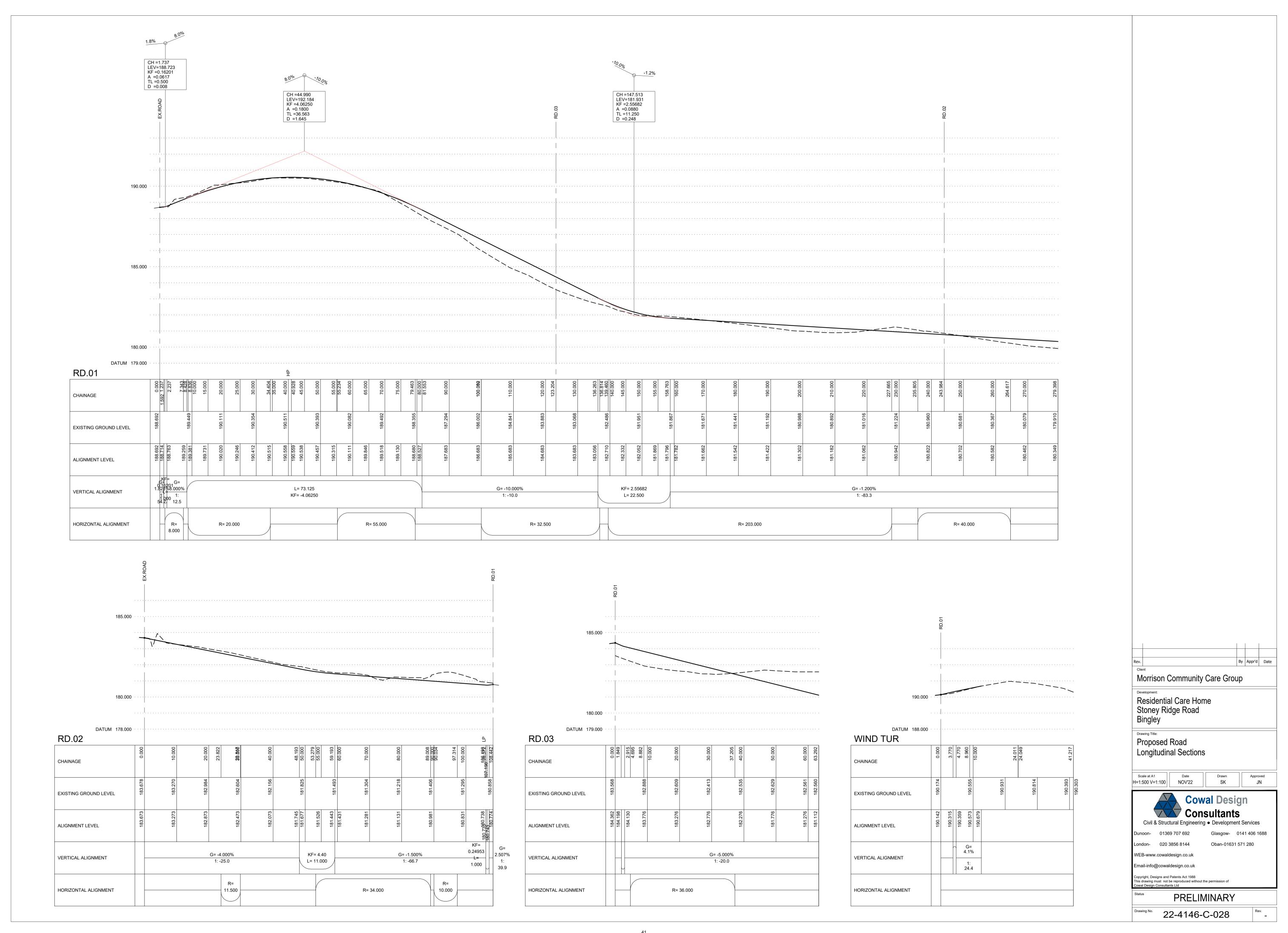




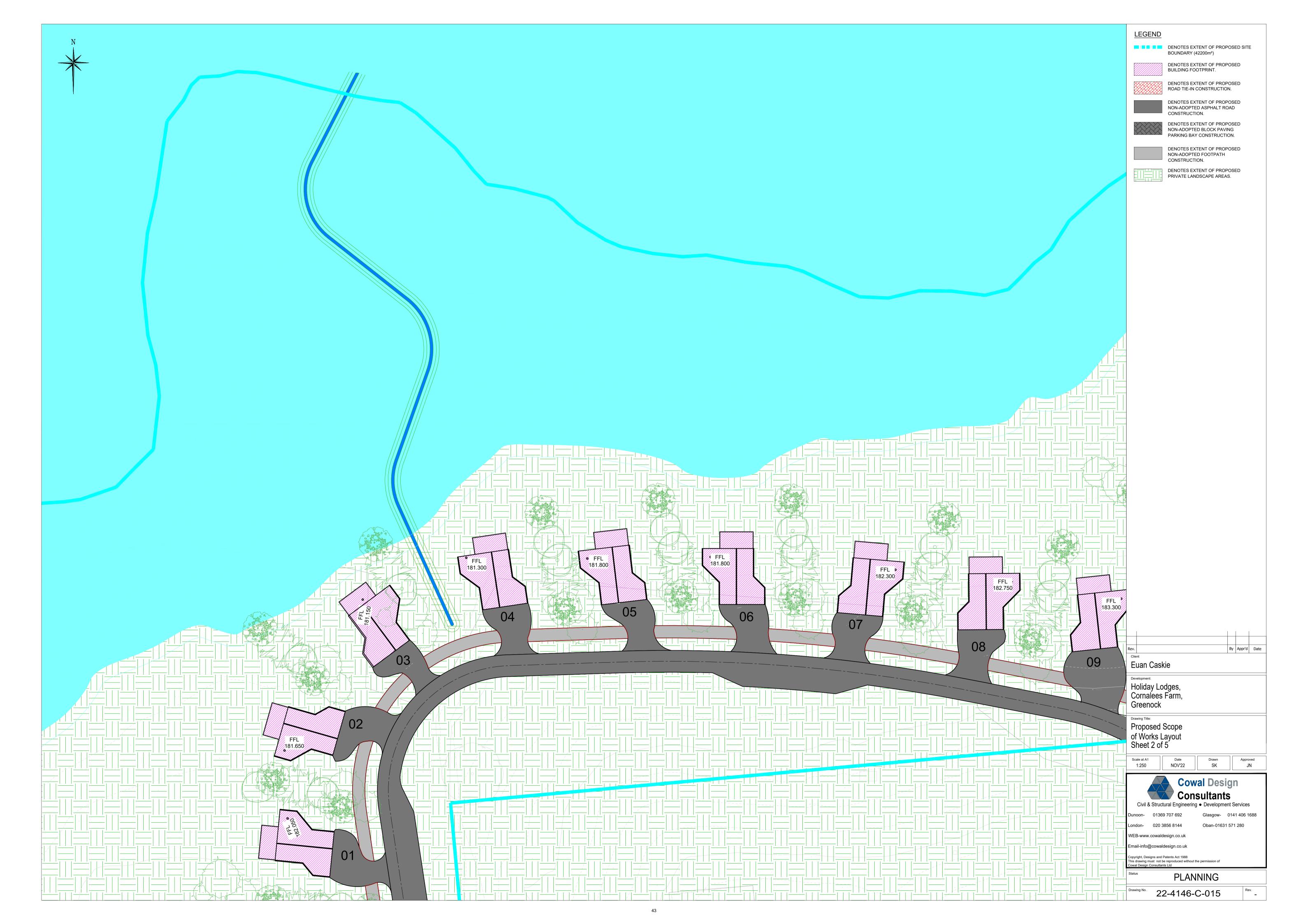


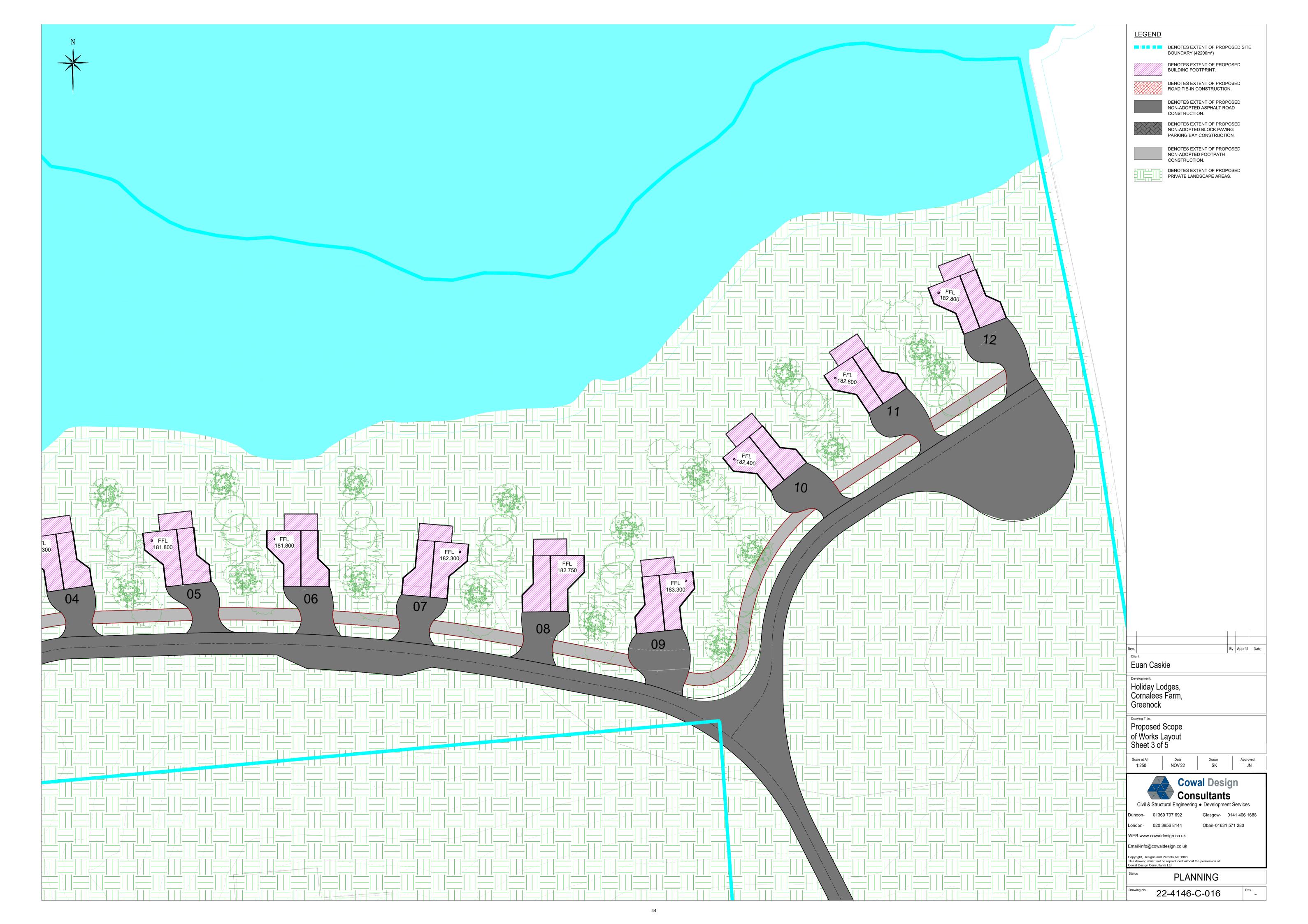


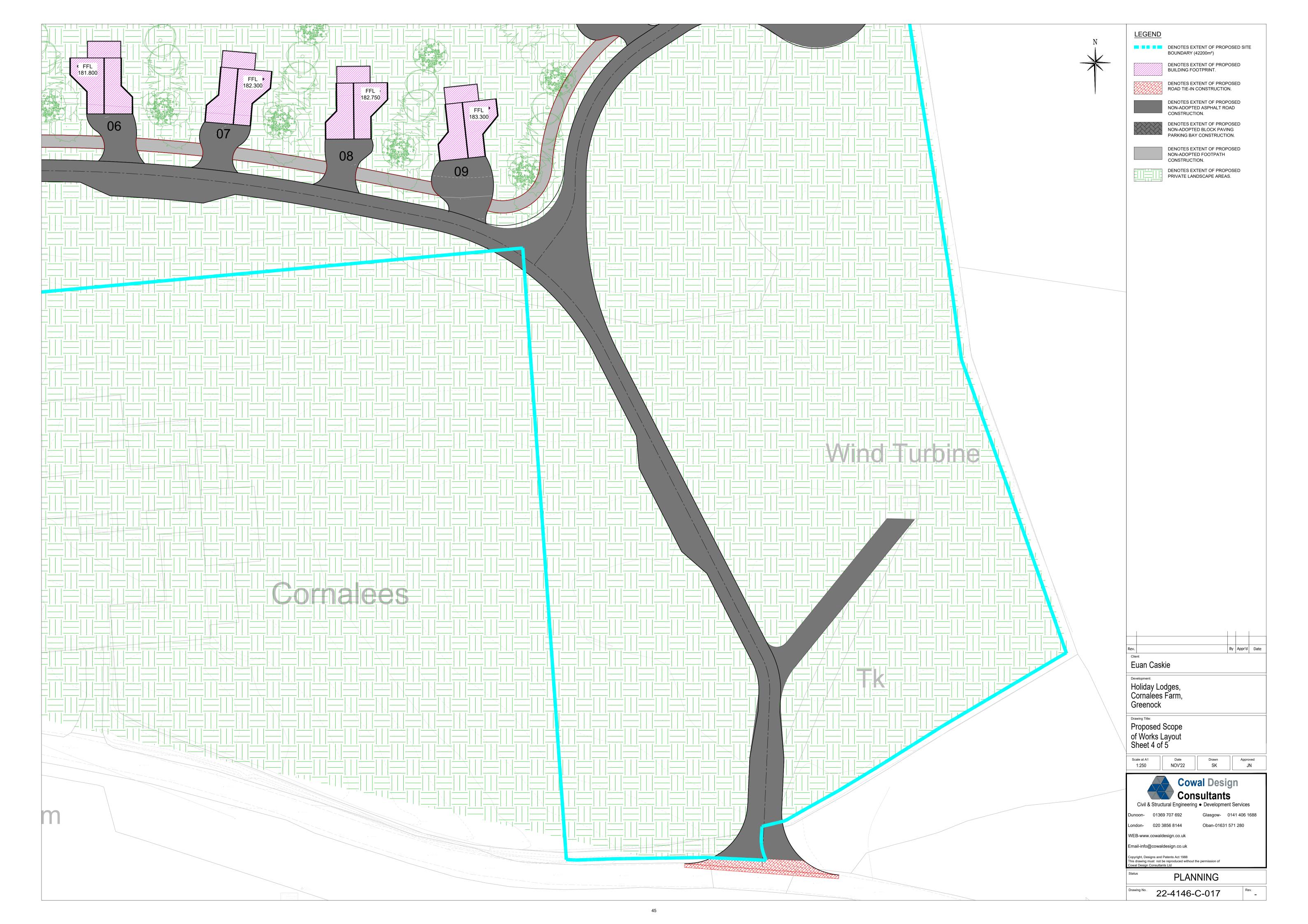








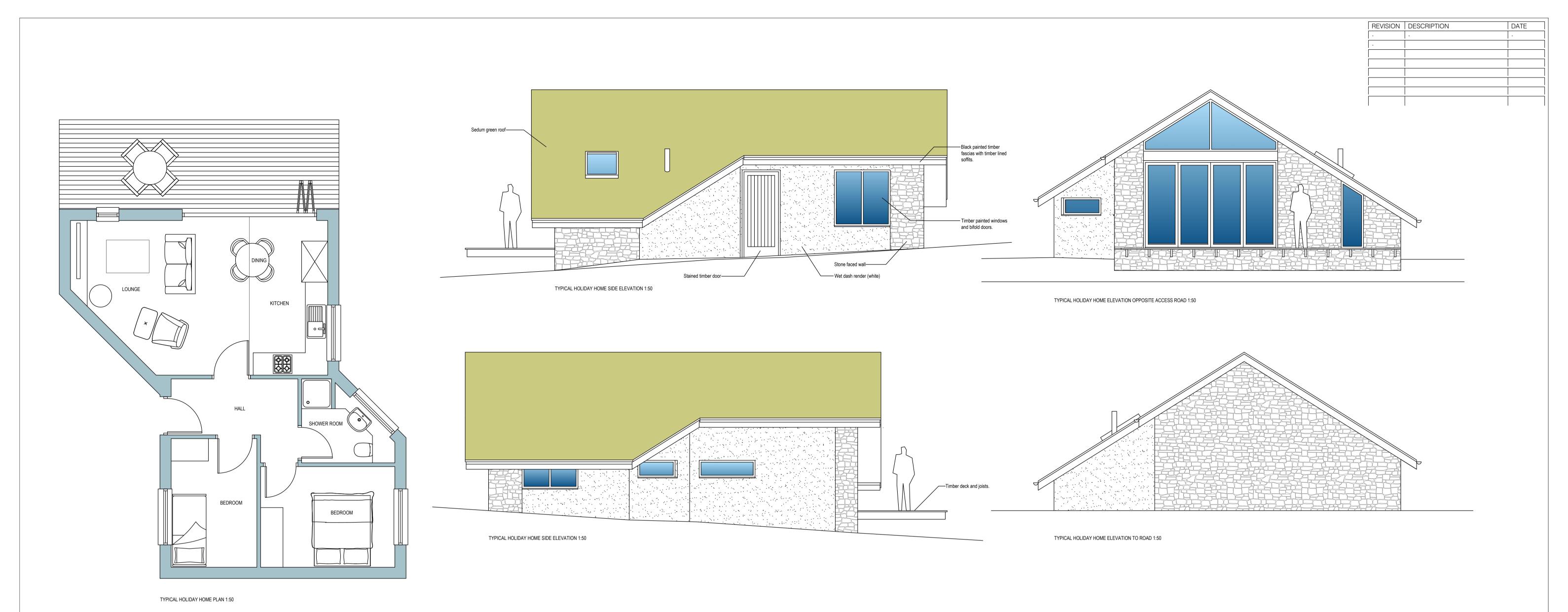


















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Typical lodge plans, elevations and images

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2. PLANNING APPLICATION - FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT, LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT, COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE, INSURANCE DOCUMENT AND LETTER FROM KAYA CONSULTING LIMITED



## Mr Euan Caskie

# Proposed Development at Cornalees Farm, Inverclyde

Flood Risk Assessment

August 2023

Kaya Consulting Limited Stanhope House, 12 Stanhope Place Edinburgh, EH12 5HH

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## **Table of Contents**

1		Introduction	1
2		Legislative and Policy Aspects	
	2.1	NPF4	
	2.2	Local Authority Policy and Guidance with Respect to Flood Risk  SEPA Technical Flood Risk Guidance	
	2.3	Guidance and Policy Constraints with Relevance to Current Site	
		1 Land Use Vulnerability and Design Event	
		2 Constraints on Developable Area	
		2.4.2.1 Surface Water Flooding	
	2.4.	3 Climate Change Considerations	
	2.4.	4 Development Levels and Finished Floor Levels	8
		5 Site Access Considerations	
	2.4.	6 Other Flooding Risks	8
		2.4.6.1 Coastal Flooding	
		2.4.6.2 Reservoir Flooding	
		2.4.6.3 Site Drainage and Sewer Flooding	6
		2.4.6.4 Culverts and Watercourses	9
		2.4.6.5 Existing Flood Defences	
		2.4.6.6 Canal Flooding	
		2.4.6.7 CAR Regulations	9
3		Site Location and Description	10
	3.1	General Site Description	. 10
4		Hydrology Assessment	.15
	4.1	Catchment Delineation: Drains 1, 2 and 3	
	4.2	Design Flow Estimation	15
5		Hydraulic Modelling	17
	5.1	2D Hydraulic Model Build	17
	5.2	Model Results	18
6		Flood Risk Assessment	21
	6.1	Fluvial flooding	
	6.2	Surface Water Flooding	. 22
	6.3	Reservoir Flooding	
	6.4	Groundwater Flooding	
	6.5	Flood Risk to Access	24
7		Flood Management	.25
8		Summary and Conclusions	.26
SI	EPA	CHECKLIST	27
		of Figures	
	-	e 1: General location of the site	
Fi	gure	e 2: Detailed site description	10

## **KAYA CONSULTING**

Figure 3: Site topography from LiDAR & location of cross-section	11
Figure 4: Cross-section of the site	11
Figure 5: Catchment areas of Drains 1, 2, and 3	
Figure 6: Model schematic	
Figure 7: 1 in 200-year plus climate change event flood depth map	19
Figure 8: 1-Hour, 1 in 200-year + climate change rainfall event	22
List of Tables	
Table 4-1: Catchment characteristics	16
Table 4-2: Design flows	16
Table 5-1: Sensitivity water levels (m AOD)	20
List of Photographs	
Photo 1: Site overview facing east	12
Photo 2: Dunrod Road facing west (drain 3 on right side of road)	13
Photo 3: Channels forming Drain 1 and 2	
Photo 4: Damaged culvert 3 (under existing farm access)	
Photo 5: Downstream of Culvert 2 (Drain 2)	
Photo 6: Channel form (Burn 2)	19
Photo 7: Overspill of the compensation reservoir	23

## 1 Introduction

Kaya Consulting Limited was commissioned by Mr Euan Caskie through Cowal Design Ltd. to undertake a Flood Risk Assessment in support of a holiday lodge development at Cornalees Farm in the Inverclyde Council area.

The site consists of greenfield land measuring approximately 4.2 hectares in area. The site is located just off Dunrod Road, east of Inverkip. The site is bounded to the north by a compensation reservoir of Loch Thom, to the south by the Dunrod Road, and to the east and west by greenfield land.

The main source of flood risk is thought to be from a series of informal drains which are represented as surface water flows upon consultation with the SEPA indicative flood maps.

The scope of work includes the following:

- Walkover site visit
- · Review of historical maps
- Consultation with Inverciyde Council to identify any records of flooding in this area
- Assessment of flood risk from fluvial sources
- Assessment of surface water flooding risk. This will be based on rainfall-runoff modelling using available LiDAR data
- Assessment of risk from other sources, such as groundwater and existing drainage systems
- Liaison with the developer to identify constraints at the site and options for development
- Flood risk assessment report suitable for submission with a planning application, assuming all risks can be mitigated

Information made available to Kaya Consulting Limited for the study includes the following:

- Site location map
- Indicative site layout plan
- Topographical survey information
- LiDAR DTM data

A general location map of the site is shown in Figure 1.

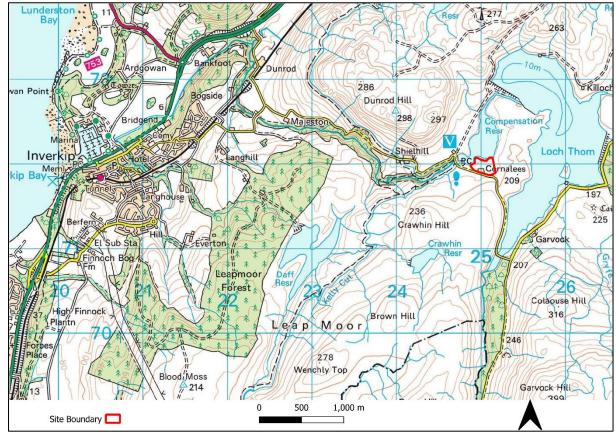


Figure 1: General location of the site

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## 2 Legislative and Policy Aspects

#### 2.1 NPF4

Under NPF4 Flood Risk Management requires explicit consideration of climate change, consistent with the key over-arching policies of NPF4, for example;

Climate mitigation and adaptation - Policy 2

Under 2b) NP4 notes 'Development proposals will be sited and designed to adapt to current and future risks from climate change'

In addition, development leading to improvements to channels and river habitats should be encouraged as shown by;

Biodiversity - Policy 3

Under 3a NPF4 notes 'Development proposals will contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity, including where relevant, restoring degraded habitats and building and strengthening nature networks and the connections between them. Proposals should also integrate nature-based solutions where possible'

Furthermore, numerous policies point towards assisting in the re-development of brownfield and other previously developed sites.

In terms of Flood Risk the definition of Flood risk area or at risk of flooding is;

For planning purposes, at risk of flooding or in a flood risk area means land or built form with an annual probability of being flooded of greater than 0.5% which must include an appropriate allowance for future climate change.

This risk of flooding is indicated on SEPA's future flood maps or may need to be assessed in a flood risk assessment. An appropriate allowance for climate change should be taken from the latest available guidance and evidence available for application in Scotland. The calculated risk of flooding can take account of any existing, formal flood protection schemes in determining the risk to the site.

Where the risk of flooding is less than this threshold, areas will not be considered 'at risk of flooding' for planning purposes, but this does not mean there is no risk at all, just that the risk is sufficiently low to be acceptable for the purpose of planning. This includes areas where the risk of flooding is reduced below this threshold due to a formal flood protection scheme.

In contrast to SPP, NPF4 defines a flood risk area as one that lies within the 200-year + climate change floodplain.

Consistent with SPP assessments need to consider flooding from all sources including;

- Watercourse/Fluvial Flooding
- Pluvial Flooding
- Sewer Flooding
- Groundwater Flooding
- Coastal Flooding

Access to sites during flooding is defined as;

Egress (safe, flood free pedestrian access and egress), A route for the movement of people (not vehicles) of all abilities (on foot or with mobility assistance) between the development and a place of safety outwith the design flood level.

The key policy related to flood risk management is;

Flood Risk and Water Management – Policy 22

Policy Intent – To strengthen resilience to flood risk by promoting avoidance as a first principle and reducing the vulnerability of existing and future development to flooding

- a) Development proposals at risk of flooding or in a flood risk area will only be supported if they are for:
  - i. essential infrastructure where the location is required for operational reasons;
  - ii. water compatible uses;
  - iii. redevelopment of an existing building or site for an equal or less vulnerable use; or.
  - iv. redevelopment of previously used sites in built up areas where the LDP has identified a need to bring these into positive use and where proposals demonstrate that longterm safety and resilience can be secured in accordance with relevant SEPA advice

The protection offered by an existing formal flood protection scheme or one under construction can be taken into account when determining flood risk.

In such cases, it will be demonstrated by the applicant that:

- all risks of flooding are understood and addressed;
- there is no reduction in floodplain capacity, increased risk for others, or a need for future flood protection schemes;
- the development remains safe and operational during floods;
- flood resistant and resilient materials and construction methods are used; and
- future adaptations can be made to accommodate the effects of climate change.

Additionally, for development proposals meeting criteria part iv), where flood risk is managed at the site rather than avoided these will also require:

- the first occupied/utilised floor, and the underside of the development if relevant, to be above the flood risk level and have an additional allowance for freeboard; and
- that the proposal does not create an island of development and that safe access/ egress can be achieved.
- b) Small scale extensions and alterations to existing buildings will only be supported where they will not significantly increase flood risk.
- c) Development proposals will:
  - i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk.
  - ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing bluegreen infrastructure.
  - All proposals should presume no surface water connection to the combined sewer;
  - iii. seek to minimise the area of impermeable surface.
- d) Development proposals will be supported if they can be connected to the public water mains. If connection is not feasible, the applicant will need to demonstrate that water for drinking water purposes will be sourced from a sustainable water source that is resilient to periods of water scarcity.
- e) Development proposals which create, expand or enhance opportunities for natural flood risk management, including blue and green infrastructure, will be supported

Compared to SPP, it is noted that the concept of the 'functional floodplain' is no longer part of the policies, neither is the discussion of land raising and compensatory storage. From the various policies it would appear that avoidance is the first principle, i.e., no development in areas at risk from the 1 in 200-year + climate change event; but given the focus on brownfield development it would appear NPF4 will give more flexibility for such sites in that the existing floodplain has lesser importance (i.e., no functional floodplain) allowing flexibility in terms of changing the land form within the site to allow development, while promoting natural flood management measures (opening of culverts) and improvements to biodiversity.

For sites close to the coast Policy 10 considers risks from erosion and flooding. Coastal Development – Policy 10

- a) Development proposals in developed coastal areas will only be supported where the proposal:
  - i. does not result in the need for further coastal protection measures taking into account future sea level change; or increase the risk to people of coastal flooding or coastal erosion, including through the loss of natural coastal defences including dune systems; and ii. is anticipated to be supportable in the longterm, taking into account projected climate change.
- b) Development proposals in undeveloped coastal areas will only be supported where they:
  - i. are necessary to support the blue economy, net zero emissions or to contribute to the economy or wellbeing of communities whose livelihood depend on marine or coastal activities, or is for essential infrastructure, where there is a specific locational need and no other suitable site:
  - ii. do not result in the need for further coastal protection measures taking into account future sea level change; or increase the risk to people of coastal flooding or coastal erosion, including through the loss of natural coastal defences including dune systems; and iii. are anticipated to be supportable in the long-term, taking into account projected climate change; or
  - iv. are designed to have a very short lifespan
- c) Development proposals for coastal defence measures will be supported if:
  - i. they are consistent with relevant coastal or marine plans;
  - ii. nature-based solutions are utilised and allow for managed future coastal change wherever practical; and
  - iii. any in-perpetuity hard defense measures can be demonstrated to be necessary to protect essential assets.
- d) Where a design statement is submitted with any planning application that may impact on the coast it will take into account, as appropriate, long-term coastal vulnerability and resilience

## 2.2 Local Authority Policy and Guidance with Respect to Flood Risk

Inverclyde Council has published their 'Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment: Planning Guidance for Developers' document which outlines the requirements for flood risk assessment submission.

The document generally follows SEPA guidance. The document outlines the process which should be followed for hydraulic modelling and culminates in an FRA checklist:

- Development will not be susceptible to damage due to flooding within the parameters set in the local plan and SPP 2014
- Normal operation of the development will not be susceptible to disruption because of flooding
- Safe access will be maintained throughout the design event.
- The development will not increase the flood risk elsewhere
- The development will provide access to Inverclyde Council to operate flood defences and maintain watercourses
- The development will not degrade the environment
- The development will meet the outlined criteria for its entire design lifetime, including account for climate change

#### 2.3 SEPA Technical Flood Risk Guidance

SEPA are a statutory consultee to the planning process concerning flood risk. To support its role and to give guidance to practitioners and local authorities SEPA has published a series of guidance documents. The key documents with direct relevance to flood risk assessment are;

- SEPA (2018a), Flood Risk and Land Use Vulnerability Guidance, July 2018. https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/143416/land-use-vulnerability-guidance.pdf
- SEPA (2019a), Technical Flood Risk Guidance for Stakeholders SEPA requirements for undertaking a Flood Risk Assessment, May 2019. <a href="https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/162602/ss-nfr-p-002-technical-flood-risk-guidance-for-stakeholders.pdf">https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/162602/ss-nfr-p-002-technical-flood-risk-guidance-for-stakeholders.pdf</a>
- 3. SEPA (v2, 2022), Climate change allowances for flood risk assessment in land use planning, March 2022. <a href="https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/426913/lups\_cc1.pdf">https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/426913/lups\_cc1.pdf</a>
- 4. SEPA (2018b), Land Use Planning System, SEPA Development Plan Guidance Note 2a, July 2018. <a href="https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/306609/lups-dm-gu2a-development-management-quidance-on-flood-risk.pdf">https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/306609/lups-dm-gu2a-development-management-quidance-on-flood-risk.pdf</a>
- 5. SEPA (2018c) Planning Information Note 4: SEPA Position on development protected by a Flood Protection Scheme. <a href="https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/306610/planning-information-note-4-sepa-position-on-development-protected-by-a-flood-protection-scheme.pdf">https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/306610/planning-information-note-4-sepa-position-on-development-protected-by-a-flood-protection-scheme.pdf</a>
- 6. SEPA (2020), SEPA Flood Risk Standing Advice for Planning Authorities. November 2020. sepa-flood-risk-standing-advice-for-planning-authorities-and-developers.pdf

Reference 1 provides SEPA's assessment of land use vulnerability which allows the identification of the appropriate return period to be considered in any flood risk assessment, based on the type of development proposed.

Reference 2 is a technical guidance document intended to outline methodologies that may be appropriate for hydrological and hydraulic modelling and sets out what information SEPA requires to be submitted as part of a Flood Risk Assessment.

Reference 3 outlines the most recent SEPA guidance in terms of flow, rainfall and sea level uplifts for climate change.

Reference 4 provides additional planning guidance with respect to flood risk.

Reference 5 provides additional planning guidance with respect to built-development behind flood defences.

Reference 6 provides standing advice for developments where SEPA aren't normally consulted, such as surface water only modelling and extensions.

In addition, The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (as amended) (CAR) describes requirements for any works at or near watercourses that require licensing. SEPA are responsible for the implementation of the Regulations. SEPA's CAR Practical Guide (SEPA, 2021) provides an overview of the regulations, definition of the regimes, levels of authorisation for activities and outlines the General Binding Rules (GBRs). The latest version of the CAR Practical is available online and is regularly updated (https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/34761/car a practical guide.pdf).

With relevance to all developments, the Regulations include a requirement that surface water discharge must not result in pollution of the water environment. It also makes Sustainable Drainage Systems

(SuDS) a requirement for new development, except for runoff from a single dwelling and discharges to coastal waters.

In addition, SEPA (2017) Background Paper on the Water Environment, LUPS-BP-GU2b requires that "A buffer strip of a minimum of 6m on either side of the watercourse is recommended and should be proportional to the bank width, with wider rivers having a larger buffer strip than a narrow burn."

SEPA's (2017) table with recommended buffer strip widths is provided below. It is also noted that "a buffer strip is still required for ditches, however, there is some discretion to reduce the buffer strip to a minimum of 3m depending on requirements for access for maintenance"

Width to watercourse (top of bank)	Width of buffer strip (either side)
Less than 1m	6m
1-5m	6-12m
5-15m	12-20m
15m+	20m+

## 2.4 Guidance and Policy Constraints with Relevance to Current Site

Based on relevant policies and guidance the following sections outlines the principles and constraints under which the flood risk assessment is undertaken.

### 2.4.1 Land Use Vulnerability and Design Event

The proposed development is for a holiday accommodation site that is subject to planning control.

Based on SEPA (2018a), holiday accommodation "Holiday chalet" is considered a 'Most Vulnerable' land use. These developments are considered suitable for land outside the 1 in 200-year + climate change floodplain, in line with NPF4 guidelines.

Based on NPF, the design event for this development is a 1 in 200-year + climate change event.

#### 2.4.2 Constraints on Developable Area

#### 2.4.2.1 Surface Water Flooding

Land affected by surface water flooding can generally be developed assuming the surface water flood risk can be managed through the development of the site drainage system and land drainage to manage surface water entering the site from outside its boundaries. However, in some cases, where sites currently act to store surface water, development could displace surface water and increase flood risk elsewhere. In these cases, there may be a need to leave areas of surface water storage undeveloped and/or provide storage of equivalent volumes of surface water elsewhere in the site.

The assessment will consider surface water flooding risks for the 1 in 200-year + climate change event.

## 2.4.3 Climate Change Considerations

The development should be resilient against the impacts of climate change, such that properties are not predicted to flood for the design event plus climate change.

The council guidance does not state a required climate change allowance.

SEPA (2022) recommends updated climate change allowances based on UKCP18. For the study area the impact of climate change is a 41% increase in rainfall total (Clyde River Basin Region).

The assessment will consider increases due to climate change of 41%. It will assess the resilience of the site to the impact of climate change on flows. It is noted that these increases may not be consistent with increases considered by Scottish Water for drainage design.

#### 2.4.4 Development Levels and Finished Floor Levels

SEPA (2018b) notes that adequate freeboard should be provided for developments involving the erection of new buildings and in the majority of cases, an adequate freeboard allowance would be 600mm above the design flood level (separate from any climate change allowance that may be applied). It is noted that other freeboards can be recommended if supported by appropriate modelling. For redevelopment of existing buildings, the freeboard allowance is considered a recommendation and should be applied as far as practicable.

The assessment will consider Finished Floor Levels based on the 1 in 200-Year + climate change flood level.

#### 2.4.5 Site Access Considerations

It is important that developments can be accessed and left during flood events, so that developments do not form islands within flooded areas.

Most councils require any new development to maintain safe access/egress for the appropriate design flood event.

SEPA (2018b) requires the provision of a safe and flood free route during the design event for any development that introduces overnight accommodation onto a site, which enables the free movement of people of all abilities (on foot or with assistance) both to and from a secure place that is connected to ground above the design flood level and/or wider area.

During extreme events there will be surface water flooding on most roads if the event is higher than design conditions. When considering surface water flooding, local councils generally look for 'safe' access to a site, where flood depths are less than approx. 0.3m. However, these requirements vary depending on the size and nature of the site, and the type of development.

#### Access requirements with respect to flooding will be considered in this assessment.

It is noted that this assessment can only consider the local access restrictions to the site and cannot consider wider, regional access issues, e.g., access to hospitals remote to the site. These wider access issues need to be considered by the appropriate local authority within local plans.

### 2.4.6 Other Flooding Risks

#### 2.4.6.1 Coastal Flooding

This site is not considered to be at significant risk of coastal flooding.

#### 2.4.6.2 Reservoir Flooding

Reservoir flooding needs to be considered as part of this Flood Risk Assessment. This is considered in **Section 6.3**.

#### 2.4.6.3 Site Drainage and Sewer Flooding

The design of the site drainage system will be undertaken by others.

#### 2.4.6.4 Culverts and Watercourses

There are not thought to be any culverts that run through the site itself based on historical and Scottish Water mapping.

#### 2.4.6.5 Existing Flood Defences

SEPA (2018c) provides guidance with respect to development behind flood prevention schemes.

This site is not thought to be protected by any existing formal flood defences.

#### 2.4.6.6 Canal Flooding

Canals in Scotland are operated and managed by Scottish Canals. Failures and overtopping of canals are rare and areas at risk are generally known by Scottish Canals who should be consulted for developments located close to any canal.

There are no canals within vicinity of the site and therefore the site is not considered to be at risk of canal flooding.

#### 2.4.6.7 CAR Regulations

Any crossings or changes to watercourses within the site may require a CAR licence. CAR licences are not required as part of a planning application and are generally conditioned as part of planning consent. However, during the planning process, sufficient information should be provided in a planning application so SEPA can identify whether it is likely that a CAR licence would be granted.

There are no new crossings proposed over watercourses. Crossings may be necessary over overland flow pathways, but these will not likely require a CAR licence.

## 3 Site Location and Description

## 3.1 General Site Description

Cornalees Farm is situated in the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park area of Inverclyde. Specifically, it is located to the east of the town of Inverkip. The site is positioned north of Dunrod Road and west of Loch Thom. Additionally, the Loch Thom compensation reservoir can be found directly to the north of the site.

The site boundary is shown in Figure 2.

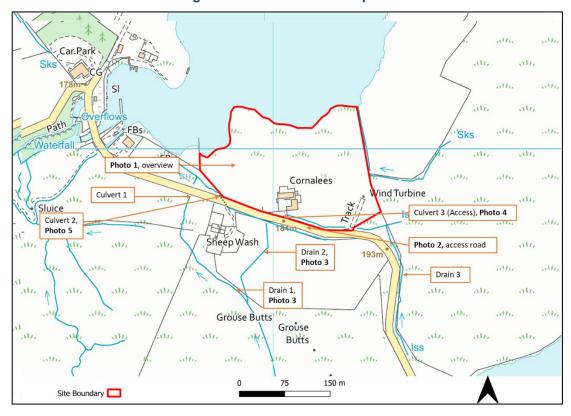


Figure 2: Detailed site description

The site and surrounding topography are shown in **Figure 3**, derived from Phase 3, 0.5m LiDAR DTM (Digital Terrain Model) data. Ground levels generally fall north across the area from the southerly hills to the reservoir in the north. The majority of the site lies between ~184m AOD and ~179m AOD, falling steeply north. There is significantly higher land to the south-east of the site and ground levels drop significantly into the compensation reservoir basin. LiDAR-derived bathymetry is not considered to be reliable and there is no clear definition of the edge of the reservoir or the depth of the reservoir. Dunrod Road runs parallel to the site and represents a change of slope in **Figure 4**, as drainage ditches can be seen in the LiDAR.

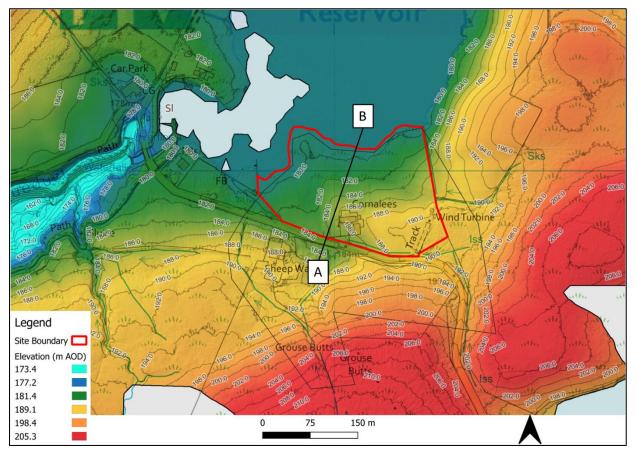
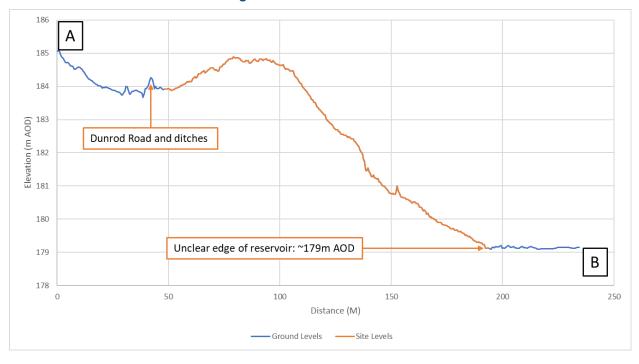


Figure 3: Site topography from LiDAR & location of cross-section





There are several small land drains surrounding the site, see **Figure 2**. Ordnance Survey maps indicate a small channel within the southern boundary of the site; however, following a site visit and investigation of LiDAR data, this drain appears to run parallel with the road and is likely road drainage. Two existing access points to the site exist. The culverts under the accesses are in poor condition and were unable to be measured. Some flow was noted rising from the line of the culvert.

A small watercourse drains a small area to the south of the site before flowing north towards the site, along then under Dunrod Road and into the drain along the road. Close to the western boundary of the site the road drainage channel veers north before eventually discharging into the compensation reservoir.

**Photos 1-5** show the character of the watercourse and associated features. Drain 3 and Culvert 1 could not be photographed.



Photo 1: Site overview facing east



Photo 2: Dunrod Road facing west (Drain 3 on right side of road)







Photo 4: Damaged Culvert 3 (under existing farm access)





## 4 Hydrology Assessment

## 4.1 Catchment Delineation: Drains 1, 2 and 3

The catchments of Drains 1, 2 and 3 are very small and are not defined on the FEH Webservice. Therefore, they have been manually delineated using Phase 3, 0.5m LiDAR DTM data in GIS software. A detailed watershed analysis along with manual contour interpretation generated the catchments which can be seen in **Figure 5**.

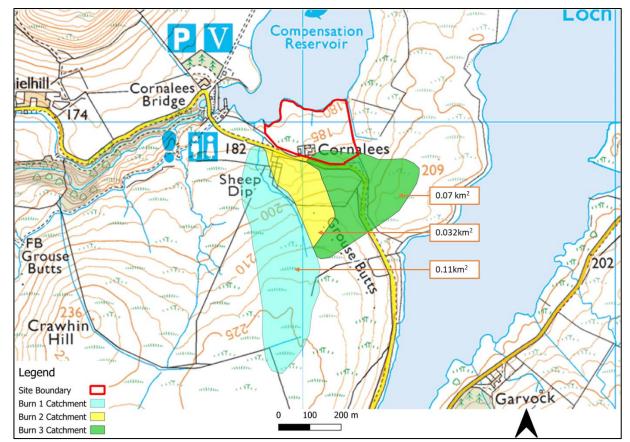


Figure 5: Catchment areas of Drains 1, 2, and 3

## 4.2 Design Flow Estimation

Design flows (**Table** 1) were estimated based on industry-standard methods suitable for a catchment of this size. These include the Institute of Hydrology Report No.124 (IH124) small catchment method and Qmed rural multiplied by the Flood Studies Report (FSR) scaling factors. The following parameters were used:

**Table 4-1: Catchment characteristics** 

Catchment parameter	Value
SAAR (mm)	1790
SOIL	0.5
FARL	1
BFIHOST	0.384
Climate change	1.41

Table 4-2: Design flows

Catchment	1 in 200-Year + Climate Change Event (m³/s)		
	IH124	Qmed*FSR	
Drain 1	0.86	1.34	
Drain 2	0.25	0.47	
Drain 3	0.56	0.91	

Comparison of the results indicates that the Qmed\*FSR method produces slightly higher flows are therefore used in the assessment.

## 5 Hydraulic Modelling

A 2D mathematical model was developed in Flood Modeller Pro software to assess the risk of fluvial flooding from the 3 minor surface water drains. The LiDAR in this area was noted to suitably represent the channels of these drains as they appear to be well defined in the Phase 3, 0.5m DTM.

#### 5.1 2D Hydraulic Model Build

The Flood Modeller Pro model parameters included:

- An Active Area using LiDAR DTM data
- A grid-size resolution of 2.0m and a 1 second timestep
- A global Manning's *n* value of 0.045 due to a homogenous grassland domain
- The farm building was raised 10.0m in the LiDAR DTM.
- 100% culvert blockages due to their small size and un-inspectable state
- 3 Inflow boundaries and a Normal Depth downstream boundary condition.

The inflow boundary conditions were positioned where they have been identified on Ordnance Survey mapping as being watercourses. The adjusted Qmed method was used as inflows.

The downstream, Normal Depth, boundary condition was chosen and placed at the edge of the site where the land meets the reservoir, see **Figure 6**. This method was deemed appropriate in place of a water level boundary for 2 reasons; because the reservoir flood risk is being assessed separately; and because of the minor flows which would not significantly impact the water level of the reservoir coupled with the lack of accurate bathymetry and design water level data for compensation reservoir of Loch Thom.

To ensure that the location of the downstream boundary condition did not significantly impact the results, a range of sensitivity runs were undertaken. These include:

- A 20% increase in Manning's *n* roughness
- A 20% decrease in Normal Depth slope
- An allowance for climate change

Blockage scenarios were not included as the culverts were modelled as fully blocked.

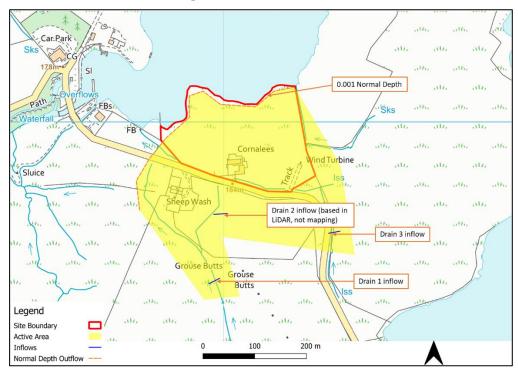


Figure 6: Model schematic

#### 5.2 Model Results

The results of the 1 in 200-year + climate change event can be seen in Figure 7.

The results of the modelling predict that the channels of Drains 1 and 2 cannot contain the design flows, or that they are not fully defined in the LiDAR. **Photo 6**, below, indicates that the informal channels are very shallow, supporting the prediction that the flows will spill overland, following ground levels as surface water. The flood water is predicted to flow north towards the site, overtopping the Dunrod Road and flowing through the gulley topography, in the west section of the site. **Figure 3** shows the gulley topography.

Flows from Drain 3 are largely confined to the existing road drainage channels on both sides of the Dunroad Road. The flows are then predicted to spill from these drainage channels at the south-east corner of the site onto the Dunroad Road and follow the topography west. **Photo 2** shows the road level falling steeply west, which supports the modelling prediction.

Flooding does not exceed 0.3m in depth during the 1 in 200-year + climate change flood event, and surface water flows generally do not increase above a velocity of 0.45m/s within the model.

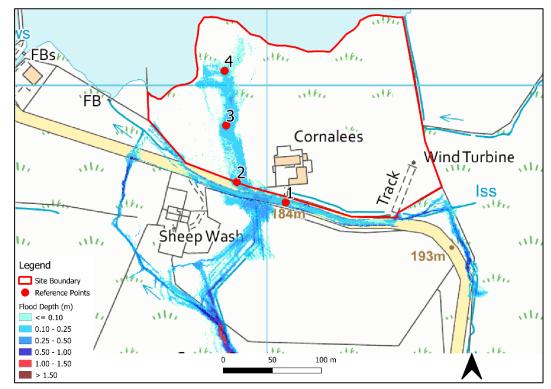


Figure 7: 1 in 200-year plus climate change event flood depth map

Photo 6: Channel form (Burn 2)



**Table 2** shows the water levels (m AOD) at 4 individual reference points (**Figure 7**). The variation between runs is around 0.01-0.05m for the Normal Depth and Manning's n runs, which is expected. The results of the sensitivity analysis were within expectations.

Table 5-1: Sensitivity water levels (m AOD)

Reference point	1 in 200- Year + CC (Base) (m)	Base + 20% increase Manning's <i>n</i> (m)	Base + 20% decrease Normal Depth slope (m)
1	184.53	0.02	0
2	183.48	0.05	0
3	181.50	0.02	0
4	180.16	0.03	0.03

## 6 Flood Risk Assessment

The flood risk assessment considers the risk from:

- Fluvial flooding
- Surface water flooding
- Reservoir flooding
- Groundwater flooding
- Safe Access

## 6.1 Fluvial flooding

Drains 1, 2, and 3 were considered in this flood risk assessment as a source of fluvial flood risk based on their appearance on OS mapping. However, the site walkover, **Photos 1-6**, and results of the hydraulic modelling in **Section 5.2** show that the minor burns, with minor catchments (**Section 4.1**) behave in a similar way to surface water. This is due to the poor, informal drainage channels, for example, **Photo 6**, not having the capacity to convey the 1 in 200-year climate change design flows which have been estimated.

Flood waters of Drain 1 and 2 come out of bank and spill overland, following ground levels north to the Dunrod Road where they continue through gulley topography (**Figure 3**) in the western section of the site before finally discharging directly into the compensation reservoir on the site's northern boundary.

Drain 3 stays within the Dunrod Road's drainage channels, generally, until it reaches the south-east corner of the site, where it comes out of bank and spills, conferencing with the flow pathway of Drain 2.

The depth does not exceed 0.3m during the 1 in 200-year + climate change flood event, and the velocity of the flooding does not generally exceed 0.45m/s.

## **6.2 Surface Water Flooding**

In addition to the modelling undertaken in **Section 5**, 2D rainfall-runoff modelling was also undertaken.

A representative rainfall hyetograph was estimated using ReFH2.3 software with FEH Web-service catchment descriptors for the most intense, 1-hour storm event.

A 41% uplift in rainfall intensity was applied to account for climate change.

The results of the surface water modelling can be seen in **Figure 8**. As with the fluvial modelling, surface water flows north, overtopping the Dunrod Road. The velocity of the surface water flows does not exceed 0.25m/s and depths generally do not exceed 0.3m anywhere in the model.

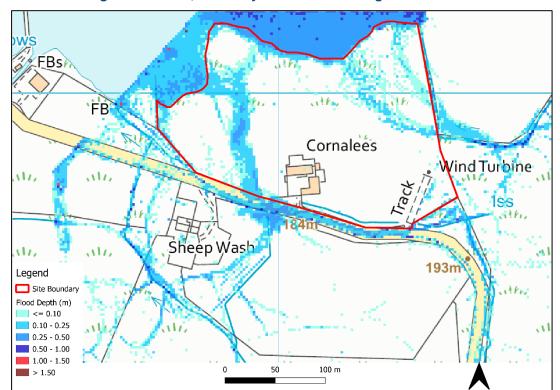


Figure 8: 1-Hour, 1 in 200-year + climate change rainfall event

## **6.3 Reservoir Flooding**

The proposed site is located to the west and south of Loch Thom and its compensation reservoir. According to the FEH webservice, the catchment area that drains into the Loch covers an estimated area of up to 16km², with the primary inflow coming from the North Rotten Burn. Additionally, some flows can enter the compensation reservoir from the Kelly cut.

Water flows into Loch Thom and is retained there before being transferred to the compensation reservoir through three 1.1m diamter siphons and a spillway. A second outflow from Loch Thom can be found towards Gryfe Reservoir No. 1, situated to the east of the site.

To leave the compensation reservoir, water flows through a spillway and a small channel located at the base of the embankment.

Consultation with the SEPA indicative reservoir flood maps shows that 3 possible breach scenarios from Loch Thom could occur. South from the embankment between Loch Thom and the compensation reservoir, west over an area of raised banking to the east of the compensation reservoir and east towards the Gryfe Reservoir. The maps indicate during an uncontrolled release of water flooding to the west of the site could occur. Reservoirs are subject to strict regulations in Scotland and as such, reservoir flooding is rare.

However, as the site is bounded by the compensation reservoir to the north, the maximum water level that the compensation reservoir can reach must be considered. Flows reaching the compensation reservoir are routed over the Loch Thom Weir and are stored in the compensation reservoir before discharging over the compensation spill and into the Kip Water. Based on LiDAR data, the Loch Thom Weir compensation reservoir overspill lies at an elevation of 179.15m AOD and measures approximately 23m wide and 1.5m high, see **Photo 7**.

A reservoir routing model was constructed based on spill dimensions obtained from LiDAR and assuming bothg reservoirs are full (which is a very conservative assumption). Flows overspilling from Loch Thom are routed again through the compensation reservoir. Model results for the 200-year plus climate change event indicated that maximum water levels in the compensation reservoir could reach up to 180.6m AOD.



Photo 7: Overspill of the compensation reservoir

### 6.4 Groundwater Flooding

Based on SEPA groundwater flood maps, the site is not at significant risk of groundwater flooding. The site is located in a typically wet moorland area and groundwater levels will be linked to the levels in the adjacent reservoirs.

Recommendations to raise Finished Floor Levels, as set out in **Section 7** should help mitigate the flood risk from groundwater flooding.

Groundwater monitoring is generally undertaken as part of the geotechnical investigation. If it is determined that there is a high groundwater table in this area suitable mitigation measures should be employed to mitigate against the risk of flooding. Alterations to foundations and the positioning of SuDS so they can operate effectively may be necessary if the groundwater table is high.

#### 6.5 Flood Risk to Access

**Section 5.2** shows that the proposed western access to the site is predicted to be inhibited by fluvial flood waters up to a depth of 0.3, preventing dry access in the 1 in 200-year + climate change event. However, the eastern site access has less extensive flooding, albeit at ~0.3m deep.

Recommendations as set out in **Section 7** should help mitigate the flood risk to site access.

## 7 Flood Management

Three open channels drain land to the south of the site. The channels are in poor condition and have very small catchments and are likely ephemeral in nature.

As the channels have been identified on OS mapping, they have been assessed as a fluvial risk. Model results indicate that, during a 200-year plus climate change event, flood waters from Drains 2 and 3 would overtop and flood the adjacent road and a low lying pathway through the site.

The drains are likely to be man-made and are in poor condition, with the existing culvert under Cornalees Farm significantly blocked. As a result, flooding at the site is artificial and linked to road and land drainage as the channels clearly do not follow natural topography.

Access to the proposed development will be located close to the existing flow pathway. It is recommended that options are explored to realign and naturalise Drains 2 and 3 either along their existing path or to convey through new channel routes towards Loch Thom. Such management of flood waters would be a significant improvement to flooding in the area and on the existing road network. During extreme events, this route is used as a bypass to get to Greenock and Largs by some areas of Inverclyde. There are no downstream receptors that would be impacted by such proposals but development measures would need to be discussed with land owners and SEPA/Inverclyde Council. NPF4 promotes delivering positive effects from developments and strengthening nature networks and nature-based solutions, so such plans would align with new planning policy.

Conservative reservoir routing calculations have been undertaken to route extreme flows through the adjacent reservoirs. Given the fact that new siphons have been constructed at Loch Thom, it is unlikely that both reservoirs would be sitting full prior to a 200-year plus climate change event, the joint probability of this occurring would likely exceed a 200-year plus climate change event. Model results indicate that flood waters could reach up to 180.6m AOD during an extreme event. It is recommended that finished floor levels are set to a suitable freeboard above this level. It is recommended that ground levels are arranged so that during an extreme event surcharging flood waters from the Drains or surface water culvert or sewer within the site are diverted through the site without impacting properties.

## **8 Summary and Conclusions**

Kaya Consulting Limited was commissioned by Mr Euan Caskie through Cowal Design Ltd to undertake a Flood Risk Assessment in support of a recreational holiday lodge development at Cornalees, near Inverkip in the Inverciyde Council area.

The development is categorised as a 'Most Vulnerable Land Use' based on the SEPA land use vulnerability guidance.

2D hydraulic modelling of 3 minor catchments to the south of the site showed that Drains 1, 2, and 3 do not have adequate capacity to convey the 1 in 200-year + climate change design event. Flood waters are predicted to spill overland and follow surface water pathways north, through gulley-like topography in the site, discharging into the compensation reservoir.

Rainfall-runoff modelling of the 1 in 200-year + climate change storm predicted that surface water flows north, through gulley topography in the site, such as the 2D flow modelling.

A reservoir routing model was constructed based on spill dimensions obtained from LiDAR and assuming both reservoirs are full (which is a very conservative assumption). Flows overspilling from Loch Thom are routed again through the compensation reservoir. Model results for the 200-year plus climate change event indicated that maximum water levels in the compensation reservoir could reach up to 180.6m AOD.

SEPA indicative reservoir maps show that 3 possible reservoir breach scenarios from Loch Thom could flood the western part of the site.

The site is not considered to be at significant risk of groundwater flooding.

Flood Management measures are provided in **Section 7** above.

It is good practice to design finished floor levels at an appropriate height above surrounding ground levels and arrange finished ground levels sloping away from buildings. General ground levels should be finished in a way not to allow ponding of surface water within the site which could increase the risk of flooding of properties. It is good practice to provide within the development site an appropriate overland flow route through which flood waters could escape in the event of the site being flooded during floods exceeding the design flows or following blockage of the site drainage system.

It should be noted that the risk of flooding can be reduced but not totally eliminated given the potential for events exceeding design conditions and given the inherent uncertainty associated with estimating hydrological parameters for any given site.

As with any design, maintenance is an important requirement for an effective drainage system. Regular maintenance programs need to be implemented for all components of the drainage system.

## **SEPA CHECKLIST**

SEPATION TO THE PROPERTY OF T	essment	(FRA) Chec	klist	(SS-NFR-F-001 - Version 14 - Last updated 28/06	5/2019
This document must be attached within the front co	wer of any Floor	d Dick Accasements	issued to Local Planning Authorities (LPA)	in support of a development proposal whi	ich may ha at rick of flooding. The
document will take only a few minutes to complete					ch may be at risk of hooding. The
	and Will assist S	EPA in reviewing FR	As, when consulted by LPAS. This docum	ent snould not be a substitute for a FRA.	
Development Proposal Summary					
Site Name:		Cornalees			
Grid Reference:	Easting:	225033	Northing: 671907		
Local Authority:			Inverciyde Council		
Planning Reference number (if known):					
Nature of the development:		Recreational		Holiday accomodation	
Size of the development site:		See report	Ha		
Identified Flood Risk:	Source:	Fluvial	Source name:	Burn 1,Burn 2 and Burn 3	
Land Use Planning					
is any of the site within the functional floodplain? (refer to SPP para 255).		Yes		yes, what is the net loss of storage?	m³
Is the site identified within the local development plan?		No	Local Development Plan Name: Allocation Number / Reference:	South Ayrshire LDP Year o	of Publication:
If yes, what is the proposed use for the site as identified in					
the local plan?		Select from List	If Other please specify:		
Does the local development plan and/or any pre-application					
advice, identify any flood risk issues with or requirements		Select from List			
for the site.			If so, please specify:		
What is the proposed land use vulnerability?		Most Vulnerable	Do the proposals represent a	in increase in land use vulnerability?	es
Supporting Information					
Have clear maps / plans been provided within the FRA		Yes			
(including topographic and flood inundation plans)?		105			
Has sufficient supporting information, in line with our					
Technical Guidance, been provided? For example: site		Yes			
plans, photos, topographic information, structure		res			
information and other site specific information.					
Has a historic flood search been undertaken?		Yes	If flood	records in vicinity of the site please provide details	
is a formal flood prevention scheme present?		No		If known, state the standard of protection offered	<u>i:</u>
Current / historical site use:		Greenfield land			
Is the site considered vacant or derelict?		No			
Development Requirements					
Freeboard on design water level:		See report	m		
Is safe / dry access and egress available?		Pedestrian Only	See Report	Min access/egress level: See Report	
Design levels:	Ground level:	See Report	m AOD	Min FFL: See Report	mAOD
Mitigation					
Can development be designed to avoid all areas at risk of flooding?		Yes			
Is mitigation proposed?		Yes	Recommendations provided		
If yes, is compenstory storage necessary?		No			
Demonstration of compensatory storage on a "like for like"					
basis?		No			
Should water resistant materials and forms of construction be used?		No			

PAGE 1 of 2

SE PATE PROPERTY AND THE PROPERTY AND THE PATE PROPERTY AND THE PATE PATE PATE PATE PATE PATE PATE PAT	essment	(FRA) Chec	klist		(SS-NFR-F-001 - Version 14 - Last u	pdated 28/05/2019	)	
Hydrology								
Is there a requirement to consider fluvial flooding?		Yes						
Area of catchment:	1	see report	km <sup>2</sup>		Is a map of catchment area incl	uded in FRA?	Yes	
Estimation method(s) used (please select all that apply):		Pooled Analysis		lf If	Pooled analysis have group details be	en included?	Select from List	
		Single Site Analysis						
		Enhanced Single Site						
		ReFH2						
		FEH RRM Other	-	J	If other (please specify metho	dology usedly		_
Estimate of 200 year design flood flour			m³/s		il other (please specify filetio	ddiogy used).		_
Estimate of 200 year design flood flow:		see report	m/s m³/s				****	_
Qmed estimate: Statistical Distribution Selected:		NA N/A	m /s		Bassani	Method: for selection:	N/A	_
		N/A			Reasons	for selection.		
Hydraulics				Software used:	Flood Modeller			
Hydraulic modelling method:		2D	I	If other please specify:	Flood Modeller			
Number of cross sections:		NA NA	1	ii outer please specify.				
Source of data (i.e. topographic survey, LiDAR etc):		Lidar	1	Date obtained / surveyed:				
Modelled reach length:		500	m	_				
Any changes to default simulation parameters?		No		If yes please provide details:				
Model timestep:		1	1					
Model grid size:		3						_
Any structures within the modelled length?		Select from List		Specify, if combination:				
Maximum observed velocity: Brief summary of sensitivity tests, and range:		~3	m/s					
variation on flow (%)		41%	94	Please specify o	dimate change scenario considered:	Clude	Basin rainfall uplift	_
		20	0/	Ficuse specify c	mate change scenario considered.	Olyac	busin ruman upin	
variation on channel roughness (%) blockage of structure (range of % blocked)		100	76					
boundary conditions:		Upstream			Downstream			
(1) type		Flow	1		Normal depth			
3.7.21	Specify if other		•	Specify if other:				
(2) does it influence water levels at the site?		Yes			No			
Has model been calibrated (gauge data / flood records)?								
Is the hydraulic model available to SEPA?	4000				1888			
Design flood levels: Cross section results provided?	1000-year	Varies - see report	m AOD 2D mod	ind	1000 year plus climate change	Varies m A	OD	
Long section results provided?		No No	2D mod					
Cross section ratings provided?	I	No	2D mod					
Tabular output provided (i.e. levels, velocities)?	I	No	2D mod					
Mass balance error:		<3	%					
Coastal								
Is there a requirement to consider coastal / tidal flooding?		No						
Estimate of 200 year design flood level:	1	6.97	m AOD					
Estimation method(s) used:		Other		If oth	er please specify methodology used:	Environment Agen	cy Extreme Level	
Allowance for climate change (m):		0.88	m					
Allowance for wave action etc (m):			m					
Overall design flood level:		7.85	m AOD					
Comments								
Any additional comments:								
Approved by: Organisation: Date:	Michael Stewart 19-Jan-23							
Date.								

PAGE 2 of 2



## LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

on Behalf of

Nicholson McShane Architects

in regard to

Holiday Eco-Lodge Development

at

Cornalees Farm, nr Greenock, Inverclyde

Prepared by



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## **Contents**

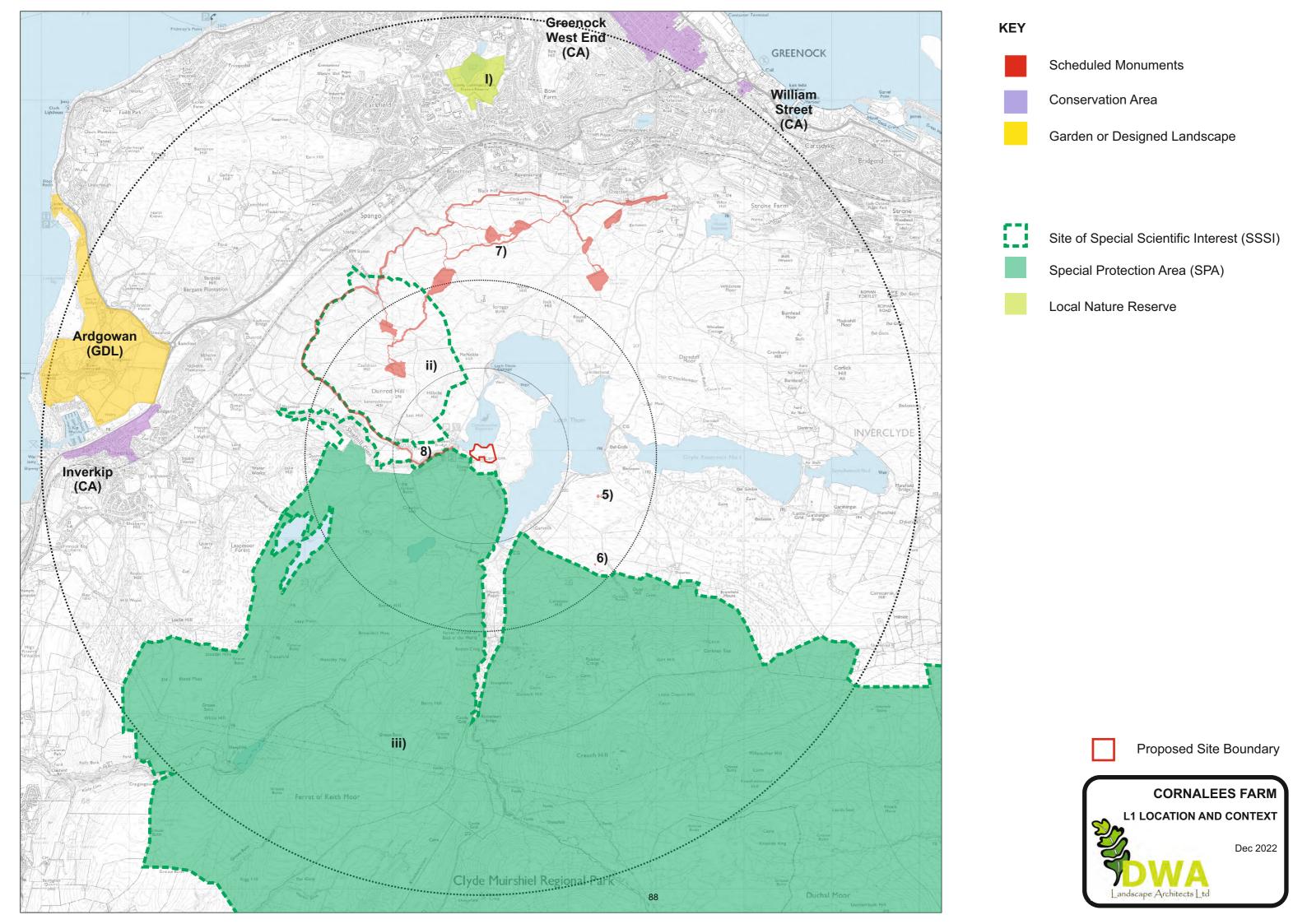
- 1. Introduction
- 2. Location and Context
- 3. Landscape Character
- 4. Landscape Planning Context
- 5. The Proposals
- 6. Landscape Impacts
- 7. Visual Impacts
- 8. Photographic study
- 9. Conclusions and Recommendations

#### Illustrations

- L1 Location and Context
- L2 Development Proposals
- L3 Zone of Theoretical Visibility

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The land to the north of Cornalees Farm near Greenock in Inverclyde is proposed for a development of Holiday Eco Lodges. This would complement an existing consented proposal to develop the existing farm and barn complex as dwelling houses. The proposal would see 12no chalet type buildings arranged within the landscape between the farm and the Loch Thom Compensation Reservoir.
- 1.2 The site lies within the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park which occupies a large area of 230km2 to the west of Glasgow and south and east of the Clyde Estuary. The landscape ranges from Coastal Raised Beaches along the shore to the raised plateau in which the site lies. To the north lies the connecting towns of Port Glasgow, Greenock and Gourock and to the east Inverkip and Wemyss Bay. These all lie on the lower coastal ground with the raised landscape being more remote and sparsely settled. The Greenock Cut Visitor Centre lies close to the east of the site.
- 1.3 The proposed site lies within Inverclyde Council, so the following planning documents have been reviewed.
  - Inverclyde Local Development Plan (Adopted August 2019)
- 1.4 Other documents and resources which will be referred to will be:
  - Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition) published by the Landscape Institute
  - Scottish Planning Policy (June 2014)
  - Photography and Photomontage in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Landscape Institute Advice Note 01/11
  - Pastmap.co.uk Web Database
  - Scotland's Environment Web Database
- 1.5 This Landscape Assessment will present an initial baseline assessment of the features within the landscape which may potentially be impacted by the proposed development. This will consider farm, dwellings, settlements, transport links and any cultural or natural heritage features within a 5km radius. It will also briefly consider the landscape related planning context of the site and landscape character of the area.
- 1.6 From this baseline an assessment of the potential physical or visual impact upon the landscape can be made, supported by a photographic study. A series of conclusions will be made and any recommendations for mitigation set out.



#### 2. Location and Context

- 2.1 Drawing L1 shows the study area for the assessment which covers a 5km Radius. The landscape is dominated by the two large bodies of water which lie to the north and northeast. These consist of the Compensation reservoir adjacent to the site and the larger Loch Thom. These water bodies lie in a cauldron formation of hills on all sides with the man-made earth wall dam separating the two to the north of the site. This system of reservoirs form part of the Greenock Cut which was built in 1827 to supply water to Greenock and surrounding towns for industrial and domestic use. Designed by engineer Robert Thom, along with the water bodies the system comprised a 5.5-mile-long narrow canal following the topography to the west and then north. It is now a Scheduled Monument and popular walking route. The Greenock Cut Visitor Centre lies close to the west and provides interpretation and a base for activities within the area.
- 2.2 The landscape is a relatively unsettled one with some properties around the Compensation Reservoir, including the visitor centre and fishery. Cornalees farm in now vacant as is the property which lies adjacent to the dam. Other scattered dwellings lie in the wider area but are few and far between with the larger settlements of Inverkip, Greenock and Port Glasgow lying along the coastal area towards the west and north.
- 2.3 There are no major roads close to the site with a series of narrow minor roads crossing the landscape, passing along the east and south of the water bodies. The area is a popular walking and cycling with a number of paths through the area such as the path following narrow Canal and extending northeast along the water body and over the hill to Greenock.
- 2.4 The landscape of the area has been settled since prehistoric times although the raised and exposed nature of the landscape has limited settlement in some ways relative to the coastal areas. The following is a summary of Designed Gardens and Landscapes (DGL) and Conservation Area (CA) within 5km of the site. A review of the significant scheduled monuments and listed buildings within 2km has also been included. These cultural heritage designations within the landscape may have differing sensitivities depending on their nature but may have the potential to be impacted by the development.

#### **Designed Gardens and Landscapes** (within 5km)

1. Ardgowan

#### Conservation Areas (within 5km)

- 2. Greenock West End
- 3. William Street
- 4. Inverkip

#### **Scheduled Monuments** (within 2km)

- 5. Garvock, Cairn
- 6. Garvock, Farmstead
- 7. Overton Reservoirs 1-8 And Associated Channels, Clyde Muirshiel Park
- 8. Loch Thom-Overton, Water Cut

#### **Listed Buildings** (within 2km)

There are none within this range

#### Conservation

- 2.5 The remote and unsettled nature of the landscape within the Regional Park is consistent with the range of large-scale natural heritage designations which exist. These designations are shown on drawing L1 Location and Context.
  - I. Coves Community Park (LNR)
  - II. Dunrod Hill (SSSI)
  - III. Renfrewshire Heights (SPA / SSSI)

#### **Conclusions**

2.6 The remote nature of the site on the plateau landscape combined with the cauldron topography of the immediate area around the water bodies mean that there are relatively few built features within the landscape – with some notable exception. The nearby Greenock Cut Visitor Centre and path system provide a well-used recreational facility and is likely one of the motivating factors for the type of development proposed. There are some large-scale natural heritage designations within the study area but other than the broad designation of the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park these do not apply directly to the site. Impacts upon these in the wider landscape features will be considered in the course of the assessment.

#### 3. Landscape Character

3.1 The site is classified as the Rugged Moorland Hills landscape character type. This is described as follows (where relevant to the Renfrewshire Heights):

**Location and Context** - The Rugged Moorland Hills are found in three areas within Glasgow and the Clyde Valley - Renfrewshire Heights, Kilpatrick Hills and Campsie Fells/Kilsyth Hills.....

#### **Key Characteristics**

- Large-scale simple landscape.
- Distinctive upland character created by the combination of elevation, exposure, rugged landform, including a fault line and cliffs, moorland vegetation and the predominant lack of modern development, emphasised by the proximity to low-lying valleys and coastal areas.
- Undeveloped skylines and striking views to the Glasgow conurbation.
- Extensive man-made reservoirs and smaller natural lochs.
- Important backdrop to neighbouring settled landscapes, creating a unique sense of place.
- Sparse settlement and predominant lack of modern development.
- Presence of archaeological sites on hilltops and sides, and on lower ground.
- Sense of apparent naturalness, wild character and remoteness which contrasts strongly with the farmed and developed lowland areas.
- Diversity of landscape experience.

**Landform** - The Rugged Moorland Hills share a common geology, being underlain by basalts which are more resistant than surrounding rocks and have withstood glacial and fluvial erosion to stand as rugged uplands around the north-western part of the Clyde Basin. ..... The landform comprises a series of rounded, locally craggy summits set within an undulating plateau, crossed by a series of burns. Summits range in height between about 400 metres in the Kilpatrick Hills, to 500 metres in the Renfrew Heights and 580 metres in the Campsie Fells. Skylines are generally simple and uninterrupted, with the skyline of the southern ridge an important feature in wider views.

Landcover - Landcover on these hills is dominated by moorland plant communities including heather (particularly on the Renfrew Heights and Kilpatrick Hills) ....... Extensive areas of peatland are found on the Renfrew Heights and the Campsie Fells. Fields, enclosed within drystone walls and hedges push onto some of the more accessible slopes around the edges of these hills. Some of these have been abandoned are becoming invaded by

bracken or rushes, while their boundaries decline. Rough grazing dominates this area as a land use, with a fair amount of plantation and woodland. ...... Extensive areas of rectilinear fields and pasture, some unimproved, are evident. Where grassland in these fields has been improved it creates a brighter green sward which contrasts with the paler hues of the unimproved grassland. The hills have areas of nature conservation interest, including those associated with small streams, burns and wetlands.

Commercial forestry is found in all three areas. Within the Renfrew Heights they are concentrated in the shallow headwater valley of the River Gryfe. In recent years there have been some significant areas of commercial woodland felling e.g. Ladymuir, as trees reach maturity. .....

**Settlement** - Settlement in these exposed upland areas is generally very sparse. However, all three areas of moorland include reservoirs which were constructed to supply nearby urban areas with water. Occasional smaller natural lochs are also present. The uplands are also of recreational importance for the Glasgow conurbation, with several accessible viewpoints. Densely populated settlements such as Clydebank, Dumbarton, Alexandria, Greenock and Bearsden are in very close proximity to this area.

The hills provide long views across the rolling plateaux to the Glasgow conurbation, including the Kelvin Valley and Clyde corridor, emphasising the contrast between the remote upland and the developed lowlands. There are also views south-west from the Renfrewshire Heights out to the Argyll Coast and the Isle of Bute, as well as northwards over the Rosneath Peninsula and Cowal Peninsula to Holy Loch. Within the hills are landmark features including distinctive scarps and hilltops. The John Muir long distance path passes through the Landscape Character Type on its north-west boundary, forming one of the highest stretches of the route. There is also wider provision of recreation opportunities for local communities, including hill walking, mountain biking and fishing. Pylons across the Kilpatrick and Renfrewshire Heights have a local influence, and planes go quite low over the hills in preparation for landing at Glasgow Airport.

There are a number of significant archaeological features within these hills, .... Across the Clyde, there are sections of Roman road and fortlets, testimony to the intense Roman presence in the area. Other prehistoric sites pre-date the Roman occupation of the area. Later prehistoric remains include settlements, field systems, enclosures and burial cairns. There is a wealth of medieval remains in the area including mottes and settlement and agricultural remains. Later evidence of industry in the area is shown with various open cast mines and quarries.

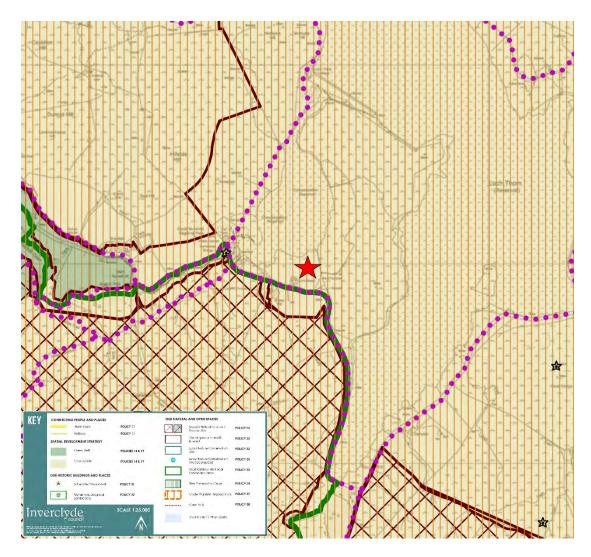
**Perception** - The landscape exhibits strong wild character, some of the strongest in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley region, emphasised by the contrast with neighbouring adjacent densely populated urban areas. There is only a relatively short, abrupt transition from these urban areas and agricultural land to the hills. This increases the apparent sense of naturalness, providing a contrasting solitude where it is possible to enjoy relative remoteness and isolation. The hills themselves have open horizons. ......

#### Conclusions

3.2 The landscape type has significance both inwardly and in the wider context with views towards them from the Clyde Valley Basin and Glasgow Conurbation. They are notable for their remote nature despite close proximity to heavily settled areas. Visual impacts in this large-scale landscape may therefore be significant when over a wide area or when seen from out with the area. It is important to retain the sense of naturalness within the landscape but subtle development in appropriate location should be able to be accommodated within the large-scale setting without unduly impacting the overall character.

#### 4. Landscape Planning Context

4.1 The Inverclyde Local Development Plan was adopted in August 2019. The excerpt from the proposal map shown below indicates that the site is currently designated as Countryside and as being within the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park. The core path routes are indicated by a dotted purple line and pass close to the south of Cornalees Farm along the road. To the south of the road and extending towards the southwest lies both the Renfrewshire Heights SSSI and SPA, and the West Renfrew Hills Local Landscape Area.



4.2 Policy 14 applies to the Countryside designation:

#### "POLICY 14 - GREEN BELT AND COUNTRYSIDE

Development in the Green Belt and Countryside will only be permitted if it is appropriately designed, located, and landscaped, and is associated with:

- a) agriculture, horticulture, woodland or forestry;
- b) a tourism or recreational use that requires a countryside location;
- c) infrastructure with a specific locational need;

- d) the appropriate re-use of a redundant stone or brick building, the retention of which is desirable for its historic interest or architectural character, subject to that interest or character being retained; or
- e) intensification (including extensions and outbuildings) of an existing use, which is within the curtilage of the associated use and is of an appropriate scale and form.

Proposals associated with the uses set out in criteria a)-c) must provide justification as to why the development is required at the proposed location."

- 4.3 The proposed development would fall under section *b)* a tourism or recreational use that requires a countryside location. This type of holiday accommodation is particularly aimed at a rural setting and to take advantage of the opportunities the setting provides i.e., walking, cycling, fishing etc. The Proposal Map also indicates that Policy 19 would apply but following a legal challenge section 7 of the LDP containing this policy has been rescinded.
- 4.4 The proposal map shows the site as being within the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park covered by Policy 37:

#### "POLICY 37 - CLYDE MUIRSHIEL REGIONAL PARK

Proposals for development within Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park will be considered with regard to the Park Objectives and Strategy and to the Park's statutory purpose of providing recreational access to the countryside."

4.5 The Objects of the Park are stated as follows on its dedicated website:

#### "Our objectives

**Educate** - We are seeking to advance the general public's understanding of the Regional Park and its environment.

**Protection** - We want to protect the Park against inappropriate development.

**Ecology** - We want to safeguard the ecology and the landscape.

**Conserve** - We look forward to conserving and developing the Park for the benefit and amenity of the general public & local communities who use and benefit from the park.

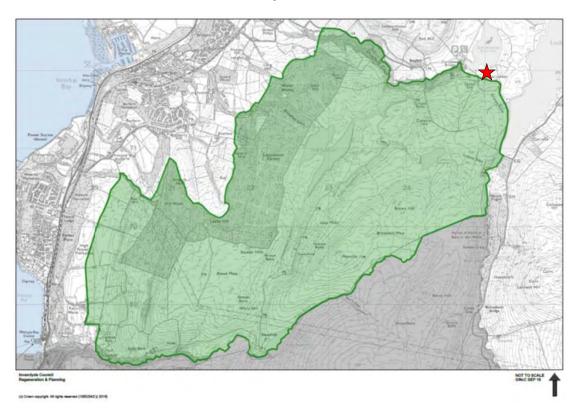
**Restoration** - We want to protect, conserve and restore the habitats and biodiversity of the Regional Park.

**Access** - Promote public access throughout the park in conjunction with the landowners and local authorities, in line with Land Reform legislation and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code."

4.6 The main objective where the proposals can positively contribute is through providing better access to the park for recreation, however there is also scope to provide positive benefits through access to the nearby Visitor Centre and to

positively enhance the ecology and biodiversity through appropriate design. The proposals are intended to provide accommodation with an ecologically friendly and sustainable ethos to help minimise any impacts and promote enhancements where possible. This can be achieved in the design of the land surrounding the lodges, through material choices and in the specification of the green roof systems.

#### West Renfrew Hills Local Landscape Area



- 4.7 The Local Landscape Area (LLA) designation is a relatively new one but closely follows the area which was previously recognised as a Regional Scenic Area. Its extents are indicated in the excerpt above. The purposes of LLA designations are stated as:
  - "Safeguard and enhance the character and quality of a landscape which is important or particularly valued locally or regionally; or
  - promote understanding and awareness of the distinctive character and special qualities of local landscapes; or
  - safeguard and promote important local settings for outdoor recreation and tourism."
- 4.8 Much of the description of the landscape is shared with the Rugged Moorland Hills Landscape Character type, with an emphasis on the remote unsettled character and views to and from the raised area. Many of these views seem to orientate towards the west and southwest towards the Clyde Estuary. As the site lies close to, but out with the designated area, the visual relationship

between it and the LLA will be the key consideration. The West Renfrewshire Hills Statement of Importance views are described as follows:

"Views and skylines – West Renfrew Hills boast a panoramic view stretching to the southwest over the Isle of Bute across the length of the Cowal Peninsula northwards to the Holy Loch and the Rosneath Peninsula. The Renfrew Heights and plateau moorlands separating the Clyde and the Ayrshire basin to the south create strong and containing skylines. These come together to emphasise this narrow part of the Inner Firth of Clyde. The coastal part of Inverclyde is one of the few areas where southwest Highlands. These views across the Firth of Clyde emphasise the contrast between the remote upland and the developed lowlands. views extend beyond the Clyde basin, extending to the Argyll coast and into the Landscape planning and management should aim to conserve the character and special qualities of these Rugged Moorland Hills. Developments and land use changes which undermine the sense of perceived wildness, naturalness and remoteness should be resisted."

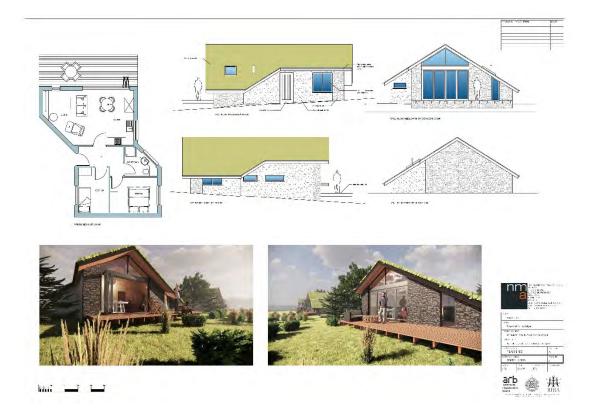
4.9 This visual relationship will be assessed in more detail in course of this report.

#### **Conclusions**

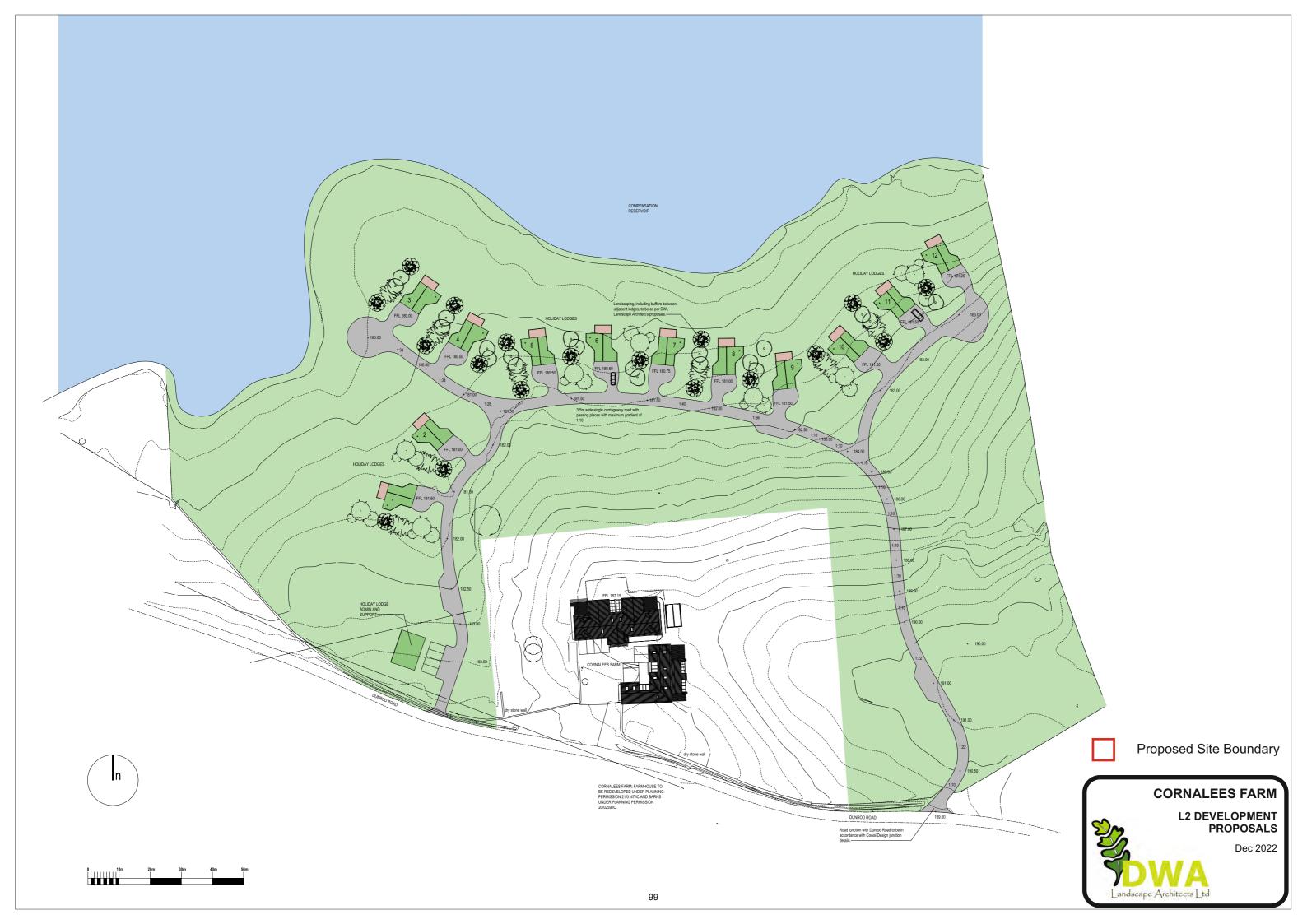
4.10 Providing the proposed development is designed in a manner which is sensitive to the rural location its nature as a recreational opportunity, promoting access to the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, should mean that it does not conflict with the policies of the Local Development Plan. There are also ways in which it should be possible to positively create benefits through the detailed design of the site and landscape.

#### 5. Proposals

- 5.1 The proposed development seeks to construct 12no eco lodge chalet buildings within the land to the north of Cornalees Farm, between it and the edge of the Compensation Reservoir. These would be accessed by a loop road from the existing road to the south of the farm and be set within the existing topography.
- 5.2 The chalets themselves are designed to fit into the landscape with low pitched green roofs and stone and render walling to ensure that they have a natural appearance which reflects the material which exist within the existing landscape. Each chalet would have two parking bays for guests and a decking area.



- 5.3 The overall facility would also be services by a flat roofed support and admin building which would have a similar style of material and green roof.
- 5.4 The proposed layout of the development is shown on the following page.



#### 6. Landscape Impacts

6.1 The current edition of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact emphasises the need to consider landscape impacts and visual impacts separately. It is therefore necessary, in this section, to consider how the proposed development is liable to affect the existing landscape on both a local and wider scale.

#### **Physical Impacts**

6.2 The site was formerly used as grazing as part of the now disused Cornalees Farm. A mast for a now disused wind turbine sits upon the land northeast of the farm on a concrete platform. This is soon to be dismantled and removed. There are no other structures upon the site where the cabins would sit.



- 6.3 The area proposed appears, in part, to be a transitional zone between the grassland and the water edge with vegetation varying and the ground becoming rough and uneven. This will require some localised work to form platforms for the cabins and access.
- 6.4 There is no risk of rising water levels due to the outflow system for the Compensation Reservoir which maintains the water height at a constant.

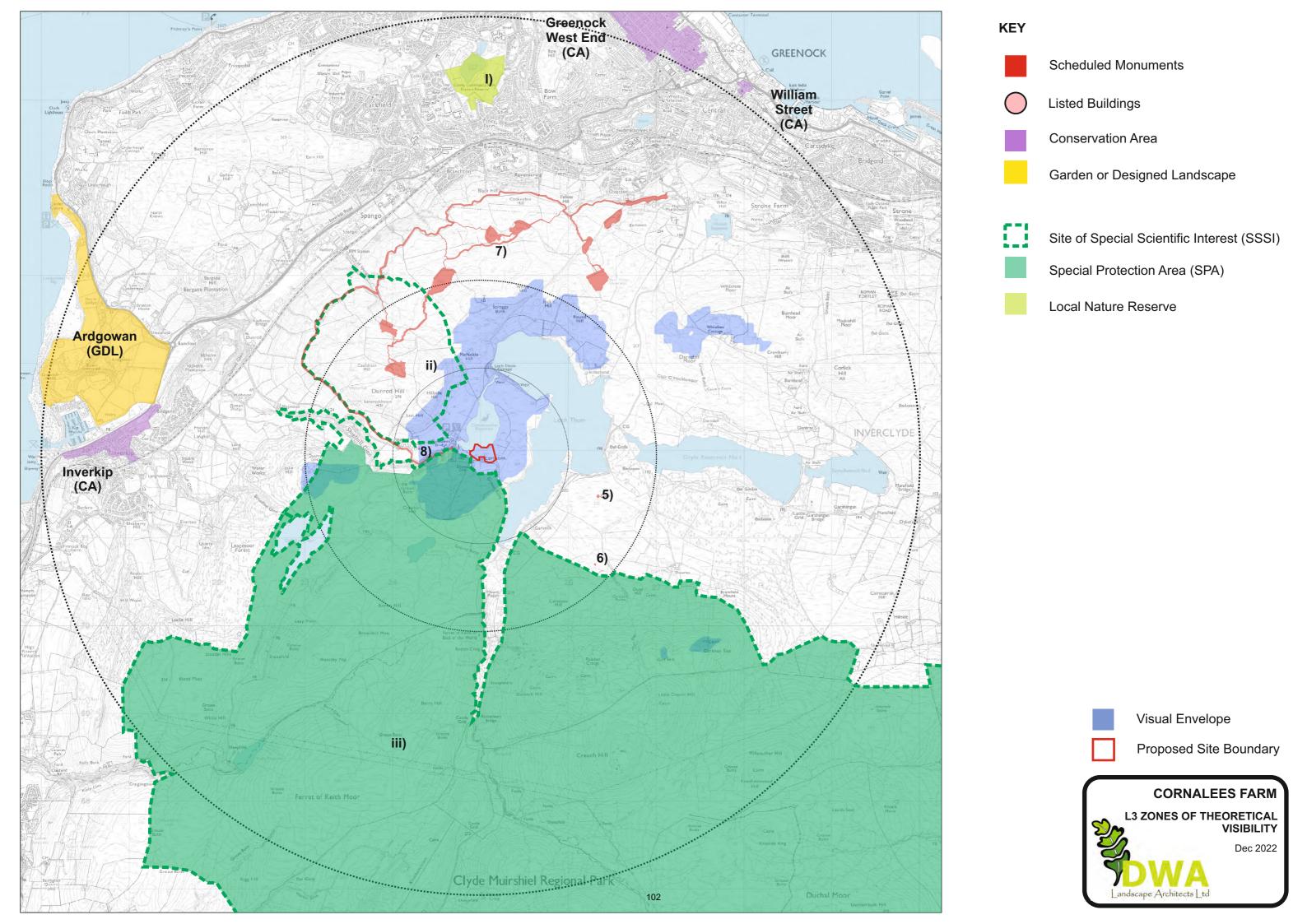
#### **Landscape Character Impacts**

6.5 The landscape character of the wider area is on of remoteness and an unsettled landscape, however the site sites at a point which is potentially out with this wider character. There is a cluster of buildings at the southern and western edge of the Compensation Reservoir as it outflows into the Greenock Cut water system and the water body itself is in fact man made, albeit long established. There is scope to implement some appropriate small-scale development which will be associated with the existing buildings and road infrastructure in this location so long as its visual presence within the wider landscape is limited and that it is sensitively designed to be in keeping with the natural landscape.



#### **Conclusions**

6.6 There do not appear to be any significant impacts upon the landscape which would potentially be caused by the proposed development.



#### 7. Visual Impacts

#### **Zone of Theoretical Visibility**

- 7.1 The following is a study of the visual envelope that the proposed development would be anticipated to create, i.e., the parcel of land from which the turbine would be seen. For the purposes of this study an area of 5km in all directions from the site was therefore used for a detailed visual analysis. This is considered as a more than adequate radius to cover the likely impacts caused by the proposed building within this landscape, and given the contextual factors described in the previous sections. The analysis follows the method set out in "Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Assessment" Third Edition 2013, published by the Landscape Institute.
- 7.2 The visual envelope has been established through ground model analysis software and topographical Land-Form PROFILE data supplied by Ordnance Survey. The 'Zones of Theoretical Visibility' (ZTV) output data show the areas from which the site can be seen based on the topography of the landscape alone. The ground model takes no account of settlements or built structures in the landscape and is a "Bare Earth" representation.
- 7.3 Within the ZTV, there will be areas, which will have a higher degree of visual sensitivity than others. Elements from which the site can be seen from are referred to as visual receptors. These visual receptors have been considered through desktop study and then with on-site analysis.

#### Visual envelope over 5km

7.4 Drawing L3 shows the visual envelope produced by the ZTV computer model for the proposed development. The cauldron formation around the two large water bodies heavily influences the visual envelope, as does the position of the proposed development close to the water line of the lower Compensation Reservoir. This low-lying position relative to the surrounding landscape means that potential views are contained. These extend to the faces of the slopes on the hills facing towards the reservoir on Hillside Hill, McNoble Hill, Scroggy Bank, White Hill, Jocks Hill and Round Hill. There are very few notable visual receptors upon these hills although a system of footpaths provide access to them. To the south the visual envelope extends into the LLA for a short distance but is curtailed by the rise then fall of Crawhin Hill. To the east the views are limited by the topography rising towards Loch Thom which sits on higher ground. Views out with this hill formation will not generally be possible and so generally limited to within 1km to southeast and west and to 2km to the north across the reservoir. Some scattered pockets on high ground are theoretically

- possible in the wider landscape but in reality, the distance and accessibility of the locations will mean that any impacts would be negligible.
- 7.5 The visual envelope is a theoretical representation of potential sight lines which in reality will be fa less when localised variations in the topography and screening elements are considered. An on-site visual appraisal has therefore been undertaken to assess the more detailed visual impacts which may result in the local landscape within the ZTV area.

#### Receptors

7.6 An assessment of the impact upon the main receptors which lie within a 5km radius of the site has been made. Drawing L3 show the Zones of Theoretical Visibility or ZTV diagram which has been prepared using the method described previously. Coloured areas show a theoretical visibility of the turbine and clear areas show that views will not be possible from these locations. In addition to the settlements there are other features such as transport routes, core paths, regional parks and cycle networks which are also considered as receptors, requiring analysis.

#### **Determination of impact levels**

- 7.7 Impacts reduce considerably the further the receptor is from the subject. The sensitivity of the receptor is also considered to ascertain its susceptibility to impact. This is assessed through consideration of the nature of the receptor i.e., the number of people who might see a development and the reason they are there i.e., a passing view or a permanent residence. Permanent residences will have a potentially high sensitivity to visual impact in their primary views (and to a lesser extent in their secondary views) as will tourist attractions or landscapes with designated value. Transport routes, industrial complexes and farms may have less sensitivity and some conservation sites or historic features may have even less.
- 7.8 The impacts of the proposal are then assessed, firstly based on the visual envelope model, and then through site study which will establish a predicted magnitude of change in the views from a receptor, should the development be implemented. This will be determined by assessing the existing view of the site from the receptor and predicting how this will change, taking into account the distance to the turbine, the existing features and screening elements (or lack of), the orientation of primary views and the overall composition of the view in light of the proposal.
- 7.9 The resulting impact takes into consideration the distance to the receptor, the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of change caused by implementing

the proposal. This is subject to the professional opinion of the landscape architect, through basing the assessment on physical data and on-site observation. It is intended that the resultant impact will represent as true a reflection as is possible.

- 7.10 The following receptors have been separated into 5 categories as listed below:
  - o Farms, Dwellings and Small Hamlets
  - Towns and Villages
  - Transport Routes
  - Cultural Heritage
  - Nature Conservation

#### FARMS, DWELLINGS AND SMALL HAMLETS

- 7.11 Small farmsteads or rural households will be sensitive to changes in their permanent views although these may often be mitigated by the presence of agricultural outbuildings and a general anticipation of industrial or agricultural activity across the landscape.
- 7.12 There are very few permanent dwellings of any sort in the immediate vicinity of the site with the site with the farm at Cornalees currently vacant and Loch Thom Cottage also appearing to be disused. To the west lie the Greenock Cut Visitor Centre and fishery which are not residential but well used. These will have views of the development and some visual impact would result. The nature of the proposals as low density eco cabins with green rooves will mean that any impacts are minimal however and in keeping with the recreational nature of the receptor types.

#### **TOWNS AND VILLAGES**

- 7.13 These receptor types refer to larger rural settlements, villages and towns. These groups of receptors are made up of a range of individual receptors of significant levels of sensitivity including many listed buildings. Sensitivity will therefore be high. This is generally mitigated by the increase in density of screening elements within these types of receptors such as tree cover and built structures. Often, they are also associated with water courses and historically are located in sheltered niches in the landscape helping to further limit views in some directions.
- 7.14 As the significant settlement in the study area all lie on the lower coastal zone to the north and west, they are all out with the visual envelope and no impacts would be experienced.

#### TRANSPORT ROUTES

- 7.15 Receptors travelling along main transport routes will experience a constantly changing view of the surrounding countryside. Some views will be brief, and others may change more gradually over distance, but all will generally be briefly experienced, and the degree of impact will alter quickly as progress is made on the route. Orientation relative to direction of travel can also be a factor as views which fall directly in the line of sight will be more noticeable than those lying perpendicular to the direction of travel.
- 7.16 The narrow track road which runs past the south of Cornalees farm will have views of the site although the design and lower position of the lodges will mean that most views would be of the green roof surfaces. Visibility would be possible from around the outflow weir of the reservoir to the west and around 50m after the road turns southwards to the east of the site. Beyond these points the topography of the landscape around the road will screen any views to the site. Views from any other roads in the wider landscape will not be possible.
- 7.17 There are a number of Core Paths which cross the landscape which may have views to the development. The path which comes from the Greenock / Kelly Cut and along the western side of the Compensation Reservoir, past the Loch Thom Dam and through the pass between White Hill and Jock's Hill towards Greenock. This path will have clear views across the reservoir to the site from around the visitor centre and from the rising track towards the summit. There may be some disruption to views around the dam but only briefly. The views will generally be over distance and from above so the lodges would be against the backdrop of the landscape and the green roof surfaces would again help to mitigate any impacts on the views. Additional appropriate native planting could further help to integrate the lodges into the landscape and overall, the low density and style of the lodges would mean that impacts would be medium to low (relative to distance).

#### **CULTURAL HERITAGE**

- 7.18 Cultural heritage receptors can be historical elements within the landscape such as Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings or Designed Gardens and Landscapes or can simply be significant local features which contribute to the character of the study area. Levels of sensitivity will vary greatly depending on the nature of the receptor and may not be related to their classification but rather their function, attraction to visitors and the importance of "setting" to their character.
- 7.19 The only cultural heritage feature which could have potential views of the development would be the section of the Greenock Cut immediately at the southwestern corner of the reservoir. This feature falls away rapidly from the

weir into a tree lined gulley so views would very quickly be screened and would be partially screened by the presence of the boat house adjacent. A series of footpaths emerge from this location, but the topography quickly screens views with the site on lower ground across the road. Amy impacts would be very low.

#### NATURE CONSERVATION

- 7.20 Nature Conservation Sites are usually designated for their ecological or geological features or for their aesthetic value. Generally the former types of sites have a low sensitivity to visual impact but often have the potential to draw visitors to them and so should be considered. The latter types of sites such as Local Landscape Areas have a potentially higher sensitivity to visual impact as they have been designated in order to preserve their visual qualities.
- 7.21 Some views are predicted in the edges of the Dunrod Hill and Renfrewshire Heights SSSIs, but the majority would be unaffected, and these are low sensitivity designations in terms of visual impacts.
- 7.22 An area of the West Renfrewshire Hills on the north facing slope of Crawhin Hill could potentially be affected but this is an area of sheep grazing so unlikely to be of great sensitivity. In the wider designation key views tend to be to the north and west out across the Clyde Estuary towards the islands and Argyle which would not be affected, with Crawhin Hill forming a screen to any views across the wider LLA. Any impacts upon this designated landscape would therefore be very low and any impact on the wider character or key defining features of the Local Landscape Area would be negligible.

#### Conclusions

#### Impact from 0 to 1km

7.23 The nature of the landscape around the site means that there are very few significant visual receptors which could be impacted. In addition to this the cauldron like formation of the topography around the Compensation Reservoir and the difference in height between it and Loch Thom helps to constrain any potential views over distance. There will be some visibility from the Visitor Centre and fishery and from a short section of the road immediately south of the reservoir. Beyond these locations views will quickly be screened by the topography and low-lying position of the proposed lodges. This along with the design of the lodges in a low-density formation with natural materials and green rooves will help to mitigate any impacts. This mitigation could be further enhanced through nature planting in the landscape to help the lodges blend into the landscape.

#### Impact from 1 to 2km

7.24 To the north views extend further due to the open water which lies in this direction however these are curtailed by the series of hills which sit at the end of the water bodies separating them from the coastal area and settlements beyond. These hills have few features but are crossed by a system of footpaths. Views will be possible from the Core Path on the west of the reservoir which rises along the side of White Hill before passing a gap and falling towards Greenock. There will be clear views of the development from the path but from an elevated position which will see the lodges against the backdrop of the landscape and for the most part over distance. The green roof surfaces will help to mitigate impacts of the lodges and gain native planting would help to further reduce any impacts. Overall, the nature of the low density development amid the wide panoramic views from the path would mean that impacts upon the path would be low.

#### Impact from 2 to 5km

7.25 There will be no visibility of visual impact in the landscape at this range.

### 8. Photographic study

8.1 The following photograph study has been included to illustrate the assessment set out in the previous sections and were taken at the time of the onsite appraisal on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022.











DWA Landscape Architects Ltd

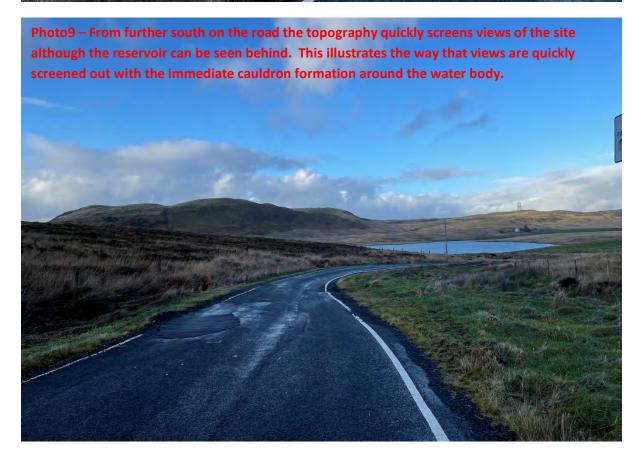




DWA Landscape Architects Ltd

24

Photo 8 - The view looking north from the road to the south, from the eastern side of the site. From this area the views of the farm and reservoir behind open up with the lodges located on the lower ground between the farm and water.



DWA Landscape Architects Ltd

# 9. Conclusions

#### **Contextual Conclusions**

9.1 The remote nature of the site on the plateau landscape combined with the cauldron topography of the immediate area around the water bodies mean that there are relatively few built features within the landscape – with some notable exception. The nearby Greenock Cut Visitor Centre and path system provide a well-used recreational facility and is likely one of the motivating factors for the type of development proposed. There are some large-scale natural heritage designations within the study area but other than the broad designation of the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park these do not apply directly to the site. Impacts upon these in the wider landscape features will be considered in the course of the assessment.

# **Landscape Character Conclusions**

9.2 The landscape type has significance both inwardly and in the wider context with views towards them from the Clyde Valley Basin and Glasgow Conurbation. They are notable for their remote nature despite proximity to heavily settled areas. Visual impacts in this large-scale landscape may therefore be significant when over a wide area or when seen from out with the area. It is important to retain the sense of naturalness within the landscape but subtle development in appropriate location should be able to be accommodated within the large-scale setting without unduly impacting the overall character.

# **Planning Policy Conclusions**

9.3 Provided the proposed development is designed in a manner which is sensitive to the rural location its nature as a recreational opportunity, promoting access to the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, should mean that it does not conflict with the Policies of the Local Development Plan. There are also ways in which it should be possible to positively create benefits through the detailed design of the site and landscape.

# **Landscape Impact Conclusions**

9.4 There do not appear to be any significant impacts upon the landscape which would potentially be caused by the proposed development.

# **Visual Impact Conclusions**

# Impact from 0 to 1km

9.5 The nature of the landscape around the site means that there are very few significant visual receptors which could be impacted. In addition to this the cauldron like formation of the topography around the Compensation Reservoir and the difference in height between it and Loch Thom helps to constrain any potential views over distance. There will be some visibility from the Visitor Centre and fishery and from a short section of the road immediately south of the reservoir. Beyond these locations views will quickly be screened by the topography and low-lying position of the proposed lodges. This along with the design of the lodges in a low-density formation with natural materials and green rooves will help to mitigate any impacts. This mitigation could be further enhanced through nature planting in the landscape to help the lodges blend into the landscape.

# Impact from 1 to 2km

9.6 To the north views extend further due to the open water which lies in this direction however these are curtailed by the series of hills which sit at the end of the water bodies separating them from the coastal area and settlements beyond. These hills have few features but are crossed by a system of footpaths. Views will be possible from the Core Path on the west of the reservoir which rises along the side of White Hill before passing a gap and falling towards Greenock. There will be clear views of the development from the path but from an elevated position which will see the lodges against the backdrop of the landscape and for the most part over distance. The green roof surfaces will help to mitigate impacts of the lodges and gain native planting would help to further reduce any impacts. Overall, the nature of the low density development amid the wide panoramic views from the path would mean that impacts upon the path would be low.

# Impact from 2 to 5km

9.7 There will be no visibility of visual impact in the landscape at this range.

#### Recommendations

- 9.8 The green roof systems should be planted with similar species to those in the surrounding landscape and, where possible, using turves lifted from the site during construction to ensure local provenance.
- 9.9 Spaces between lodges and along road should be planted with appropriate native species to help integrate the development into the landscape.





# 7. Appendix C

# **Assessment Compliance Certificate**

I certify that all reasonable skill, care and attention to be expected of a qualified and experienced professional in this field has been exercised in carrying out the attached Flood Risk Assessment / Drainage Impact Assessment\* (delete if applicable). The report/s have been prepared for the below named development in accordance with the reporting requirements issued by Inverclyde Council.

Name of Development	Holiday Lodges Cornalees Farm		
Address of Development	Cornalees Farm, Inverkip		
	Cornalees		
	PA16 9LK		
Name of Developer	Caskie Demolition & Enable Services		
Planning Application No.	22/0259/IC		
Name and Address of Organisation preparing this Assessment	Cowal Design Pure Offices, 1 Ainslie Road, Hillington Glasgow		
	G52 4RU		
Signed			
Name	Neil Ferguson		
Position Held	Director		
Engineering Qualification of			
person responsible for preparing this Assessment	BEng (hons) MICE	(1)	
Date	08 November 2023	_	

Note: 1 – C.Eng from an appropriate Chartered Engineering Institution.

# 8. Appendix D

# **Independent Check Certificate**

I certify that all reasonable skill, care and attention to be expected of a qualified and experienced professional in this field has been exercised in checking the attached Flood Risk Assessment / Drainage Impact Assessment\* (delete if applicable) for the below named development.

Name of Development	Holiday Lodges, Cornalees Farm	
Address of Development	Cornalees Farm, Inverkip	
	Cornalees	
	PA16 9LK	
Name of Developer	Caskie Demolition & Enable Services	
Name and Address of Organisation providing check	Ardmore Point	(1)
	1 Ainslie Road, Glasgow, G52 4RU	
Signed		
Name	Stuart Mitchell	
Position Held	Managing Director	
Engineering Qualification of person responsible for checking this Assessment	CEng (Chartered Civil Engineer)	(2)
Date	15 November 2023	(2)
Daio		

Note: 1 - Organisation to be totally independent of original designer/design organisation. 2 - C.Eng from an appropriate Chartered Engineering Institution.



# **VERIFICATION OF INSURANCE**

Hammond Professional Indemnity Consultants Limited

Somerset House 37 Temple Street Birmingham B2 5DP

Registered in England No. 4799667

AUTHORISED AND REGULATED BY THE FINANCIAL CONDUCT AUTHORITY

V E R I F Cover is confirmed subject to the terms and conditions issued prior to inception of cover. This document is furnished to you as a matter of information only. The issuance of this document does not make the person or organisation to whom it is issued an additional insured, nor does it modify in any manner the contract of insurance between the insured and the underwriters. Any change or extension to such contract can only be affected by specific endorsement attached thereto.

Policy Holder:

Cowal Design Consultants Limited

Insurer:

AVIVA INSURANCE LIMITED

**Policy Reference:** 

22\*97OSP3068595

**Public Liability:** 

£5,000,000 any one occurrence

**Employers Liability:** 

£10,000,000 any one occurrence

**Cover Period:** 

04/12/2022 to 03/12/2023 (inclusive)

The policy is subject to the insuring agreements, exceptions, exclusions, limitations, conditions and declarations contained therein. The above is accurate at the date of signature. Should the aforementioned contract of insurance be cancelled, avoided, assigned or changed during the above policy in such manner as to affect this document, no obligation to inform the holder of the document is accepted by the undersigned or by the insurers.

Signed By:

Company Director

Date: Wednesday, 09 November 2022

On behalf of: Hammond Professional Indemnity Consultants Ltd Please visit us on <a href="https://www.hammondpi.com">www.hammondpi.com</a>

N

Our Ref: KC2479 Your Ref:



3rd April 2024

Cowal Design

Sent by Email to: Graeme Porch < Graeme.Porch@cowaldesign.co.uk>

Dear Sir,

22/0259/IC Cornalees Farm, Dunrod Road, Inverkip, PA16 9LX Response to SEPA Consultations Response (Ref PCS-PERMS2-11471)

SEPA has provided a consultation response (SEPA Ref PCS-PERMS2-11471) for planning application 22/0259/IC for a proposed holiday development near Inverkip.

This letter provides technical responses related to the points raised in the SEPA consultation.

The responses below refer to the paragraphs within the SEPA consultation letter.

#### Point 1.1

General statement, no technical response required.

#### Point 1.2 to 1.4

The catchments upstream of the site are very small, with the three catchments impacting the site at 0.11km², 0.07km² and 0.032km². In the national catchment database (FEH Webservice) the smallest catchments considered are 0.5km², so the larger of the two catchments is <15% of the minimum size. As a result, it is felt that the use of the two simplified methods in the FRA are appropriate.

To use the ReFH2 method catchment descriptors would need to be generated manually. Descriptors were obtained for a small catchment to the east of the site (nearest small, similar catchment). Then key descriptors for ReFH2 and which need to be adjusted for a different catchment are changed, as shown in Table 1. Based on these descriptors and the ReFH2 small plot method, we obtain a flow of 1.6m³/s for the combined 0.35km² catchment for the three drains flowing towards the site. This compares with values of 1.67m³/s from IH124 in the report and 2.72m³/s for the Q<sub>med</sub> and FSR approach, which was used in the modelling assessment. This indicates that the methods used in the report are sufficiently conservative.

We have not applied the FEH Statistical approach as this would not be appropriate for catchments of this size. The statistical approach requires extrapolation from gauged sites within the national data set and

given the limited number of gauged, small catchments (<25km²) in the dataset the use of statistical approaches for catchments <10-25km² is not normally appropriate.

In the end, given the proposed development and the level of the risk, the flood risk from this small watercourse, will be able to be managed within the site as outlined in the FRA.

Table 1: Catchment Descriptors

Parameter	WINFAP Catchment	Adjusted Site Catchment
EASTING (m)	226350	
NORTHING (m)	670850	
AREA (km²)	1.75	0.212
ALTBAR (°)	338	
ASPBAR	6	
ASPVAR	0.76	
BFIHOST	0.318	
BFIHOST19	0.272	
DPLBAR (m)	1.38	0.35
DPSBAR (m/km)	104.5	88
FARL	1	
FPEXT	0.0445	0
FPDBAR	0.532	
FPLOC	0.939	
LDP	2.75	
PROPWET	0.61	
SAAR (mm)	2070	
SAAR4170 (mm)	1858	
SPRHOST	51.7	
URBCONC2000	-	-
URBEXT2000	0	0
URBLOC2000	-	-

#### Point 1.5

There is a spot level survey of the site and comparison between LiDAR and site survey is shown in Figure 1. Overall, the LiDAR appears slightly (50-60mm) above the topographical survey. However, given the nature of the modelling (and conservative nature of the reservoir level predictions), these differences are within the uncertainty of the assessment.

It is thought unlikely that the storm event that produces the peak 200-year event for the small catchment to the south of the site would be the same as the event that produces the 200-year event in the reservoir. In any case the buildings within the site have been located above the 180.6m AOD contour, i.e., above the conservative 200-year + cc level for the reservoir, see Drawing 22-4099-C-020-Proposed External Levels Layout.pdf.

It turned out that the final model run presented in the report was actually based on a 1m grid and 0.5s timestep (see Figure 2 for snapshot). An earlier run used a coarser grid and reference to this was retained in the final report. In the end there was little difference in flood flow pathways for the difference grid sizes, as the main flow pathways picked out in the flood report are well defined in the topography.

We would be happy to discuss any of these points further.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Michael Stewart Kaya Consulting Limited

Figure 1: Comparison of LiDAR and topographical survey

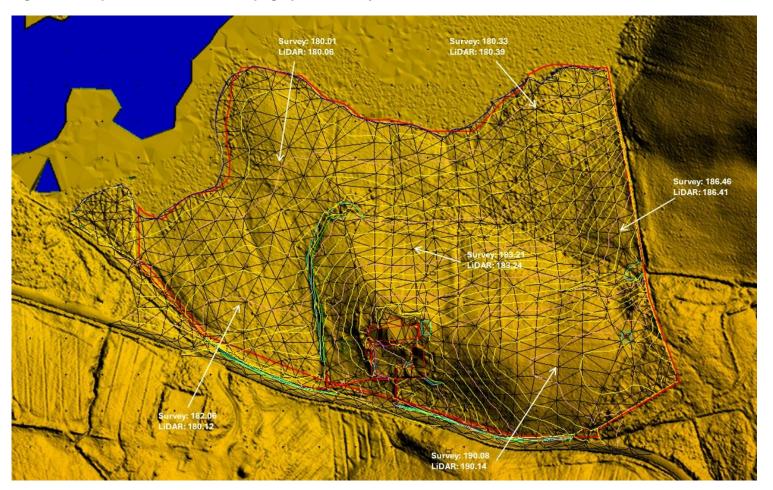
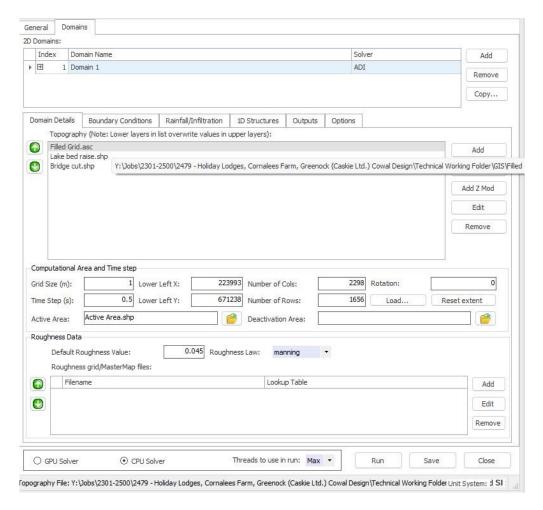


Figure 2: Model run files, showing 1m grid size



3.	<b>APPOINTED</b>	OFFICER'S	REPORT	OF	<b>HANDLING</b>
	DATED 26 APRIL 2024				



#### REPORT OF HANDLING

Report By: Maria Porch Report No: 22/0259/IC

Local Application Development

Contact 01475 712416 Date: 26th April 2024

Officer:

Subject: Proposed holiday lodges, support and administration building and access road at

Cornalees Farm, Dunrod Road, Inverkip.

#### SITE DESCRIPTION

The application site comprises an area of land to the north of Dunrod Road around Cornalees Farm, Inverkip, which slopes gradually downward, towards the Compensation Reservoir associated with Loch Thom, which lies to the east. To the south is a single storey sandstone building, which is in a state of disrepair, with the roof no longer present. Behind this structure, closest to the development site, lies a rendered single storey farmhouse building, with slate roof. A wind turbine also sits to the east of these buildings and is included within the red line application site boundary.

The entire application site lies within the Green Belt adjacent to the northern boundary of the Renfrewshire Heights SSSI/SPA and the West Renfrew Hills Local Landscape Area, with the Greenock Cut Scheduled Monument to the west. The proposed development is located 6 miles by road from Greenock town centre and 2.7 miles by road from the A78 linking Greenock to Inverkip.

#### **PROPOSAL**

Planning permission is sought for the siting of twelve holiday lodges, nine of which would arch around the existing farm buildings, from the west, along the rear boundary, with a minimum separation distance of 50 metres from the existing buildings to the closest lodge structure. A further three lodges would be located to the north-eastern part of the site. All lodges are to have a footprint of approximately 76sqm (length 10.5m and width 7.2m) and a maximum height of 3.8m. The external finishes indicated are stone and timber cladding on external walls with slopping grass roofs. Internally the lodges would comprise of two bedrooms, a kitchen/lounge and dining space, shower room and hall, with external deck.

In addition to the lodges, an office building is to be to the west of the existing building and north of the site entrance to the proposed development. This is for administration services and support to users of the lodges and would incorporate an office, lobby, store, washroom and WC. The building would have a footprint of approximately 75sqm (length 10.3m and width 7.3m) and a maximum height of 3.5m. The external finishes indicated are stone and timber cladding on external walls with slopping grass roofs.

To serve the development, there is to be an access road which would loop around the rear of the existing farm buildings, creating an access and egress at two points on Dunrod Road. This would utilise the existing site access as well as forming another access to the east.

The application has been accompanied with: a Design and Access Statement; a Landscape Assessment; a Business Plan Summary and Financial Projections; and a Flood Risk Assessment.

#### **DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES**

#### **NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK 4**

NPF4 was adopted by the Scottish Ministers on 13th February 2023. NPF4 forms part of the statutory development plan, along with the Inverclyde Local Development Plan and its supplementary guidance. NPF4 supersedes National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3) and Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (2014). NPF3 and SPP no longer represent Scottish Ministers' planning policy. The Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan and associated supplementary guidance cease to have effect from 13th February 2023 and as such no longer form part of the development plan.

NPF4 contains 33 policies and the following are considered relevant to this application.

# Policy 1

When considering all development proposals significant weight will be given to the global climate and nature crises.

#### Policy 2

- a) Development proposals will be sited and designed to minimise lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions as far as possible.
- b) Development proposals will be sited and designed to adapt to current and future risks from climate change.
- c) Development proposals to retrofit measures to existing developments that reduce emissions or support adaptation to climate change will be supported.

#### Policy 3

- a) Development proposals will contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity, including where relevant, restoring degraded habitats and building and strengthening nature networks and the connections between them. Proposals should also integrate nature-based solutions, where possible.
- c) Proposals for local development will include appropriate measures to conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, in accordance with national and local guidance. Measures should be proportionate to the nature and scale of development. Applications for individual householder development, or which fall within scope of (b) above, are excluded from this requirement.
- d) Any potential adverse impacts, including cumulative impacts, of development proposals on biodiversity, nature networks and the natural environment will be minimised through careful planning and design. This will take into account the need to reverse biodiversity loss, safeguard the ecosystem services that the natural environment provides, and build resilience by enhancing nature networks and maximising the potential for restoration.

#### Policy 4

- a) Development proposals which by virtue of type, location or scale will have an unacceptable impact on the natural environment, will not be supported.
- f) Development proposals that are likely to have an adverse effect on species protected by legislation will only be supported where the proposal meets the relevant statutory tests. If there is reasonable evidence to suggest that a protected species is present on a site or may be affected by a proposed development, steps must be taken to establish its presence. The level of

protection required by legislation must be factored into the planning and design of development, and potential impacts must be fully considered prior to the determination of any application.

### Policy 8

- a) Development proposals within a green belt designated within the LDP will only be supported if:
- i) they are for:

outdoor recreation, play and sport or leisure and tourism uses; and developments that provide opportunities for access to the open countryside (including routes for active travel and core paths);

and

ii) the following requirements are met:

reasons are provided as to why a green belt location is essential and why it cannot be located on an alternative site outwith the green belt;

the purpose of the green belt at that location is not undermined;

the proposal is compatible with the surrounding established countryside and landscape character:

the proposal has been designed to ensure it is of an appropriate scale, massing and external appearance, and uses materials that minimise visual impact on the green belt as far as possible; and

there will be no significant long-term impacts on the environmental quality of the green belt.

#### Policy 9

b) Proposals on greenfield sites will not be supported unless the site has been allocated for development or the proposal is explicitly supported by policies in the LDP.

#### Policy 14

- a) Development proposals will be designed to improve the quality of an area whether in urban or rural locations and regardless of scale.
- b) Development proposals will be supported where they are consistent with the six qualities of successful places:

Healthy: Supporting the prioritisation of women's safety and improving physical and mental health. Pleasant: Supporting attractive natural and built spaces.

Connected: Supporting well connected networks that make moving around easy and reduce car dependency.

Distinctive: Supporting attention to detail of local architectural styles and natural landscapes to be interpreted, literally or creatively, into designs to reinforce identity.

Sustainable: Supporting the efficient use of resources that will allow people to live, play, work and stay in their area, ensuring climate resilience, and integrating nature positive, biodiversity solutions.

Adaptable: Supporting commitment to investing in the long-term value of buildings, streets and spaces by allowing for flexibility so that they can be changed quickly to accommodate different uses as well as maintained over time.

Further details on delivering the six qualities of successful places are set out in Annex D.

c) Development proposals that are poorly designed, detrimental to the amenity of the surrounding area or inconsistent with the six qualities of successful places, will not be supported.

# Policy 15

Development proposals will contribute to local living including, where relevant, 20 minute neighbourhoods. To establish this, consideration will be given to existing settlement pattern, and the level and quality of interconnectivity of the proposed development with the surrounding area, including local access to:

- sustainable modes of transport including local public transport and safe, high quality walking, wheeling and cycling networks;
- employment;
- shopping;
- · health and social care facilities;
- childcare, schools and lifelong learning opportunities;
- playgrounds and informal play opportunities, parks, green streets and spaces, community gardens, opportunities for food growth and allotments, sport and recreation facilities;
- publicly accessible toilets;
- affordable and accessible housing options, ability to age in place and housing diversity.

# Policy 22

- a) Development proposals at risk of flooding or in a flood risk area will only be supported if they are for:
- i. essential infrastructure where the location is required for operational reasons;
- ii. water compatible uses;
- iii. redevelopment of an existing building or site for an equal or less vulnerable use; or.
- iv. redevelopment of previously used sites in built up areas where the LDP has identified a need to bring these into positive use and where proposals demonstrate that long-term safety and resilience can be secured in accordance with relevant SEPA advice.

The protection offered by an existing formal flood protection scheme or one under construction can be taken into account when determining flood risk.

In such cases, it will be demonstrated by the applicant that:

all risks of flooding are understood and addressed;

there is no reduction in floodplain capacity, increased risk for others, or a need for future flood protection schemes:

the development remains safe and operational during floods;

flood resistant and resilient materials and construction methods are used; and future adaptations can be made to accommodate the effects of climate change.

#### Policy 30

- a) Development proposals for new or extended tourist facilities or accommodation, including caravan and camping sites, in locations identified in the LDP, will be supported.
- b) Proposals for tourism related development will take into account:
- i. The contribution made to the local economy;
- ii. Compatibility with the surrounding area in terms of the nature and scale of the activity and impacts of increased visitors;

- iii. Impacts on communities, for example by hindering the provision of homes and services for local people;
- iv. Opportunities for sustainable travel and appropriate management of parking and traffic generation and scope for sustaining public transport services particularly in rural areas;
- v. Accessibility for disabled people;
- vi. Measures taken to minimise carbon emissions;
- vii. Opportunities to provide access to the natural environment.

#### **ADOPTED 2019 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES**

#### Policy 1 - Creating Successful Places

Inverciyde Council requires all development to have regard to the six qualities of successful places. In preparing development proposals, consideration must be given to the factors set out in Figure 3. Where relevant, applications will also be assessed against the Planning Application Advice Notes Supplementary Guidance.

# Policy 6 - Low and Zero Carbon Generating Technology

Support will be given to all new buildings designed to ensure that at least 15% of the carbon dioxide emissions reduction standard set by Scottish Building Standards is met through the installation and operation of low and zero carbon generating technologies. This percentage will increase to at least 20% by the end of 2022.

Other solutions will be considered where:

- (a) it can be demonstrated that there are significant technical constraints to using on-site low and zero-carbon generating technologies; and
- (b) there is likely to be an adverse impact on the historic environment

\*This requirement will not apply to those exceptions set out in Standard 6.1 of the 2017 Domestic and Non-Domestic Technical Handbooks associated with the Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004, or to equivalent exceptions set out in later versions of the handbook.

#### Policy 8 - Managing Flood Risk

Development proposals will be assessed against the Flood Risk Framework set out in Scottish Planning Policy. Proposals must demonstrate that they will not:

- a) be at significant risk of flooding (i.e. within the 1 in 200 year design envelope);
- b) increase the level of flood risk elsewhere; and
- c) reduce the water conveyance and storage capacity of a functional flood plain.

The Council will support, in principle, the flood protection schemes set out in the Clyde and Loch Lomond Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2016, subject to assessment of the impacts on the amenity and operations of existing and adjacent uses, the green network, historic buildings and places, and the transport network

# Policy 9 - Surface and Waste Water Drainage

New build development proposals which require surface water to be drained should demonstrate that this will be achieved during construction and once completed through a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS), unless the proposal is for a single dwelling or the discharge is directly to coastal waters.

The provision of SuDS should be compliant with the principles set out in the SuDS Manual C753 and Sewers for Scotland 3rd edition, or any successor documents.

Where waste water drainage is required, it must be demonstrated that the development can connect to the existing public sewerage system. Where a public connection is not feasible at present, a temporary waste water drainage system can be supported if:

- i) a public connection will be available in future, either through committed sewerage infrastructure or pro-rata developer contributions; and
- the design of, and maintenance arrangements for, the temporary system meet the requirements of SEPA, Scottish Water and Inverclyde Council, as appropriate.

Private sustainable sewerage systems within the countryside can be supported if it is demonstrated that they pose no amenity, health or environmental risks, either individually or cumulatively.

Developments including SuDS are required to have an acceptable maintenance plan in place.

# Policy 10 - Promoting Sustainable and Active Travel

Development proposals, proportionate to their scale and proposed use, are required to:

- a provide safe and convenient opportunities for walking and cycling access within the site and, where practicable, include links to the wider walking and cycling network; and
- b include electric vehicle charging infrastructure, having regard to the Energy Supplementary Guidance.

Proposals for development, which the Council considers will generate significant travel demand, are required to be accompanied by a travel plan demonstrating how travel to and from the site by means other than private car will be achieved and encouraged. Such development should also demonstrate that it can be accessed by public transport.

The Council will support the implementation of transport and active travel schemes as set out in Council-approved strategies, subject to adequate mitigation of the impact of the scheme on: development opportunities; the amenity and operations of existing and adjacent uses; the green network; and historic buildings and places.

#### Policy 11 - Managing Impact of Development on the Transport Network

Development proposals should not have an adverse impact on the efficient operation of the transport and active travel network. Development should comply with the Council's roads development guidelines and parking standards. Developers are required to provide or contribute to improvements to the transport network that are necessary as a result of the proposed development.

#### Policy 14 - Green Belt and Countryside

Development in the Green Belt and Countryside will only be permitted if it is appropriately designed, located, and landscaped, and is associated with:-

b) a tourism or recreational use that requires a countryside location.

Proposals associated with the uses set out in criteria a)-c) must provide justification as to why the development is required at the proposed location.

# Policy 27 - Tourism Development

Proposals for change of use of tourism related facilities will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that they are no longer viable as a business in their current use. Development of tourism related facilities will be supported in appropriate locations where:

- a) it avoids adverse impact on the amenity and operation of existing and adjacent uses;
- b) major trip-generating proposals can be travelled to by sustainable modes of transport; and
- c) it is appropriately sited and designed for its location and avoids significant adverse impact on the green network and historic buildings and places.

### Policy 31 – Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Sites

Development that would potentially have an adverse effect on a Scheduled Monument or the integrity of its setting will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

#### Policy 33 - Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Protected Species - When proposing any development which may affect a protected species, the applicant should fulfil the following requirements: to establish whether a protected species is present; to identify how the protected species may be affected by the development; to ensure that the development is planned and designed so as to avoid or minimise any such impact, while having regard to the degree of protection which is afforded by legislation, including any separate licensing requirements; and to demonstrate that it is likely that any necessary licence would be granted.

# Policy 37 – Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

Proposals for development within Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park will be considered with regard to the Park Objectives and Strategy and to the Park's statutory purpose of providing recreational access to the countryside.

#### PROPOSED 2021 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES

### Policy 1 – Creating Successful Places

Inverclyde Council requires all development to have regard to the six qualities of successful places. In preparing and assessing development proposals, consideration must be given to the factors set out in Figure 2 and demonstrated in a design-led approach. Where relevant, applications will also be assessed against the Planning Application Advice Notes and Design Guidance for New Residential Development Supplementary Guidance. When assessing proposals for the development opportunities identified by this Plan, regard will also be had to the mitigation and enhancement measures set out in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report.

# Policy 6 - Low and Zero Carbon Generating Technology

Support will be given to all new buildings designed to ensure that at least 20% of the carbon dioxide emissions reduction standard set by Scottish Building Standards is met through the installation and operation of low and zero carbon generating technologies. This percentage will increase to at least 25% by the end of 2025.

Other solutions will be considered where:

- (a) it can be demonstrated that there are significant technical constraints to using on-site low and zero-carbon generating technologies; and
- (b) there is likely to be an adverse impact on the historic or natural environment.

\*This requirement will not apply to those exceptions set out in Standard 6.1 of the 2017 Domestic and Non-Domestic Technical Handbooks associated with the Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004, or to equivalent exceptions set out in later versions of the handbook.

# Policy 9 – Managing Flood Risk

Development proposals will be assessed against the Flood Risk Framework set out in Scottish Planning Policy. Proposals must demonstrate that they will not:

- a) be at significant risk of flooding (i.e. within the 1 in 200 year design envelope);
- b) increase the level of flood risk elsewhere; and
- c) reduce the water conveyance and storage capacity of a functional flood plain.

The Council will support, in principle, the flood protection schemes set out in the Clyde and Loch Lomond Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2016, subject to assessment of the impacts on the amenity and operations of existing and adjacent uses, the green network, historic buildings and places, and the transport network

### Policy 10 - Surface and Waste Water Drainage

New build development proposals which require surface water to be drained should demonstrate that this will be achieved during construction and once completed through a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS), unless the proposal is for a single dwelling or the discharge is directly to coastal waters.

The provision of SuDS should be compliant with the principles set out in the SuDS Manual C753 and Sewers for Scotland 4th edition, or any successor documents.

Where waste water drainage is required, it must be demonstrated that the development can connect to the existing public sewerage system. Where a public connection is not feasible at present, a temporary waste water drainage system can be supported if:

- i) a public connection will be available in future, either through committed sewerage infrastructure or pro-rata developer contributions; and
- the design of, and maintenance arrangements for, the temporary system meet the requirements of SEPA, Scottish Water and Inverclyde Council, as appropriate.

Private sustainable sewerage systems within the countryside can be supported if it is demonstrated that they pose no amenity, health or environmental risks, either individually or cumulatively.

Developments including SuDS are required to have an acceptable maintenance plan in place, which identifies who will be responsible for maintenance and how this will be funded in the long term

# Policy 11 - Promoting Sustainable and Active Travel

Development proposals, proportionate to their scale and proposed use, are required to:

provide safe and convenient opportunities for walking and cycling access within the site and, where practicable, including links to the wider walking, cycling network and public transport network; and

include electric vehicle charging infrastructure, having regard to the Energy Supplementary Guidance.

Proposals for development, which the Council considers will generate significant travel demand, are required to be accompanied by a travel plan demonstrating how travel to and from the site by means other than private car will be achieved and encouraged. Such development should also demonstrate that it can be accessed by public transport.

The Council will support the implementation of transport and active travel schemes as set out in national, regional and Council-approved strategies, subject to adequate mitigation of the impact of the scheme on: development opportunities; the amenity and operations of existing and adjacent uses; and the resources protected by the Plan's historic buildings and places and natural and open spaces chapters

# Policy 12 - Managing Impact of Development on the Transport Network

Development proposals should not have an adverse impact on the efficient operation of the transport and active travel network.

Development should comply with the Council's roads development guidelines and parking standards, including cycle parking standards.

Developers are required to provide or financially contribute to improvements to the transport network that are necessary as a result of the proposed development.

### Policy 15 - Green Belt and Countryside

Development in the Green Belt and Countryside will only be permitted if it is appropriately designed, located, and landscaped, and is associated with:-

b) a tourism or recreational use that requires a countryside location.

Proposals associated with the uses set out in criteria a)-c) must provide justification as to why the development is required at the proposed location.

## Policy 27 – Tourism Development

Proposals for change of use of tourism related facilities will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that they are no longer viable as a business in their current use. Development of tourism related facilities will be supported in appropriate locations where:

- a) it avoids adverse impact on the amenity and operation of existing and adjacent uses;
- b) major trip-generating proposals can be travelled to by sustainable modes of transport; and
- c) it is appropriately sited and designed for its location and avoids significant adverse impact on the green network and historic buildings and places.

#### Policy 31 – Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Sites

Development that would potentially have an adverse effect on a Scheduled Monument or the integrity of its setting will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

#### Policy 33 - Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Protected Species - When proposing any development which may affect a protected species, the applicant should fulfil the following requirements: to establish whether a protected species is present; to identify how the protected species may be affected by the development; to ensure that the development is planned and designed so as to avoid or minimise any such impact, while having regard to the degree of protection which is afforded by legislation, including any separate licensing requirements; and to demonstrate that it is likely that any necessary licence would be granted.

#### Policy 38 - Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

Proposals for development within Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park will be considered with regard to the Park Objectives and Strategy and to the Park's statutory purpose of providing recreational access to the countryside.

#### **CONSULTATIONS**

**Public Protection Manager –** advises no comments in relation to: Food & Health and Air Quality. Recommends conditions relating to: Japanese Knotweed; Remediation and Verification relating to pollutants; ground conditions; containers to be used to store waste materials and recyclable materials produced on the premises as well as specific details of the areas where such containers are to be located; and lighting restrictions.

### Head of Service - Roads and Transportation - advises the following:-

The National Roads Development Guide does not contain a parking standard for lodges. The closest development type is Hotel or B&B which require 1 space per 2.5 beds.

Based on the parking standard above the 2 bedroom lodges should have a minimum 1 car space and the 3 bedroom lodges a minimum of 2 parking spaces.

The parking spaces shall be a minimum of 3.0m by 6.0m.

Accesses shall have a maximum gradient of 10%.

The accesses from Dunrod Road shall be a minimum 5.5m wide for a distance of 10m from the edge of road. The current proposals do not meet this requirement.

The applicant should also show vehicle tracking showing that a bin lorry can enter the site the same time as a car exiting, without conflict or delay to the public road.

The single track road within the site should be a minimum of 3.5 wide with intervisible passing places no more than 200m apart. The applicant should demonstrate that this can be achieved in perpetuity. The combined width of single-track road plus passing bay shall be 5.5 metres over a length of 15m to allow the safe passage of bin vehicles. Tapers 5m long shall be provided at each end.

The turning heads at the end of each access near lodge plots 3 and 12 should be to National Guidelines requirements. The applicant should demonstrate that this can be achieved and that a bin lorry can turn within them.

Pedestrian routes should be provided between the lodges and the site's reception building.

The applicant shall demonstrate that a visibility splay of 2.4m x 160.0m x 1.05m can be achieved at each access.

In accordance with 'Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment: Planning Guidance for Developers' the reporting of any modelling study is compulsory and should address important issues to an appropriate level of detail. Drainage design is a complex process so it is important that all drainage matters are considered at an early stage in the design process. It is therefore required that a DIA is submitted with the first planning application, whether planning application or application in principle, for any development which requires waste or surface water. The FRA states "The site is located in a typically wet moorland area and groundwater levels will be linked to the levels in the adjacent reservoirs." Have the proposed soakaways been subject to the appropriate on-site tests such as percolation tests to ensure viability and that they will not increase flood risk should they not function as intended?

As foul water is discharging to the 'Compensation Reservoir' has permission been sought from the relevant authorities (Scottish Water, SEPA) for discharging?

All surface water to be contained within the site.

The accesses will not be adopted.

A Roads Construction Consent will be required for the proposed road.

FRA is acceptable and noted that the site is categorised as 'Most Vulnerable Land Use'. Also noted that the site is at flood risk from fluvial, surface water and reservoir.

**SEPA** – advises of no objections. Indicates water quantity aspects of surface water flooding are under the remit of local authorities. The Flood Management Team at Inverclyde Council is likely to have greater local knowledge of the site and therefore, may be better placed to provide detailed advice on this aspect. It is therefore recommended that the Council satisfy themselves that post-development runoff and management are acceptable for flood control purposes. If such measures are implemented, the proposed development should be compliant with the principles of Policy 22 of NPF4.

#### **PUBLICITY**

The application was advertised in the Greenock Telegraph on 25th of November 2022 as there are no premises on neighbouring land.

#### SITE NOTICES

None required.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The application was the subject of neighbour notification. Two representations were received, one objecting to the proposals and the other a neutral comment enquiring as to whether consent had been approved for the development.

The points of objection are summarised as follows:-

Second time objecting to the same proposal.

Located in the middle of the Muirshiel Park and would turn one of the last natural areas into a party village.

Proximity to existing premises would result in a security risk from users of these lodges.

The area is a breeding and hunting ground for rare wildlife and birds.

There has been no contact from applicant with surrounding business owners.

A previous application for a similar development at a smaller scale was advised would be unsuccessful within the Muirshiel Park.

# **ASSESSMENT**

The material considerations in the determination of this application are: National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4); the adopted Inverclyde Local Development Plan; the proposed Inverclyde Local Development Plan; the consultation responses; and the amenity impact of the development.

Policy 8 of NPF4, Policy 14 of the adopted Local Development Plan and 15 of the proposed Local Development Plan relate to development within the green belt. In principle development for tourism uses within the green belt will be supported, providing it can be justified that a green belt location is essential and that the use cannot be provided in an alternative site outwith the green belt. The development must also be compatible with the surrounding established countryside and landscape character.

Policy 14 of NPF4 and Policy 1 of both the adopted and proposed Local Development Plans refer to qualities relating to successful places. "Easy to Move Around" by being well connected, with good path links to the wider path network, public transport nodes and neighbouring developments; "Safe and Pleasant" by avoiding conflict between adjacent uses by having regard to adverse impacts that may be created by flooding; "Distinctive" in making the most of important views and respecting the landscape setting, character and urban form and "Resource Efficient" in making use of existing buildings and previously developed land.

Firstly, it should be noted that consent has been issued for the redevelopment of the existing buildings to the south of the site which was in accordance with the "Resource Efficient" provisions of Policies 1 of both the adopted and proposed Local Development Plans. The current application however relates to undeveloped green belt land and therefore does not contribute to resource efficiency.

The supporting information submitted by the applicant indicates the proposed development is located only 6 miles by road from Greenock town centre and 2.7 miles by road from the A78 which links Greenock to Inverkip. The area is a popular destination for visitors and locals and is easily accessible from existing tourist accommodation in the wider surrounding settlements. Whilst the applicant has stated in their Landscape Assessment that the development requires a countryside location, due to being aimed a rural setting, to take advantage of walking, cycling and fishing opportunities, no comprehensive supporting information has been included for

consideration which confirms a specific locational need for tourist accommodation within the green belt.

In terms of the compatibility of the development with the surrounding established countryside and landscape character, the applicant's Landscape Assessment outlines the characteristics and landform of the application site and the wider area. This also highlights the existence of a cluster of buildings to the southern and western edge of the compensation reservoir which the applicant considers provides scope for further small scale development.

The proposed development is to be located in the green belt on a a plateau landscape, adjacent to the northern boundary of the West Renfrew Hills Local Landscape Area, albeit not falling within this designation itself. Development that affects the West Renfrew Hills Local Landscape Area however is required to protect and, where possible, enhance its special landscape qualities. Given the scale of the development proposed and the remoteness of the existing landscape, it is considered that the proposals would impact on the established pattern of development which is very sparse and would not meet the distinctive quality of 'Creating Successful Places' under Policy 1 with regard to respecting the landscape setting and character and protecting important views, nor would it be resource efficient, making use of existing buildings or developed land. In terms of visual impact, it will be visible from the surrounding hills and recreational walking routes.

Given the relatively close proximity of the development to the nearby settlements, the road and core path walking as well as cycling routes to the area, it can also be argued that the proposed development does not require a countryside location, with the area accessible from tourist accommodation elsewhere in Invercive.

Policy 30 of NPF4 and Policies 27 of the adopted and proposed Local Development Plans, relate to tourism developments and specifically lend support to those identified within the LDPs. This site is not identified within the LDPs for such a use and therefore consideration is required to be given to: the potential contribution to the local economy; compatibility with the surrounding area; accessibility; measures to minimise carbon emissions; and opportunities to access the natural environment. Development should also be designed for the location, avoiding significant adverse impact on the green network and historic buildings and places.

There may be some employment generation and economic benefits associated with this development however the development could be located elsewhere within Inverclyde, maintaining a contribution to the local economy, which would not require utilising a rural/green belt location.

Considering Policy 37 of the adopted Local Development Plan and 38 of the proposed Local Development Plan, in terms of assessing proposals for development within Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, access to the countryside would be maintained and the design of the lodges is generally acceptable for this type of proposal, with the buildings grouped together as set out in the Scottish Government's Planning Advice Note 72 on development in the countryside. Given the remote nature of the site, however, the buildings are within a prominent location that would be detrimental to the surrounding landscape.

As an element of design, Policy 6 of both the adopted and proposed Local Development Plans also seeks to ensure that all new buildings are energy efficient through the installation of low and zero carbon generating technologies and that at least 20% of the carbon dioxide emissions reduction standard set by Scottish Building Standards is met through the installation and operation of low and zero carbon generating technologies. Policy 6 of the proposed Local Development Plan reflects the updated position with a 25% requirement by the end of 2025. This requirements of Policy 6 of both LDPs can be addressed by a planning condition should permission be granted.

With regard to potential impact on historic buildings, the Greenock Cut Scheduled Monument is located within approximately 500m of Cornalees Farm and the development of lodges could impact on its setting, contrary to the provisions of Policy 31 of both the adopted and proposed Local Development Plans relating to Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Sites.

Concerning the "Safe and Pleasant" aspect of the development, Policy 22 of NPF4 outlines that it only supports development proposals at risk of flooding where they are for essential infrastructure, where the location is required for operational reasons; for water compatible uses; the redevelopment of an existing building or site for an equal or less vulnerable use; or redevelopment of previously used sites in built up areas where the LDP has identified a need to bring these into positive use.

The proposal, as confirmed by the applicant's Flood Risk Assessment, categorises the site as at flood risk from fluvial, surface water and the reservoir. Policy 22 of NPF4 advises that development must avoid flood risk. Having considered the applicant's supporting drainage submissions and Flood Risk Assessment, both SEPA and the Head of Service - Roads and Transportation, have not raised objections to the proposals with regard to the potential for flood risk. The proposals are therefore considered to meet the requirements of Policy 22 of NPF4. The proposal is also considered to meet with Policy 8 of the adopted LDP and Policy 9 of the proposed LDP, both relating to managing flood risk. The proposal is also considered to meet Policy 9 of the adopted LDP and Policy 10 of the proposed LDP, both relating to surface and waste water drainage.

Considering the potential impact on the transport network, with specific regard to Policy 11 of the adopted LDP and Policy 12 of the proposed LDP, the layout has not been changed since the planning application was submitted to accommodate the necessary minimum access width from Dunrod Road, nor has vehicle tracking been provided to confirm that access and egress can be undertaken at the same time. The site may be capable of achieving the required access however given the level of land shown to be in their ownership within the red line site boundary. Parking provision to meet the requirements of a development of this type is also likely to be achievable in line with the relevant standards. The Head of Service - Roads and Transportation has not objected to the development subject to a number of observations which could be addressed by planning conditions and further clarification from the applicant. Given the principle of the development is not acceptable clarification has not been sought from the applicant at this time.

With regard to Policies 3 and 4 of NPF4, development proposals which by virtue of type, location or scale will have an unacceptable impact on the natural environment, will not be supported and development proposals that affect a site designated as a local nature conservation site or landscape area in the Local Development Plan will only be supported where development will not have significant adverse effects on the integrity of the area or the qualities for which it has been identified. Development proposals that are likely to have an adverse effect on species protected by legislation will only be supported where the proposal meets the relevant statutory tests. If there is reasonable evidence to suggest that a protected species is present on a site or may be affected by a proposed development, steps must be taken to establish its presence. The level of protection required by legislation must be factored into the planning and design of development, and potential impacts must be fully considered prior to the determination of any application.

Given the remoteness of the area, a breeding pair of Osprey's currently nest there between April and September for the past three years and have been recorded in the wider area also. As they have Schedule 1 protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, whereby it is an offence to disturb any bird nest or egg, construction works associated with the proposed development as well as the operation of the use would create disturbance which would not previously have been experienced in this area before and which may impact on the environment for this species.

Considering other points in the consultation responses, the Public Protection Manager raises no objections in respect of the proposal. Matters in respect of ground contamination, waste storage and the management of Japanese Knotweed can be addressed by conditions, if permission is granted. Matters relating to external lighting can be addressed by an advisory note and compliance with the Building (Scotland) Regulations is addressed via the building warrant process.

In considering the points raised in the representations which have not been addressed within the main body of the assessment, this application is a resubmission of a previously withdrawn application. The applicant is not required to inform surrounding land and/or business owners of the submission of a planning application. Each application is also considered in its own merits against the relevant development plan policies and material planning considerations. There may be the potential for some noise disturbance particularly if patrons arrive or leave early or late in the day. Should there be any excessive noise from the use of the development this should be reported to the Council's Public Protection Service to investigate under their remit and any antisocial behaviour reported to Police Scotland.

In conclusion, Section 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) requires that planning applications be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Although there may be a limited amount of employment generated and economic benefits associated with the proposal, the site is not identified in both the adopted and proposed Local development Plans as being required for tourism development and therefore cannot be supported against Policy 8 of NPF4, Policy 14 of the adopted Local Development Plan or Policy 15 of the proposed Local Development Plan. The proposal is also contrary to the provisions of Policy 14 of NPF4 and Policy 1 of both the adopted and proposed Local Development Plans in that it would not be compatible with the established countryside and landscape character. Having fully assessed the proposal, it is not considered that there are any material planning considerations that indicate that a position contrary to this should be taken. Planning permission should be refused for the reasons below.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the application be refused for the following reasons:

- The proposed development does not accord with the six factors contributing to successful places of Policy 1 of the adopted and proposed Local Development Plans, in that it fails to meet the 'Distinctive' requirements by not respecting the landscape setting or character.
- 2. No justification has been provided which justifies the essential requirement for a green belt location, with the site not specifically identified in both the adopted and proposed Local Development Plans for such a use. The proposed development would not be compatible with the surrounding established countryside and landscape character, contrary to the provisions of Policy 8 of NPF4, Policy 15 of the adopted Local Development Plan and Policy 15 of the proposed Local Development Plan.
- 3. The proposed development does not accord with the six factors contributing to successful places of Policy 1 of the adopted and proposed Local Development Plans, in that it fails to meet the "Successful Places" requirements by not protecting important views.

Signed:

Maria Porch Case Officer Stuart W Jamieson Director Environment & Regeneration

4.	INVERCLYDE LOCAL	DEVELOPMENT	<b>PLAN</b>	2019
	POLICY EXTRACT			

#### 3.0 CREATING SUCCESSFUL PLACES

#### Introduction

- **3.1** Inverclyde has many fantastic and unique places. Examples include the Free French Memorial and Lyle Hill, which offer panoramic views over the Firth of Clyde; Quarriers Village, built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as an orphans' village and filled with individually designed homes of that period; the A-listed Edwardian Wemyss Bay railway station; and the grid-pattern Greenock West End conservation area, which is contained to the north by the popular Greenock Esplanade. These, and other places, have stood the test of time and remain places where people want to live and visit.
- **3.2** The Council is keen to have more successful places in Inverclyde, and all new development will be expected to contribute to creating successful places. This is particularly important in relation to the Plan's Priority Projects and Priority Places, which reflect major Council investments and the larger scale regeneration opportunities in Inverclyde.

#### **Creating Successful Places**

**3.3** The Council is keen that all development contributes to making Inverclyde a better place to live, work, study, visit and invest. To differing degrees, all scales and types of development have the potential to make an impact on the surrounding environment and community. It is important to the Council that this impact is a positive one. To this end, the Council will have regard to the six qualities of a successful place when considering all development proposals.

Distinctive Adaptable

Resource Efficient Easy to Move Around

Safe and Pleasant Welcoming

**3.4 Figure 3** illustrates the factors that contribute to the six qualities of a successful place. Not all will be relevant to every development proposal and planning application, but where they are, the Council will expect development proposals to have taken account of them, and it will have regard to them in the assessment of planning applications.



# POLICY 1 - CREATING SUCCESSFUL PLACES

Inverciyed Council requires all development to have regard to the six qualities of successful places. In preparing development proposals, consideration must be given to the factors set out in Figure 3. Where relevant, applications will also be assessed against the Planning Application Advice Notes Supplementary Guidance.



#### FIGURE 3: Factors Contributing to Successful Places

# DISTINCTIVE

- \* Reflect local architecture and urban form
- \* Contribute positively to historic buildings and places
- \* Make the most of important views
- \* Retain locally distinct built or natural features
- \* Use native species in landscaping, and create habitats for native wildlife

# **ADAPTABLE**

- \* Where appropriate, ensure buildings and spaces can be adapted for a range of uses
- \* Avoid creating buildings or spaces that will become neglected or obsolete

# RESOURCE EFFICIENT

- \* Make use of existing buildings and previously developed land
- \* Take advantage of natural shelter and sunlight
- \* Incorporate low and zero carbon energy-generating technology
- \* Utilise sustainable design and construction techniques
- \* Make use of available sources of heat
- \* Use local or sustainably sourced construction materials
- \* Build at higher density in town and local centres and around public transport nodes
- \* Provide space for the separation and collection of waste

# EASY TO MOVE AROUND

- \* Be well connected, with good path links to the wider path network, public transport nodes and neighbouring developments
- \* Recognise the needs of pedestrians and cyclists
- \* Create landmarks to make areas legible and easy to navigate

# SAFE AND PLEASANT

- Avoid conflict between adjacent uses by having regard to adverse impacts that may be created by noise; smell; vibration; dust; air quality; flooding; invasion of privacy; or overshadowing
- \* Avoid creating spaces that are unsafe or likely to encourage or facilitate anti-social behaviour or crime
- \* Enable natural surveillance of spaces and buildings
- \* Incorporate appropriate lighting
- \* Minimise the impact of traffic and parking on the street scene
- \* Incorporate green infrastructure and provide links to the green network

# WELCOMING

- \* Create a sense of arrival
- \* Integrate new development into existing communities
- \* Create attractive and active streets
- \* Make buildings legible and easy to access

SUCCESSFUL

PLACES

**4.6** Wind turbines are a means of generating electricity from a renewable resource. The Council's Supplementary Guidance on Energy will set out a spatial framework and other criteria to guide and assess proposals for wind turbines and wind farms, as well as guidance for other renewable energy technologies.

#### **POLICY 4 – SUPPLYING ENERGY**

Proposals for infrastructure for the generation, storage or distribution of heat and electricity will be supported in principle where they contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gas production. Proposals will be assessed with regard to impact on:

- a) the green network (including landscape), and historic buildings and places;
- b) the amenity and operations of existing and adjacent uses;
- c) tourism and recreational resources;
- d) air quality;
- e) aviation and defence interests;
- f) telecommunication and broadcasting interests; and
- a) traffic and pedestrian safety

Relevant proposals are required to accord with the Council's Supplementary Guidance on Energy.



#### **Heat Networks**

**4.7** Heat networks offer the opportunity for a more efficient and sustainable means of generating and delivering heat by removing the generation of heat from within individual properties to a communal facility. Heat networks, which are also referred to as district heating, are part of the step-change required towards a more sustainable future and less reliance on gas, and other carbon fuels, as a heat source.

#### **POLICY 5 – HEAT NETWORKS**

Major Development applications will be required to include an energy statement which considers the feasibility of meeting the development's heat demand through a district heating network or other low-carbon alternatives. All proposed developments located adjacent to significant heat sources or proposed/existing heat networks should be designed in such a way as to be capable of connecting to a heat network from that source and any land required for heat network infrastructure should be protected.

#### Low and Zero Carbon Generating Technology

**4.8** The Plan is obliged by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to include a policy requiring all new buildings to avoid greenhouse gas emissions through the installation of low and zero carbon generating technologies.

# POLICY 6 – LOW AND ZERO CARBON GENERATING TECHNOLOGY

Support will be given to all new buildings designed to ensure that at least 15% of the carbon dioxide emissions reduction standard set by Scottish Building Standards is met through the installation and operation of low and zero-carbon generating technologies. This percentage will increase to at least 20% by the end of 2022. Other solutions will be considered where:

- it can be demonstrated that there are significant technical constraints to using on-site low and zero-carbon generating technologies; and
- (b) there is likely to be an adverse impact on the historic enivronment.

\*This requirement will not apply to those exceptions set out in Standard 6.1 of the 2017 Domestic and Non-Domestic Technical Handbooks associated with the Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004, or to equivalent exceptions set out in later versions of the handbook.

#### POLICY 8 - MANAGING FLOOD RISK

Development proposals will be assessed against the Flood Risk Framework set out in Scottish Planning Policy. Proposals must demonstrate that they will not:

- a) be at significant risk of flooding (i.e. within the 1 in 200 year design envelope);
- b) increase the level of flood risk elsewhere; and
- c) reduce the water conveyance and storage capacity of a functional flood plain.

The Council will support, in principle, the flood protection schemes set out in the Clyde and Loch Lomond Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2016, subject to assessment of the impacts on the amenity and operations of existing and adjacent uses, the green network, historic buildings and places, and the transport network.



#### Surface and Waste Water Drainage

**4.16** Surface water is a significant cause of flooding in Inverclyde, and can also impact on water quality by carrying pollutants into local burns and rivers. To address these issues, many new developments now require to include Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). These systems can also provide an opportunity for

enhancing local biodiversity by creating ponds and wetlands, which slow water flow and filter out pollutants. It is also important that waste water (effluent) from new development is appropriately drained and treated in order to protect public health, amenity and environmental resources. In the majority of cases new development will be required to connect to the public sewer.

**4.17** The Council's 'Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment – Planning Guidance for Developers', sets out when Drainage Impact Assessments will be required and the issues they require to cover.

#### POLICY 9 – SURFACE AND WASTE WATER DRAINAGE

New build development proposals which require surface water to be drained should demonstrate that this will be achieved during construction and once completed through a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS), unless the proposal is for a single dwelling or the discharge is directly to coastal waters.

The provision of SuDS should be compliant with the principles set out in the SuDS Manual C753 and Sewers for Scotland 3rd edition, or any successor documents.

Where waste water drainage is required, it must be demonstrated that the development can connect to the existing public sewerage system. Where a public connection is not feasible at present, a temporary waste water drainage system can be supported if:

- a public connection will be available in future, either through committed sewerage infrastructure or pro-rata developer contributions; and
- ii) the design of, and maintenance arrangements for, the temporary system meet the requirements of SEPA, Scottish Water and Inverciyde Council, as appropriate.

Private sustainable sewerage systems within the countryside can be supported if it is demonstrated that they pose no amenity, health or environmental risks, either individually or cumulatively.

Developments including SuDS are required to have an acceptable maintenance plan in place.

#### 5.0 CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACES

#### Introduction

- **5.1** Inverclyde has excellent transport connections; the A8 and A78 trunk roads run through the area and it has two train lines with fourteen stations, all of which connect Inverclyde with the rest of the Glasgow city-region and beyond. A number of bus companies also operate across Inverclyde, while four ferry services provide connections to various locations in Argyll and Bute. Inverclyde is also connected by a comprehensive core path network and National Cycle Network routes NCN75 and NCN753, which provide active travel connections to Renfrewshire, Glasgow and Ayrshire.
- **5.2** Transport is critical to the prosperity and sustainability of our communities. Economic activity and growth relies on a transport network that enables people and goods to move efficiently around Inverclyde, Scotland and to international markets. At the same time, the need to tackle climate change by cutting transport emissions requires an approach which reduces the need to travel by car and prioritises sustainable travel modes.
- **5.3** Planning can improve connectivity and promote sustainable travel by locating new development near active travel and public transport networks, thereby giving people the choice of walking, cycling or using public transport. It is also important to identify where additional transport infrastructure is needed to support new development and ensure that developers contribute toward its provision. Supporting new transport technologies, including the provision of charging points for electric vehicles, will also help reduce carbon emissions.
- **5.4** Good digital connectivity allows businesses to reach their markets, and people to keep in touch and work flexibly, wherever they are.

### **Promoting Sustainable and Active Travel**

**5.5** The Council aims to ensure that new housing, business and industry, retail, and other commercial and community development is easily accessible, in line with the sustainable travel hierarchy: walking, cycling, public transport and cars. It will seek to achieve this by requiring all such development, proportionate to their scale and proposed use, to make the site accessible by walking and cycling, both internally and, where practicable, through links to the external path and footway network. For larger developments, where sufficient passenger numbers might be

generated, the road network will be required to be accessible by public transport, although it is recognised that the provision of services will be a commercial decision for operators. The installation of electric vehicle charging points will be encouraged in new build development, and required in larger developments.

**5.6** At the Main Issues Report stage, suggestions of improvements to transport infrastructure were received including the need for additional car parking in Kilmacolm village centre, the identification of gaps in the cycle/path network, and the need for an alternative route through Inverclyde for when there is reduced capacity on the A8 trunk road. Future developments of the transport network are to be investigated and included if required in the Local Transport Strategy and Active Travel Strategy. These strategies will identify improvements to the transport network in order to make it more efficient and promote sustainable travel. Included projects will be supported in principle, subject to consideration and mitigation of the impact of the schemes on the development opportunities and places protected by this Plan.

### POLICY 10 - PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AND ACTIVE TRAVEL

Development proposals, proportionate to their scale and proposed use, are required to:

- a) provide safe and convenient opportunities for walking and cycling access within the site and, where practicable, include links to the wider walking and cycling network; and
- b) include electric vehicle charging infrastructure, having regard to the Energy Supplementary Guidance.

Proposals for development, which the Council considers will generate significant travel demand, are required to be accompanied by a travel plan demonstrating how travel to and from the site by means other than private car will be achieved and encouraged. Such development should also demonstrate that it can be accessed by public transport.

The Council will support the implementation of transport and active travel schemes as set out in Council-approved strategies, subject to adequate mitigation of the impact of the scheme on: development opportunities; the amenity and operations of existing and adjacent uses; the green network; and historic buildings and places.

#### Managing the Impact of Development on the Transport Network

- 5.7 Development proposals should not have an adverse impact on the efficient operation of the transport and active travel network. In order to identify any potential capacity issues on the strategic road network (i.e. A8 & A78), the Council consulted Transport Scotland on the development opportunities identified in the Plan. The Council subsequently completed a high level impact appraisal of several large scale development proposals along the A78 in consultation with Transport Scotland, which concluded there will not be a significant cumulative impact on the trunk road network as a result of the Plan's proposals. Mitigation measures may still be required, including for the rail network, as a result of individual developments coming forward and these can be determined through the Transport Assessment process.
- **5.8** To ensure that the road network continues to operate efficiently, the Council has standards in place for road development and parking, which new development is expected to comply with. This may require additional improvements to the transport network outwith the actual development site. Where this is the case, developers will be required to meet these costs.

# POLICY 11 – MANAGING IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT ON THE TRANSPORT NETWORK

Development proposals should not have an adverse impact on the efficient operation of the transport and active travel network. Development should comply with the Council's roads development guidelines and parking standards. Developers are required to provide or contribute to improvements to the transport network that are necessary as a result of the proposed development.

#### **Air Quality**

**5.9** As at 2018, Inverclyde does not have any Air Quality Management Areas or an air pollution reduction strategy. It does have busy transport corridors that can occasionally be congested where air quality is monitored. Some developments can directly affect air quality or change travel patterns in such a way that air quality is affected. In these instances the Council will expect an Air Quality Assessment to be undertaken and mitigation measures to be implemented.

# **POLICY 12 – AIR QUALITY**

Development that could have a detrimental impact on air quality, or would introduce a sensitive receptor to an area with poor air quality, will be required to be accompanied by an Air Quality Assessment, which identifies the likely impacts and sets out how these will be mitigated to an acceptable level.

#### Communications Infrastructure

**5.10** Inverclyde has good digital connectivity, with 4G mobile and superfast broadband coverage available across the majority of the area. This is of benefit to the economy and social networks and contributes towards it being an attractive place to live and invest.

# POLICY 13 - COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

The Council will support new digital communication infrastructure where it is sited to avoid adverse impact on: the streetscape; the amenity and operations of existing and adjacent uses; our natural and open spaces; and historic buildings and places.



**6.10** The Council's preferred location for new development is within the existing towns and villages, particularly where this re-uses previously developed land.

#### **Green Belt and Countryside**

6.11 The pattern of development within Inverciyde has been very much shaped by its geography, with a densely developed coastal strip giving way to a sparsely developed rural hinterland. This has been reinforced through the years by a planning strategy that has sought to contain development within the built up area and minimise development in the Green Belt and Countryside. The benefits of this strategy have been a focus on the regeneration and renewal of the urban areas, the placing of development into sustainable locations close to existing services and infrastructure, and the protection of our rural environment. This has been achieved through policies which direct development to existing towns and villages, and restrict development in the Green Belt and Countryside to appropriate types and locations. This approach is supported by national policy and Clydeplan and remains appropriate.

#### POLICY 14 – GREEN BELT AND COUNTRYSIDE

Development in the Green Belt and Countryside will only be permitted if it is appropriately designed, located, and landscaped, and is associated with:

- agriculture, horticulture, woodland or forestry;
- b) a tourism or recreational use that requires a countryside location;
- c) infrastructure with a specific locational need;
- the appropriate re-use of a redundant stone or brick building, the retention of which is desirable for its historic interest or architectural character, subject to that interest or character being retained; or
- intensification (including extensions and outbuildings) of an existing use, which is within the curtilage of the associated use and is of an appropriate scale and form.

Proposals associated with the uses set out in criteria a)-c) must provide justification as to why the development is required at the proposed location.



#### **Business and Industrial Development Opportunities**

- **9.5** There is a need to attract private sector businesses and investment into Inverclyde, as well as supporting existing businesses to grow and new small and medium-sized businesses to set up. This is key to Inverclyde's future prosperity as it will widen the business base, create new job opportunities, help retain the existing population, attract new people to the area, and support and enhance local services.
- **9.6** The Plan identifies a generous and varied supply of development land; including large scale sites such as Spango Valley and Inchgreen, medium sized sites at Main Street, and smaller sites such as Baker Street (all Greenock). This supply is intended to meet the aspirations of different sectors and business sizes.

# POLICY 26 – BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Business, industrial, and storage or distribution uses (Class 4, 5 and 6) on the sites listed in Schedule 9 and shown on the Proposals Map, will be supported.



#### **Tourism Development**

- 9.7 Inverclyde's waterfront location, programme of events and rich cultural and natural heritage make it an appealing place to visit. Attractions and facilities include the James Watt Dock and Kip marinas, Clyde Muirsheil Regional Park, Newark Castle, Gourock Waterfront, and the charming rural villages of Kilmacolm and Quarrier's Village. Many visitors also stop as they pass through Inverclyde on their way to and from ferries to Argyll. In recent years, the cruise liner business at Greenock Ocean Terminal has grown significantly, bringing more tourists and ship crew into the area. With City Deal funding for a dedicated cruise liner berth and visitor centre in place, further growth of this sector is expected.
- **9.8** The Plan supports tourism by safeguarding existing tourist related facilities and adopting a positive approach to the development of new facilities.

#### **POLICY 27 – TOURISM DEVELOPMENT**

Proposals for change of use of tourism related facilities will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that they are no longer viable as a business in their current use.

Development of tourism related facilities will be supported in appropriate locations where:

- a) it avoids adverse impact on the amenity and operation of existing and adjacent uses;
- major trip-generating proposals can be accessed by sustainable means;
   and
- c) it is appropriately designed for its location and avoids significant adverse impact on the green network and historic buildings and places.

#### **Minerals Extraction**

**9.9** Inverclyde does not currently have any live mineral workings and the Council is unaware of any workable mineral resource being present within its area. Mineral workings, whilst important for the economy, can have an impact on local communities, the environment and built and natural heritage. The Council's position is that any proposals for mineral extraction should be brought forward through the Local Development Plan process. As such, no proposals for mineral workings will be supported during the lifetime of this Plan. Should any proposals come forward during the Plan period, they will be assessed in accordance with the other policies of the Plan and Scottish Planning Policy.

#### **Enabling Development**

10.6 One means of securing the future of listed buildings, or other buildings of architectural merit, is to permit enabling development facilitating the restoration or retention of a listed building through cross-funding provided by new development, usually within the grounds of the listed building. Examples of this in Inverclyde include the former Bridge of Weir Hospital near Quarriers Village, Auchenbothie near Kilmacolm and Langhouse near Inverkip. The Council has also accepted the principle of enabling development as a means of restoring the former Balrossie School buildings near Kilmacolm.

10.7 Enabling development is often permitted in locations where new buildings would not normally be, such as in the green belt, with the justification being the retention or restoration of a listed building that might otherwise be lost. In these circumstances, it is important that it can be demonstrated that the enabling development is the only means by which the listed building can be saved, that it is appropriately designed and located, and that only the minimum enabling development necessary to save the listed building is permitted. The Council will bring forward Supplementary Guidance to provide additional advice and policy context on this matter.

# **POLICY 30 - ENABLING DEVELOPMENT**

Proposals for enabling development to support the restoration of listed buildings will be considered favourably where it can be clearly shown to be the only means of preventing the loss of the listed building and securing its long term future. Any enabling development is required to be the minimum necessary to achieve this aim. The resultant development is required to be designed and sited carefully to preserve or enhance the character and setting of the listed building. Further detail will be set out in the Council's Supplementary Guidance on Enabling Development which will form part of the assessment of any proposals.

### **Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Sites**

**10.8** Inverclyde has a rich archaeological heritage. This is evidenced by its 31 Scheduled Monuments ranging from High Castlehill, which is the remnants of a prehistoric settlement, through to the 15th century Newark Castle, the 19th century industrial archaeology of the Greenock Cut, and Larkfield Battery a Second World War anti-aircraft battery. There are also numerous sites of more local archaeological interest in Inverclyde.

10.9 Scheduled Monuments are of national importance and, as such, have a high level of protection with a separate consent system administered by Historic Environment Scotland. For non-scheduled archaeological sites, if as a result of development it is not possible to preserve these in situ then developers must undertake appropriate excavation, recording, analysis, publication and archiving before and during the development.

# POLICY 31 – SCHEDULED MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Development that would potentially have an adverse effect on a Scheduled Monument or the integrity of its setting will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

Development affecting archaeological sites should seek to preserve the archaeological resource in situ.

#### **Gardens and Designed Landscapes**

**10.10** Inverclyde has 3 Gardens and Designed Landscapes, a national designation recognising grounds, often of large houses, which were consciously laid out for artistic effect. These are Ardgowan, Duchal House and Finlaystone House.

#### POLICY 32 – GARDENS AND DESIGNED LANDSCAPES

Development that would affect a Garden and Designed Landscape is required to protect and appropriately enhance its important features.

#### POLICY 33 - BIODIVERSITY AND GEODIVERSITY

#### **NATURA 2000 SITES**

Development proposals that are likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site will be subject to an appropriate assessment of the implications of the proposal on conservation objectives. Proposals will only be permitted if the assessment demonstrates that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the site or if:

- a) there are no alternative solutions: and
- b) there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature: and
- compensatory measures are provided to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura network is protected.

In such cases, the Scottish Ministers must be notified.

#### SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Development affecting Sites of Special Scientific Interest will only be permitted where the objectives of the designation and the overall integrity of the area will not be compromised, or if any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of national importance.

#### PROTECTED SPECIES

When proposing any development which may affect a protected species, the applicant should fulfil the following requirements: to establish whether a protected species is present; to identify how the protected species may be affected by the development; to ensure that the development is planned and designed so as to avoid or minimise any such impact, while having regard to the degree of protection which is afforded by legislation, including any separate licensing requirements; and to demonstrate that it is likely that any necessary licence would be granted.

#### LOCAL NATURE CONSERVATION SITES

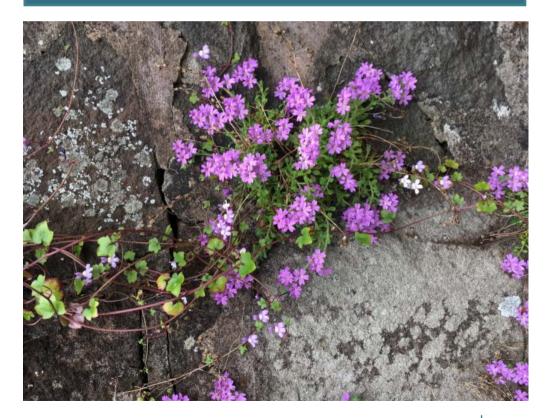
Development is required to avoid having a significant adverse impact on Local Nature Conservation Sites. Any adverse impacts are to be minimised. Where adverse impacts are unavoidable, compensatory measures will be required.

#### LOCAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

Development that affects the West Renfrew Hills Local Landscape Area is required to protect and, where possible, enhance its special features as set out in the Statement of Importance. Where there is potential for development to result in a significant adverse landscape and/or visual impact, proposals should be informed by a landscape and visual impact assessment

#### **NON-DESIGNATED SITES**

The siting and design of development should take account of local landscape character. All development should seek to minimise adverse impact on wildlife, especially species and habitats identified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Development should take account of connectivity between habitat areas. Where possible, new development should be designed to conserve and enhance biodiversity.



#### Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

**11.21** Clyde Muirshiel is Scotland's largest regional park, covering 108 square miles of countryside in Inverclyde, Renfrewshire and North Ayrshire. Within Inverclyde, the Park boundary covers much of the upland moorland, and extends to the coast to include Lunderston Bay. It includes the Greenock Cut Visitor Centre, and provides an excellent recreational and educational resource for Inverclyde residents and visitors.

#### 11.22 The Park Objectives are:

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, biodiversity and cultural heritage of Clyde Muirshiel Park.
- To encourage and enable learning, understanding and enjoyment of Clyde Muirshiel Park.
- To promote and foster environmentally sustainable development for the social and economic well-being of the people and communities within the Clyde Muirshiel Park area.

These Objectives are supported by the Park Strategy 2016-2021.



**11.23** The Park area is covered by a number of other environmental and heritage designations protected by this Plan. This Plan supports the Park Objectives and the Park Strategy in principle, subject to assessment against other relevant policies of this Plan.

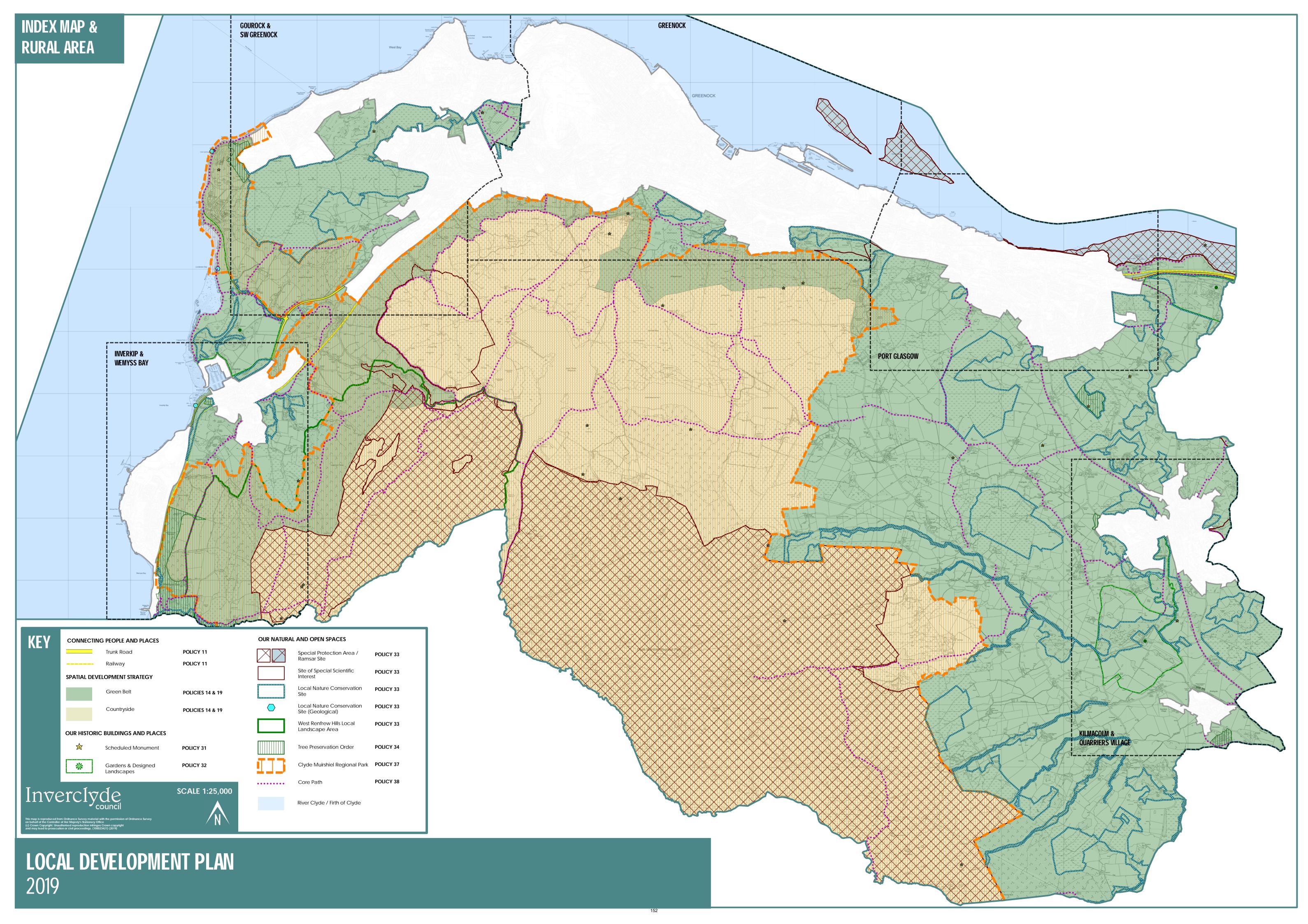
#### POLICY 37 – CLYDE MUIRSHIEL REGIONAL PARK

Proposals for development within Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park will be considered with regard to the Park Objectives and Strategy and to the Park's statutory purpose of providing recreational access to the countryside.

#### **Path Network**

- 11.24 Inverciyde has an extensive path network, including 179 km of Core Paths criss-crossing the authority area and twenty Rights-of-Way. Route 75 of the National Cycle Network connects rural Inverciyde with the urban waterfront and is part of a route extending to Edinburgh in the east and Portavadie in the west. The path network includes the Greenock Cut, a 10km circular route running alongside the historic aqueduct, which provides panoramic views over the Firth of Clyde, and the Kelly Cut, which connects the Greenock Cut visitor centre to Wemyss Bay.
- 11.25 The Council is keen to see more use made of the outdoor access network for recreation and everyday journeys, such as to work and school. More active travel will result in better health and wellbeing and reduce road traffic, congestion, and vehicle emissions. The Council is developing an Active Travel Strategy, which will identify how the path network can be improved and expanded, and how more people can be encouraged to use it. The strategy projects will be supported in principle by this Plan.
- **11.26** The Council is keen to safeguard the existing path network, and to ensure that new development incorporates new paths and connections to the existing path network, especially where the opportunity exists to provide paths along water.

<b>5</b> .	INVERCLYDE LOCAL	DEVELOPMENT	PLAN	2019
	MAP EXTRACT			



# 6. NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK 4



# National Planning Framework 4







### **Contents**

#### 02 Ministerial Foreword



#### Part 1 – A National Spatial Strategy for Scotland 2045

Spatial Principles

Sustainable Places

Liveable Places

Productive Places

National Spatial Strategy Map

National Developments Map

Regional Spatial Priorities:

North and West Coast and Islands

North

North East

Central

South

#### 36 Part 2 – National Planning Policy



#### Sustainable Places

- 1. Tackling the climate and nature crises
- 2. Climate mitigation and adaptation
- 3. Biodiversity
- 4. Natural places
- 5. Soils
- 6. Forestry, woodland and trees
- 7. Historic assets and places
- 8. Green belts
- 9. Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings
- 10. Coastal development
- 11. Energy
- 12. Zero waste
- 13. Sustainable transport



#### Liveable Places

- 14. Design, quality and place
- 15. Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods
- 16. Quality homes
- 17. Rural homes
- 18. Infrastructure first
- 19. Heat and cooling
- 20. Blue and green infrastructure
- 21. Play, recreation and sport
- 22. Flood risk and water management
- 23. Health and safety
- 24. Digital infrastructure



#### **Productive Places**

- 25. Community wealth building
- 26. Business and industry
- 27. City, town, local and commercial centres
- 28. Retail
- 29. Rural development
- 30. Tourism
- 31. Culture and creativity
- 32. Aquaculture
- 33. Minerals

#### 94 Part 3 – Annexes

- A How to use this document
- B National Developments Statements of Need
- C Spatial planning priorities
- D Six qualities of successful places
- E Minimum all-tenure housing land requirement
- F Glossary of definitions
- G Acronyms



# Ministerial Foreword



**Tom Arthur MSP**Minister for Public Finance,
Planning and Community Wealth

I am delighted to publish Scotland's fourth National Planning Framework. I am proud that, for the first time, we have brought together our long-term spatial strategy with a comprehensive set of national planning policies to form part of the statutory development plan.

The world is changing, and so are Scotland's places. This strategy sets out how we will work together in the coming years to improve people's lives by making sustainable, liveable and productive places. This will play a key role in delivering on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, as well as our national outcomes.

Planning carries great responsibility – decisions about development will impact on generations to come. Putting the twin global climate and nature crises at the heart of our vision for a future Scotland will ensure the decisions we make today will be in the long-term interest of our country.

As we recover from the pandemic we are working towards achieving net zero in a way which also tackles longstanding challenges and inequalities. We live in challenging times, but better places will be an important part of our response to our strategic priorities of net zero, child poverty and a wellbeing economy. Planning will also play a critical role in delivering the National Strategy for Economic Transformation and in community wealth building.

Planning is already a fully devolved function of the Scottish Government. Our global reputation for excellence and expertise in this field demonstrates what can be achieved when the choices are in our own hands. We can build on this. By securing a new future for Scotland as an independent country, additional powers will be available to support public and private sector investment in development and infrastructure across our country.

Changes to our places will not always be easy. People care about their neighbourhoods and rightly and reasonably expect that new development should improve their lives, rather than undermining what they value most. To help deliver on this strategy I am committed to involving a wider range of people in planning. A fairer and more inclusive planning system will ensure that everyone has an opportunity to shape their future so that our places work for all of us. I also recognise that planning authorities across Scotland will need support and guidance to put our proposals and policies into practice, and will continue to work with the profession and local government to ensure our system can realise its full potential.

The process for preparing this strategy has shown what can be achieved when we work together. I greatly appreciate the ideas that people and organisations have contributed. I am also very grateful to the Scottish Parliament for the time and energy they have put into their scrutiny of the draft document. National Planning Framework 4 has benefited considerably from their thoughtful and constructive input.

# Part 1 – A National Spatial Strategy for Scotland 2045

The world is facing unprecedented challenges. The global climate emergency means that we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the future impacts of climate change. We will need to respond to a growing nature crisis, and to work together to enable development that addresses the social and economic legacy of the coronavirus pandemic, the cost crisis and longstanding inequality.

Scotland's rich heritage, culture and outstanding environment are national assets which support our economy, identity, health and wellbeing. Many communities benefit from great places with excellent quality of life and quality, affordable homes. Many people can easily access high quality local greenspaces and neighbourhood facilities, safe and welcoming streets and spaces and buildings that reflect diverse cultures and aspirations. Increasingly, communities have been finding new ways to live sustainably, including by taking control of their property or land.

However, people living in Scotland have very different life chances, at least partly a result of the places where they live.

Past industrial restructuring has had significant impacts in some places and communities. Disadvantage, child poverty and poor health

outcomes are concentrated in parts of Scotland where life expectancy is significantly lower than in more advantaged areas. Access to the natural environment varies, and pollution and derelict land is concentrated in some places. Population change will bring further challenges in the future, particularly in rural parts of Scotland. Many people have limited access to opportunities because of the way our places have been designed in the past, and our city and town centres have experienced accelerating change in recent years.

We have already taken significant steps towards decarbonising energy and land use, but choices need to be made about how we can make sustainable use of our natural assets in a way which benefits communities.

Planning is a powerful tool for delivering change on the ground in a way which brings together competing interests so that decisions reflect the long-term public interest. Past, present and future challenges mean that we will need to make the right choices about where development should be located. We also need to be clear about the types of infrastructure we will need to build, and the assets that should be protected to ensure they continue to benefit future generations.

# **Spatial principles**

We will plan our future places in line with six overarching spatial principles:

- **Just transition.** We will empower people to shape their places and ensure the transition to net zero is fair and inclusive.
- Conserving and recycling assets. We will
  make productive use of existing buildings,
  places, infrastructure and services, locking
  in carbon, minimising waste, and building a
  circular economy.
- Local living. We will support local liveability and improve community health and wellbeing by ensuring people can easily access services, greenspace, learning, work and leisure locally.
- Compact urban growth. We will limit urban expansion so we can optimise the use of land to provide services and resources, including carbon storage, flood risk management, blue and green infrastructure and biodiversity.
- Rebalanced development. We will target development to create opportunities for communities and investment in areas of past decline, and manage development sustainably in areas of high demand.
- Rural revitalisation. We will encourage sustainable development in rural areas, recognising the need to grow and support urban and rural communities together.

These principles will play a key role in delivering on the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and our national outcomes.

#### Applying these principles in practice

We want our future places to work for everyone. Rather than compromise or trade-offs between environmental, social and economic objectives, this is an integrated strategy to bring together cross-cutting priorities and achieve sustainable development.

By applying these spatial principles, our national spatial strategy will support the planning and delivery of:

- sustainable places, where we reduce emissions, restore and better connect biodiversity;
- **liveable places**, where we can all live better, healthier lives; and
- **productive places**, where we have a greener, fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy.

Eighteen **national developments** support this strategy, including single large scale projects and networks of several smaller scale proposals that are collectively nationally significant. National developments will be a focus for delivery, as well as exemplars of the Place Principle, placemaking and a Community Wealth Building (CWB) approach to economic development. Regional spatial strategies and Local Development Plans (LDPs) should identify and support national developments which are relevant to their areas.

The strategy will be taken forward in different ways across Scotland, reflecting the diverse character, assets and challenges of our places. To guide this, we have identified **regional spatial priorities** for five broad regions of Scotland which will inform the preparation of regional spatial strategies (RSS) and LDPs by planning authorities.

Table 1 – National Planning Framework 4 Summary								
	Spatial principles	National Developments	Policies	Key policy links	Cross cutting policies			
Sustainable places SDGs: 7, 11, 12, 13 National outcomes: Environment, communities, economy  Liveable places SDGs: 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11 National outcomes: Communities, culture, human rights, children and young people, health	<ul> <li>Just transition</li> <li>Conserving and recycling assets</li> <li>Liveable places</li> <li>Compact urban growth</li> </ul>	Energy Innovation Development on the islands.     Pumped Hydro Storage     Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure     Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities     Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions     Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks      Central Scotland Green Network     National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network     Edinburgh Waterfront     Dundee Waterfront     Stranraer Gateway     A Digital Fibre Network	<ul> <li>Tackling the climate and nature crises</li> <li>Climate mitigation and adaptation</li> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Natural places</li> <li>Soils</li> <li>Forestry, woodland and trees</li> <li>Historic assets and places</li> <li>Green belts</li> <li>Brownfield land, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings</li> <li>Coastal development</li> <li>Energy</li> <li>Zero waste</li> <li>Sustainable transport</li> <li>Design, quality and place</li> <li>Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods</li> <li>Quality homes</li> <li>Rural homes</li> <li>Infrastructure first</li> <li>Heat and cooling</li> <li>Blue and green infrastructure</li> <li>Play, recreation and sport</li> <li>Flood risk and water management</li> <li>Health and Safety</li> <li>Digital infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Land Use – getting the best from our land: strategy 2021 – 2026</li> <li>Making things last: a circular economy strategy for Scotland</li> <li>Scotland's Energy Strategy</li> <li>Scotland's Environment Strategy</li> <li>Scotland's Forestry Strategy</li> <li>Scotlish Biodiversity Strategy</li> <li>Scottish Biodiversity Strategy</li> <li>Cleaner Air for Scotland 2</li> <li>Creating Places</li> <li>Culture Strategy</li> <li>Heat in Buildings Strategy</li> <li>Housing to 2040</li> <li>Learning Estate Strategy/Learning Estate Investment Programme</li> <li>Public Health Priorities for Scotland</li> <li>Remote, Rural and Islands Housing</li> </ul>	Climate Change Plan Climate Change Adaptation Programme Just Transition Plans National Transport Strategy Infrastructure Investment Plan Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 National Islands Plan National Marine Plan Tackling Child Poverty			
Productive places SDGs: 1, 2, 8, 9, 11, 14 National outcomes: Fair work and business, economy, poverty, communities	Rebalancing development     Rural revitalisation	Clyde Mission Aberdeen Harbour Industrial Green Transition Zones Hunterston Strategic Asset Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment High Speed Rail	Community wealth building Business and industry City, town, local and commercial centres Retail Rural development Tourism Culture and creativity Aquaculture Minerals	Action Plan (pub. Spring 2023)  • Scotland's Population Strategy  • National Strategy for Economic Transformation  • Retail Strategy for Scotland  • Report of the City Centre Recovery Taskforce  • Scottish land rights and responsibilities statement  • Town Centre Action Plan 2				











## **Sustainable places**

Our climate is changing, with increasing rainfall, extreme weather events and higher temperatures that will intensify in the coming years. This will increase flood risk, water scarcity, environmental change, coastal erosion, impact on forestry and agriculture, and generate risks to health, food security and safety. Impacts will not be equal and communities who already face disadvantage will be particularly affected.

Scotland's high quality environment, and the natural capital it supports, underpin our approach to tackling climate change and the economy and is fundamental to our health and wellbeing. It provides the essentials we all need to survive, including clean air, water and food.

However, the health of the planet's ecosystems is declining faster than at any point in human history and our natural environment is facing significant challenges, including ongoing loss of biodiversity. Since the 1990s alone, wildlife populations in Scotland have declined, on average, by around a quarter. This threatens the capacity of the natural environment to provide the services we all rely on, and reduces our resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Scotland's Climate Change Plan, backed by legislation, has set our approach to achieving net zero emissions by 2045, and we must make significant progress towards this by 2030 including by reducing car kilometres travelled by 20% by reducing the need to travel and promoting more sustainable transport.

Just Transition sector plans, designed and delivered with those impacted, will play an important role in delivering the change we need to see. We must also adapt to the impacts of climate change that are already locked in, by delivering Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

Scotland's Climate Assembly set out recommendations for how Scotland should change to tackle the climate emergency and gives us a key insight into the measures the Scotlish Public expect for a just transition to net zero emissions by 2045.

Scotland's Energy Strategy will set a new agenda for the energy sector in anticipation of continuing innovation and investment. The interplay between land and sea will be critical, given the scale of offshore renewable energy resources. Our Infrastructure Investment Plan and National Transport Strategy are clear that we must work with our existing infrastructure assets first, before investing in additional assets.

Scotland's Environment Strategy sets out the Scotlish Government's vision for tackling the twin climate and nature crises. Building on this, a new Scotlish Biodiversity Strategy will set targets for halting biodiversity loss by 2030 and restoring and regenerating biodiversity by 2045. Scotland's Land Use Strategy aims to make efficient use of our land by managing competing activities in a sustainable way.

#### **National spatial strategy**

Scotland's future places will be net zero, nature-positive places that are designed to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change, whilst protecting, recovering and restoring our environment.

Meeting our climate ambition will require a rapid transformation across all sectors of our economy and society. This means ensuring the right development happens in the right place.

Every decision on our future development must contribute to making Scotland a more sustainable place. We will encourage low and zero carbon design and energy efficiency, development that is accessible by sustainable travel, and expansion of renewable energy generation. It is also crucial that we build resilience to the future impacts of climate change including water resources and assets and development on our coasts. Our places will also need to evolve to help us cope with changing temperatures.

Our commitment to a **just transition**, means that our journey to a net zero society and nature recovery must involve, and be fair to, everyone. We will grow a circular economy and make best use of embodied carbon by **conserving and recycling assets**, including by encouraging sustainable design and the wise use of resources.

To respond to the global biodiversity crisis, nature recovery must be at the heart of future places. We will secure positive effects for biodiversity, create and strengthen nature networks and invest in nature-based solutions to benefit natural capital and contribute to net zero. We will use our land wisely including through a renewed focus on reusing vacant and derelict land to help limit the new land that we build on. We will protect and enhance our historic environment, and safeguard our shared heritage for future generations. We will also work together to ensure that development onshore aligns with national, sectoral and regional marine plans.

#### **National developments**

Six national developments support the delivery of sustainable places:

- Energy Innovation Development on the Islands provides infrastructure for low carbon fuels for communities and commerce, as well as for export. This will contribute to improved energy security, unlock opportunities for employment and business, and help to put Scotland at the forefront of low carbon fuel innovation.
- Pumped Hydro Storage extends hydroelectricity capacity to support the transition away from fossil fuels, whilst also providing employment opportunities in rural areas.
- Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure supports electricity generation and associated grid infrastructure throughout Scotland, providing employment and opportunities for community benefit, helping to reduce emissions and improve security of supply.
- Circular Economy Materials Management
   Facilities facilitates delivery of zero waste objectives by reducing the need for new materials, resource use and emissions.
- Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green
   Surface Water Management Solutions is an exemplar of a nature based, infrastructure first approach to catchment wide surface water flood risk management to help our two largest cities adapt to the future impacts of climate change.
- Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks

   facilitates a shift towards sustainable transport in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Aberdeen and their wider regions, helping to reduce transport related emissions and supporting accessibility for all.

# CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS: REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to meet greenhouse gas emissions targets.

The global climate emergency and the nature crisis have formed the foundations for the spatial strategy as a whole. The regional priorities share opportunities and challenges for reducing emissions and adapting to the long-term impacts of climate change, in a way which protects and enhances our natural environment.

<u>Policy 1</u> gives significant weight to the global climate emergency in order to ensure that it is recognised as a priority in all plans and decisions. <u>Policy 2</u> will ensure that emissions from new development are minimised as far as possible.

A healthy natural environment is key to reducing emissions. Policies 3 and 4 protect biodiversity and natural assets, which in turn play a crucial role in carbon reduction. Policy 5 provides significant protection for peatland and carbon rich soils and Policy 6 aims to protect and expand forests, woodland and trees. Blue and green infrastructure is supported by Policy 20. Policy 10 encourages the use of natural solutions to coastal protection. Policy 7 protects the embodied carbon in the historic built environment, and Policy 9 makes better use of previously used land and buildings, helping to lock in carbon.

By supporting the transition of key emissions generating activities, <u>Policy 11</u> supports renewable energy development, <u>Policy 19</u> helps to decarbonise heat, alongside <u>Policy 18</u> and its encouragement of an infrastructure first approach. <u>Policy 12</u> encourages sustainable waste management, and <u>Policy 13</u> will facilitate a transition towards more sustainable, lower emissions travel including active travel and public transport.

Several policies support more local living and limit the use of additional land for development. This includes <a href="Policy8">Policy 8</a> which manages development in the greenbelt, <a href="Policy15">Policy 15</a> which promotes local living, including where feasible 20 minute neighbourhoods, and <a href="Policy16">Policy 16</a> which focuses on delivering new homes that are designed to a high standard and located in sustainable places. Minimising and reducing emissions is also integral to the six qualities of successful places, as set out in <a href="Policy14">Policies 17</a> and <a href="Policy29">29</a> support rural development which is compatible with climate change targets. <a href="Policy24">Policy 24</a> facilitates the roll out of digital infrastructure, helping to reduce the need to travel. <a href="Policy27">Policy 27</a> promotes a town centre first approach to development and <a href="Policy28">Policy 28</a> restricts additional out of town retail development.

Policies relating to productive places are consistent with our ambition for green growth in the futures. More specifically, **Policy 33** is clear that fossil fuel exploration, development and production (excluding unconventional oil and gas) will not be supported other than in exceptional circumstances, and that the Scottish Government does not support the development of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland.

#### **CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:**

#### IMPROVING BIODIVERSITY

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to secure positive effects for biodiversity.

The nature crisis, together with the global climate emergency, underpinned the spatial strategy as a whole. The action areas include proposals which protect and enhance the natural environment.

**Policy 1** gives significant weight to the nature crisis to ensure that it is recognised as a priority in all plans and decisions. **Policy 4** protects and enhances natural heritage, and this is further supported by **Policy 5** on soils and **Policy 6** on forests, woodland and trees. **Policy 20** also promotes the expansion and connectivity of blue and green infrastructure, whilst **Policy 10** recognises the particular sensitivities of coastal areas.

Protection of the natural features of brownfield land is also highlighted in **Policy 9**, and protection of the green belt in **Policy 8** will ensure that biodiversity in these locations is conserved and accessible to communities, bringing nature into the design and layout of our cities, towns, streets and spaces in **Policy 14**.

Most significantly, **Policy 3** plays a critical role in ensuring that development will secure positive effects for biodiversity. It rebalances the planning system in favour of conserving, restoring and enhancing biodiversity and promotes investment in nature-based solutions, benefiting people and nature. The policy ensures that LDPs protect, conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity and promote nature recovery and nature restoration. Proposals will be required to contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity, including by restoring degraded habitats and building and strengthening nature networks. Adverse impacts, including cumulative impacts, of development proposals on the natural environment will be minimised through careful planning and design, taking into account the need to reverse biodiversity loss. Development proposals for national, major or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposal will conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, including nature networks, so they are in a demonstrably better state than without intervention. Proposals for local development will include appropriate measures to conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity.





















# Liveable places

The global pandemic has left a social legacy that requires urgent, as well as long-term action. Many people need better places to support their lifelong health and wellbeing and build their future resilience. In recent years communities have found ways to work together to find local solutions to shared challenges. However, the cost crisis is again underlining the need for our future buildings and places to do more to support our long-term resilience.

There remain significant differences between the healthy life expectancy of people living in the most and least deprived parts of Scotland. More people need to be involved in planning their future places so that the built environment is safe and welcoming to everyone, including women, disabled people, children and young people and black and ethnic minority groups.

Scotland's Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan sets out actions required to continue to reduce the number of children living in poverty. It recognises the importance of place and continued investment in regeneration, targeted to areas where the need is greatest.

Access to affordable, quality homes in better places, as supported by Housing to 2040, will make an important contribution to addressing the impact of the cost crisis, particularly on younger people who will also benefit from reduced transport costs. The planning system has an important role to play in supporting the delivery of homes which meet our future needs.

Consistent with this, Scotland's Population Strategy reflects the need for planning to identify the amount of land required for future homes and to enable more balanced demographic change including sustainable rural development.

Health policies, including Scotland's diet and healthy weight delivery plan reflect the importance of places which provide opportunities for exercise and access to healthy food. Our strategy for tackling social isolation and loneliness also recognises the importance of providing quality, accessible and welcoming places for everyone through placemaking and regeneration.

#### **National spatial strategy**

Scotland's future places will have homes and neighbourhoods that are healthier, affordable and vibrant places to live.

We have an opportunity to significantly improve our places, address longstanding inequality and eliminate discrimination, helping to transform our country for the better. Cleaner, safer and greener places and improved open spaces will build resilience and provide wider benefits for people, health and biodiversity, in a balanced way.

We will plan our future places in a way that improves **local living**, so that we live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient, safe and provides opportunites for learning. Quality homes will be better served by local facilities and services by applying the principles of local living to development proposals. The concept of 20 minute neighbourhoods will help to support this, particularly in more urban areas. In rural areas the approach to local living will be shaped by local context.

Planning must also enable the delivery of good quality, affordable homes by allocating enough land in the right locations to meet current and future needs and aspirations.

Recognising the need for liveable places to be consistent with our ambition for net zero and nature recovery, we will promote **compact urban growth**. Higher density development which will help to sustain public transport and support local living. Virtual connectivity and continued investment in active travel links will also be important.

We want to make better use of our spaces to support physical activity, relaxation and play, to bring people together and to celebrate our culture, diversity and heritage. Buildings and other physical assets can also support activities based on intangible cultural assets such as Gaelic language.

We will improve green infrastructure to bring nature into our towns and cities, connecting people with nature, building resilience and helping our biodiversity to recover and flourish. We will ensure we work towards a stronger infection-resilient society through adaptations to our buildings and the spaces around them.

Our strategy is to value, enhance, conserve and celebrate our places and to build better communities for future generations. A stronger commitment to placemaking, through a designled approach and a focus on quality, will ensure every new development improves the experience of our places.

Underpinning this, everyone must have an opportunity to help shape their local neighbourhoods. We will continue to work to broaden involvement in the planning system as a whole.

#### **National developments**

Six national developments support the delivery of liveable places:

- Central Scotland Green Network
   restores
   nature at scale and acts as an exemplar
   of green infrastructure in placemaking
   that provides benefits for communities
   and supports a wellbeing economy. This
   will provide multiple benefits for health,
   biodiversity, and will help us to mitigate
   and adapt to climate change. Action should
   continue to focus on areas where community
   wellbeing and resilience would benefit most.
- National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling
   Network strengthens and extends a national active travel network to reduce emissions from transport, focusing on areas where improvements to accessibility are most needed.
- Edinburgh Waterfront creates a high quality, mixed use, locally liveable place, contributing to the sustainable future development of Scotland's capital city.
- <u>Dundee Waterfront</u> delivers a high quality, mixed use, locally liveable place demonstrating resilient waterfront regeneration which anticipates and responds to climate impacts.
- Stranraer Gateway acts as a hub for surrounding communities. Regeneration will help create a high quality, mixed use, locally liveable place, optimising the area as a national and international gateway.
- A <u>Digital Fibre Network</u> enhances the connectivity of communities and help to facilitate more sustainable ways of living including in rural and island communities.

# CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS: A FAIR AND INCLUSIVE PLANNING SYSTEM

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to eliminate discrimination and promote equality.

We expect everyone involved in planning to take steps to ensure that a wide range of people are involved in shaping their future places. Planning authorities are required to respect, protect and fulfil human rights in accordance with the Human Rights Act 1998. As per the Equality Act 2010, the Public Sector Equality duty is applicable and Equality Impact Assessments, Fairer Scotland Duty Assessments and where applicable Island Communities Impact Assessments are required for LDPs. The UN Convention of the Rights of the Child also means that young people must be encouraged to play an active role in planning.

Throughout the planning system, opportunities are available to engage in development planning and decisions about future development. Such engagement, undertaken in line with statutory requirements, should be early, collaborative, meaningful and proportionate. Support or concern expressed on matters material to planning must be given careful consideration in the determination of development proposals.

Our places can only work for everyone if the views of all users are properly understood, but experience shows that some people can find it more challenging to engage with planning.

There are opportunities to involve a wider range of people in the planning system. It is essential, and a statutory requirement, that people with protected characteristics, including disability, race, age, sex and sexual orientation, and including people from a range of socio-economic backgrounds, are given particular support to express their views on plans and decisions, with consultations designed to meet the communication needs of people.

The spatial strategy as a whole is clear that our future development must support a just transition, and it highlights opportunities for development and regeneration that are designed to tackle social, economic and health inequalities. Policy 14, focusing on the six qualities of successful places recognises that diversity is an integral part of placemaking. Children and young people will have an important contribution to make, given the long-term impacts of planning for future generations. Women, as well as disabled people and their representatives, can ensure that barriers and challenges of the design of our living and working environments are tackled effectively. We have also provided clear support for development that will help to ensure human rights are maintained, for example: Policy 16 on quality homes which addresses the need for accommodation for Gypsy/Travellers and Travelling Showpeople yards, as well as homes for older people and disabled people; and Policy 21 which supports and facilitates spaces and opportunities for play, recreation and sport in our natural and built environments for children and people for all ages.

Our impact assessment has demonstrated that there is potential for significant benefits from more sustainable, liveable and productive places which will be delivered by these and other policies. We recognise that delivery will also depend on fair and inclusive engagement with people, and we will therefore continue to promote best practice and innovation, including in guidance on effective community engagement.

#### **CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:**

#### HOMES THAT MEET OUR DIVERSE NEEDS

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to meet the housing needs of people living in Scotland including, in particular, the housing needs of older people and disabled people.

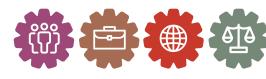
The spatial strategy has taken into account future population and household projections, and highlights areas where there will be particular challenges arising from an ageing population. Spatial principles, including local living and just transition, will also help to ensure that the needs of all people are reflected in our future places.

<u>Policy 16</u> supports the delivery of high quality, sustainable homes that meet the needs of people throughout their lives. In particular, it supports proposals for new homes that improve affordability and choice by being adaptable to changing and diverse needs, and which address identified gaps in provision. This could include: accessible, adaptable and wheelchair accessible homes; homes that meet the needs of older people; a range of size of homes; and other specialist groups.

The majority of older people want to remain in their home as they age, preferring mainstream housing, and so accessible and adaptable homes can allow people to continue to live independently. The close alignment of planning and housing delivery at the local level, through LDPs and Local Housing Strategies, will help to deliver the right type and mix of homes in the right locations. In addition Housing to 2040 sets out a commitment to Scottish Accessible Home Standard in 2025/26.

Development that provides homes to meet the needs of older people and disabled people will be further promoted by LDPs. Evidence reports will explain the action taken to support and promote the construction and/ or adaptation of homes to meet their needs. Spatial strategies will take into account housing needs and the availability of land for new homes, including for older people and disabled people through the Accessible Home Standard, wheelchair housing targets and the consideration of accessibility in design of the wider development and local amenity. The planning authority must also keep their plan under review, and monitor any changes in this.

Placemaking and choices about the location of development will also help to meet the needs of older people and disabled people. **Policy 14** supports development that is consistent with the six qualities of successful places, including health and wellbeing, and safe and pleasant places for people to meet. **Policy 15** supports development that is consistent with the principles of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods, helping to ensure our homes and wider neighbourhoods meet all of our needs. As part of this, it recognises that affordable housing options, ability to age in place and housing diversity are an integral part of more liveable places. **Policy 13** is also clear that the views of disabled people must be sought when seeking to reduce reliance on the car including by managing car parking provision.















# **Productive places**

The economic performance of different parts of Scotland varies considerably, with challenges and opportunities for different places and sectors. At present, some communities are particularly affected by high rates of poverty, one in five people of working age is economically inactive, and there is significant scope to improve our productivity and the scale and rate of business development.

The unprecedented challenge of the pandemic has created difficult conditions for some sectors including hospitality, tourism, and culture. The cost crisis and our exit from the European Union have combined with this to exacerbate labour shortages particularly in our more remote, rural and island communities. World-wide supply chain issues have generated severe challenges, including for the construction sector.

Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation aims to make Scotland a successful place with opportunities for everyone, in every region of Scotland, to share in our economic prosperity. It tackles the challenges of structural inequality, the transition to net zero, and achieving a green recovery from the pandemic. It also supports entrepreneurship and aims to play to the strengths and assets of each part of Scotland to build community wealth.

Building community wealth should be founded on an assessment of local assets in partnership with communities. It also involves better coordinated state investment at national, regional and local levels to strengthen of Scotland's indigenous business base and create sustainable fair work opportunities. Opportunities will flow from more land and assets being placed in the hands of communities or under their guiding influence.

Our city centres are socially and culturally important, supporting our productivity and stimulating innovation and investment. The pandemic has generated severe impacts and longer term challenges for these places. The City Centre Recovery Taskforce has developed a shared vision for their future with support from the City Centre Recovery Fund for recovery and repurposing. Through playing their part in the delivery of the National Strategy for Economic Transformation, Scotland's cities have a nationally significant opportunity to contribute to Scotland's economic recovery and to achieve a wellbeing economy.

The Town Centre Action Plan Review and our subsequent response recognises the critical importance of planning with and for communities sets a new vision for town centres, and reaffirms our commitment to the Town Centre First Principle. It recognises the critical importance of planning in diversifying the offer within our city and town centres, to help them thrive, improve their resilience and anticipate continuing societal, environmental and economic change. The Place Based Investment Programme supports our commitment to town centre action, places, local living and community wealth building.

#### **National spatial strategy**

Our future places will attract new investment, build business confidence, stimulate GDP, export growth and entrepreneurship, and facilitate future ways of working.

Planning will play a key role in creating a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy, with thriving and innovative businesses, quality jobs and fair work for everyone.

We will actively encourage investment where it is needed most by rebalancing development. This will play to the economic strengths and opportunities of each part of Scotland. Significant investment opportunities include strategic sites which were previously a focus for industrial activity but which have experienced decline. These locations will play a significant role in our transition to net zero as they are served by strategic infrastructure, well located on or close to developed coasts, and could provide added benefits for communities that are in greatest need. They also include areas that have been overlooked historically, but which are now strategically located for extensive renewable energy generation.

Planning can enable diversification of city, town and commercial centres, to better manage their role and respond to ongoing changes to the way we shop and access services. The way we work is changing, and we will need to be flexible to facilitate future business and employment that benefits communities and improves places. Digital connectivity will play a crucial role in supporting sustainable work in the future.

The way we plan our places can contribute to our short term recovery, as well as longer term restructuring to tackle long standing inequalities. Our strategy is to build a wellbeing economy that benefits everyone, and every place, in Scotland. We want the planning system to create a society that is thriving across economic, social and environmental dimensions, and that delivers prosperity for all.

Scotland's national and international connectivity for people and freight will remain important, for the economic, social and cultural benefits it delivers and for supporting wider Government ambitions on trade, tourism, and business development. Airports, ports and rail links will provide vital connections within Scotland and beyond which will be crucial to building on a sustainable recovery whilst helping to decarbonise transport through low and zero emissions technologies. Looking ahead, there will also be opportunities to build on inclusive growth within communities and support economic transformation through Green Freeports in Scotland.

Rural revitalisation, achieved by distributing development, investment and infrastructure strategically and by actively enabling rural development in particular, will play an important role in this. Key sectors including energy and food and drink focus on natural resources and provide significant employment in rural parts of Scotland. These sectors also depend on supporting services and access to markets and there is significant potential for associated investment to develop a sustainable supply chain. Digital connectivity will also be critical to their continued succes.

Urban areas are a focus for investment in the built environment and many of our industries and businesses are located in and around our cities. These areas will also be more attractive to future investors and their employees if they are greener and healthier places to live.

#### **National developments**

Six national developments support the delivery of productive places:

- <u>Clyde Mission</u> brings together substantial public and private investment to remediate and regenerate brownfield land along the River Clyde for economic, social and environmental uses.
- Aberdeen Harbour facilitates completion of the South Harbour and access to it as well as a more mixed use waterfront for Aberdeen on areas of the harbour that will not in future be required for port uses. This will contribute to international and national connectivity, freight and the renewable energy sector.
- Industrial Green Transition Zones support transformation of key sites including by putting in place the infrastructure needed to commercialise carbon capture and storage and decarbonise industry. Innovation will provide green jobs, reduce emissions and help Scotland lead the way on new technologies.
- Hunterston Strategic Asset supports re-use
  the port and wider site, engaging in new
  technologies and creating opportunities from
  nuclear decommissioning to make best use
  of existing infrastructure and provide local
  benefits.
- Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment involves the reuse of a key site to provide a range of economic opportunities for local communities. Energy produced will help to reduce heating and transport emissions within the wider region.
- High Speed Rail ensures connectivity with the United Kingdom (UK) and beyond, reduce long distance transport emissions and optimise the benefits more widely.

# CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS: RURAL REVITALISATION

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to retain and increase the population of rural areas of Scotland.

The spatial strategy reflects a wide range of proposals for development in rural areas, supported by national developments that recognise the potential and need to expand key sectors including renewable energy, sustainable transport and green infrastructure.

Policy 17 promotes the development of rural homes, to ensure the needs of communities are met in a sustainable way. Similarly, Policy 29 encourages development that will contribute to rural economies and communities. Development proposals that contribute to the viability, sustainability and diversity of rural businesses are supported while ensuring planning policies take into consideration local characteristics. Both policies support development in previously inhabited areas in a way that is guided by LDPs. Greater constraint will be applied in areas of pressure whilst in rural areas with fragile communities, a more enabling approach has been taken to support communities to be sustainable and thrive. LDPs are required to set out an appropriate approach to development in areas of pressure and decline informed by an understanding of population change and settlement characteristics and how these have changed over time as well as an understanding of the local circumstances including housing and travel.

Many policies will also play an important role in supporting rural communities and population growth. Some focus on supporting sustainable development in key sectors for rural areas such as <a href="Policy 30">Policy 30</a> on tourism, which aims to ensure community, environmental and business considerations are fully taken into account. <a href="Policy 32">Policy 32</a> encourages sustainable aquaculture, whilst <a href="Policy 10">Policy 10</a> supports development in coastal areas that takes into account future vulnerability to climate change. <a href="Policy 11">Policy 11</a> supports opportunities for renewable energy development whilst <a href="Policy 24">Policy 24</a> will support the delivery of digital infrastructure to support investment and population growth in rural areas.

Care has been taken to ensure policies reflect the specific needs and constraints of rural areas. **Policy 13** ensures that in assessing the transport impacts of development, the area's needs and characteristics are taken into account. **Policy 15** aims to promote local living in broad terms, including through 20 minute neighbourhoods where practical, recognising varying settlement patterns and the particular characteristics and challenges of different areas in applying these principles in practice. **Policy 28** also recognises the importance of retail facilities for rural communities and economies.

Alongside this, recognising that environmental quality is a key asset for rural areas, Policies **3**, **4**, **5** and **6** ensure that natural assets are protected and enhanced.

#### **CROSS-CUTTING OUTCOME AND POLICY LINKS:**

#### LIFELONG HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Our strategy and policies support development that helps to improve health and wellbeing. The spatial strategy as a whole recognises that there are significant health inequalities in Scotland that future development can help to address. The spatial principles aim to ensure that future development is directed to sustainable locations, recognising that the role of planning in supporting development in places which would benefit most from regeneration and investment.

The natural environment is fundamental to our health and wellbeing from the benefits we get from being in nature to the design and delivery of blue and green infrastructure. Policies 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 manage the effects of development on biodiversity and on natural places. Policy 20 supports development that will provide good quality, accessible greenspaces and nature networks and Policy 21 supports development that will provide opportunities for sport and play. Active travel is encouraged by Policy 13 with walking and cycling providing wider health benefits.

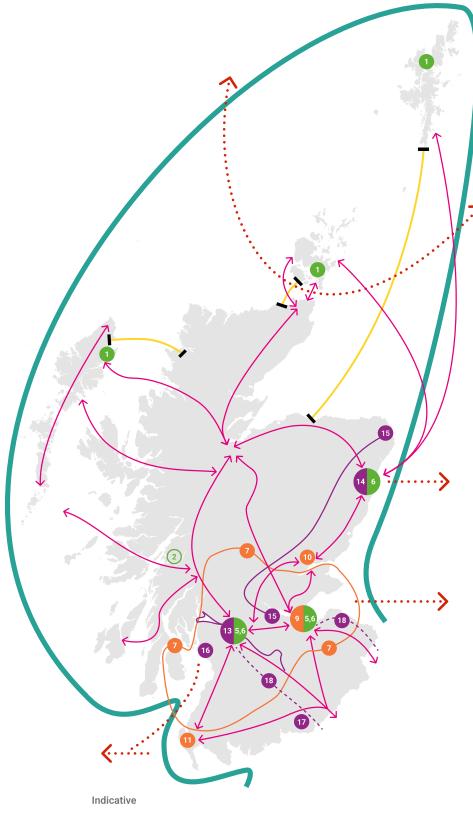
Policy 23 helps to protect health and wellbeing, including by ensuring that air and noise pollution are taken into account, and by planning and managing development to take hazards into account. Policy 22 ensures that future flood risk is not exacerbated by development, and facilitates the delivery of sustainable flood risk management solutions. Policy 10 manages development to reflect future vulnerability of coastal areas. Policy 9 encourages the redevelopment of brownfield land, helping to reduce the impact of vacant and derelict sites on communities.

Housing plays a critical role in supporting our health and wellbeing. Policy 16 enables the delivery of well planned, good quality, affordable, safe and warm homes. Alongside this, Policy 13 supports development that provides, or is accessible by active travel and Policy 15 ensures people have access to facilities from their homes, including healthcare facilities. Development is also required to take into account the capacity and any additional needs for community services and facilities, as part of the infrastructure first approach set out in Policy 18.

Policy 14 applies the six qualities of successful places to development proposals, including health and wellbeing. As part of this it prioritises key aspects including women's safety and suicide risk and aims to ensure development does not undermine the amenity of our existing homes and places. Climate related mental and physical health effects will be addressed by the strategy as a whole and in particular by Policies 1 and 2 by ensuring future development minimises emissions and is built to reflect the future risks of climate change. Health and wellbeing will also be supported by development that helps us to transition to net zero, as reflected in Policy 11 on renewable energy, Policy 12 on zero waste, and Policy 19 on heat and cooling. Wider policies relating to economic development will have a further positive effect on overall health and wellbeing by supporting employment and investment in our places in a fair and sustainable way.

# **National Spatial Strategy**

### Legend Strategic maritime routes Strategic connection Blue economy Transmission infrastructure **National Developments** Energy Innovation Development on the Islands Pumped Hydro Storage Scotland Wide Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure Scotland Wide Circular Economy Materials Management **Facilities** Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions Edinburgh and Glasgow Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow Central Scotland Green Network National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network Scotland Wide **Edinburgh Waterfront Dundee Waterfront** Stranraer Gateway Digital Fibre Network Scotland Wide Clyde Mission Aberdeen Harbour Industrial Green Transition Zones **Hunterston Strategic Asset** Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment High Speed Rail



# **National Developments**

### Legend

#### **Sustainable Places**

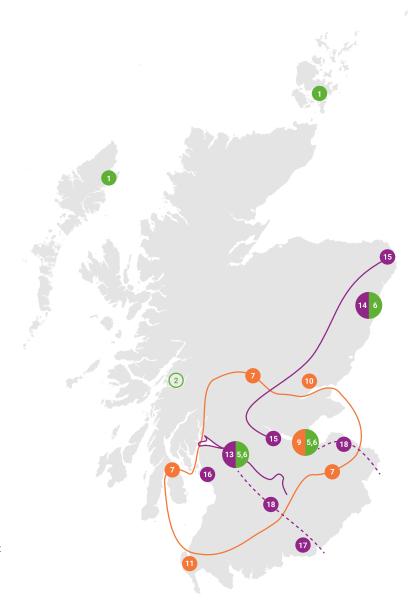
- Energy Innovation Development on the Islands
- Pumped Hydro Storage Scotland Wide
- Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
  Scotland Wide
- Circular Economy Materials Management
  Facilities
  Scotland Wide
- Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface
  Water Management Solutions
  Edinburgh and Glasgow
- **Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks**Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow

#### **Liveable Places**

- Central Scotland Green Network
- National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling
  Network
  Scotland Wide
- Edinburgh Waterfront
- Dundee Waterfront
- 11 Stranraer Gateway
- Digital Fibre Network
  Scotland Wide

#### **Productive Places**

- -13- Clyde Mission
- Aberdeen Harbour
- Industrial Green Transition Zones
- 16 Hunterston Strategic Asset
- 17 Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment
- ·18· High Speed Rail



Indicative

# **Regional Spatial Priorities North and West Coast and Islands**

This part of Scotland will be at the forefront of our efforts to reach net zero emissions by 2045. It is a diverse area, from Shetland and Orkney in the north, to the Outer and Inner Hebrides and the coastal areas of Highland and Argyll and Bute. As one of the most renewable energy rich localities in Europe with significant natural resources, there is a real opportunity for this area to support our shared national outcomes.

Key centres where lifeline links provide access to the islands include Lerwick, Kirkwall, Stromness, Stornoway, Wick and Thurso, Ullapool, Mallaig and Oban, whilst Tarbert, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown are important hubs to the south of the area. These centres provide important services to their wider hinterlands. Local projects are ongoing, including the regeneration of Stromness, the Stornoway Deep Water Port development, the linked Islands Growth Deal Outer Hebrides Energy Hub project in Stornoway, and the Islands Growth Deal Knab Redevelopment project in Shetland.

The area has an exceptional environment with coastal and island landscapes that are an important part of our national identity. It is rich in biodiversity, sustaining many internationally significant ecological sites, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Global Geoparks in the North West Highlands and Shetland, and Wester Ross UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and species including some of the best remaining temperate rainforest sites in Europe. It has a rich history, language and distinctive cultural heritage including the St Kilda and the Heart of Neolithic Orkney UNESCO World Heritage Sites. These key assets require careful management to ensure they continue to benefit communities.

There will be significant climate challenges for this part of Scotland. Island and coastal ecosystems, and the communities they support, are naturally more vulnerable to the effects of climate change, sea level rise and extreme events. Of particular concern are the impacts on vulnerable low-lying coastal zones and

infrastructure, with potentially wide-ranging effects from biodiversity loss to coastal erosion, flooding and landslips. If we do not take action to plan and build resilience, communities could suffer disproportionately from the impacts of climate change.

A climate and nature conscious approach to development of this area can help to tackle wider challenges. The Carbon Neutral Islands project will support six islands (Hoy, Islay, Great Cumbrae, Raasay, Barra and Yell) to become carbon neutral by 2040. This will act as a catalyst for further climate action across all Scottish islands to make more attractive, resilient and sustainable communities in the long-term.

The relatively high levels of community land ownership, particularly in the Outer Hebrides, and strong ties with the land and sea reflect this area's strong sense of place and local resilience. Scotland's National Islands Plan aims to grow the population and economy, improve transport and housing, and ensure island communities are served by the facilities, jobs, education and services they need to flourish. Environmental wellbeing, clean and affordable energy, strong communities, culture and identity are also priorities.

Around 94 of Scotland's 900 islands are permanently inhabited. The size and composition of each population has changed over the years and continues to do so. Whilst most recent estimates indicate population growth across the majority of local authority areas with islands, population change within each area is more complex, with areas of growth and depopulation varying between islands and coastal communities, and across different strata of the population. An ageing population in some parts of the area will mean that we need to do more to reverse past patterns of population decline and sustain local facilities and services that support rural and dispersed communities.

Public service provision, transport, energy consumption, fuel poverty, child poverty and housing, including its affordability, will continue to be significant challenges. Employment varies across the area, and can tend to rely on the public sector, tourism and lower wage sectors,

limiting the scope and choice of skilled jobs in some locations. It can be difficult to attract and retain a local workforce to support some jobs, underlining the importance of building skills and promoting fair work principles to support future investment. Language skills are also important in many areas where Gaelic is used by the community.

Challenges from the end of free movement and changing markets, and the agriculture and fishing industries, will need support to ensure long-term sustainability, but there are also substantial economic opportunities presented by developments in sectors such as renewable energy generation.

#### **Priorities**

Alongside Scotland's marine planning authorities, we will work with the area's exceptional assets and natural resources to build a more resilient future for island and coastal communities. By guiding RSS and LDPs in this area, our strategy aims to:

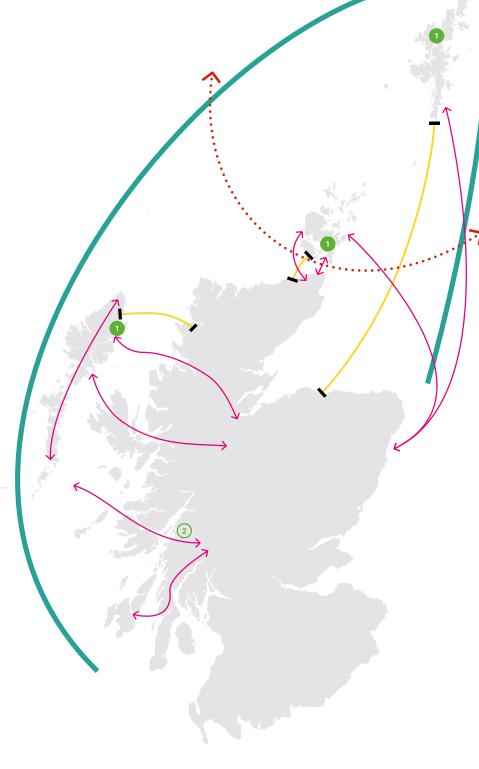
- Maximise the benefits of renewable energy whilst enhancing blue and green infrastructure, decarbonising transport and building resilient connections.
- Support coastal and island communities to become carbon neutral, thus contributing to net-zero commitments and reducing fuel poverty.
- Seize the opportunities to grow the blue and green economy, recognising the world-class environmental assets that require careful management and opportunities to develop skills and diversify employment.

The following national developments will support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area:

- Energy Innovation Development on the Islands
- Pumped Hydro Storage
- Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
- Circular Economy Material Management Facilities
- National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
- Digital Fibre Network

Further detail about the priorities for this area is contained in <u>Annex C</u>. Further details of national developments are contained in <u>Annex B</u>.

## **North and West Coast and Islands**



#### Legend

···**>** 

Strategic maritime routes



Strategic connection



Blue economy



Transmission infrastructure

#### **National Developments**

1 Energy Innovation Development on the Islands



Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
Scotland Wide

Circular Economy Materials Management
Facilities
Scotland Wide

National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling
Network
Scotland Wide

Digital Fibre Network
Scotland Wide

Indicative

#### North

The Highlands of Scotland, Moray, mainland Argyll, northern parts of rural Stirling and Perthshire are world renowned for their stunning landscapes, rich biodiversity and cultural heritage.

Settlement patterns vary, from dispersed or low density crofting townships, to key centres such as Inverness, Ullapool, Dingwall, Grantown-on-Spey, Aviemore, Elgin, Pitlochry and Aberfeldy. Cairngorms National Park is a national asset with internationally significant habitats and landscapes and there is currently a proposal to make the Flow Country a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The northern part of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park also extends into this area.

Emissions here are partly offset by the climate sequestration from land use and forestry so that the area acts as a net carbon sink overall. There are few sources of significant industrial emissions. Climate change risks include changing levels of rainfall, increased storm events, temperature rise, flood risk, rising sea levels and associated erosion. Tailored measures will be required to assist communities in adapting to climate change and transitioning to net zero.

This rural heartland is much more than a place of beauty and isolation. Many thriving communities live here, and they depend on local jobs and learning to support their quality of life. Some communities have experienced outmigration, particularly the loss of younger people, especially outwith Inverness. Further population decline is a future risk, particularly for the west and north. People often depend on the car and more limited access to services creates disadvantage, despite the quality of life and good health that many living here enjoy. An ageing population will put pressures on some services.

Parts of the area have recently experienced an accelerated increase in house prices. The pandemic has reinforced long standing issues of affordability and a more mobile remote workforce has been attracted to the area, adding increased pressure. Without intervention, access to affordable homes, jobs and services that enable local people, including young people, to stay in their communities could become more challenging. Fuel and transport poverty is a particular challenge towards the north and west and there are significant areas which do not currently benefit from good quality digital connectivity.

The area's environmental quality, culture, language, landscape and wildlife sustain key economic sectors including tourism, food and drink, distilling and clean energy. Extensive areas of woodland and peatland act as a carbon sink, contributing significantly to our national sustainability. The area has a strong economy with growing income and low unemployment overall, but there remain pockets of deprivation both in urban areas and in more remote areas where there is a need for alternatives to low skilled and low paid jobs.

#### **Priorities**

This part of Scotland can continue to make a strong contribution towards meeting our ambition for a net zero and nature positive country by demonstrating how natural assets can be managed and used to secure a more sustainable future. By guiding RSS and LDPs in this area, our strategy aims to:

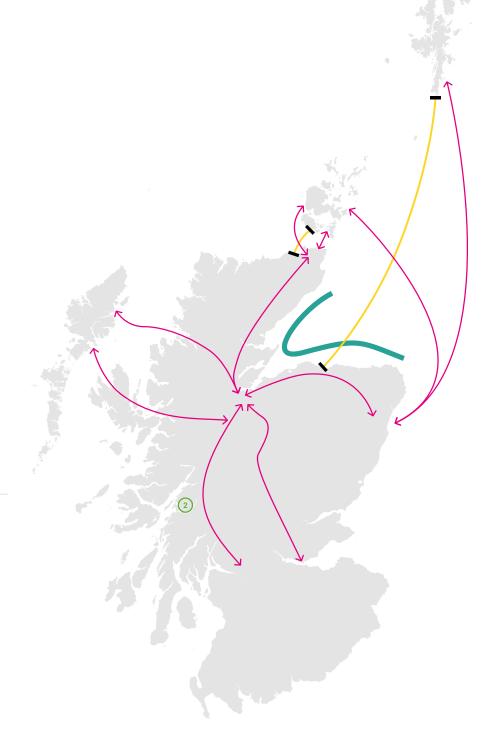
- Protect environmental assets and stimulate investment in natural and engineered solutions to climate change and nature restoration, whilst decarbonising transport and building resilient connections.
- Maintain and help to grow the population by taking a positive approach to rural development that strengthens networks of communities.
- Support local economic development by making sustainable use of the areas' worldclass environmental assets to innovate and lead greener growth.

The following national developments will also support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area:

- Pumped Hydro Storage
- Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
- Circular Economy Material Management Facilities
- National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
- Digital Fibre Network

Further detail about the priorities for this area is contained in <u>Annex C</u>. Further details of national developments are contained in <u>Annex B</u>.

## North



#### Legend



Strategic connection



Blue economy



Transmission infrastructure

#### **National Developments**



Pumped Hydro Storage Scotland Wide



Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure Scotland Wide



Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities Scotland Wide



National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network Scotland Wide



Digital Fibre Network Scotland Wide

Indicative

#### **North East**

The north east is a centre for the skills and expertise we will need to meet our climate change commitments. This area will evolve, through a just transition, to move industry and business away from the oil and gas sector towards a cleaner, greener future. Rich in natural assets, this area, along with the wider Moray and Cromarty Firths, has built on its oil and gas experience to pioneer new technologies. This makes it a uniquely investable proposition that could benefit Scotland as a whole. We can build on the area's experience to find innovative solutions to climate change.

Emissions generated from this area arise mainly from transport, industrial and commercial activity and domestic properties, with land use and forestry providing carbon sequestration. Car ownership is particularly high in Aberdeenshire. Significant parts of the coast will be vulnerable to future climate impacts.

This area is amongst the most prosperous parts of Scotland, but has experienced significant economic challenges in recent years and has pockets of deprivation. The area comprises a mix of rural and urban communities, with the city of Aberdeen and a surrounding network of towns including Huntly, Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Ellon, Inverurie and Stonehaven, and significant rural areas including countryside around Aberdeen city. Whilst parts of the area have experienced population decline, several settlements around Aberdeen have grown. Links from Aberdeenshire to communities in Moray, Angus and Tayside are also important.

Affordability and choice of homes is acute across the area, especially within Aberdeen. The growing proportion of retirees in Aberdeenshire presents a further challenge to housing and service delivery. There are lower levels of educational attainment and limited access to services for communities along the Aberdeenshire and Moray coast. Many of these places will benefit from further regeneration that builds on their identity and natural assets.

The excellent quality of the built environment, natural assets and cultural heritage already contribute to health and wellbeing in the area and can form the basis of a transition to net zero. Some of our highest quality productive agricultural land is concentrated here, together with other land-based industries, and the economy benefits from a strong fishing industry, alongside its globally significant energy sector. The dominance of these sectors, together with wider changes including from the pandemic, European Union (EU) Exit and global markets, means that economic diversification and repurposing of buildings and infrastructure will be key priorities.

#### **Priorities**

This part of Scotland will play a crucial role in achieving Just Transition to net zero. By guiding RSS and LDPs in this area, our strategy aims to:

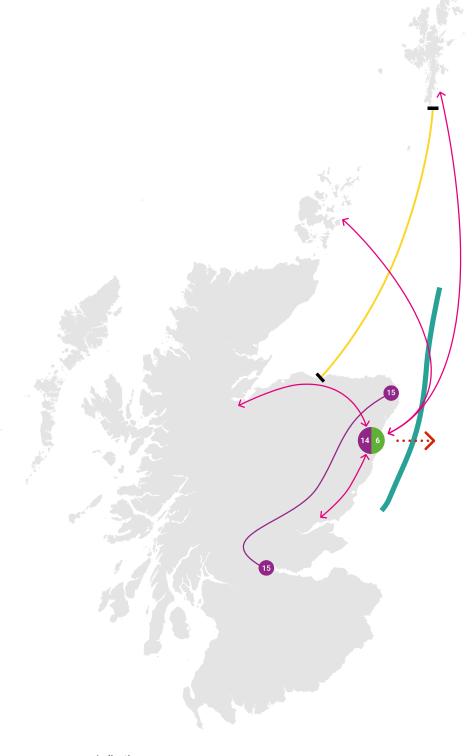
- Plan infrastructure and investment to support the transition from oil and gas to net zero whilst protecting and enhancing blue and green infrastructure and decarbonising connectivity.
- Focus on continued regeneration through the principles of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods to sustain the skilled workforce and improve local liveability.
- Support continued economic diversification and innovation.

The following national developments will also support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area:

- Pumped Hydro Storage
- Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
- <u>Circular Economy Material Management Facilities</u>
- Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks
- National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
- Digital Fibre Network
- Aberdeen Harbour
- Industrial Green Transition Zones

Further detail about the priorities for this area is contained in <u>Annex C</u>. Further details of national developments are contained in Annex B.

## **North East**



Indicative

#### Legend

Strategic maritime routes



Strategic connection



Blue economy



Transmission infrastructure

#### **National Developments**

Pumped Hydro Storage Scotland Wide



Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities Scotland Wide

Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow

National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network

Scotland Wide Digital Fibre Network

Scotland Wide Aberdeen Harbour

Industrial Green Transition Zones

#### Central

We will only meet our climate change commitments if we make significant changes to the densely populated central belt of Scotland. Our urban communities will play a critical role in reducing the emissions generated by the way we live our lives.

This area includes the Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirling, Dundee and Perth city regions as well as networks of towns and smaller settlements, and more rural surroundings.

Many of our largest emitters of greenhouse gas emissions are located in this area, including Grangemouth where industrial activity is concentrated, providing high value manufacturing and employment, and playing a key role in our resilience. Other key sources include industrial, manufacturing and waste management sites and facilities. Overall emissions from domestic properties and transport are high as a result of the area's population density and the scale of daily movement within and between city regions. The growing risk of flooding could have significant impacts in the future, as many key settlements and economic assets are located on the Clyde, Forth and Tay estuaries.

We need to work together to decarbonise buildings and transport and tackle congestion, make more efficient use of existing land and buildings, generate renewable energy and establish supporting electricity and heat networks and create more inclusive, greener and sustainable places that will stand the test of time. By weaving blue and green infrastructure across our urban fabric we can ensure that nature and the outdoors are accessible to everyone, supporting lifelong health and wellbeing and creating places that are more resilient to flooding.

There are significant social and economic differences across the area – at a broad scale there are relatively high concentrations of poor health, child poverty, economic disadvantage and population decline in parts of the Glasgow city region contrasting with strong demand

and expected population growth in parts of the Edinburgh city region. The broad pattern is repeated for children living in poverty, who are more likely to live in the Glasgow city region. Across the area as a whole, however, there are localised areas of high and low deprivation.

As a nation we have a particular obligation to do more to tackle the concentration of poor health outcomes in west central Scotland. Action is needed to reduce inequality and improve health and wellbeing so that everyone is able to thrive. Better places can do more to support lifelong health and wellbeing by providing warm homes that are connected to services. Access to quality greenspace and nature-based solutions can help to mitigate health inequalities and improve physical and mental health, by providing opportunities for play, socialising, relaxation and physical activity. Developing our communities to promote local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods can help reduce inequalities in health. The frequency of urban car use can be reduced by improving local liveability and improved access to facilities, helping to reduce emissions and air pollution. Access to health and social care facilities will need to be built into our future places and can benefit from continuing investment in digital infrastructure and innovation.

Household projections show there will be a continuing demand for more homes across the most urban parts of Scotland. There has been a strong market, high levels of housebuilding and pressure on infrastructure in some 'hot spots' including the Edinburgh city region, Stirling and Falkirk, and Perth. In contrast, despite good connections and infrastructure capacity, it can be more challenging to encourage the market to deliver new homes particularly in parts of the west where unemployment is also higher.

There are also inequalities across each of the city regions, with local concentrations of economic deprivation and many former coalfield communities. Overall, economic performance is higher in Edinburgh and Glasgow and lower in surrounding areas including Inverclyde, Ayrshire, along parts of the Clyde Coast and Lanarkshire.

The diverse business base reflects nationally important sectors including financial services, business administration, life sciences, distribution and transport, retail and commercial, and manufacturing and production. City centres are experiencing significant challenges, caused or accelerated by the pandemic, but each retain a strong character and distinctive identity, offering opportunities for new business, homes, and services. Similar issues apply to the towns across this area.

A wellbeing economy goes beyond strategic investment sites to link more closely with the wellbeing of communities and their local environments. It will be critical to recognise the importance of anchor institutions who can support local investment in our places and natural and historic assets, provide education, employment and other services, and act as community hubs. Significant investment in our health and social care, justice and learning estates will continue to provide important sources of employment and income for smaller scale local businesses.

Around the area's settlements there are many high quality environments, from World Heritage Sites, historic burghs and conservation areas to protected biodiversity sites of international importance, ancient woodlands and areas of high landscape quality, including the coastline, country and national parks, and canals. This brings opportunities for outdoor recreation within a short distance of the majority of Scotland's population.

The coast is an integral part of the area's identity, combining natural and cultural heritage and acting as a focus for investment and regeneration. We have made progress in restoring and reusing areas that were historically a focus for heavy industry and mining, leaving a legacy of disused sites and areas blighted by dereliction. Key sites for further investment include urban waterfronts and former industrial sites where existing infrastructure can be reused to support the transition to a low carbon economy.

#### **Priorities**

A coherent strategy that focuses on climate change and responds to the challenges of the pandemic will drive forward change to tackle inequalities and build a new, greener, future for this part of the country. By guiding RSS and LDPs in this area, our strategy aims to:

- Provide net zero energy solutions including extended heat networks and improved energy efficiency, together with urban greening and improved low carbon transport.
- Pioneer low carbon, resilient urban living by rolling out networks of 20 minute neighbourhoods, future proofing city and town centres, accelerating urban greening, investing in net zero homes, and managing development on the edge of settlements.
- Target economic investment and build community wealth to overcome disadvantage and support a greener wellbeing economy.

The following national developments will also support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area:

- Pumped Hydro Storage
- Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
- <u>Circular Economy Material Management</u>
   <u>Facilities</u>
- Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Drainage Solutions
- Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks
- Central Scotland Green Network
- National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
- Edinburgh Waterfront
- Dundee Waterfront
- Digital Fibre Network
- Clyde Mission
- Industrial Green Transition Zones
- Hunterston Strategic Asset
- High Speed Rail

Further detail about the priorities for this area is contained in <u>Annex C.</u> Further details of national developments are contained in Annex B.

## Central

#### Legend



Strategic maritime routes



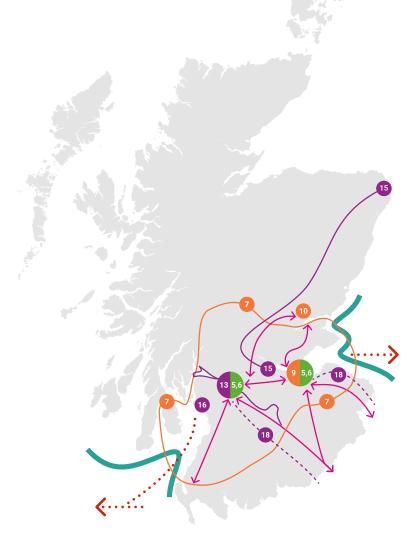
Strategic connection



Blue economy

#### **National Developments**

- Pumped Hydro Storage Scotland Wide
- Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
  Scotland Wide
- Circular Economy Materials Management
  Facilities
  Scotland Wide
- Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface
  Water Management Solutions
  Edinburgh and Glasgow
- Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks
  Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow
- Central Scotland Green Network
  Mapping is indicative
- National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling
  Network
  Scotland Wide
- 9 Edinburgh Waterfront
- Dundee Waterfront
- Digital Fibre Network
  Scotland Wide
- -13- Clyde Mission
- 15 Industrial Green Transition Zones
- 16 Hunterston Strategic Asset
- ·18· High Speed Rail



Indicative

#### South

The South of Scotland is strategically important with a strong sense of identity centred on networks of towns and villages, supported by distinctive landscapes and coasts. This is a place with a rich cultural heritage and exceptional environmental assets and natural resources, such as the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere and Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park. This area is ambitious for positive change in the coming years, and the immediate work to recover from the pandemic will form the basis of a longer term plan to respond to the challenges of climate change and support nature restoration and recovery.

Settlements across this area provide services to the surrounding rural communities. Towns are well placed to be models of sustainable living, with many undergoing regeneration. Larger settlements include Dumfries, Stranraer, Galashiels, Hawick, with a network of towns and villages throughout Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders. The area extends northwards to include Ayrshire towns such as Ayr, Girvan, Dalmellington and Cumnock in the west, as well as towards the southern rural parts of East Lothian in the east and parts of South Lanarkshire including Biggar and Moffat. Beyond the towns there are many small settlements and rural homes, farms and smallholdings.

Cross border relationships are important in this area, together with strategic transport connections to England, Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Emissions in this area are moderate, with transport and industry emissions being partly offset by land use. The area has significant areas of woodland and peatland which act as a carbon sink and form the basis for future investment opportunities. The few sites that are significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions include industrial and commercial activities, including some food and drink processing facilities. Coastal erosion and flood risk is expected to be a significant challenge in the future, particularly where there is a risk of impacts on key transport corridors or settlements.

Working with communities to find new ways of rural living that are consistent with climate change will be a challenge for this part of Scotland, given the relatively high levels of dependence on the car, limited public transport, housing affordability challenges and the dispersed population.

Despite having high levels of wellbeing and quality of life, population decline is projected to continue in some regions to the west of the area, with fewer younger people and more retired people living in the area in the future. Economic diversification will help to address dependence on low wage and public sector employment.

#### **Priorities**

Our strategy aims to ensure that this part of Scotland fulfils its potential. There is significant potential for the area to develop and increase recognition of it as a place to live, work and visit. By guiding RSS and LDPs in this area, our strategy aims to:

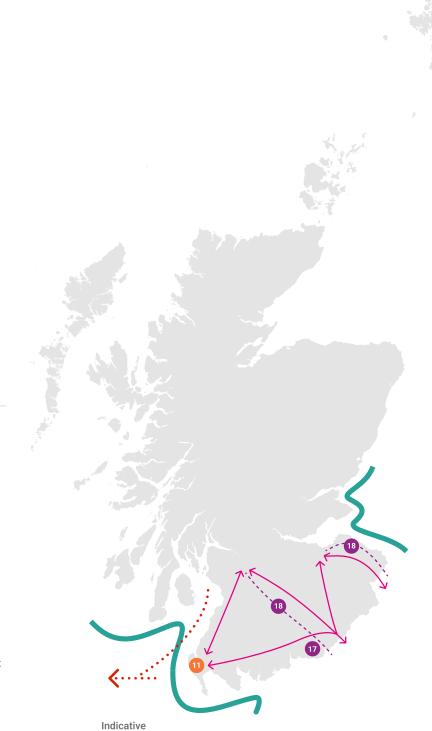
- Protect environmental assets and stimulate investment in natural and engineered solutions to climate change and nature restoration, whilst decarbonising transport and building resilient physical and digital connections.
- Increase the population by improving local liveability, creating a low carbon network of towns and supporting sustainable rural development.
- Support local economic development whilst making sustainable use of the area's worldclass environmental assets to innovate and lead greener growth.

The following national developments will also support delivery of the spatial strategy for this area:

- Pumped Hydro Storage
- Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
- <u>Circular Economy Material Management</u>
   Facilities
- National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
- Stranraer Gateway
- Digital Fibre Network
- Clyde Mission
- · Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment
- High Speed Rail

Further detail about the priorities for this area is contained in <u>Annex C</u>. Further details of national developments are contained in Annex B.

## South



#### Legend



Strategic maritime routes



Strategic connection



Blue economy

#### **National Developments**

- Pumped Hydro Storage Scotland Wide
- Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure
  Scotland Wide
- Circular Economy Materials Management
  Facilities
  Scotland Wide
- National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling
  Network
  Scotland Wide
- 11 Stranraer Gateway
- Digital Fibre Network
  Scotland Wide
- 17 Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment
- ·18· High Speed Rail

# Part 2 – National Planning Policy



## **Sustainable Places**

## **Tackling the climate and nature crises**

### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate development that addresses the global climate emergency and nature crisis.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

Zero carbon, nature positive places.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs must address the global climate emergency and nature crisis by ensuring the spatial strategy will reduce emissions and adapt to current and future risks of climate change by promoting nature recovery and restoration in the area.

## Policy 1

When considering all development proposals significant weight will be given to the global climate and nature crises.

#### **Policy impact:**

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Local living
- Compact urban growth
- Rural revitalisation

#### **Key policy connections:**

All other policies.

## **Climate mitigation and adaptation**

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate development that minimises emissions and adapts to the current and future impacts of climate change.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

- Emissions from development are minimised; and
- Our places are more resilient to climate change impacts.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

The LDP spatial strategy should be designed to reduce, minimise or avoid greenhouse gas emissions. The six spatial principles should form the basis of the spatial strategy, helping to guide development to, and create, sustainable locations. The strategy should be informed by an understanding of the impacts of the proposals on greenhouse gas emissions.

LDPs should support adaptation to the current and future impacts of climate change by taking into account climate risks, guiding development away from vulnerable areas, and enabling places to adapt to those risks.

#### Policy 2

- a) Development proposals will be sited and designed to minimise lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions as far as possible.
- b) Development proposals will be sited and designed to adapt to current and future risks from climate change.
- c) Development proposals to retrofit measures to existing developments that reduce emissions or support adaptation to climate change will be supported.

#### **Policy impact:**

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Local living
- Compact urban growth
- Rebalanced development
- Rural revitalisation

#### **Key policy connections:**

All other policies.

## **Biodiversity**

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To protect biodiversity, reverse biodiversity loss, deliver positive effects from development and strengthen nature networks.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

 Biodiversity is enhanced and better connected including through strengthened nature networks and naturebased solutions.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should protect, conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity in line with the mitigation hierarchy. They should also promote nature recovery and nature restoration across the development plan area, including by: facilitating the creation of nature networks and strengthening connections between them to support improved ecological connectivity; restoring degraded habitats or creating new habitats; and incorporating measures to increase biodiversity, including populations of priority species.

- a) Development proposals will contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity, including where relevant, restoring degraded habitats and building and strengthening nature networks and the connections between them. Proposals should also integrate nature-based solutions, where possible.
- b) Development proposals for national or major development, or for development that requires an Environmental Impact Assessment will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposal will conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, including nature networks so they are in a demonstrably better state than without intervention. This will include future management. To inform this, best practice assessment methods should be used. Proposals within these categories will demonstrate how they have met all of the following criteria:

- i. the proposal is based on an understanding of the existing characteristics of the site and its local, regional and national ecological context prior to development, including the presence of any irreplaceable habitats:
- ii. wherever feasible, nature-based solutions have been integrated and made best use of:
- iii. an assessment of potential negative effects which should be fully mitigated in line with the mitigation hierarchy prior to identifying enhancements:
- iv. significant biodiversity enhancements are provided, in addition to any proposed mitigation. This should include nature networks, linking to and strengthening habitat connectivity within and beyond the development, secured within a reasonable timescale and with reasonable certainty. Management arrangements for their long-term retention and monitoring should be included, wherever appropriate; and
- v. local community benefits of the biodiversity and/or nature networks have been considered.
- c) Proposals for local development will include appropriate measures to conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, in accordance with national and local guidance. Measures should be proportionate to the nature and scale of development. Applications for individual householder development, or which fall within scope of (b) above, are excluded from this requirement.
- d) Any potential adverse impacts, including cumulative impacts, of development proposals on biodiversity, nature networks and the natural environment will be minimised through careful planning and design. This will take into account the need to reverse biodiversity loss, safeguard the ecosystem services that the natural environment provides, and build resilience by enhancing nature networks and maximising the potential for restoration.

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Rebalanced development
- Rural revitalisation

## **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Natural places

Soils

Forestry, woodland and trees

Green belts

Coastal development

Energy

Design, quality and place

Blue and green infrastructure

Flood risk and water management

## **Natural places**

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To protect, restore and enhance natural assets making best use of nature-based solutions.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

- Natural places are protected and restored.
- Natural assets are managed in a sustainable way that maintains and grows their essential benefits and services.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs will identify and protect locally, regionally, nationally and internationally important natural assets, on land and along coasts. The spatial strategy should safeguard them and take into account the objectives and level of their protected status in allocating land for development. Spatial strategies should also better connect nature rich areas by establishing and growing nature networks to help protect and restore the biodiversity, ecosystems and natural processes in their area.

#### Policy 4

- a) Development proposals which by virtue of type, location or scale will have an unacceptable impact on the natural environment, will not be supported.
- b) Development proposals that are likely to have a significant effect on an existing or proposed European site (Special Area of Conservation or Special Protection Areas) and are not directly connected with or necessary to their conservation management are required to be subject to an "appropriate assessment" of the implications for the conservation objectives.

- c) Development proposals that will affect a National Park, National Scenic Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest or a National Nature Reserve will only be supported where:
  - The objectives of designation and the overall integrity of the areas will not be compromised; or
  - ii. Any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of national importance.

All Ramsar sites are also European sites and/ or Sites of Special Scientific Interest and are extended protection under the relevant statutory regimes.

- d) Development proposals that affect a site designated as a local nature conservation site or landscape area in the LDP will only be supported where:
  - Development will not have significant adverse effects on the integrity of the area or the qualities for which it has been identified; or
  - ii. Any significant adverse effects on the integrity of the area are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of at least local importance.
- e) The precautionary principle will be applied in accordance with relevant legislation and Scottish Government guidance.
- f) Development proposals that are likely to have an adverse effect on species protected by legislation will only be supported where the proposal meets the relevant statutory tests. If there is reasonable evidence to suggest that a protected species is present on a site or may be affected by a proposed development, steps must be taken to establish its presence. The level of protection required by legislation must be factored into the planning and design of development, and potential impacts must be fully considered prior to the determination of any application.

- g) Development proposals in areas identified as wild land in the Nature Scot Wild Land Areas map will only be supported where the proposal:
  - i. will support meeting renewable energy targets; or,
  - ii. is for small scale development directly linked to a rural business or croft, or is required to support a fragile community in a rural area.

All such proposals must be accompanied by a wild land impact assessment which sets out how design, siting, or other mitigation measures have been and will be used to minimise significant impacts on the qualities of the wild land, as well as any management and monitoring arrangements where appropriate. Buffer zones around wild land will not be applied, and effects of development outwith wild land areas will not be a significant consideration.

#### **Policy impact:**

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Rebalanced development
- Rural revitalisation

#### **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Biodiversity

Soils

Forestry, woodland and trees

Historic assets and places

Green belts

Coastal development

Energy

Design, quality and place

Blue and green infrastructure

Play, recreation and sport

Flood risk and water management

Rural development

Tourism

#### **Soils**

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To protect carbon-rich soils, restore peatlands and minimise disturbance to soils from development.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

- Valued soils are protected and restored.
- Soils, including carbon-rich soils, are sequestering and storing carbon.
- Soils are healthy and provide essential ecosystem services for nature, people and our economy.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should protect locally, regionally, nationally and internationally valued soils, including land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use.

- a) Development proposals will only be supported if they are designed and constructed:
  - In accordance with the mitigation hierarchy by first avoiding and then minimising the amount of disturbance to soils on undeveloped land; and
  - ii. In a manner that protects soil from damage including from compaction and erosion, and that minimises soil sealing.
- b) Development proposals on prime agricultural land, or land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use, as identified by the LDP, will only be supported where it is for:
  - Essential infrastructure and there is a specific locational need and no other suitable site;
  - ii. Small-scale development directly linked to a rural business, farm or croft or for essential workers for the rural business to be able to live onsite;

- iii. The development of production and processing facilities associated with the land produce where no other local site is suitable:
- iv. The generation of energy from renewable sources or the extraction of minerals and there is secure provision for restoration; and
- In all of the above exceptions, the layout and design of the proposal minimises the amount of protected land that is required.
- c) Development proposals on peatland, carbonrich soils and priority peatland habitat will only be supported for:
  - Essential infrastructure and there is a specific locational need and no other suitable site:
  - ii. The generation of energy from renewable sources that optimises the contribution of the area to greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets;
  - iii. Small-scale development directly linked to a rural business, farm or croft;
  - iv. Supporting a fragile community in a rural or island area; or
  - v. Restoration of peatland habitats.
- d) Where development on peatland, carbon-rich soils or priority peatland habitat is proposed, a detailed site specific assessment will be required to identify:
  - i. the baseline depth, habitat condition, quality and stability of carbon rich soils;
  - ii. the likely effects of the development on peatland, including on soil disturbance; and
  - iii. the likely net effects of the development on climate emissions and loss of carbon.

This assessment should inform careful project design and ensure, in accordance with relevant guidance and the mitigation hierarchy, that adverse impacts are first avoided and then minimised through best practice. A peat management plan will be required to demonstrate that this approach has been followed, alongside other appropriate plans required for restoring and/ or enhancing the site into a functioning peatland system capable of achieving carbon sequestration.

- e) Development proposals for new commercial peat extraction, including extensions to existing sites, will only be supported where:
  - i. the extracted peat is supporting the Scottish whisky industry;
  - ii. there is no reasonable substitute;
  - iii. the area of extraction is the minimum necessary and the proposal retains an in-situ residual depth of peat of at least 1 metre across the whole site, including drainage features;
  - iv. the time period for extraction is the minimum necessary; and
  - v. there is an agreed comprehensive site restoration plan which will progressively restore, over a reasonable timescale, the area of extraction to a functioning peatland system capable of achieving carbon sequestration.

#### **Policy impact:**

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Rural revitalisation

#### **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

**Biodiversity** 

Natural places

Forestry, woodland and trees

Historic assets and places

Energy

- Blue and green infrastructure
- Rural development

## Forestry, woodland and trees

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To protect and expand forests, woodland and trees.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

- Existing woodlands and trees are protected, and cover is expanded.
- Woodland and trees on development sites are sustainably managed.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should identify and protect existing woodland and the potential for its enhancement or expansion to avoid habitat fragmentation and improve ecological connectivity, helping to support and expand nature networks. The spatial strategy should identify and set out proposals for forestry, woodlands and trees in the area, including their development, protection and enhancement, resilience to climate change, and the expansion of a range of types to provide multiple benefits. This will be supported and informed by an up to date Forestry and Woodland Strategy.

#### Policy 6

- a) Development proposals that enhance, expand and improve woodland and tree cover will be supported.
- b) Development proposals will not be supported where they will result in:
  - Any loss of ancient woodlands, ancient and veteran trees, or adverse impact on their ecological condition;
  - ii. Adverse impacts on native woodlands, hedgerows and individual trees of high biodiversity value, or identified for protection in the Forestry and Woodland Strategy;
  - iii. Fragmenting or severing woodland habitats, unless appropriate mitigation measures are identified and implemented in line with the mitigation hierarchy;
  - iv. Conflict with Restocking Direction, Remedial Notice or Registered Notice to Comply issued by Scottish Forestry.

- c) Development proposals involving woodland removal will only be supported where they will achieve significant and clearly defined additional public benefits in accordance with relevant Scottish Government policy on woodland removal. Where woodland is removed, compensatory planting will most likely be expected to be delivered.
- d) Development proposals on sites which include an area of existing woodland or land identified in the Forestry and Woodland Strategy as being suitable for woodland creation will only be supported where the enhancement and improvement of woodlands and the planting of new trees on the site (in accordance with the Forestry and Woodland Strategy) are integrated into the design.

#### **Policy impact:**

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Rebalanced development
- Rural revitalisation

#### **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

**Biodiversity** 

Natural places

Soils

Historic assets and places

Green belts

Energy

Design, quality and place

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Heat and cooling

Blue and green infrastructure

Play, recreation and sport

Flood risk and water management

Health and safety

Tourism

## **Historic assets and places**

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To protect and enhance historic environment assets and places, and to enable positive change as a catalyst for the regeneration of places.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

- The historic environment is valued, protected, and enhanced, supporting the transition to net zero and ensuring assets are resilient to current and future impacts of climate change.
- Redundant or neglected historic buildings are brought back into sustainable and productive uses.
- Recognise the social, environmental and economic value of the historic environment, to our economy and cultural identity.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs, including through their spatial strategies, should support the sustainable management of the historic environment. They should identify, protect and enhance valued historic assets and places.

### Policy 7

a) Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place. The assessment should identify the likely visual or physical impact of any proposals for change, including cumulative effects and provide a sound basis for managing the impacts of change.

Proposals should also be informed by national policy and guidance on managing change in the historic environment, and information held within Historic Environment Records.

- b) Development proposals for the demolition of listed buildings will not be supported unless it has been demonstrated that there are exceptional circumstances and that all reasonable efforts have been made to retain, reuse and/or adapt the listed building. Considerations include whether the:
  - i. building is no longer of special interest;
  - ii. building is incapable of physical repair and re-use as verified through a detailed structural condition survey report;
  - iii. repair of the building is not economically viable and there has been adequate marketing for existing and/or new uses at a price reflecting its location and condition for a reasonable period to attract interest from potential restoring purchasers; or
  - iv. demolition of the building is essential to delivering significant benefits to economic growth or the wider community.
- c) Development proposals for the reuse, alteration or extension of a listed building will only be supported where they will preserve its character, special architectural or historic interest and setting. Development proposals affecting the setting of a listed building should preserve its character, and its special architectural or historic interest.
- d) Development proposals in or affecting conservation areas will only be supported where the character and appearance of the conservation area and its setting is preserved or enhanced. Relevant considerations include the:
  - i. architectural and historic character of the area;
  - ii. existing density, built form and layout; and
  - iii. context and siting, quality of design and suitable materials.
- e) Development proposals in conservation areas will ensure that existing natural and built features which contribute to the character of the conservation area and its setting, including structures, boundary walls, railings, trees and hedges, are retained.

- f) Demolition of buildings in a conservation area which make a positive contribution to its character will only be supported where it has been demonstrated that:
  - i. reasonable efforts have been made to retain, repair and reuse the building;
  - ii. the building is of little townscape value;
  - iii. the structural condition of the building prevents its retention at a reasonable cost;
  - iv. the form or location of the building makes its reuse extremely difficult.
- g) Where demolition within a conservation area is to be followed by redevelopment, consent to demolish will only be supported when an acceptable design, layout and materials are being used for the replacement development.
- h) Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where:
  - i. direct impacts on the scheduled monument are avoided:
  - ii. significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or
  - iii. exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.
- i) Development proposals affecting nationally important Gardens and Designed Landscapes will be supported where they protect, preserve or enhance their cultural significance, character and integrity and where proposals will not significantly impact on important views to, from and within the site, or its setting.
- j) Development proposals affecting nationally important Historic Battlefields will only be supported where they protect and, where appropriate, enhance their cultural significance, key landscape characteristics, physical remains and special qualities.

- k) Development proposals at the coast edge or that extend offshore will only be supported where proposals do not significantly hinder the preservation objectives of Historic Marine Protected Areas.
- Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.
- m) Development proposals which sensitively repair, enhance and bring historic buildings, as identified as being at risk locally or on the national Buildings at Risk Register, back into beneficial use will be supported.
- n) Enabling development for historic environment assets or places that would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms, will only be supported when it has been demonstrated that the enabling development proposed is:
  - i. essential to secure the future of an historic environment asset or place which is at risk of serious deterioration or loss; and
  - ii. the minimum necessary to secure the restoration, adaptation and long-term future of the historic environment asset or place.

The beneficial outcomes for the historic environment asset or place should be secured early in the phasing of the development, and will be ensured through the use of conditions and/or legal agreements.

o) Non-designated historic environment assets, places and their setting should be protected and preserved in situ wherever feasible.
 Where there is potential for non-designated buried archaeological remains to exist below a site, developers will provide an evaluation of the archaeological resource at an early stage so that planning authorities can assess impacts. Historic buildings may also have archaeological significance which is not understood and may require assessment.

Where impacts cannot be avoided they should be minimised. Where it has been demonstrated that avoidance or retention is not possible, excavation, recording, analysis, archiving, publication and activities to provide public benefit may be required through the use of conditions or legal/planning obligations.

When new archaeological discoveries are made during the course of development works, they must be reported to the planning authority to enable agreement on appropriate inspection, recording and mitigation measures.

#### **Policy impact:**

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Local living
- Compact urban growth
- Rebalanced development
- Rural revitalisation

#### **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Natural places

Forestry, woodland and trees

Green belts

Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings

Coastal development

Energy

Design, quality and place

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Infrastructure first

Quality homes

Rural homes

Blue and green infrastructure

Flood risk and water management

Digital infrastructure

Community wealth building

City, town, local and commercial centres

Rural development

Tourism

Culture and creativity

#### **Green belts**

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate compact urban growth and use the land around our towns and cities sustainably.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

- Development is directed to the right locations, urban density is increased and unsustainable growth is prevented.
- The character, landscape, natural setting and identity of settlements is protected and enhanced.
- Nature networks are supported and land is managed to help tackle climate change.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should consider using green belts, to support their spatial strategy as a settlement management tool to restrict development around towns and cities.

Green belts will not be necessary for most settlements but may be zoned around settlements where there is a significant danger of unsustainable growth in car-based commuting or suburbanisation of the countryside.

Green belts should be identified or reviewed as part of the preparation of LDPs. Boundary changes may be made to accommodate planned growth, or to extend, or alter the area covered as green belt. Detailed green belt boundaries should be based on evidence and should be clearly identified in plans.

#### Policy 8

- a) Development proposals within a green belt designated within the LDP will only be supported if:
  - i) they are for:
    - development associated with agriculture, woodland creation, forestry and existing woodland (including community woodlands);
    - residential accommodation required and designed for a key worker in a primary industry within the immediate vicinity of their place of employment where the presence of a worker is essential to the operation of the enterprise, or retired workers where there is no suitable alternative accommodation available;
    - horticulture, including market gardening and directly connected retailing, as well as community growing;
    - outdoor recreation, play and sport or leisure and tourism uses; and developments that provide opportunities for access to the open countryside (including routes for active travel and core paths);
    - flood risk management (such as development of blue and green infrastructure within a "drainage catchment" to manage/mitigate flood risk and/or drainage issues);
    - essential infrastructure or new cemetery provision;
    - minerals operations and renewable energy developments;
    - intensification of established uses, including extensions to an existing building where that is ancillary to the main use;
    - the reuse, rehabilitation and conversion of historic environment assets; or
    - one-for-one replacements of existing permanent homes.

and

- ii) the following requirements are met:
  - reasons are provided as to why a green belt location is essential and why it cannot be located on an alternative site outwith the green belt;
  - the purpose of the green belt at that location is not undermined;
  - the proposal is compatible with the surrounding established countryside and landscape character;
  - the proposal has been designed to ensure it is of an appropriate scale, massing and external appearance, and uses materials that minimise visual impact on the green belt as far as possible; and
  - there will be no significant long-term impacts on the environmental quality of the green belt.

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Local living
- Compact urban growth
- Rebalanced development
- Rural revitalisation

#### **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Biodiversity

Natural places

Forestry, woodland and trees

Historic assets and places

Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and

empty buildings

Energy

Sustainable transport

Design, quality and place

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Infrastructure first

Quality homes

Rural homes

Blue and green infrastructure

Play, recreation and sport

Flood risk and water management

Digital infrastructure

Business and industry

Rural development

Retail

Tourism

Minerals

## Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate the reuse of brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings, and to help reduce the need for greenfield development.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

- Development is directed to the right locations, maximising the use of existing assets and minimising additional land take.
- The contribution of brownfield land to nature recovery is recognised and opportunities for use as productive greenspace are realised where appropriate.
- Derelict buildings and spaces are regenerated to improve wellbeing and transform our places.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should set out opportunities for the sustainable reuse of brownfield land including vacant and derelict land and empty buildings.

#### Policy 9

- a) Development proposals that will result in the sustainable reuse of brownfield land including vacant and derelict land and buildings, whether permanent or temporary, will be supported. In determining whether the reuse is sustainable, the biodiversity value of brownfield land which has naturalised should be taken into account.
- b) Proposals on greenfield sites will not be supported unless the site has been allocated for development or the proposal is explicitly supported by policies in the LDP.

- c) Where land is known or suspected to be unstable or contaminated, development proposals will demonstrate that the land is, or can be made, safe and suitable for the proposed new use.
- d) Development proposals for the reuse of existing buildings will be supported, taking into account their suitability for conversion to other uses. Given the need to conserve embodied energy, demolition will be regarded as the least preferred option.

#### **Policy impact:**

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Local living
- Compact urban growth
- Rebalanced development

#### Key policy connections:

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Historic assets and places

Zero waste

Design, quality and place

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Infrastructure first

Quality homes

Rural homes

Blue and green infrastructure

Play, recreation and sport

Health and safety

Business and industry

City, town, local and commercial centres

Rural development

Culture and creativity

## **Coastal development**

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To protect coastal communities and assets and support resilience to the impacts of climate change.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

 Coastal areas develop sustainably and adapt to climate change.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDP spatial strategies should consider how to adapt coastlines to the impacts of climate change. This should recognise that rising sea levels and more extreme weather events resulting from climate change will potentially have a significant impact on coastal and islands areas, and take a precautionary approach to flood risk including by inundation. Spatial strategies should reflect the diversity of coastal areas and opportunities to use nature-based solutions to improve the resilience of coastal communities and assets. LDP spatial strategies should identify areas of developed and undeveloped coast and should align with national, sectoral and regional marine plans.

- a) Development proposals in developed coastal areas will only be supported where the proposal:
  - i. does not result in the need for further coastal protection measures taking into account future sea level change; or increase the risk to people of coastal flooding or coastal erosion, including through the loss of natural coastal defences including dune systems; and
  - ii. is anticipated to be supportable in the longterm, taking into account projected climate change.

- b) Development proposals in undeveloped coastal areas will only be supported where they:
  - i. are necessary to support the blue economy, net zero emissions or to contribute to the economy or wellbeing of communities whose livelihood depend on marine or coastal activities, or is for essential infrastructure, where there is a specific locational need and no other suitable site;
  - ii. do not result in the need for further coastal protection measures taking into account future sea level change; or increase the risk to people of coastal flooding or coastal erosion, including through the loss of natural coastal defences including dune systems; and
  - iii. are anticipated to be supportable in the long-term, taking into account projected climate change; or
  - iv. are designed to have a very short lifespan.
- c) Development proposals for coastal defence measures will be supported if:
  - i. they are consistent with relevant coastal or marine plans;
  - ii. nature-based solutions are utilised and allow for managed future coastal change wherever practical; and
  - iii. any in-perpetuity hard defense measures can be demonstrated to be necessary to protect essential assets.
- d) Where a design statement is submitted with any planning application that may impact on the coast it will take into account, as appropriate, long-term coastal vulnerability and resilience.

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Local living
- Compact urban growth
- Rural revitalisation

## Key policy connections:

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Biodiversity

Natural places

Energy

Design, quality and place

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Infrastructure first

Blue and green infrastructure

Play, recreation and sport

Flood risk and water management

Rural development

Tourism

Aquaculture

#### **Energy**

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate all forms of renewable energy development onshore and offshore. This includes energy generation, storage, new and replacement transmission and distribution infrastructure and emerging low-carbon and zero emissions technologies including hydrogen and carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS).

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

• Expansion of renewable, low-carbon and zero emissions technologies.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should seek to realise their area's full potential for electricity and heat from renewable, low carbon and zero emission sources by identifying a range of opportunities for energy development.

- a) Development proposals for all forms of renewable, low-carbon and zero emissions technologies will be supported. These include:
  - i. wind farms including repowering, extending, expanding and extending the life of existing wind farms;
  - ii. enabling works, such as grid transmission and distribution infrastructure:
  - iii. energy storage, such as battery storage and pumped storage hydro;
  - iv. small scale renewable energy generation technology;
  - v. solar arrays;
  - vi. proposals associated with negative emissions technologies and carbon capture; and
  - vii. proposals including co-location of these technologies.
- b) Development proposals for wind farms in National Parks and National Scenic Areas will not be supported.

- c) Development proposals will only be supported where they maximise net economic impact, including local and community socio-economic benefits such as employment, associated business and supply chain opportunities.
- d) Development proposals that impact on international or national designations will be assessed in relation to Policy 4.
- e) In addition, project design and mitigation will demonstrate how the following impacts are addressed:
  - impacts on communities and individual dwellings, including, residential amenity, visual impact, noise and shadow flicker;
  - ii. significant landscape and visual impacts, recognising that such impacts are to be expected for some forms of renewable energy. Where impacts are localised and/ or appropriate design mitigation has been applied, they will generally be considered to be acceptable;
  - iii. public access, including impact on long distance walking and cycling routes and scenic routes;
  - iv. impacts on aviation and defence interests including seismological recording;
  - v. impacts on telecommunications and broadcasting installations, particularly ensuring that transmission links are not compromised;
  - vi. impacts on road traffic and on adjacent trunk roads, including during construction;
  - vii. impacts on historic environment;
  - viii. effects on hydrology, the water environment and flood risk;
  - ix. biodiversity including impacts on birds;
  - x. impacts on trees, woods and forests;
  - xi. proposals for the decommissioning of developments, including ancillary infrastructure, and site restoration;
  - xii. the quality of site restoration plans including the measures in place to safeguard or guarantee availability of finances to effectively implement those plans; and
  - xiii. cumulative impacts.

In considering these impacts, significant weight will be placed on the contribution of the proposal to renewable energy generation targets and on greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

Grid capacity should not constrain renewable energy development. It is for developers to agree connections to the grid with the relevant network operator. In the case of proposals for grid infrastructure, consideration should be given to underground connections where possible.

f) Consents for development proposals may be time-limited. Areas identified for wind farms are, however, expected to be suitable for use in perpetuity.

#### **Policy impact:**

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Rebalanced development

#### **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

**Biodiversity** 

Natural places

Forestry, woodland and trees

Soils

Historic assets and places

Green belts

Infrastructure first

Heat and cooling

Community wealth building

#### Zero waste

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate development that is consistent with the waste hierarchy.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

- The reduction and reuse of materials in construction is prioritised.
- Infrastructure for zero waste and to develop Scotland's circular economy is delivered in appropriate locations.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should identify appropriate locations for new waste management infrastructure to support the circular economy and meet identified needs in a way that moves waste as high up the waste hierarchy as possible.

- a) Development proposals will seek to reduce, reuse, or recycle materials in line with the waste hierarchy.
- b) Development proposals will be supported where they:
  - i. reuse existing buildings and infrastructure;
  - ii. minimise demolition and salvage materials for reuse;
  - iii. minimise waste, reduce pressure on virgin resources and enable building materials, components and products to be disassembled, and reused at the end of their useful life:
  - iv. use materials with the lowest forms of embodied emissions, such as recycled and natural construction materials;
  - v. use materials that are suitable for reuse with minimal reprocessing.
- c) Development proposals that are likely to generate waste when operational, including residential, commercial, and industrial properties, will set out how much waste the proposal is expected to generate and how it will be managed including:

- i. provision to maximise waste reduction and waste separation at source, and
- ii. measures to minimise the crosscontamination of materials, through appropriate segregation and storage of waste; convenient access for the collection of waste; and recycling and localised waste management facilities.
- d) Development proposals for waste infrastructure and facilities (except landfill and energy from waste facilities) will be only supported where:
  - i. there are no unacceptable impacts (including cumulative) on the residential amenity of nearby dwellings, local communities; the transport network; and natural and historic environment assets;
  - ii. environmental (including cumulative) impacts relating to noise, dust, smells, pest control and pollution of land, air and water are acceptable;
  - iii. any greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the processing and transportation of waste to and from the facility are minimised:
  - iv. an adequate buffer zone between sites and sensitive uses such as homes is provided taking account of the various environmental effects likely to arise;
  - v. a restoration and aftercare scheme (including appropriate financial mechanisms) is provided and agreed to ensure the site is restored;
  - vi. consideration has been given to co-location with end users of outputs.
- e) Development proposals for new or extended landfill sites will only be supported if:
  - i. there is demonstrable need for additional landfill capacity taking into account Scottish Government objectives on waste management; and
  - ii. waste heat and/or electricity generation is included. Where this is considered impractical, evidence and justification will require to be provided.

- f) Proposals for the capture, distribution or use of gases captured from landfill sites or waste water treatment plant will be supported.
- g) Development proposals for energy-from-waste facilities will not be supported except under limited circumstances where a national or local need has been sufficiently demonstrated (e.g. in terms of capacity need or carbon benefits) as part of a strategic approach to residual waste management and where the proposal:
  - i. is consistent with climate change mitigation targets and in line with circular economy principles;
  - ii. can demonstrate that a functional heat network can be created and provided within the site for appropriate infrastructure to allow a heat network to be developed and potential local consumers have been identified:
  - iii. is supported by a heat and power plan, which demonstrates how energy recovered from the development would be used to provide electricity and heat and where consideration is given to methods to reduce carbon emissions of the facility (for example through carbon capture and storage)
  - iv. complies with relevant guidelines published by Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA); and
  - v. has supplied an acceptable decarbonisation strategy aligned with Scottish Government decarbonisation goals.

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Compact urban growth

#### **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings

Energy

Infrastructure first

Heat and cooling

Community wealth building

Minerals

## Sustainable transport

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate developments that prioritise walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport for everyday travel and reduce the need to travel unsustainably.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

- Investment in transport infrastructure supports connectivity and reflects placebased approaches and local living.
- More, better, safer and more inclusive active and sustainable travel opportunities.
- Developments are in locations which support sustainable travel.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should prioritise locations for future development that can be accessed by sustainable modes. The spatial strategy should reflect the sustainable travel hierarchy and sustainable investment hierarchy by making best use of existing infrastructure and services.

LDPs should promote a place-based approach to consider how to reduce car-dominance. This could include low traffic schemes, shared transport options, designing—in speed controls, bus/cycle priority, pedestrianisation and minimising space dedicated to car parking. Consideration should be given to the type, mix and use of development; local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods; car ownership levels; the accessibility of proposals and allocations by sustainable modes; and the accessibility for users of all abilities.

LDPs should be informed by an appropriate and effective transport appraisal undertaken in line with relevant transport appraisal guidance. Plans should be informed by evidence of the area's transport infrastructure capacity, and an appraisal of the spatial strategy on the transport network. This should identify any potential cumulative transport impacts and deliverable

mitigation proposed to inform the plan's infrastructure first approach. Where there is likely to be an impact on the trunk road or rail network, early engagement with Transport Scotland is required.

- a) Proposals to improve, enhance or provide active travel infrastructure, public transport infrastructure or multi-modal hubs will be supported. This includes proposals:
  - i. for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and electric vehicle forecourts, especially where fuelled by renewable energy.
  - ii. which support a mode shift of freight from road to more sustainable modes, including last-mile delivery.
  - iii. that build in resilience to the effects of climate change and where appropriate incorporate blue and green infrastructure and nature rich habitats (such as natural planting or water systems).
- b) Development proposals will be supported where it can be demonstrated that the transport requirements generated have been considered in line with the sustainable travel and investment hierarchies and where appropriate they:
  - Provide direct, easy, segregated and safe links to local facilities via walking, wheeling and cycling networks before occupation;
  - Will be accessible by public transport, ideally supporting the use of existing services;
  - iii. Integrate transport modes;
  - iv. Provide low or zero-emission vehicle and cycle charging points in safe and convenient locations, in alignment with building standards;
  - Supply safe, secure and convenient cycle parking to meet the needs of users and which is more conveniently located than car parking;
  - vi. Are designed to incorporate safety measures including safe crossings for walking and wheeling and reducing the number and speed of vehicles;

- vii. Have taken into account, at the earliest stage of design, the transport needs of diverse groups including users with protected characteristics to ensure the safety, ease and needs of all users; and
- viii. Adequately mitigate any impact on local public access routes.
- c) Where a development proposal will generate a significant increase in the number of person trips, a transport assessment will be required to be undertaken in accordance with the relevant guidance.
- d) Development proposals for significant travel generating uses will not be supported in locations which would increase reliance on the private car, taking into account the specific characteristics of the area.
- e) Development proposals which are ambitious in terms of low/no car parking will be supported, particularly in urban locations that are well-served by sustainable transport modes and where they do not create barriers to access by disabled people.
- f) Development proposals for significant travel generating uses, or smaller-scale developments where it is important to monitor travel patterns resulting from the development, will only be supported if they are accompanied by a Travel Plan with supporting planning conditions/obligations. Travel plans should set out clear arrangements for delivering against targets, as well as monitoring and evaluation.
- g) Development proposals that have the potential to affect the operation and safety of the Strategic Transport Network will be fully assessed to determine their impact. Where it has been demonstrated that existing infrastructure does not have the capacity to accommodate a development without adverse impacts on safety or unacceptable impacts on operational performance, the cost of the mitigation measures required to ensure the continued safe and effective operation of the network should be met by the developer.

While new junctions on trunk roads are not normally acceptable, the case for a new junction will be considered by Transport Scotland where significant economic or regeneration benefits can be demonstrated. New junctions will only be considered if they are designed in accordance with relevant guidance and where there will be no adverse impact on road safety or operational performance.

#### **Policy impact:**

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Local living
- Compact urban growth
- Rebalanced development
- Rural revitalisation

#### **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Design, quality and place

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Infrastructure first

Quality homes

Rural homes

Blue and green infrastructure

Business and industry

City, town, local and commercial centres

Retail

Rural development

Tourism



## **Liveable Places**

## Design, quality and place

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate well designed development that makes successful places by taking a design-led approach and applying the Place Principle.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

- · Quality places, spaces and environments.
- Places that consistently deliver healthy, pleasant, distinctive, connected, sustainable and adaptable qualities.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should be place-based and created in line with the Place Principle. The spatial strategy should be underpinned by the <u>six qualities of successful places</u>. LDPs should provide clear expectations for design, quality and place taking account of the local context, characteristics and connectivity of the area. They should also identify where more detailed design guidance is expected, for example, by way of design frameworks, briefs, masterplans and design codes.

Planning authorities should use the Place Standard tool in the preparation of LDPs and design guidance to engage with communities and other stakeholders. They should also where relevant promote its use in early design discussions on planning applications.

#### Policy 14

- a) Development proposals will be designed to improve the quality of an area whether in urban or rural locations and regardless of scale.
- b) Development proposals will be supported where they are consistent with the six qualities of successful places:

**Healthy:** Supporting the prioritisation of women's safety and improving physical and mental health.

**Pleasant**: Supporting attractive natural and built spaces.

**Connected:** Supporting well connected networks that make moving around easy and reduce car dependency

**Distinctive:** Supporting attention to detail of local architectural styles and natural landscapes to be interpreted, literally or creatively, into designs to reinforce identity.

**Sustainable:** Supporting the efficient use of resources that will allow people to live, play, work and stay in their area, ensuring climate resilience, and integrating nature positive, biodiversity solutions.

**Adaptable:** Supporting commitment to investing in the long-term value of buildings, streets and spaces by allowing for flexibility so that they can be changed quickly to accommodate different uses as well as maintained over time.

Further details on delivering the <u>six qualities of</u> successful places are set out in Annex D.

c) Development proposals that are poorly designed, detrimental to the amenity of the surrounding area or inconsistent with the six qualities of successful places, will not be supported.

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Local living
- Compact urban growth
- Rebalanced development
- Rural revitalisation

## **Key policy connections:**

All other policies.

## **Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods**

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate the application of the Place Principle and create connected and compact neighbourhoods where people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home, preferably by walking, wheeling or cycling or using sustainable transport options.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

- Places are planned to improve local living in a way that reflects local circumstances.
- A network of high-quality, accessible, mixed-use neighbourhoods which support health and wellbeing, reduce inequalities and are resilient to the effects of climate change.
- New and existing communities are planned together with homes and the key local infrastructure including schools, community centres, local shops, greenspaces, health and social care, digital and sustainable transport links.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should support local living, including 20 minute neighbourhoods within settlements, through the spatial strategy, associated site briefs and masterplans. The approach should take into account the local context, consider the varying settlement patterns and reflect the particular characteristics and challenges faced by each place. Communities and businesses will have an important role to play in informing this, helping to strengthen local living through their engagement with the planning system.

#### Policy 15

a) Development proposals will contribute
to local living including, where relevant,
20 minute neighbourhoods. To establish
this, consideration will be given to existing
settlement pattern, and the level and quality of
interconnectivity of the proposed development

with the surrounding area, including local access to:

- sustainable modes of transport including local public transport and safe, high quality walking, wheeling and cycling networks;
- employment;
- · shopping;
- · health and social care facilities;
- childcare, schools and lifelong learning opportunities;
- playgrounds and informal play opportunities, parks, green streets and spaces, community gardens, opportunities for food growth and allotments, sport and recreation facilities;
- publicly accessible toilets;
- affordable and accessible housing options, ability to age in place and housing diversity.

#### **Policy impact:**

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Local living
- Compact urban growth
- Rebalanced development
- Rural revitalisation

#### **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Sustainable transport

Design, quality and place

Infrastructure first

Quality homes

Blue and green infrastructure

Play, recreation and sport

Community wealth building

City, town, local and commercial centres

Retail

## **Quality homes**

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate the delivery of more high quality, affordable and sustainable homes, in the right locations, providing choice across tenures that meet the diverse housing needs of people and communities across Scotland.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

- Good quality homes are at the heart of great places and contribute to strengthening the health and wellbeing of communities.
- Provision of land in the right locations to accommodate future need and demand for new homes, supported by the appropriate infrastructure.
- More energy efficient, net zero emissions homes, supporting a greener, fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy and community wealth building, tackling both fuel and child poverty.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs are expected to identify a Local Housing Land Requirement for the area they cover. This is to meet the duty for a housing target and to represent how much land is required. To promote an ambitious and plan-led approach, the Local Housing Land Requirement is expected to exceed the 10 year Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement (MATHLR) set out in Annex E.

Deliverable land should be allocated to meet the 10 year Local Housing Land Requirement in locations that create quality places for people to live. Areas that may be suitable for new homes beyond 10 years are also to be identified. The location of where new homes are allocated should be consistent with local living including, where relevant, 20 minute neighbourhoods and an infrastructure first approach. In rural and island areas, authorities are encouraged to set out tailored approaches to housing which

reflect locally specific market circumstances and delivery approaches. Diverse needs and delivery models should be taken into account across all areas, as well as allocating land to ensure provision of accommodation for Gypsy/Travellers and Travelling Showpeople where need is identified.

The LDP delivery programme is expected to establish a deliverable housing land pipeline for the Local Housing Land Requirement. The purpose of the pipeline is to provide a transparent view of the phasing of housing allocations so that interventions, including infrastructure, that enable delivery can be planned: it is not to stage permissions. Representing when land will be brought forward, phasing is expected across the short (1-3 years). medium (4-6 years) and long-term (7-10 years). Where sites earlier in the deliverable housing land pipeline are not delivering as programmed, and alternative delivery mechanisms identified in the delivery programme are not practical, measures should be considered to enable earlier delivery of long-term deliverable sites (7-10 years) or areas identified for new homes beyond 10 years. De-allocations should be considered where sites are no longer deliverable. The annual Housing Land Audit will monitor the delivery of housing land to inform the pipeline and the actions to be taken in the delivery programme.

- a) Development proposals for new homes on land allocated for housing in LDPs will be supported.
- b) Development proposals that include 50 or more homes, and smaller developments if required by local policy or guidance, should be accompanied by a Statement of Community Benefit. The statement will explain the contribution of the proposed development to:
  - i. meeting local housing requirements, including affordable homes;
  - ii. providing or enhancing local infrastructure, facilities and services; and
  - iii. improving the residential amenity of the surrounding area.

- c) Development proposals for new homes that improve affordability and choice by being adaptable to changing and diverse needs, and which address identified gaps in provision, will be supported. This could include:
  - i. self-provided homes;
  - ii. accessible, adaptable and wheelchair accessible homes:
  - iii. build to rent;
  - iv. affordable homes;
  - v. a range of size of homes such as those for larger families;
  - vi. homes for older people, including supported accommodation, care homes and sheltered housing;
  - vii. homes for people undertaking further and higher education; and
  - viii. homes for other specialist groups such as service personnel.
- d) Development proposals for public or private, permanent or temporary, Gypsy/Travellers sites and family yards and Travelling Showpeople yards, including on land not specifically allocated for this use in the LDP, should be supported where a need is identified and the proposal is otherwise consistent with the plan spatial strategy and other relevant policies, including human rights and equality.
- e) Development proposals for new homes will be supported where they make provision for affordable homes to meet an identified need. Proposals for market homes will only be supported where the contribution to the provision of affordable homes on a site will be at least 25% of the total number of homes, unless the LDP sets out locations or circumstances where:
  - i. a higher contribution is justified by evidence of need, or
  - ii. a lower contribution is justified, for example, by evidence of impact on viability, where proposals are small in scale, or to incentivise particular types of homes that are needed to diversify the supply, such as self-build or wheelchair accessible homes.

- The contribution is to be provided in accordance with local policy or guidance.
- f) Development proposals for new homes on land not allocated for housing in the LDP will only be supported in limited circumstances where:
  - i. the proposal is supported by an agreed timescale for build-out; and
  - ii. the proposal is otherwise consistent with the plan spatial strategy and other relevant policies including local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods;
  - iii. and either:
    - delivery of sites is happening earlier than identified in the deliverable housing land pipeline. This will be determined by reference to two consecutive years of the Housing Land Audit evidencing substantial delivery earlier than pipeline timescales and that general trend being sustained; or
    - the proposal is consistent with policy on rural homes; or
    - the proposal is for smaller scale opportunities within an existing settlement boundary; or
    - the proposal is for the delivery of less than 50 affordable homes as part of a local authority supported affordable housing plan.
- g) Householder development proposals will be supported where they:
  - i. do not have a detrimental impact on the character or environmental quality of the home and the surrounding area in terms of size, design and materials; and
  - ii. do not have a detrimental effect on the neighbouring properties in terms of physical impact, overshadowing or overlooking.
- h) Householder development proposals that provide adaptations in response to risks from a changing climate, or relating to people with health conditions that lead to particular accommodation needs will be supported.

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Local living
- Compact urban growth
- Rebalanced development
- Rural revitalisation

#### **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Green belts

Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings

Sustainable transport

Design, quality and place

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Infrastructure first

Heat and cooling

Blue and green infrastructure

Play, recreation and sport

Rural homes

Health and safety

City, town, local and commercial centres

#### **Rural homes**

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate the delivery of more high quality, affordable and sustainable rural homes in the right locations.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

- Improved choice of homes across tenures so that identified local needs of people and communities in rural and island areas are met.
- Homes are provided that support sustainable rural communities and are linked with service provision.
- The distinctive character, sense of place and natural and cultural assets of rural areas are safeguarded and enhanced.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should be informed by an understanding of population change over time, locally specific needs and market circumstances in rural and island areas.

LDPs should set out tailored approaches to rural housing and where relevant include proposals for future population growth – including provision for small-scale housing such as crofts and woodland crofts and the appropriate resettlement of previously inhabited areas. The Scottish Government's 6 fold Urban Rural Classification 2020 should be used to identify remote rural areas. Plans should reflect locally appropriate delivery approaches. Previously inhabited areas that are suitable for resettlement should be identified in the spatial strategy.

- a) Development proposals for new homes in rural areas will be supported where the development is suitably scaled, sited and designed to be in keeping with the character of the area and the development:
  - i. is on a site allocated for housing within the LDP;
  - ii. reuses brownfield land where a return to a natural state has not or will not happen without intervention:
  - iii. reuses a redundant or unused building;
  - iv. is an appropriate use of a historic environment asset or is appropriate enabling development to secure the future of historic environment assets;
  - v. is demonstrated to be necessary to support the sustainable management of a viable rural business or croft, and there is an essential need for a worker (including those taking majority control of a farm business) to live permanently at or near their place of work;
  - vi. is for a single home for the retirement succession of a viable farm holding;
  - vii. is for the subdivision of an existing residential dwelling; the scale of which is in keeping with the character and infrastructure provision in the area; or
  - viii. reinstates a former dwelling house or is a one-for-one replacement of an existing permanent house.
- b) Development proposals for new homes in rural areas will consider how the development will contribute towards local living and take into account identified local housing needs (including affordable housing), economic considerations and the transport needs of the development as appropriate for the rural location.
- c) Development proposals for new homes in remote rural areas will be supported where the proposal:
  - i. supports and sustains existing fragile communities;
  - ii. supports identified local housing outcomes; and

- iii. is suitable in terms of location, access, and environmental impact.
- d) Development proposals for new homes that support the resettlement of previously inhabited areas will be supported where the proposal:
  - i. is in an area identified in the LDP as suitable for resettlement;
  - ii. is designed to a high standard;
  - iii. responds to its rural location; and
  - iv. is designed to minimise greenhouse gas emissions as far as possible.

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Local living
- Compact urban growth
- Rebalanced development
- Rural revitalisation

#### **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Natural places

Historic assets and places

Green belts

Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and

empty buildings

Coastal development

Sustainable transport

Design, quality and place

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Infrastructure first

Quality homes

City, town, local and commercial centres

Rural development

Tourism

#### Infrastructure first

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate an infrastructure first approach to land use planning, which puts infrastructure considerations at the heart of placemaking.

# **Policy Outcomes:**

- Infrastructure considerations are integral
  to development planning and decision
  making and potential impacts on
  infrastructure and infrastructure needs
  are understood early in the development
  planning process as part of an evidenced
  based approach.
- Existing infrastructure assets are used sustainably, prioritising low-carbon solutions.
- Infrastructure requirements, and their planned delivery to meet the needs of communities, are clear.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs and delivery programmes should be based on an integrated infrastructure first approach. Plans should:

- be informed by evidence on infrastructure capacity, condition, needs and deliverability within the plan area, including cross boundary infrastructure;
- set out the infrastructure requirements to deliver the spatial strategy, informed by the evidence base, identifying the infrastructure priorities, and where, how, when and by whom they will be delivered; and
- indicate the type, level (or method of calculation) and location of the financial or in-kind contributions, and the types of development from which they will be required.

Plans should align with relevant national, regional and local infrastructure plans and policies and take account of the Scottish Government infrastructure investment hierarchy and sustainable travel and investment hierarchies in developing the spatial strategy. Consistent early engagement and collaboration between relevant stakeholders will better inform decisions on land use and investment.

#### Policy 18

- a) Development proposals which provide (or contribute to) infrastructure in line with that identified as necessary in LDPs and their delivery programmes will be supported.
- b) The impacts of development proposals on infrastructure should be mitigated. Development proposals will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that provision is made to address the impacts on infrastructure. Where planning conditions, planning obligations, or other legal agreements are to be used, the relevant tests will apply.

Where planning obligations are entered into, they should meet the following tests:

- be necessary to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms
- serve a planning purpose
- relate to the impacts of the proposed development
- fairly and reasonably relate in scale and kind to the proposed development
- be reasonable in all other respects

Planning conditions should only be imposed where they meet all of the following tests. They should be:

- necessary
- relevant to planning
- relevant to the development to be permitted
- enforceable
- precise
- reasonable in all other respects

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Local living
- Compact urban growth
- Rebalanced development

# Key policy connections:

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Biodiversity

Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings

Energy

Zero waste

Sustainable transport

Design, quality and place

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Heat and cooling

Quality homes

Rural homes

Blue and green infrastructure

Play, recreation and sport

Flood risk and water management

Health and safety

Digital infrastructure

Business and industry

City, town, local and commercial centres

Rural development

# **Heat and cooling**

# **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate development that supports decarbonised solutions to heat and cooling demand and ensure adaptation to more extreme temperatures.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

- Development is connected to expanded heat networks which use and store heat from low or zero emission sources.
- Buildings and places are adapted to more extreme temperatures.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should take into account the area's Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES). The spatial strategy should take into account areas of heat network potential and any designated Heat Network Zones (HNZ).

#### Policy 19

- a) Development proposals within or adjacent to a Heat Network Zone identified in a LDP will only be supported where they are designed and constructed to connect to the existing heat network.
- b) Proposals for retrofitting a connection to a heat network will be supported.
- c) Where a heat network is planned but not yet in place, development proposals will only be supported where they are designed and constructed to allow for cost-effective connection at a later date.
- d) National and major developments that will generate waste or surplus heat and which are located in areas of heat demand, will be supported providing wider considerations, including residential amenity, are not adversely impacted. A Heat and Power Plan should demonstrate how energy recovered from the development will be used to produce electricity and heat.

- e) Development proposals for energy infrastructure will be supported where they:
  - repurpose former fossil fuel infrastructure for the production or handling of low carbon energy;
  - ii. are within or adjacent to a Heat Network Zone; and
  - iii. can be cost-effectively linked to an existing or planned heat network.
- f) Development proposals for buildings that will be occupied by people will be supported where they are designed to promote sustainable temperature management, for example by prioritising natural or passive solutions such as siting, orientation, and materials.

#### **Policy impact:**

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Rebalanced development

#### Key policy connections:

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Energy

Zero waste

Infrastructure first

Blue and green infrastructure

Business and industry

# Blue and green infrastructure

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To protect and enhance blue and green infrastructure and their networks.

# **Policy Outcomes:**

- Blue and green infrastructure are an integral part of early design and development processes; are designed to deliver multiple functions including climate mitigation, nature restoration, biodiversity enhancement, flood prevention and water management.
- Communities benefit from accessible, high quality blue, green and civic spaces.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should be informed by relevant, up-to-date audits and/or strategies, covering the multiple functions and benefits of blue and green infrastructure. The spatial strategy should identify and protect blue and green infrastructure assets and networks; enhance and expand existing provision including new blue and/or green infrastructure. This may include retrofitting. Priorities for connectivity to other blue and/or green infrastructure assets, including to address cross-boundary needs and opportunities, should also be identified.

LDPs should encourage the permanent or temporary use of unused or under-used land as green infrastructure. Where this is temporary, this should not prevent future development potential from being realised.

LDPs should safeguard access rights and core paths, including active travel routes, and encourage new and enhanced opportunities for access linked to wider networks.

#### Policy 20

- a) Development proposals that result in fragmentation or net loss of existing blue and green infrastructure will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the proposal would not result in or exacerbate a deficit in blue or green infrastructure provision, and the overall integrity of the network will be maintained. The planning authority's Open Space Strategy should inform this.
- b) Development proposals for or incorporating new or enhanced blue and/or green infrastructure will be supported. Where appropriate, this will be an integral element of the design that responds to local circumstances.
  - Design will take account of existing provision, new requirements and network connections (identified in relevant strategies such as the Open Space Strategies) to ensure the proposed blue and/or green infrastructure is of an appropriate type(s), quantity, quality and accessibility and is designed to be multifunctional and well integrated into the overall proposals.
- c) Development proposals in regional and country parks will only be supported where they are compatible with the uses, natural habitats, and character of the park.
- d) Development proposals for temporary open space or green space on unused or underused land will be supported.
- e) Development proposals that include new or enhanced blue and/or green infrastructure will provide effective management and maintenance plans covering the funding arrangements for their long-term delivery and upkeep, and the party or parties responsible for these.

- Just Transition
- Local living
- Compact urban growth
- Rebalanced development
- Rural revitalisation

# **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Biodiversity

Natural places

Soils

Forestry, woodland and trees

Historic assets and places

Green belts

Sustainable transport

Design, quality and place

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Infrastructure first

Heat and cooling

Quality homes

Play, recreation and sport

Flood risk and water management

Health and safety

City, town, local and commercial centres

Rural development

# Play, recreation and sport

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate spaces and opportunities for play, recreation and sport.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

- Natural and built environments are improved, with more equitable access to opportunities for play and recreation.
- Physical and mental health are improved through provision of, and access to, outdoor recreation, play and sport facilities.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should identify sites for sports, play and outdoor recreation for people of all ages. This should be based on an understanding of the needs and demand in the community and informed by the planning authority's Play Sufficiency Assessment and Open Space Strategy. These spaces can be incorporated as part of enhancing and expanding blue and green infrastructure, taking account of relevant agencies' plans or policy frameworks, such as flood risk and/or water management plans. New provisions should be well-designed, high quality, accessible and inclusive.

#### Policy 21

- a) Development proposals which result in the loss of outdoor sports facilities will only be supported where the proposal:
  - i. is ancillary to the principal use of the site as an outdoor sports facility; or
  - ii. involves only a minor part of the facility and would not affect its use; or
  - iii. meets a requirement to replace the facility which would be lost, either by a new facility or by upgrading an existing facility to provide a better quality facility. The location will be convenient for users and the overall playing capacity of the area will be maintained; or

iv. can demonstrate that there is a clear excess of provision to meet current and anticipated demand in the area, and that the site would be developed without detriment to the overall quality of provision.

This should be informed by the local authority's Open Space Strategy and/or Play Sufficiency Assessment and in consultation with sportscotland where appropriate.

- b) Development proposals that result in the quantitative and/or qualitative loss of children's outdoor play provision, will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that there is no ongoing or future demand or the existing play provision will be replaced by a newly created, or improved existing asset, that is better quality or more appropriate.
  - This should be informed by the planning authority's Play Sufficiency Assessment.
- c) Development proposals for temporary or informal play space on unused or underused land will be supported.
- d) Development proposals likely to be occupied or used by children and young people will be supported where they incorporate well-designed, good quality provision for play, recreation, and relaxation that is proportionate to the scale and nature of the development and existing provision in the area.
- e) Development proposals that include new streets and public realm should be inclusive and enable children and young people to play and move around safely and independently, maximising opportunities for informal and incidental play in the neighbourhood.
- f) New, replacement or improved play provision will, as far as possible and as appropriate:
  - i. provide stimulating environments;
  - ii. provide a range of play experiences including opportunities to connect with nature;
  - iii. be inclusive:
  - iv. be suitable for different ages of children and young people;
  - be easily and safely accessible by children and young people independently, including those with a disability;

- vi. incorporate trees and/or other forms of greenery;
- vii. form an integral part of the surrounding neighbourhood;
- viii. be well overlooked for passive surveillance;
- ix. be linked directly to other open spaces and play areas.
- g) Development proposals that include new or enhanced play or sport facilities will provide effective management and maintenance plans covering the funding arrangements for their long-term delivery and upkeep, and the party or parties responsible for these.

- Just Transition
- Compact urban growth
- Local living
- Rebalanced development
- Rural revitalisation

#### **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Biodiversity

Natural places

Forestry, woodland and trees

Historic assets and places

Green belts

Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings

Sustainable transport

Design, quality and place

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Infrastructure first

Quality homes

Rural homes

Blue and green infrastructure

Flood risk and water management

Health and safety

City, town, local and commercial centres

Culture and creativity

# Flood risk and water management

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To strengthen resilience to flood risk by promoting avoidance as a first principle and reducing the vulnerability of existing and future development to flooding.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

- Places are resilient to current and future flood risk.
- Water resources are used efficiently and sustainably.
- Wider use of natural flood risk management benefits people and nature.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should strengthen community resilience to the current and future impacts of climate change, by avoiding development in areas at flood risk as a first principle. Resilience should also be supported by managing the need to bring previously used sites in built up areas into positive use; planning for adaptation measures; and identifying opportunities to implement improvements to the water environment through natural flood risk management and blue green infrastructure.

Plans should take into account the probability of flooding from all sources and make use of relevant flood risk and river basin management plans for the area. A precautionary approach should be taken, regarding the calculated probability of flooding as a best estimate, not a precise forecast. For areas where climate change is likely to result in increased flood exposure that becomes unmanageable, consideration should be given to alternative sustainable land use.

#### Policy 22

- a) Development proposals at risk of flooding or in a flood risk area will only be supported if they are for:
  - i. essential infrastructure where the location is required for operational reasons;
  - ii. water compatible uses;
  - iii. redevelopment of an existing building or site for an equal or less vulnerable use; or.
  - iv. redevelopment of previously used sites in built up areas where the LDP has identified a need to bring these into positive use and where proposals demonstrate that longterm safety and resilience can be secured in accordance with relevant SEPA advice.

The protection offered by an existing formal flood protection scheme or one under construction can be taken into account when determining flood risk.

In such cases, it will be demonstrated by the applicant that:

- all risks of flooding are understood and addressed;
- there is no reduction in floodplain capacity, increased risk for others, or a need for future flood protection schemes;
- the development remains safe and operational during floods;
- flood resistant and resilient materials and construction methods are used; and
- future adaptations can be made to accommodate the effects of climate change.

Additionally, for development proposals meeting criteria part iv), where flood risk is managed at the site rather than avoided these will also require:

- the first occupied/utilised floor, and the underside of the development if relevant, to be above the flood risk level and have an additional allowance for freeboard; and
- that the proposal does not create an island of development and that safe access/ egress can be achieved.

- b) Small scale extensions and alterations to existing buildings will only be supported where they will not significantly increase flood risk.
- c) Development proposals will:
  - i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk.
  - ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing bluegreen infrastructure. All proposals should presume no surface water connection to the combined sewer;
  - iii. seek to minimise the area of impermeable surface.
- d) Development proposals will be supported if they can be connected to the public water mains. If connection is not feasible, the applicant will need to demonstrate that water for drinking water purposes will be sourced from a sustainable water source that is resilient to periods of water scarcity.
- e) Development proposals which create, expand or enhance opportunities for natural flood risk management, including blue and green infrastructure, will be supported.

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Local living
- Compact urban growth
- Rebalanced development
- Rural revitalisation

# **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Biodiversity

Green belts

Coastal development

Design, quality and place

Infrastructure first

Quality homes

Blue and green infrastructure

Health and safety

Business and industry

# **Health and safety**

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To protect people and places from environmental harm, mitigate risks arising from safety hazards and encourage, promote and facilitate development that improves health and wellbeing.

# **Policy Outcomes:**

- Health is improved and health inequalities are reduced.
- Safe places protect human health and the environment.
- A planned approach supports health infrastructure delivery.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDP spatial strategies should seek to tackle health inequalities particularly in places which are experiencing the most disadvantage. They should identify the health and social care services and infrastructure needed in the area, including potential for co-location of complementary services, in partnership with Health Boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships.

LDPs should create healthier places for example through opportunities for exercise, healthier lifestyles, land for community food growing and allotments, and awareness of locations of concern for suicide.

Spatial strategies should maintain appropriate distances between sites with hazardous substances and areas where the public are likely to be present and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest.

#### Policy 23

 a) Development proposals that will have positive effects on health will be supported. This could include, for example, proposals that incorporate opportunities for exercise, community food growing or allotments.

- b) Development proposals which are likely to have a significant adverse effect on health will not be supported. A Health Impact Assessment may be required.
- c) Development proposals for health and social care facilities and infrastructure will be supported.
- d) Development proposals that are likely to have significant adverse effects on air quality will not be supported. Development proposals will consider opportunities to improve air quality and reduce exposure to poor air quality. An air quality assessment may be required where the nature of the proposal or the air quality in the location suggest significant effects are likely.
- e) Development proposals that are likely to raise unacceptable noise issues will not be supported. The agent of change principle applies to noise sensitive development. A Noise Impact Assessment may be required where the nature of the proposal or its location suggests that significant effects are likely.
- f) Development proposals will be designed to take into account suicide risk.
- g) Development proposals within the vicinity of a major accident hazard site or major accident hazard pipeline (because of the presence of toxic, highly reactive, explosive or inflammable substances) will consider the associated risks and potential impacts of the proposal and the major accident hazard site/pipeline of being located in proximity to one another.
- h) Applications for hazardous substances consent will consider the likely potential impacts on surrounding populations and the environment.
- i) Any advice from Health and Safety Executive, the Office of Nuclear Regulation or the Scottish Environment Protection Agency that planning permission or hazardous substances consent should be refused, or conditions to be attached to a grant of consent, should not be overridden by the decision maker without the most careful consideration.
- j) Similar considerations apply in respect of development proposals either for or near licensed explosive sites (including military explosive storage sites).

- Just Transition
- Local living
- Compact urban growth
- Rebalanced development

# **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Forestry, woodland and trees

Energy

Zero waste

Sustainable transport

Design, quality and place

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Infrastructure first

Heat and cooling

Quality homes

Blue and green infrastructure

Play, recreation and sport

Flood risk and water management

Digital infrastructure

Business and industry

City, town, local and commercial centres

Retail

Culture and creativity

Aquaculture

Minerals

# **Digital infrastructure**

# **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate the rollout of digital infrastructure across Scotland to unlock the potential of all our places and the economy.

# **Policy Outcomes:**

- Appropriate, universal and future proofed digital infrastructure across the country.
- Local living is supported and the need to travel is reduced.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should support the delivery of digital infrastructure, including fixed line and mobile connectivity, particularly in areas with gaps in connectivity and barriers to digital access.

#### Policy 24

- a) Development proposals that incorporate appropriate, universal, and future-proofed digital infrastructure will be supported.
- b) Development proposals that deliver new digital services or provide technological improvements, particularly in areas with no or low connectivity capacity, will be supported.
- c) Development proposals that are aligned with and support the delivery of local or national programmes for the roll-out of digital infrastructure will be supported.
- d) Development proposals that deliver new connectivity will be supported where there are benefits of this connectivity for communities and the local economy.
- e) Development proposals for digital infrastructure will only be supported where:
  - i. the visual and amenity impacts of the proposed development have been minimised through careful siting, design, height, materials and, landscaping, taking into account cumulative impacts and relevant technical constraints;

- ii. it has been demonstrated that, before erecting a new ground based mast, the possibility of erecting antennas on an existing building, mast or other structure, replacing an existing mast and/or site sharing has been explored; and
- iii. there is no physical obstruction to aerodrome operations, technical sites, or existing transmitter/receiver facilities.

#### **Policy impact:**

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Local living
- Compact urban growth
- Rebalanced development
- Rural revitalisation

# **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Natural places

Green belts

Zero waste

Design, quality and place

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Infrastructure first

Health and safety

Community wealth building

Business and industry

City, town, local and commercial centres

Rural development



# **Productive Places**

# **Community wealth building**

# **Policy Principles**

# **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate a new strategic approach to economic development that also provides a practical model for building a wellbeing economy at local, regional and national levels.

# **Policy Outcomes:**

- local economic development that focuses on community and place benefits as a central and primary consideration – to support local employment and supply chains.
- support community ownership and management of buildings and land.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should be aligned with any strategy for community wealth building for the area. Spatial strategies should address community wealth building priorities; identify community assets; set out opportunities to tackle economic disadvantage and inequality; and seek to provide benefits for local communities.

#### Policy 25

- a) Development proposals which contribute to local or regional community wealth building strategies and are consistent with local economic priorities will be supported. This could include for example improving community resilience and reducing inequalities; increasing spending within communities; ensuring the use of local supply chains and services; local job creation; supporting community led proposals, including creation of new local firms and enabling community led ownership of buildings and assets.
- b) Development proposals linked to community ownership and management of land will be supported.

# **Policy impact:**

- Just Transition
- Rebalanced development
- Rural revitalisation

#### **Key policy connections:**

- Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings
- Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods
- Business and industry

# **Business and industry**

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate business and industry uses and to enable alternative ways of working such as home working, livework units and micro-businesses.

# **Policy Outcomes:**

- Recovery within the business and industry sector is sustainable and inclusive.
- Investment in the business and industrial sector contributes to community wealth building.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should allocate sufficient land for business and industry, taking into account business and industry land audits, in particular ensuring that there is a suitable range of sites that meet current market demand, location, size and quality in terms of accessibility and services. This allocation should take account of local economic strategies and support broader objectives of delivering a low carbon and net zero economic recovery, and a fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy.

#### Policy 26

- a) Development proposals for business and industry uses on sites allocated for those uses in the LDP will be supported.
- b) Development proposals for home working, live-work units and micro-businesses will be supported where it is demonstrated that the scale and nature of the proposed business and building will be compatible with the surrounding area and there will be no unacceptable impacts on amenity or neighbouring uses.
- c) Development proposals for business and industry uses will be supported where they are compatible with the primary business function of the area. Other employment uses will be supported where they will not prejudice the primary function of the area and are compatible with the business/industrial character of the area.

- d) Development proposals for business, general industrial and storage and distribution uses outwith areas identified for those uses in the LDP will only be supported where:
  - It is demonstrated that there are no suitable alternatives allocated in the LDP or identified in the employment land audit;
  - ii. The nature and scale of the activity will be compatible with the surrounding area.
- e) Development proposals for business and industry will take into account:
  - i. Impact on surrounding residential amenity; sensitive uses and the natural and historic environment;
  - ii. The need for appropriate site restoration at the end of a period of commercial use.
- f) Major developments for manufacturing or industry will be accompanied by a decarbonisation strategy to demonstrate how greenhouse gas emissions from the process are appropriately abated. The strategy may include carbon capture and storage.

#### **Policy impact:**

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Local living
- Compact urban growth
- Rebalanced development

#### **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Sustainable transport

Design, quality and place

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Health and safety

Digital infrastructure

Community wealth building

City, town, local and commercial centres

Rural development

# City, town, local and commercial centres

# **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate development in our city and town centres, recognising they are a national asset. This will be achieved by applying the Town Centre First approach to help centres adapt positively to long-term economic, environmental and societal changes, and by encouraging town centre living.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

- Centres are vibrant, healthy, creative, enterprising, accessible and resilient places for people to live, learn, work, enjoy and visit.
- Development is directed to the most sustainable locations that are accessible by a range of sustainable transport modes and provide communities with easy access to the goods, services and recreational opportunities they need.

# **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should support sustainable futures for city, town and local centres, in particular opportunities to enhance city and town centres. They should, where relevant, also support proposals for improving the sustainability of existing commercial centres where appropriate.

LDPs should identify a network of centres that reflect the principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods and the town centre vision.

LDPs should be informed by evidence on where clustering of non-retail uses may be adversely impacting on the wellbeing of communities. They should also consider, and if appropriate, identify any areas where drive-through facilities may be acceptable where they would not negatively impact on the principles of local living or sustainable travel.

LDPs should provide a proportion of their Local Housing Land Requirements in city and town centres and be proactive in identifying opportunities to support residential development.

#### Policy 27

- a) Development proposals that enhance and improve the vitality and viability of city, town and local centres, including proposals that increase the mix of uses, will be supported.
- b) Development proposals will be consistent with the town centre first approach. Proposals for uses which will generate significant footfall, including commercial, leisure, offices, community, sport and cultural facilities, public buildings such as libraries, education and healthcare facilities, and public spaces:
  - i. will be supported in existing city, town and local centres, and
  - ii. will not be supported outwith those centres unless a town centre first assessment demonstrates that:
    - all centre and edge of centre options have been sequentially assessed and discounted as unsuitable or unavailable;
    - the scale of development cannot reasonably be altered or reduced in scale to allow it to be accommodated in a centre; and
    - the impacts on existing centres have been thoroughly assessed and there will be no significant adverse effect on the vitality and viability of the centres.

#### **Town Centre First Assessment**

For development proposals which are out of city/town centre and which will generate significant footfall a Town Centre First Assessment will be provided. Applicants should agree the data required with the planning authority before undertaking the assessment, and should present information on areas of dispute in a succinct and comparable form.

The town centre first assessment should:

- identify the potential relationship of the proposed development with the network of centres identified in the LDP;
- demonstrate the potential economic impact of the development and any possible displacement effects, including the net impact on jobs; and
- consider supply chains and whether local suppliers and workers will be a viable option; and
- the environmental impact of transporting goods and of staff and visitors travelling to the location.

The town centre first assessment should be applied flexibly and realistically for community, education, health and social care and sport and leisure facilities so that they are easily accessible to the communities they are intended to serve.

- c) Development proposals for non-retail uses will not be supported if further provision of these services will undermine the character and amenity of the area or the health and wellbeing of communities, particularly in disadvantaged areas. These uses include:
  - Hot food takeaways, including permanently sited vans;
  - ii. Betting offices; and
  - iii. High interest money lending premises.

d) Drive-through developments will only be supported where they are specifically supported in the LDP.

# Town centre living

- e) Development proposals for residential development within city/town centres will be supported, including:
  - i. New build residential development.
  - ii. The re-use of a vacant building within city/ town centres where it can be demonstrated that the existing use is no longer viable and the proposed change of use adds to viability and vitality of the area.
  - iii. The conversion, or reuse of vacant upper floors of properties within city/town centres for residential.
- f) Development proposals for residential use at ground floor level within city/town centres will only be supported where the proposal will:
  - retain an attractive and appropriate frontage;
  - ii. not adversely affect the vitality and viability of a shopping area or the wider centre; and
  - iii. not result in an undesirable concentration of uses, or 'dead frontages'.
- g) Development proposals for city or town centre living will take into account the residential amenity of the proposal. This must be clearly demonstrated where the proposed development is in the same built structure as:
  - i. a hot food premises, live music venue, amusement arcade/centre, casino or licensed premises (with the exception of hotels, restaurants, cafés or off licences); and/or
  - ii. there is a common or shared access with licenced premises or other use likely to be detrimental to residential amenity.

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Local living
- Compact urban growth
- Rebalanced development
- Rural revitalisation

#### **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Historic assets and places

Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings

Sustainable transport

Design, quality and place

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Infrastructure first

Quality homes

Blue and green infrastructure

Play, recreation and sport

Health and safety

Community wealth building

Business and industry

Retail

Rural development

Tourism

Culture and creativity

#### Retail

# **Policy Principles**

# **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate retail investment to the most sustainable locations that are most accessible by a range of sustainable transport modes.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

- Retail development and the location of shops support vibrant city, town and local centres.
- Communities can access the shops and goods they need by a range of sustainable transport modes including on foot, by bike, and by public transport, as part of local living.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should consider where there may be a need for further retail provision, this may be:

- where a retail study identifies deficiencies in retail provision in terms of quality and quantity in an area; or
- when allocating sites for housing or the creation of new communities, in terms of the need for neighbourhood shopping, and supporting local living.

LDPs should identify areas where proposals for healthy food and drink outlets can be supported.

#### Policy 28

- a) Development proposals for retail (including expansions and changes of use) will be consistent with the town centre first principle. This means that new retail proposals:
  - i. will be supported in existing city, town and local centres, and
  - ii. will be supported in edge-of-centre areas or in commercial centres if they are allocated as sites suitable for new retail development in the LDP.
  - iii. will not be supported in out of centre locations (other than those meeting policy 28(c) or 28(d)).

- b) Development proposals for retail that are consistent with the sequential approach (set out in a) and click-and-collect locker pick up points, will be supported where the proposed development:
  - i. is of an appropriate scale for the location;
  - ii. will have an acceptable impact on the character and amenity of the area; and
  - iii. is located to best channel footfall and activity, to benefit the place as a whole.
- c) Proposals for new small scale neighbourhood retail development will be supported where the proposed development:
  - i. contributes to local living, including where relevant 20 minute neighbourhoods and/or
  - ii. can be demonstrated to contribute to the health and wellbeing of the local community.
- d) In island and rural areas, development proposals for shops ancillary to other uses such as farm shops, craft shops and shops linked to petrol/service/charging stations will be supported where:
  - i. it will serve local needs, support local living and local jobs;
  - ii. the potential impact on nearby town and commercial centres or village/local shops is acceptable;
  - iii. it will provide a service throughout the year; and
  - iv. the likely impacts of traffic generation and access and parking arrangements are acceptable.

- ✓ Local living
- Rural revitalisation

# **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Sustainable transport

Design, quality and place

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Health and safety

City, town, local and commercial centres

Rural development

# **Rural development**

#### **Policy Principles**

# **Policy Intent:**

To encourage rural economic activity, innovation and diversification whilst ensuring that the distinctive character of the rural area and the service function of small towns, natural assets and cultural heritage are safeguarded and enhanced.

# **Policy Outcomes:**

- Rural places are vibrant and sustainable and rural communities and businesses are supported.
- A balanced and sustainable rural population.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should identify the characteristics of rural areas within the plan area, including the existing pattern of development, pressures, environmental assets, community priorities and economic needs of each area. The spatial strategy should set out an appropriate approach to development in rural areas which reflects the identified characteristics. The Scottish Government's 6 fold Urban Rural Classification 2020 should be used to identify remote rural areas. Spatial strategies should support the sustainability and prosperity of rural communities and economies. Previously inhabited areas which are suitable for resettlement should be identified in the spatial strategy.

# Policy 29

- a) Development proposals that contribute to the viability, sustainability and diversity of rural communities and local rural economy will be supported, including:
  - farms, crofts, woodland crofts or other land use businesses, where use of good quality land for development is minimised and business viability is not adversely affected;
  - ii. diversification of existing businesses;
  - iii. production and processing facilities for local produce and materials, for example sawmills, or local food production;

- iv. essential community services;
- v. essential infrastructure;
- vi. reuse of a redundant or unused building;
- vii. appropriate use of a historic environment asset or is appropriate enabling development to secure the future of historic environment assets;
- viii. reuse of brownfield land where a return to a natural state has not or will not happen without intervention;
- ix. small scale developments that support new ways of working such as remote working, homeworking and community hubs; or
- x. improvement or restoration of the natural environment.
- b) Development proposals in rural areas should be suitably scaled, sited and designed to be in keeping with the character of the area. They should also consider how the development will contribute towards local living and take into account the transport needs of the development as appropriate for the rural location.
- c) Development proposals in remote rural areas, where new development can often help to sustain fragile communities, will be supported where the proposal:
  - i. will support local employment;
  - ii. supports and sustains existing communities, for example through provision of digital infrastructure; and
  - iii. is suitable in terms of location, access, siting, design and environmental impact.
- d) Development proposals that support the resettlement of previously inhabited areas will be supported where the proposal:
  - i. is in an area identified in the LDP as suitable for resettlement;
  - ii. is designed to a high standard;
  - iii. responds to their rural location; and
  - iv. is designed to minimise greenhouse gas emissions as far as possible.

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Local living
- Compact urban growth
- Rebalanced development
- Rural revitalisation

#### **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Natural places

Soils

Historic assets and places

Green belts

Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings

Coastal development

Sustainable transport

Design, quality and place

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Infrastructure first

Rural homes

Blue and green infrastructure

Flood risk and water management

Business and industry

City, town, local and commercial centres

Retail

Tourism

Culture and creativity

Aquaculture

Minerals

#### **Tourism**

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate sustainable tourism development which benefits local people, is consistent with our net zero and nature commitments, and inspires people to visit Scotland.

# **Policy Outcomes:**

 Communities and places enjoy economic, social and cultural benefits from tourism, supporting resilience and stimulating job creation.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should support the recovery, growth and long-term resilience of the tourism sector. The spatial strategy should identify suitable locations which reflect opportunities for tourism development by taking full account of the needs of communities, visitors, the industry and the environment. Relevant national and local sector driven tourism strategies should also be taken into account.

The spatial strategy should also identify areas of pressure where existing tourism provision is having adverse impacts on the environment or the quality of life and health and wellbeing of local communities, and where further development is not appropriate.

#### Policy 30

- a) Development proposals for new or extended tourist facilities or accommodation, including caravan and camping sites, in locations identified in the LDP, will be supported.
- b) Proposals for tourism related development will take into account:
  - The contribution made to the local economy;
  - ii. Compatibility with the surrounding area in terms of the nature and scale of the activity and impacts of increased visitors;

- iii. Impacts on communities, for example by hindering the provision of homes and services for local people;
- iv. Opportunities for sustainable travel and appropriate management of parking and traffic generation and scope for sustaining public transport services particularly in rural areas;
- v. Accessibility for disabled people;
- vi. Measures taken to minimise carbon emissions;
- vii. Opportunities to provide access to the natural environment.
- c) Development proposals that involve the change of use of a tourism-related facility will only be supported where it is demonstrated that the existing use is no longer viable and that there is no requirement for alternative tourism-related facilities in the area.
- d) Proposals for huts will be supported where the nature and scale of the development is compatible with the surrounding area and the proposal complies with relevant good practice guidance.
- e) Development proposals for the reuse of existing buildings for short term holiday letting will not be supported where the proposal will result in:
  - An unacceptable impact on local amenity or the character of a neighbourhood or area; or
  - ii. The loss of residential accommodation where such loss is not outweighed by demonstrable local economic benefits.

- ✓ Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Local living
- Rebalanced development
- Rural revitalisation

# **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Natural places

Historic assets and places

Coastal development

Sustainable transport

Design, quality and place

Quality homes

Rural homes

Health and safety

Community wealth building

City, town, local and commercial centres

Retail

Rural development

Culture and creativity

# **Culture and creativity**

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate development which reflects our diverse culture and creativity, and to support our culture and creative industries.

# **Policy Outcomes:**

- Locally distinctive places reflect the diversity of communities and support regeneration and town centre vibrancy.
- Cultural and creative industries are expanded, providing jobs and investment.
- Communities have access to cultural and creative activities.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should recognise and support opportunities for jobs and investment in the creative sector, culture, heritage and the arts.

# Policy 31

- a) Development proposals that involve a significant change to existing, or the creation of new, public open spaces will make provision for public art. Public art proposals which reflect diversity, culture and creativity will be supported.
- b) Development proposals for creative workspaces or other cultural uses that involve the temporary use of vacant spaces or property will be supported.
- c) Development proposals that would result in the loss of an arts or cultural venue will only supported where:
  - i. there is no longer a sustainable demand for the venue and after marketing the site at a reasonable rate for at least 12 months, through relevant local and national agents and online platforms, there has been no viable interest from potential operators; or
  - ii. the venue, as evidenced by consultation, no longer meets the needs of users and cannot be adapted; or

- iii. alternative provision of equal or greater standard is made available at a suitable location within the local area; and
- iv. the loss of the venue does not result in loss or damage to assets or objects of significant cultural value.
- d) Development proposals within the vicinity of existing arts venues will fully reflect the agent of change principle and will only be supported where they can demonstrate that measures can be put in place to ensure that existing noise and disturbance impacts on the proposed development would be acceptable and that existing venues and facilities can continue without additional restrictions being placed on them as a result of the proposed new development.

# **Policy impact:**

- Just Transition
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Local living

#### **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Historic assets and places

Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings

Zero waste

Sustainable transport

Design, quality and place

Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods

Blue and green infrastructure

Play, recreation and sport

Health and safety

Digital infrastructure

Community wealth building

City, town, local and commercial centres

Rural development

Tourism

# **Aquaculture**

# **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To encourage, promote and facilitate aquaculture development and minimise any adverse effects on the environment, including cumulative impacts.

Planning should support an aquaculture industry that is sustainable, diverse, competitive, economically viable and which contributes to food security, whilst operating with social licence, within environmental limits and which ensures there is a thriving marine ecosystem for future generations.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

- New aquaculture development is in locations that reflect industry needs and considers environmental impacts.
- Producers will contribute to communities and local economies.
- Prosperous finfish, shellfish and seaweed sectors.
- Migratory fish species are safeguarded.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should guide new aquaculture development in line with National and Regional Marine Planning, and will minimise adverse environmental impacts, including cumulative impacts, that arise from other existing and planned aquaculture developments in the area while also reflecting industry needs.

#### Policy 32

- a) To safeguard migratory fish species, further salmon and trout open pen fish farm developments on the north and east coasts of mainland Scotland will not be supported.
- b) Development proposals for aquaculture will be supported where they comply with the LDP, the National Marine Plan and, where relevant, the appropriate Regional Marine Plan.
- c) Development proposals for fish farms will demonstrate that operational impacts (including from noise, acoustic deterrent devices (where applicable) light, access,

- navigation, containment, deposition, waste emissions and sea lice, impacts on wild salmonids, aquaculture litter (and odour and impacts on other marine users)) are acceptable and comply with the relevant regulatory framework.
- d) Development proposals for fish farm developments will only be supported where the following impacts have been assessed and mitigated:
  - i. landscape and visual impact of the proposal including the siting and design of cages, lines and associated facilities taking into account the character of the location;
  - ii. the impact of any land based facilities, ensuring that the siting and design are appropriate for the location;
  - iii. impacts on natural heritage, designated sites and priority marine features; and
  - iv. impacts on historic marine protected areas.
- e) Applications for open water farmed finfish or shellfish development are excluded from the requirements of policy 3b) and 3c) and will instead apply all relevant provisions from National and Regional Marine Plans.

#### **Policy impact:**

- Just Transition
- Rural revitalisation

# **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Historic assets and places

Natural places

Biodiversity

Coastal development

Design, quality and place

Health and safety

Community wealth building

Business and industry

Rural development

#### **Minerals**

#### **Policy Principles**

#### **Policy Intent:**

To support the sustainable management of resources and minimise the impacts of the extraction of minerals on communities and the environment.

#### **Policy Outcomes:**

- Sufficient resources are available to meet industry demands, making an essential contribution to the Scottish economy.
- Important raw materials for manufacturing, construction, agriculture, and other industries are available.
- Important workable mineral resources are protected from sterilisation by other developments.
- Communities and the environment are protected from the impacts of mineral extraction.

#### **Local Development Plans:**

LDPs should support a landbank of construction aggregates of at least 10-years at all times in the relevant market areas, whilst promoting sustainable resource management, safeguarding important workable mineral resources, which are of economic or conservation value, and take steps to ensure these are not sterilised by other types of development.

#### Policy 33

- a) Development proposals that seek to explore, develop, and produce fossil fuels (excluding unconventional oil and gas) will not be supported other than in exceptional circumstances. Any such exceptions will be required to demonstrate that the proposal is consistent with national policy on energy and targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- b) The Scottish Government does not support the development of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland. This means development connected to the onshore exploration,

- appraisal or production of coal bed methane or shale oil or shale gas, using unconventional oil and gas extraction techniques, including hydraulic fracturing and dewatering for coal bed methane.
- c) Development proposals that would sterilise mineral deposits of economic value will only be supported where:
  - i. there is an overriding need for the development and prior extraction of the mineral cannot reasonably be undertaken;
  - ii. extraction of the mineral is impracticable or unlikely to be environmentally acceptable.
- d) Development proposals for the sustainable extraction of minerals will only be supported where they:
  - will not result in significant adverse impacts on biodiversity, geodiversity and the natural environment, sensitive habitats and the historic environment, as well as landscape and visual impacts;
  - ii. provide an adequate buffer zone between sites and settlements taking account of the specific circumstances of individual proposals, including size, duration, location, method of working, topography, and the characteristics of the various environmental effects likely to arise;
  - iii. can demonstrate that there are no significant adverse impacts (including cumulative impact) on any nearby homes, local communities and known sensitive receptors and designations;
  - iv. demonstrate acceptable levels (including cumulative impact) of noise, dust, vibration and potential pollution of land, air and water;
  - minimise transport impacts through the number and length of lorry trips and by using rail or water transport wherever practical;
  - vi. have appropriate mitigation plans in place for any adverse impacts;
  - vii. include schemes for a high standard of restoration and aftercare and commitment that such work is undertaken at the earliest opportunity. As a further

safeguard a range of financial guarantee options are available, and the most effective solution should be considered and agreed on a site-by-site basis. Solutions should provide assurance and clarity over the amount and period of the guarantee and in particular, where it is a bond, the risks covered (including operator failure) and the triggers for calling in a bond, including payment terms.

- e) Development proposals for borrow pits will only be supported where:
  - i. the proposal is tied to a specific project and is time-limited;
  - ii. the proposal complies with the above mineral extraction criteria taking into account the temporary nature of the development; and
  - iii. appropriate restoration proposals are enforceable.

# Policy impact:

Conserving and recycling assets

#### **Key policy connections:**

Tackling the climate and nature crises

Biodiversity

Natural places

Historic assets and places

Zero waste

Infrastructure first

Health and safety

# Part 3 – Annexes

# Annex A - How to use this document

#### **Purpose of Planning**

The purpose of planning is to manage the development and use of land in the long-term public interest.

The decisions we make today will have implications for future generations. Scotland in 2045 will be different. We must embrace and deliver radical change so we can tackle and adapt to climate change, restore biodiversity

loss, improve health and wellbeing, reduce inequalities, build a wellbeing economy and create great places.

#### **Role of the National Planning Framework**

Scotland 2045: our Fourth National Planning Framework, commonly known as NPF4, is required by law to set out the Scottish Ministers' policies and proposals for the development and use of land. It plays a key role in supporting the delivery of Scotland's national outcomes and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **National Performance Framework**

Our Purpose, Values and National Outcomes



# SUSTAINABLE GEALS DEVELOPMENT GEALS





































NPF4 includes a long-term spatial strategy to 2045. This reflects the spatial aspects of a range of Scottish Government policies, including the Infrastructure Investment Plan.

The Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIP) identified that NPF4 would include housing land requirements framed within a spatial strategy that aligns with the investment programme and principles, and highlighted that national planning policies would include an infrastructure first approach.

The NPF4 strategy, policies and national developments are aligned to the strategic themes of the IIP: enabling the transition to net zero emissions and environmental sustainability; driving inclusive economic growth; and building resilient and sustainable places. The policies and instruction for LDPs activate the IIP priorities within the themes to the degree that those priorities involve physical development, opportunities for people and improvements for place. Minimum All Tenure Housing Land Requirements are set out at Annex E. The investment hierarchy influences the approach to NPF4 overall and features specifically in instructions for LDPs in Policy 18 'Infrastructure First'.

NPF4 replaces National Planning Framework 3 (2014) and Scottish Planning Policy (2014). NPF4 should be read as a whole. It represents a package of planning policies to guide us to the place we want Scotland to be in 2045.

NPF4 is required by law to contribute to 6 outcomes:

- Meeting the **housing needs** of people living in Scotland including, in particular, the housing needs for older people and disabled people,
- Improving the **health and wellbeing** of people living in Scotland,
- Increasing the population of rural areas of Scotland,
- Improving equality and eliminating discrimination,
- Meeting any targets relating to the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases, and
- Securing positive effects for **biodiversity**.

Statements setting out further detail on the contribution of NPF4 to each outcome are set out in Part 1.

#### Plan-led Approach

A plan-led approach is central to supporting the delivery of Scotland's national outcomes and broader sustainable development goals. It is a legislative requirement that planning decisions must be made in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The statutory development plan for any given area of Scotland consists of the National Planning Framework and the relevant LDP(s). The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 prescribes four different plans, at different scales:

National Planning Framework (NPF)	The National Planning Framework sets out the Scottish Ministers' policies and proposals for the development and use of land.  The NPF must have regard to any adopted regional spatial strategy.  NPF4 is part of the statutory development plan.
Regional spatial strategies (RSS)	The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 introduced a new duty requiring the preparation of regional spatial strategies.  A planning authority, or authorities acting jointly will prepare these long-term spatial strategies for the strategic development of an area.  RSS are not part of the statutory development plan, but have an important role to play in informing future versions of the NPF and LDPs.
Local development plans (LDPs)	Planning authorities must prepare one or more LDPs for their area.  The LDP sets out a spatial strategy for the development of that area. It must take into account the National Planning Framework and any registered local place plan in the area it covers. It must have regard to the authority's adopted regional spatial strategy. The LDP must also have regard to any local outcomes improvement plan for the area it covers.  LDPs are part of the statutory development plan.
Local place plans (LPPs)	Local place plans are community-led plans setting out proposals for the development and use of land. They must have regard to the NPF, any LDP which covers the same area, and also any locality plan which covers the same area.  LPPs are not part of the statutory development plan, but have an important role to play in informing LDPs.

#### **Spatial Strategy**

<u>Part 1</u> sets out our spatial strategy for Scotland to 2045, identifying:

- <u>6 spatial principles</u> which will influence all our plans and decisions:
  - Just transition
  - Conserving and recycling assets
  - Local living
  - Compact urban growth
  - Rebalanced development
  - Rural revitalisation
- 3 themes, linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Scottish Government National Performance Framework:
  - Sustainable places where we reduce emissions, restore and better connect biodiversity
  - Liveable places where we can all live better, healthier lives
  - Productive places where we have a greener, fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy

LDPs should take account of these principles and outcomes, and they should also be reflected within regional spatial strategies and local place plans.

#### **National Developments**

Eighteen national developments have been identified. These are significant developments of national importance that will help to deliver the spatial strategy. They are intentionally high level and focus on key elements, as the projects are at different stages.

National development status does not grant planning permission for the development and all relevant consents are required.

Their designation means that the principle of the development does not need to be agreed in later consenting processes, providing more certainty for communities, business and investors.

Their designation is not intended to describe in detail how the projects should be designed, matters to consider, or impact assessments and mitigation to be applied. In addition to the statement of need at Annex B, decision makers for applications for consent for national developments should take into account all relevant policies.

LDPs should take forward proposals for national developments where relevant and facilitate their delivery. This could be through supporting land allocations, policy intervention and LDP delivery programmes.

#### **Regional Spatial Priorities**

Regional spatial priorities set out how each part of the country can use their assets and opportunities to help deliver the overall strategy. The detail of these priorities should be further considered and consulted upon through the local development planning process, and where appropriate through regional spatial strategies and regional transport strategies.

The maps are indicative, and certain authorities may have a role to play in more than one regional area. The broad areas identified in NPF4 are intended to act as a flexible framework to guide the preparation of future Regional Spatial Strategies. It is open to planning authorities to decide for themselves, including by working in partnership with others, the most appropriate scale and extent of areas to be covered by Regional Spatial Strategies.

Statutory guidance will guide the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies.

#### **National Planning Policy**

Part 2 sets out our policy framework by topic under the three themes.

Planning is complex and requires careful balancing of issues. The **policy intent** is provided to aid plan makers and decision makers to understand the intent of each policy and to help deliver policy aspirations.

The **policy outcomes** set out what we want to achieve and will help to influence future monitoring of the planning system.

The **Local Development Plan** section clarifies the expected role of LDPs for each topic. The focus for LDPs should be on land allocation through the spatial strategy and interpreting this national policy in a local context. There is no need for LDPs to replicate policies within NPF4, but authorities can add further detail including locally specific policies should they consider to be a need to do so, based on the area's individual characteristics.

The **policy** sections are for use in the determination of planning applications. The policies should be read as a whole. Planning decisions must be made in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. It is for the decision maker to determine what weight to attach to policies on a case by case basis. Where a policy states that development will be supported, it is in principle, and it is for the decision maker to take into account all other relevant policies.

The **policy impact** section shows which spatial principles the policy will help to deliver.

The **key policy connections** help to show the key connections between policies, but are not intended to be comprehensive.

# Annex B - National Developments Statements of Need

National developments are significant developments of national importance that will help to deliver our spatial strategy.

Eighteen national developments will support the delivery of our spatial strategy. These national developments range from single large scale projects or collections and networks of several smaller scale proposals. They are also intended to act as exemplars of the Place Principle and placemaking approaches.

The statements of need set out in this annex are a requirement of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and describe the development to be considered as a national development for consent handling purposes.

An assessment of the likely impact of each proposed national development's lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets¹ (with the meaning given in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009) has been undertaken. The assessment is based on the detail provided at the time of the assessment, and the conclusion may alter depending on the nature and detail of the projects taken forward.

The potential for national developments to affect European designated sites, depending on the precise design, location and construction of individual projects, has been identified by the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) of NPF4. Any such development would need to be considered carefully at project level and all relevant statutory tests met.

<sup>1</sup> Research project: Lifecycle Greenhouse Gas Emissions of NPF4 Proposed National Developments Assessment Findings (LUC 2021) available online at <a href="https://www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/">https://www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/</a>

# 1. Energy Innovation Development on the Islands

This national development supports proposed developments in the Outer Hebrides, Shetland and Orkney island groups, for renewable energy generation, renewable hydrogen production, infrastructure and shipping, and associated opportunities in the supply chain for fabrication, research and development.

Any strategy for deployment of these technologies must enable decarbonisation at pace and cannot be used to justify unsustainable levels of fossil fuel extraction or impede Scotland's just transition to net zero.

This is aligned with low carbon energy projects within the Islands Growth Deal that have been developed with local partners such as the Islands Centre for Net Zero and encompasses other projects that can facilitate net zero aims.

The use of low and zero emission fuels will play a crucial role in decarbonising island and mainland energy use, shipping, strengthening energy security overall and creating a low carbon energy economy for the islands and islanders. The developments will add value where they link into national and international energy expertise, learning and research and development networks.

#### Location

Outer Hebrides, Shetland, Orkney and surrounding waters.

#### Need

These classes of development support the potential of the three island authorities to exemplify a transition to a net zero society. This will support delivery of our spatial strategy by helping to sustain communities in rural and island areas by stimulating employment and innovation.

#### **Designation and classes of development**

A development contributing to 'Energy Innovation Development on the Islands' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by 'The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009', is designated a national development:

**Outer Hebrides –** Supporting the Arnish Renewables Base and Outer Hebrides Energy Hub

The classes below apply to development that is for delivery of the Arnish Renewables Base and Outer Hebrides Energy Hub:

- a) New or updated on and/or off shore infrastructure for energy generation from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts capacity;
- b) Electricity transmission cables and converter stations on and/or off shore of 132 kilovolts (kv) and above;
- c) Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low and zero-carbon fuels (that are not electricity or heat) including renewable hydrogen; and hydrogen production related chemicals including ammonia with appropriate carbon capture linked to transport and storage infrastructure;
- d) Improved oil storage infrastructure for Stornoway, with appropriate emissions abatement; and
- e) Quay to service renewable energy, energy transportation, energy decommissioning, fabrication or freight handling, including new or enhanced associated laydown or operational area at Arnish.

**Shetland Islands** – Supporting the Opportunity for Renewable Integration with Offshore Networks (ORION) Clean Energy Project

The classes below apply to development that is for delivery of renewable and low carbon aspects of the ORION project:

- a) New or updated on and/or off shore infrastructure for energy generation from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts capacity;
- b) Electricity transmission cables and converter stations on and/or off shore of/or exceeding 132kv:
- c) Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low and zero-carbon fuels (that are not electricity or heat) including renewable hydrogen; and hydrogen production related chemicals including ammonia with appropriate carbon capture linked to transport, storage, and utilisation infrastructure at Sullom Voe;
- d) Quay to service renewable energy, energy transportation, energy decommissioning, fabrication or freight handling, including new or enhanced associated laydown or operational area at Sullom Voe, Scatsta, Lerwick, and Dales Voe (Lerwick);
- e) Oil terminal modifications at Sullom Voe to maintain asset use moving towards net zero emissions; and
- f) New infrastructure, and/or upgraded buildings and facilities to support the transportation and storage of captured carbon.

**Orkney Islands** – Supporting Scapa Flow Future Fuels Hub and Orkney Harbours

The classes below apply to development that is for the delivery of the Future Fuels Hub, new quay in Scapa Flow, and the Orkney Logistics Base at Hatston, which support services for the renewable and marine energy and shipping sectors:

 a) New or updated on and/or off shore infrastructure for energy generation from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts capacity;

- b) Electricity transmission cables and converter stations on and/or off shore of 132kv and above;
- c) Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low and zero-carbon fuels (that are not electricity or heat) including renewable hydrogen; and hydrogen production related chemicals including ammonia with appropriate carbon capture linked to transport and storage infrastructure;
- d) Quay to service renewable energy, energy transportation, energy decommissioning, fabrication or freight handling, including new or enhanced associated laydown or operational area at, Scapa Flow, and Hatston (Kirkwall); and
- e) Oil terminal modifications at Scapa Flow to maintain asset use moving towards net zero emissions.

# Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

#### **Policy impact:**

- Rebalanced development
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Rural revitalisation
- Just transition

#### 2. Pumped Hydro Storage

This national development will play a significant role in balancing and optimising electricity generation and maintaining the operability of the electricity system as part of our transition to net zero. This is necessary as we continue to move towards a decarbonised system with much more renewable generation, the output from which is defined by weather conditions.

This national development supports additional capacity at existing sites as well as at new sites. Cruachan in Argyll is a nationally important example of a pumped storage facility with significant potential for enhanced capacity that could create significant jobs in a rural location.

#### Location

All Scotland.

#### Need

This national development supports pumped hydro storage capacity within the electricity network through significant new or expanded sites. This supports the transition to a net zero economy through the ability of pumped hydro storage schemes to optimise electricity generated from renewables by storing and releasing it when it is required.

#### **Designation and classes of development**

A development contributing to 'Pumped Hydro Storage' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by 'The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009', is designated a national development:

- a) New and/or expanded and/or upgraded water holding reservoir and dam;
- b) New and/or upgraded electricity generating plant structures or buildings;
- c) New and/or upgraded pump plant structures or buildings;
- d) New and/or expanded and/or upgraded water inlet and outlet pipework;
- e) New and/or upgraded substations and/or transformers; and
- f) New and/or replacement transmission cables.

# Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

#### **Policy impact:**

- ♥ Conserving and recycling assets
- Rural revitalisation
- Just transition

# 3. Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure

This national development supports renewable electricity generation, repowering, and expansion of the electricity grid.

A large and rapid increase in electricity generation from renewable sources will be essential for Scotland to meet its net zero emissions targets. Certain types of renewable electricity generation will also be required, which will include energy storage technology and capacity, to provide the vital services, including flexible response, that a zero carbon network will require. Generation is for domestic consumption as well as for export to the UK and beyond, with new capacity helping to decarbonise heat, transport and industrial energy demand. This has the potential to support jobs and business investment, with wider economic benefits.

The electricity transmission grid will need substantial reinforcement including the addition of new infrastructure to connect and transmit the output from new on and offshore capacity to consumers in Scotland, the rest of the UK and beyond. Delivery of this national development will be informed by market, policy and regulatory developments and decisions.

## Location

All Scotland.

#### Need

Additional electricity generation from renewables and electricity transmission capacity of scale is fundamental to achieving a net zero economy and supports improved network resilience in rural and island areas. Island transmission connections in particular can facilitate capturing the significant renewable energy potential in those areas as well as delivering significant social and economic benefits.

# Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by 'The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009', is designated a national development:

- a) On and off shore electricity generation, including electricity storage, from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts capacity;
- b) New and/or replacement upgraded on and offshore high voltage electricity transmission lines, cables and interconnectors of 132kv or more; and
- c) New and/or upgraded Infrastructure directly supporting on and offshore high voltage electricity lines, cables and interconnectors including converter stations, switching stations and substations.

# Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

- Local Living
- Rebalanced development
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Just transition

# **4. Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities**

This national development supports the development of facilities required to achieve a circular economy. This sector will provide a range of business, skills and employment opportunities as part of a just transition to a net zero economy.

The range and scale of facilities required to manage secondary materials and their circulation back into the economy is not yet clear. However, sites and facilities will be needed to retain the resource value of materials so that we can maximise the use of materials in the economy and minimise the use of virgin materials in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is particularly significant for the construction and demolition industries and decommissioning industry.

Careful assessment of specific proposals will be required to ensure they provide sustainable low carbon solutions, include appropriate controls, manage any emissions and mitigate localised impacts including on neighbouring communities and the wider environment.

## Location

All Scotland.

#### Need

This national development helps maximise Scotland's potential to retain the energy and emissions values within materials already in the economy.

# **Designation and classes of development**

A development contributing to 'Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by 'The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009' is designated a national development:

- a) Facilities for managing secondary materials; and
- b) Recycling facilities.

# Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

- Local Living
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Just transition

# 5. Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions

This national development aims to build on the benefits of the Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership, to continue investment and extend the approach to the Edinburgh city region.

Our biggest cities and their regions will require improved infrastructure to ensure they are more resilient to climate change. A strategic, catchment scale approach to adaptation through surface water and drainage infrastructure investment will reduce impacts and risks for our urban population and is an example of an infrastructure first approach. Catchment scale nature-based solutions which may include blue and green infrastructure should be prioritised. Grey infrastructure should be optimised and only used when necessary to augment bluegreen infrastructure solutions. Delivery of multiple climate, wellbeing and economic benefits should form the basis of the approach. Whilst this national development focuses on Edinburgh and Glasgow other cities and towns may benefit from similar approaches.

## Location

Glasgow and Edinburgh City Regions and their wider water catchment areas.

#### Need

A large proportion of our population lives in our largest cities. The management of surface water drainage at scale across these city regions will help us to adapt to extreme weather events that will become more frequent as a result of climate change. A nature-based approach to surface water management has the potential to deliver multiple health, wellbeing, economic and climate adaptation and emissions reduction benefits and it may free up sewer capacity.

# Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Urban Sustainable, Blue and Green Surface Water Management Solutions' in the location described, within the Class of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by 'The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009' is designated a national development:

a) Spaces, infrastructure, works, structures, buildings, pipelines, and nature-based approaches, for surface water management and drainage systems.

# Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

- Compact urban growth
- ✓ Local living
- ♥ Conserving and recycling assets
- Rural revitalisation
- Just transition

## 6. Urban Mass/Rapid Transit Networks

This national development supports low carbon mass/rapid transit projects for Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

To reduce transport emissions at scale, we will require low carbon transport solutions for these three major cities that can support transformational reduction in private car use.

Development of the Glasgow 'Metro' and Edinburgh Mass Transit in these cities and their associated regions plus the Aberdeen Rapid Transit system are recommendations from the Strategic Transport Projects Review 2.

This will support placemaking and deliver improved transport equity across the most densely populated parts of Scotland, improving access to employment and supporting sustainable investment in the longer term. It can function as part of a broader transport network that includes active travel, and this places importance on multi-modal hubs or transport interchange points.

The type of interventions will be determined through the on-going development of business cases and studies but could include the provision of new systems or extensions to existing sustainable and public transport networks.

### Location

Aberdeen, Glasgow and Edinburgh City Regions.

#### Need

This national development will help reduce transport related emissions overall, improve air quality, reduce the demand for private vehicle use, support the roll out of 20 minute neighbourhoods and improve transport equity.

# **Designation and classes of development**

A development contributing to 'Urban Mass/ Rapid Transit Networks' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by 'The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009' is designated a national development. This relates to development supported by the Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 consisting of new or upgraded:

- a) Track or road infrastructure;
- b) Fuelling or power infrastructure;
- c) Passenger facilities; and
- d) Depots servicing the networks.

# Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

- Compact urban growth
- Local living
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Just transition

## 7. Central Scotland Green Network

This national development is one of Europe's largest and most ambitious green infrastructure projects. It will play a key role in tackling the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss including by building and strengthening nature networks. A greener approach to development will improve placemaking, can contribute to the roll-out of 20 minute neighbourhoods and will benefit biodiversity connectivity. This has particular relevance in the more urban parts of Scotland where there is pressure for development as well as significant areas requiring regeneration to address past decline and disadvantage. Regeneration, repurposing and reuse of brownfield land should be a priority.

Priorities include enhancement to provide multi-functional green and blue infrastructure that provides greatest environmental, lifelong physical and mental health, social wellbeing and economic benefits. It focuses on those areas where greening and development can be mutually supportive, helping to improve equity of access to quality green and blue space, and supporting communities where improving wellbeing and resilience is most needed, including to help people adapt to future climate risks.

Nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation and mitigation may include woodland expansion and peatland restoration as a priority. The connectivity of biodiversity rich areas may be enhanced through nature networks, including corridors and stepping stones to provide enhanced natural capital and improved ecosystem services.

### Location

Central Scotland local authorities within a boundary identified by the Green Action Trust.

## Need

This national development is needed to improve quality of place and create new opportunities for investment. This will support delivery of our spatial strategy which highlights the importance of accelerating urban greening in this most densely populated part of Scotland.

## **Designation and classes of development**

A development contributing to 'Central Scotland Green Network' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by 'The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland)

Regulations 2009', is designated a national development:

- a) Development to create and/or enhance multifunctional green infrastructure including for: emissions sequestration; adaptation to climate change; and biodiversity enhancement;
- b) Reuse of vacant and derelict land and buildings for greening and nature-based solutions:
- New and/or upgraded sustainable surface water management and drainage systems and the creation of blue space;
- d) Use of land for allotments or community food growing; and
- e) Routes for active travel and/or recreation.

# Lifecycle Greenhouse Gas Emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

- Compact urban growth
- Local living
- Rebalanced development
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Rural revitalisation
- Just transition

# 8. National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network

This national development facilitates the shift from vehicles to walking, cycling and wheeling for everyday journeys contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport and is highly beneficial for health and wellbeing.

The upgrading and provision of additional active travel infrastructure will be fundamental to the development of a sustainable travel network providing access to settlements, key services and amenities, employment and multimodal hubs. Infrastructure investment should be prioritised for locations where it will achieve our National Transport Strategy 2 priorities and outcomes, to reduce inequalities, take climate action, help deliver a wellbeing economy and to improve health and wellbeing. This will help to deliver great places to live and work, including through connecting neighbourhoods, villages and towns, active freeways and long distance routes.

#### Location

All Scotland.

#### Need

Reducing the need to travel unsustainably is the highest priority in the sustainable transport investment hierarchy. This national development will significantly support modal shift and deliver multiple outcomes including our commitment to a 20% reduction in car kilometres by 2030, associated emissions reduction, health and air quality improvement. This will support the delivery of our spatial strategy by creating a more sustainable distribution of access across Scotland as a whole.

# Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by 'The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009' is designated a national development:

 a) New/and or upgraded routes suitable for a range of users for walking, cycling and wheeling that help create a national network that facilitates short and longer distance journeys and linkages to multi-modal hubs.

# Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

- Compact urban growth
- Local living
- Just transition

# 9. Edinburgh Waterfront

This national development supports the regeneration of strategic sites along the Forth Waterfront in Edinburgh.

The waterfront is a strategic asset that contributes to the city's character and sense of place and includes significant opportunities for a wide range of future developments.

Development will include high quality mixed use proposals that optimise the use of the strategic asset for residential, community, commercial and industrial purposes, including support for offshore energy relating to port uses. Further cruise activity should take into account the need to manage impacts on transport infrastructure.

This will help maintain and grow Edinburgh's position as a capital city and commercial centre with a high quality and accessible living environment. Development locations and design will need to address future resilience to the risks from climate change, impact on health inequalities, and the potential to incorporate green and blue infrastructure.

## Location

Leith to Granton.

## Need

Waterfronts in our largest urban areas are frequently under-utilised and contain significant areas of brownfield land as well as existing infrastructure assets. Their location may be particularly vulnerable to climate change and likely risks will require careful management. This will support delivery of our spatial strategy, which recognises the importance of our urban coastline in supporting our sense of place, economy and wellbeing.

## **Designation and classes of development**

A development contributing to 'Edinburgh Waterfront' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by 'The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009', is designated a national development:

- a) New and/or upgraded buildings for mixed use and/or residential development;
- b) New and/or upgraded buildings for commercial, industrial, business use;
- c) New and/or upgraded utilities;
- d) New and/or upgraded green and blue infrastructure;
- e) New and/or upgraded active and sustainable travel routes; and
- f) New and/or upgraded port facilities for vessel berthing and related landside activities including for lay-down, and marine sector services.

# Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

- Compact urban growth
- Local living
- Rebalanced development
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Just transition

### 10. Dundee Waterfront

This national development supports the redevelopment of the Dundee Waterfront Zones including: the Central Waterfront, Seabraes, City Quay, Dundee Port, Riverside Business Area and Nature Park, and the Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc.

Continued delivery of the waterfront transformation is crucial to securing the role of the city as a location for investment in the net zero economy. Supporting population growth alongside economic opportunities, and skills and career development, is important in continuing to demonstrate the sustainability of urban living in Scotland and a just transition to the net zero economy.

Further projects associated with this include: the Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc which will become an innovation hub for net zero emission mobility; the Eden Project; and an improvement of facilities at Dundee Port. This national development includes reusing land on and around the Dundee Waterfront to support the lifelong health and wellbeing of communities, deliver innovation and attract investment. As the development progresses it will be important to support sustainable and active transport options and to build in adaptation to future climate risks.

### Location

Dundee Waterfront zones: Central Waterfront, Seabraes, City Quay, Dundee Port, Riverside Business Area and Riverside Nature Park; Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc.

### Need

This national development supports the continued revitalisation of Dundee Waterfront, expanded to include Michelin Scotland Innovation Parc in support of the Tay Cities Region Economic Strategy and its continued use for economic purposes. Waterfront locations may be particularly vulnerable to climate change and so development requires to be carefully designed to manage likely risks.

## **Designation and classes of development**

A development contributing to 'Dundee Waterfront' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by 'The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland)

Regulations 2009' is designated a national development:

- a) New and/or upgraded buildings for mixed use and/or residential development;
- b) New and/or upgraded buildings for commercial, industrial, business, storage, distribution, research, educational, and/or tourism use;
- c) New and/or upgraded utilities;
- d) New and/or upgraded active and sustainable travel routes;
- e) New and/or upgraded port facilities for vessel berthing and related landside activities including for lay-down, freight handling and marine sector services; and
- f) New and/or upgraded green and blue infrastructure.

# Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

- Compact urban growth
- ✓ Local living
- Rebalanced development
- Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Just transition

## 11. Stranraer Gateway

This national development supports the regeneration of Stranraer.

Stranraer is a gateway town. It is located close to Cairnryan, a key port connecting Scotland to Northern Ireland, Ireland and beyond to wider markets.

High quality place-based regeneration will help address socio-economic inequalities in Stranraer and to support the wider population of south west Scotland by acting as a hub and providing a platform for future investment. This will be supported by any strategic transport interventions including road and rail that emerge from the second Strategic Transport Projects Review which embeds the National Transport Strategy's sustainable travel and investment hierarchies.

### Location

Stranraer and associated transport routes.

#### Need

Loch Ryan and Stranraer act as a gateway to Scotland. Reusing the assets in this location will support the wellbeing, economy and community in line with the regional growth deal. It will help to deliver our spatial strategy by driving forward regeneration of a key hub.

# Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Stranraer Gateway' in the location described within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by 'The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009', is designated a national development:

- a) Development contributing to Stranraer Waterfront regeneration;
- b) Marina expansion;
- c) Redevelopment of Stranraer harbour east pier;
- d) Sustainable, road, rail and freight infrastructure for access to Stranraer and/or Cairnryan;
- e) New and/or upgraded infrastructure for the transportation and use of low carbon fuels; and
- f) Reuse of vacant and derelict buildings and brownfield land, including regeneration of Blackparks industrial estate.

# Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

- Compact urban growth
- Local living
- Rebalanced development
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Rural revitalisation
- Just transition

## 12. Digital Fibre Network

This national development supports the continued roll-out of world-class broadband across Scotland.

Our strategy requires enhanced digital connectivity to provide high speed broadband or equivalent mobile services, prioritising those areas with weaker networks as part of the Reaching 100% (R100) programme and Project Gigabit, including urban, island specific and rural enhancements. This is a significant utility including 4G and 5G mobile infrastructure facilitating home based working, renewable energy development, rural repopulation and access to services. The data transmission network can also support the availability and use of 'big data.' Digital capability is a feature of a number of City Region and Growth Deals.

Opportunities should be taken to deliver the infrastructure as part of other infrastructure upgrades or installation works such as energy transmission, transportation, and travel networks where appropriate.

## Location

All Scotland.

## Need

This is a fundamentally important utility, required to support development, community wellbeing, equal access to goods and services, and emissions reduction from reduced demand for travel. This will help to deliver our spatial strategy by complementing a new emphasis of living locally, and by helping to sustain and grow rural and island communities.

## **Designation and classes of development**

A development contributing to 'Digital Fibre Network' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by 'The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009', is designated a national development:

- a) Installation of new and/or upgraded broadband cabling on land and sub-sea for fixed line and mobile networks; and
- b) Green data centres.

# Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall negligible impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

- Local living
- Rural revitalisation
- Just transition

## 13. Clyde Mission

This national development is a national, placebased Mission to make the Clyde an engine of economic success for Glasgow, the city region and Scotland.

The Clyde Mission is focused on the River Clyde and the riverside from South Lanarkshire in the east to Inverclyde and Argyll and Bute in the west and focusing on an area up to around 500 metres from the river edge. This footprint includes the parts of the Clyde Gateway, River Clyde Waterfront, North Clyde River Bank and River Clyde Corridor frameworks, and Glasgow Riverside Innovation District.

Across this area significant land assets are under-utilised, and longstanding inequality, in relation to poor environment and health outcomes require to be tackled as a national priority. An ambitious redevelopment programme is being taken forward under <a href="Five Missions">Five Missions</a>. It is a collective, cross-sector effort and partnership working will help bring forward assets and sites that are ready for redevelopment to sustain a range of uses. This will repurpose and reinvigorate brownfield and supporting local living as well as adapting the area to the impacts of climate change, where nature-based solutions would be particularly supported.

### Location

The river and land immediately next to it (up to around 500 metres from the river) along its length.

#### Need

These classes of development revitalise a major waterfront asset which is currently under-utilised. This will support the delivery of our spatial strategy by attracting investment and reuse of brownfield land in west central Scotland where there is a particular need to improve quality of place, generate employment and support disadvantaged communities. It will also support adaptation to climate risks.

## Designation and classes of development

A development contributing to 'Clyde Mission' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by 'The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009', is designated a national development:

- a) Mixed use, which may include residential, redevelopment of brownfield land;
- b) New, reused and/or upgraded buildings and facilities for residential, commercial, business and industrial uses on brownfield land;
- c) Upgrade of existing port and harbour assets for servicing marine functions including freight and cruise uses and associated landside commercial and/or industrial land for supporting services;
- d) New and/or upgraded active and sustainable travel and recreation routes and infrastructure; and
- e) New and/or upgraded infrastructure for climate adaptation, including nature-based, green and blue solutions.

# Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net negative impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

- Compact urban growth
- Local living
- Conserving and recycling assets

## 14. Aberdeen Harbour

This national development supports the continued relocation and repurposing of Aberdeen Harbour. The harbour is a strategically important asset supporting the economy of the north east of Scotland.

The south harbour can act as a cluster of port accessible offshore renewable energy research, manufacturing and support services. The facilities are also important for international connections.

At the south harbour the focus should be on regenerating existing industrial land and reorganising land use around the harbour in line with the spatial strategy of the LDP. By focusing future port activity here, parts of the existing harbour in the city centre will become available for mixed use development, opening up development land to help reinvigorate Aberdeen city centre.

This can help provide significant economic opportunities, in line with the objectives of the Aberdeen City Region Deal. Environmental benefits, for example to enhance access and improve the quality of green space and active travel options should be designed-in to help offset any potential impacts on the amenity of local communities with relevant projects addressing environmental sensitivities through careful planning, assessment and implementation.

The extent to which this should include additional business and industrial development outwith the existing north and south harbours is a matter to be determined in the relevant LDP, and is outwith the scope of this national development.

## Location

Port of Aberdeen North and South Harbours.

This national development supports the optimisation of Aberdeen Harbour to support net zero and stimulate economic investment. It is also a significant opportunity to support better placemaking including city centre transformation, and regeneration of existing land by optimising the use of new and existing assets. This will

deliver our spatial strategy by helping the north east of Scotland to achieve a just transition from a high carbon economy whilst improving quality of place.

## **Designation and classes of development**

A development contributing to 'Aberdeen Harbour' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by 'The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009' is designated a national development:

- a) Mixed use development reusing land at the existing (north) Aberdeen Harbour;
- b) Upgraded port facilities at Aberdeen Harbour and completion of South Harbour;
- c) New and/or upgraded green infrastructure;
- d) Buildings and facilities for commercial, manufacturing and industrial uses;
- e) Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low carbon and renewable hydrogen and related chemicals including ammonia, with carbon capture as necessary; and
- f) Transport infrastructure, including for sustainable and active travel, for the South Harbour as supported by the Aberdeen City Region Deal.

# Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

- Local living
- Conserving and recycling assets
- ✓ Just transition

## 15. Industrial Green Transition Zones

To secure a just transition to a net zero economy, the decarbonisation of nationally important industrial sites in a way that ensures continued jobs, investment and prosperity for these areas and the communities that depend on them is essential. Industrial Green Transition Zones (IGTZ) will support the generation of significant economic opportunities while minimising carbon emissions. Technologies that will help Scotland transition to net zero will be supported at these locations, with a particular focus on low carbon and zero emissions technologies including renewables and the generation, storage and distribution of low carbon hydrogen.

The deployment of hydrogen and CCUS at these locations must demonstrate decarbonisation at pace and cannot be used to justify unsustainable levels of fossil fuel extraction or impede Scotland's just transition to net zero. Hydrogen and CCUS are emerging industries, both government and industry in Scotland wish to accelerate and maximise the deployment of green hydrogen. For projects that utilise carbon capture and storage, we want to ensure the highest possible carbon capture rates in the deployment of these technologies. While there are examples internationally where CCUS projects have been associated with offshore Enhanced Oil Recovery, we understand there to be no plans for offshore Enhanced Oil Recovery as part of the Scottish Cluster. However, if any IGTZ is found to be incompatible with Scotland's transition to net zero, Scottish Government policy, along with designations of and classes of development, will change accordingly.

Industrial Green Transition Zones are:

• The Scottish Cluster encompasses a carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects network and is a key strategic vehicle for industrial decarbonisation, energy generation, and the transportation and storage of captured carbon. The designation relates to projects that form a Scottish Cluster in the first instance specifically Peterhead, St Fergus and Grangemouth. Further industrial transition sites are expected to emerge in the longer

term and benefit from the experience gained within the Scottish Cluster but do not form part of this national development. This national development will support the generation of significant economic opportunities for low carbon industry as well as minimising carbon emissions at scale, and will play a vital part in maintaining the security and operability of Scotland's electricity supply and network. The creation of hydrogen and deployment of negative emissions technologies, utilising CCUS, at commercial scale will establish the opportunities to decarbonise industry, transport and heat, as well as other sectors, and pave the way for the transportation and storage infrastructure to support the growing hydrogen economy in Scotland.

 Grangemouth investment zone currently hosts strategic and critical infrastructure, high value employment and manufacturing of materials that are currently vital for every-day life. This role will continue in the long-term but must seek to decarbonise given the significant contribution of the industrial activities to Scotland's emissions. It is a key location in the Scottish Cluster for carbon capture and storage, and hydrogen deployment. The Grangemouth Investment Zone will be a focus for transitioning the petro-chemicals industry and associated activities into a leading exemplar of industrial decarbonisation, significantly helped through the coordination activities of the Scottish Government's Grangemouth Future Industry Board. Decarbonisation could include opportunities for: renewable energy innovation; bioenergy; hydrogen production with carbon capture and storage; and repurposing of existing strategic and critical infrastructure such as pipelines.

### Location

St Fergus, Peterhead, and Grangemouth.

#### Need

This national development is required to meet our targets for emissions reduction. It also supports a just transition by creating new jobs in emerging technologies and significant economic opportunities for lower carbon industry. It will help to decarbonise other sectors, sites and regions, paving the way for increasing demand

to be complemented by the production of further hydrogen in the future. This will also help to deliver our spatial strategy by supporting investment in the North East and the Central Belt where there has been a relatively high level of output from fossil fuel industries.

## **Designation and classes of development**

A development contributing to 'Industrial Green Transition Zones' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by 'The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009' is designated a national development.

- a) Carbon capture with high capture rates and negative emission technologies, transportation and storage of captured carbon forming part of or helping to create an expandable national network;
- b) Pipeline for transportation and storage of captured carbon and/or hydrogen;
- c) Onshore infrastructure including compression equipment, supporting pipeline transportation and shipping transportation of captured carbon and/or hydrogen;
- d) Offshore storage of captured carbon;
- e) New and/or upgraded buildings and facilities for the utilisation of captured carbon;
- f) Infrastructure for the production of hydrogen on shore or off shore where co-located with off shore wind farms within 0-12 nautical miles;
- g) Infrastructure for the storage of hydrogen on shore or off shore, including on or near-shore geological storage;
- h) Port facilities for the transport and handling of hydrogen and carbon dioxide;
- The application of carbon capture and storage technology to existing or replacement thermal power generation capacity;

- j) Production, storage and transportation with appropriate emissions abatement of: bioenergy; hydrogen production related chemicals including ammonia;
- k) New and/or upgraded buildings for industrial, manufacturing, business, and educational or research uses related to the industrial transition:
- I) Town centre regeneration at Grangemouth;
- m) Grangemouth flood protection scheme;
- n) New and/or upgraded green and blue infrastructure;
- o) New and/or upgraded utilities and/or local energy network; and
- p) New and/or upgraded facilities at the port for inter-modal freight handling at Grangemouth.

# Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive effect on lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets.

- Compact urban growth
- Local living
- Rebalanced development
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Rural revitalisation
- Just transition

## 16. Hunterston Strategic Asset

This national development supports the repurposing of Hunterston port as well as the adjacent former nuclear power station sites and marketable business land of the Hunterston Estate. Hunterston has long been recognised as a strategic location for the port and energy sectors given its deepwater access and existing infrastructure. Hunterston is a key site, anchoring other opportunities around the Firth of Clyde.

The location and infrastructure offers potential for electricity generation from renewables, and a variety of commercial uses including port, research and development, aquaculture, the circular economy, and environmental and economic opportunities around nuclear decommissioning expertise.

New development will need to optimise the capacity of the transport network, include active travel links and be compatible with a location adjacent to sites with nuclear power uses. Designated biodiversity sites will require protection and enhancement where possible, and sustainable flood risk management solutions will be required for the area. Aligned with the Ayrshire Growth Deal, jointly funded by the Scottish and UK Governments, investment in this location will support a wellbeing economy by opening up opportunities for employment and training for local people. A community wealth building approach has been embedded within the Deal and Regional Economic Strategy within Ayrshire, and would be expected to form a part of future development proposals to ensure the economic benefits are retained locally as far as possible, strengthening local supply chains and supporting businesses and communities across Avrshire.

## Location

Hunterston Port, nuclear power station sites and marketable employment land at Hunterston Estate.

#### Need

These classes of development support the redevelopment and reuse of existing strategic assets and land contributing to a net zero economy. It also supports delivery of our spatial strategy by stimulating investment in the west of Scotland, potentially contributing to the wider aim of tackling inequalities.

## **Designation and classes of development**

A development contributing to 'Hunterston Strategic Asset' in the location described within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by 'The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009', is designated a national development:

- a) Infrastructure to support a multi-modal deep water harbour;
- b) Land and buildings for bulk handling, storage, processing and distribution;
- c) Facilities for marine energy generation technology fabrication and decommissioning;
- d) Facilities for marine energy servicing;
- e) Land and buildings for industrial, commercial, research and development, and training uses;
- f) Infrastructure for the capture, transportation and long-term storage of greenhouse gas emissions, where transportation may be by pipe or vehicular means;
- g) Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low carbon and renewable hydrogen; and hydrogen production related chemicals including ammonia;
- h) Infrastructure for the generation and storage of electricity from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts; and
- i) Electricity transmission infrastructure of 132kv or more.

# Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

- Local living
- ♥ Conserving and recycling assets
- Rural revitalisation
- Just transition

# 17. Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment

This national development supports the redevelopment of Chapelcross, a former nuclear power station site of significant scale regionally and nationally, and our strategy supports the reuse of the site to help deliver on net zero and provide opportunities for communities in the South of Scotland.

Final uses for the site remain to be agreed, but the site has locational advantage to act as an energy hub with opportunities including: business development with a particular focus on energy and energy supply chain; energy generation from solar; electricity storage; generation of heat; production and storage of low carbon and renewable hydrogen. This could link to ambitions for low carbon heat and vehicle fuel at Strangaer.

The proposal aims to create new job opportunities, including high value employment. A community wealth building approach will ensure that benefits are retained locally as far as possible, and this in turn will help to sustain and grow the local population. We also support opportunities to reduce the fuel costs for local communities to tackle fuel poverty. Sustainable access to the site for workers and commercial vehicles will be required.

## Location

Site of the former Chapeloross power station.

### Need

This national development supports the reuse of a significant area of brownfield land in a rural area with economically fragile communities. It will also support the just transition to net zero.

## **Designation and classes of development**

A development contributing to 'Chapelcross Power Station Redevelopment' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that would otherwise have been of a scale or type that is classified as 'major' by 'The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009', is designated a national development:

- a) Commercial, industrial, manufacturing, and office related development occurring on the Chapelcross development site;
- b) Generation of electricity from renewables exceeding 50 megawatts capacity;
- c) Infrastructure for the production, storage and transportation of low carbon and renewable hydrogen and related chemicals including ammonia, with carbon capture as necessary; and
- d) Active and sustainable travel connection to the site.

# Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

- Local living
- Rebalanced development
- Conserving and recycling assets
- Just transition

## 18. High Speed Rail

This national development supports the implementation of increased infrastructure to improve rail capacity and connectivity on the main cross-border routes, the east and west coast mainlines.

Rail connectivity that can effectively compete with air and road based transport between the major towns and cities in Scotland, England and onward to Europe is an essential part of reducing transport emissions, making best use of the rail network and providing greater connectivity opportunities. There can be significant emissions savings of approximately 75% to be made when freight is transported by rail instead of road.

Enhancement would be in addition to and in conjunction with High Speed 2 (HS2) and other enhancements identified by the UK Government.

Scottish Ministers have an agreement with the UK Government to develop infrastructure enhancements 'North of HS2' and Scottish Ministers continue to press the UK Government on the imperative that all nations and regions of Britain benefit from the prosperity that HS2 will deliver both in its construction and its implementation. The Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 is appraising through recommendation 45 and will provide the strategic case for investment in the rail network in Scotland, over and above the commitments within HS2.

#### Location

Central and southern Scotland to the border with England.

### Need

This national development aims to ensure a low emissions air-competitive journey time to cities in the UK as well as connectivity with European cities and benefits to freight. This will support Scotland's ability to attract and compete for investment.

## **Designation and classes of development**

A development contributing to 'High Speed Rail' in the location described, within one or more of the Classes of Development described below and that is of a scale or type that would otherwise have been classified as 'major' by 'The Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009', is designated a national development:

- a) New and/or upgraded railway track and electrification solution (overhead cabling and pylons or on track);
- b) New and/or upgraded multi-modal railway stations to service high-speed lines; and
- c) Depot facilities for high speed trains and/ or related to the construction and onward maintenance of the UK high-speed rail infrastructure.

# Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment

Depending on the nature of the projects taken forward and considering both direct and indirect effects, the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment concludes this development will likely have an overall net positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

- Compact urban growth
- Conserving and recycling assets

# **Annex C - Spatial Planning Priorities**

This information is intended to guide the preparation of Regional Spatial Strategies and LDPs to help deliver Scotland's national spatial strategy.

## **North and West Coast and Islands**

This area broadly comprises the island communities of Shetland, Orkney, the Outer Hebrides, and parts of Highland and Argyll and Bute, and the north and west coastline of the Scottish mainland.

To deliver <u>sustainable places</u>, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans should maximise the benefits of renewable energy whilst enhancing blue and green infrastructure, decarbonising transport and building resilient connections.

This area's natural and cultural assets will require careful planning and management so that their special qualities can continue to form a strong foundation for future development and investment. There are opportunities for local projects across this area to come together and create an enhanced nature network which benefits quality of life and contributes to biodiversity recovery and restoration as well as carbon sequestration.

Resilience and a growing green economy will depend on delivery of improved grid connections, including high voltage grid cables connecting the three island groups to the mainland. This will be complemented by the innovation in low and zero carbon fuels and the roll out of locally distributed energy systems to reduce emissions from buildings, address significant fuel poverty and secure longer term resilience.

Significant peatland restoration and woodland creation and restoration, along with blue carbon opportunities will secure wider biodiversity benefits and be a focus for investment to

offset carbon and secure existing natural carbon stores. The Lewis Peatlands and the Flow Country are internationally recognised as accounting for a significant proportion of the world's blanket bog habitat, and there are opportunities to protect and expand Scotland's temperate rainforest, including some of the best remaining rainforest sites in Europe. Access to the outdoors, as well as active travel, can benefit from continued investment in long distance walking and cycling routes with a range of projects emerging at a regional scale.

Communities in this area will need resilient transport connectivity to maintain accessibility and lifeline links, and further innovation will be required to help modernise connections and decarbonise transport systems. A net zero islands air network and decarbonisation of ferry services will help to secure the viability and service stability of island and remote coastal communities. Communities are keen to explore long-term ambitions for fixed links for example across the Sound of Harris and Sound of Barra. and potentially to connect the Outer Hebrides to mainland Scotland. An Islands Connectivity Plan will consider the role of ferries, fixed links and low carbon aviation in securing lifeline links and marine access for both leisure and freight. In addition to the investment potential of the area's ports and harbours, the strategic location of the Northern Isles as a hub for future shipping using long distance trade routes has significant potential for investment and growth over the longer term. There is also potential to consider decarbonisation of fishing fleets and the aquaculture industry in the future.

Electric vehicle ownership is already high in some parts of the area and continued expansion of charging networks will support further decarbonisation. Key routes and hubs are emerging – examples include the aspiration for an electric spinal route that extends across the Outer Hebrides. This should be viewed as one part of a wider system response to net zero that also strengthens active travel across the area.

Improved digital connectivity is a priority to sustain current businesses and create 'smart' communities. We are committed to investment in ultrafast broadband to ensure every property is connected and to improve mobile coverage. This will unlock opportunities for rural businesses and remote working, and make future community growth more feasible. Full benefits will be realised by actively tackling the digital divide by building skills, literacy and learning and addressing the financial barriers to internet access. Key projects include the Outer Hebrides Giga Fibre Network and the North Isles Fibre Project.

To deliver <u>liveable places</u>, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should support coastal and island communities to become carbon neutral, thus contributing to net-zero commitments and reducing fuel poverty.

Future-proofing local liveability will benefit people as well as the planet. Island and coastal communities can apply the concept of local living, including 20 minute neighbourhoods, in a flexible way and find local solutions to low carbon living, for example by identifying service hubs in key locations with good public transport links. The aim is to build long-term resilience and self-reliance by minimising the need to travel whilst sustaining dispersed communities and rural patterns of development. Communities in this area will continue to rely to an extent on the private car, and low carbon solutions to the provision of services will need to be practical and affordable. Innovation including electric vehicle charging and digital connectivity will play an important role.

Increased coastal flooding and erosion arising from future climate change will need to be considered along with impacts on associated infrastructure such as bridges and transport networks. The majority of island populations live in coastal locations and there is a need for a pro-active and innovative approach that works with local communities to address this issue.

Regionally and locally driven plans and strategies will identify areas for future development that reflect these principles – for example planned population growth on the Western Seaboard of Argyll and in a growth corridor from Tobermory to Oban and on to Dalmally. Community hubs, where people can easily access a variety of services, will need to evolve and grow to support communities and sustain a range of functions. Ports and harbours can be a focal point for electric vehicle charging as well as employment. Sustainable and fair access to affordable healthier food will support future resilience and broader objectives including reduced child poverty and improved health outcomes. Innovative and equitable service provision, including digital solutions, will be needed to support dispersed communities in a low carbon way.

Communities will need greater choice and more flexible and affordable homes to support varying needs. This can be achieved to an extent by refurbishing the existing building stock to reduce the release of embedded carbon, as well as by delivering more affordable, energy efficient homes. The additional costs of island homebuilding and development generally, as well as in delivering net zero, is a challenge that needs to be factored into a planned approach.

There is a clear need for affordable housing provision across the region to improve choice and access to homes, to support local economies, and in some areas to help offset the impact of second home ownership and short term lets on the market. Local solutions may include key worker housing, temporary homes for workers in remote areas, and self-provided homes including self-build and custom-build. Continued innovation of holistic place-based solutions, such as the Rural and Islands Housing Fund, will be required to create homes that meet diverse community needs, including homes for an ageing population and to help young people to stay in or return to their communities. Greater efforts to ensure young people have more influence in decisions that affect their future places could support this, as well as helping more people access land and crofts and the reuse of abandoned sites where appropriate.

To reverse past depopulation and support existing settlements, planning can help to sustain communities in more peripheral and fragile areas in a way that is compatible with our low carbon agenda and resilient to climate change impacts. Further action should be taken where appropriate to encourage economically active people to previously inhabited areas. This will also need to reflect climate commitments and wider aspirations to create sustainable places that incorporate principles of 20 minute neighbourhoods and active travel networks. Coasts will continue to evolve, and development will be needed to sustain and grow communities in a sustainable way. Collaboration and strong alignment of terrestrial and marine planning, at all levels, will also be needed.

To deliver <u>productive places</u>, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should seize the opportunities to grow the blue and green economy, recognising the world-class environmental assets that require careful management and the opportunities to develop skills and diversify employment.

This area has significant opportunities for investment that capitalise on its natural assets and further strengthen the synergies between people, land and sea. This will require strong collaboration and alignment of terrestrial and marine planning, especially as further development of related blue economy activities in the terrestrial environment may increase competition for marine space and resources offshore. To significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, more onshore and offshore renewable energy generation will be needed, bringing unprecedented opportunities to strengthen local economies, build community wealth and secure long-term sustainability. The island authorities have set targets for creating green jobs and for rolling out clean and efficient energy systems to build local resilience. We expect to see continued innovation to unlock the infrastructure and business opportunities arising from a blue and green prosperity agenda.

As a result of its natural advantages, the area is growing its research excellence, and driving low-carbon is a core theme of the Islands Growth Deal. This will support the emergence of the planned joint Islands Centre for Net Zero, alongside island-specific initiatives. Orkney has been home to the European Marine Energy Centre since 2003 and the Orkney Research and Innovation Campus (ORIC) in Stromness provides a focus for Orkney's renewable and low carbon industries and research facilities. There are plans to grow the role of Orkney's ports and harbours to support net zero. The Outer Hebrides Energy Hub plans to establish the initial infrastructure necessary to support the production of low carbon hydrogen from renewable energy and conduct a 'large village' trial for Stornoway, and there may also be cobenefits to be gained for aquaculture in the area. Shetland aims to grow its net zero contribution including through a planned ultra-deep water port development, which would support servicing the energy sector, oil and gas decommissioning and large-scale offshore renewables. In addition, Oban is developing as a university town, and the European Marine Science Park is a key opportunity to build the local economy and provide education locally.

Sea ports are a focus for investment in the blue economy and further diversification of activities could generate additional employment across the area. Potential for business development ranges from long distance freight to supporting the cruise and marine leisure sectors and decommissioning opportunities. There may also be opportunity for ports in the islands to establish themselves as near-Arctic marine transport and logistics hubs, including for transhipment operations.

There is an aspiration for the servicing of ultra large container ships with associated facilities within Scapa Flow. The potential for such development to adversely affect European site(s) has been identified through the HRA of NPF4. Therefore, this would need to be considered carefully at project level, including through the Habitats Regulations Appraisal process, to ascertain that there will be no adverse effects on

the integrity of European sites, or if this is not the case, whether there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest and relevant statutory tests can be met.

New infrastructure and repurposing of land will help to shift industrial activity towards supporting the offshore renewables sector. Key strategic sites for industrial investment and associated port infrastructure and facilities include plans for: Dales Voe and Scapa Flow as part of the Islands Growth Deal; Cullivoe; Arnish in Stornoway; Wick; Scrabster; Gills Bay; Kishorn; Oban; Port Askaig; and Hatston, Kirkwall. Other key nodes on the ferries network, including Ullapool, Uig and Mallaig, will continue to act as important hubs to support communities, investors and visitors.

Proposed space ports, which make use of the area's relatively remote location and free airspace, could support our national ambitions to grow this sector. This includes plans for an Outer Hebrides Spaceport 1 in Scolpaig, North Uist and an emphasis on space research and skills development in Shetland as part of the Islands Growth Deal, a space port at Machrihanish and ancillary buildings at Benbecula. Planning permission has been granted for a space port at Melness in Sutherland, making use of its location away from populated areas to provide a vertical launch facility that could link with wider opportunities for manufacturing, research and development across Scotland.

Food and drink is a key sector, with aquaculture, distilleries, commercial fishing, and seaweed farming providing a crucial and growing source of employment for many local communities. This sector is of national significance, with whisky generating an estimated £5 billion to the UK economy and salmon accounting for more than 40% of total food exports. By improving the resilience of existing infrastructure we will ensure continued access to international markets. There are significant opportunities to build on experience and expertise through associated research and development. A development hub at Machrihanish to support aquaculture research in association with Stirling University could open up wider opportunities to expand

onshore aquaculture at sites across Scotland. Within Orkney, farming is still the main industry providing products for local consumption and for Scotland's food and drink sector.

Targeted investment in tourism infrastructure will ensure the coast and islands can capitalise on their rich natural assets, heritage and culture to support better quality and more stable jobs in the sector whilst providing a positive experience for visitors and residents. This sector has been significantly impacted by the pandemic and a short term focus on recovery can be underpinned by efforts to secure longer term sustainability. Planning can help to ensure that the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund is targeted to places where the pressure is most significant. Priorities include visitor management of the area's World Heritage Sites. Through the Islands Growth Deal, plans are in place for the Orkney World Heritage Site Gateway that will manage and disperse visitors to the Heart of Neolithic Orkney UNESCO World Heritage Site; and the Outer Hebrides Destination Development Project will support the strategic development of tourism infrastructure, bringing together key assets including St Kilda World Heritage Site, the Iolaire Centre, the Hebridean Way, Food and Drinks trail and the Callanish standing stones. Other ongoing projects, including long distance routes such as the Kintyre Way and the Argyll Sea Kayak Trail and Crinan Canal can help to expand a high quality offer of exceptional marine tourism across the area as a whole.

Regionally and locally there is a need for smaller scale investment across the area to put in place low maintenance, carefully designed facilities which better support and manage the impact of informal tourism including camping, campervans and day trips. This should reflect the scale and nature of operators including community trusts, which can have broad impact and influence. Efforts to provide access to education and build skills locally will also support this, with key projects including plans for the redevelopment of the Shetland Campus. Additionally, the lessons we have learned from the pandemic about remote working could also help to grow communities by extending the range of high quality jobs available locally.

### North

This area broadly includes parts of Highland with parts of Argyll and Bute, Moray, Cairngorms National Park, as well as the north of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, Stirling and Perth and Kinross, with links west and north to coastal and island communities.

## **Priorities**

To deliver <u>sustainable places</u>, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should protect environmental assets and stimulate investment in natural and engineered solutions to climate change and nature restoration, whilst decarbonising transport and building resilient connections.

The area's natural capital will play a vital role in locking in carbon and building our resilience by providing valuable ecosystem services. This includes sustainable flood risk management, biodiversity, access and education.

Land and sea assets will play an internationally significant role in renewable energy generation and carbon sequestration. The area can act as a strategic carbon and ecological 'mitigation bank' that can make a major contribution to our national climate change commitments. A programme of investment in forestry, woodland creation, native woodlands and peatland restoration will play a key role in reducing our national emissions, providing investment opportunities, supporting ecosystems and biodiversity and benefiting current and future generations. There are also opportunities to explore the decarbonisation of the forestry sector, processing and the transport of timber, and to build community wealth through new businesses, such as a nationally important tree nursery in Moray.

Wider but closely related priorities include continuing conservation at a landscape-scale, to develop resilient nature networks, deer and moorland management, visitor management and recreation, rural housing, community empowerment and economic development. This will provide good quality local employment,

strengthen and diversify local economies and help to secure a sustainable future for local people. The area's rivers are also strategic assets that will continue to benefit from aligned land use, climate adaptation and biodiversity enhancement.

The Cairngorms National Park is bringing together conservation, the visitor experience and rural development to provide benefits that extend well beyond the park boundary. Landscapescale solutions to build resilience to climate change, to manage sustainable tourism and outdoor access, and a commitment to reversing biodiversity decline and increasing woodland expansion and peatland restoration, are all key priorities. Demand for development, including in pressured areas, will require a planned response to minimise the impact of second homes on local communities and ensure new homes are affordable and meet local needs.

This area also makes an important contribution to our climate change targets by supporting renewable energy generation. Repowering and extending existing wind farms will optimise their productivity and capitalise on the area's significant natural energy resources, and there is potential to increase offshore wind energy capacity. A carefully planned approach can reduce environmental and other impacts and retain more benefits locally. Community ownership of renewable energy projects at all scales could play a key role in improving resilience, empowering local people to take control of their own assets and helping tackle fuel poverty. Pumped hydro storage at Cruachan and other sites such as Coire Glas can support the energy network, as well as providing tourism and recreation opportunities, and we expect to see a growth in solar power. As technologies continue to develop, storage and other forms of generation will grow. The electricity distribution and transmission network will require upgrading to support the large increase in onshore and offshore electricity generation required to achieve net zero, as well as to meet new demand from heat and transport. There will also be a need for more communityscale energy generation to serve the needs of local communities directly and build resilience.

The transport system as a whole will need to be planned to support a shift to more sustainable transport whilst maintaining access to markets and facilities. In line with the transport sustainable investment hierarchy, development should first be focused in locations which make the best use of existing infrastructure and services before building new infrastructure or providing new services.

Improvements to the Highland Main Line through electrification and delivery of new stations including at Inverness Airport, will help to create a sustainable commuter network for Inverness and open up more rural areas to lower carbon development. Our rolling programme of efficient electrification is also a key enabler for growth in rail freight, creating improved connectivity and providing additional capacity with faster journey times, better use of track capacity and lower unit costs. A continued modal shift to rail for both passengers and freight will bring significant environmental benefits over time.

Roads will continue to be arteries upon which local communities and businesses depend. There will be a need to adapt key routes due to the impacts of climate change alongside creating a strong network of charging points, including improvements to the A96 to improve safety and to the A9 to maintain a resilient road link from Thurso and Inverness to the central belt. Remote and rural areas including islands are dependent on reliable accessibility by road including connecting to ferries and ports, facilitating reliable public transport by road, access to essential services and transporting of goods. There is an urgent need for improvements to the A83 to ensure the resilience of the economy and communities of wider Argyll, as well as resilience challenges for other key routes such as the A82.

Continued investment in the national long distance walking and cycling network provides an opportunity to assist in decarbonising tourism and recreation across the area, whilst also providing, and acting as a spine for, sustainable active travel connections for everyday travel in the vicinity of towns and villages.

Inverness and Oban airports are hubs for air connections to dispersed communities and Wick John O'Groats Airport and Broadford Airstrip on Skye are key connections. Oban Airport is also an opportunity for investment in compliance operations and future drone technology. The Highlands and Islands are aiming to become the world's first net zero aviation region by 2040 by pioneering new approaches including electric aircraft. Investment in technology and facilities will be required to achieve this. The proposed Moray Aerospace Advanced Technology and Innovation Campus (MAATIC) at Lossiemouth intends to create a skilled workforce for the Moray region through focusing on aviation sector and supply chain.

To deliver <u>liveable places</u>, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should maintain and help to grow the population by taking a positive approach to rural development that strengthens networks of communities.

We will do all we can to help reverse depopulation across rural Scotland. Here, as with other more rural areas of Scotland, 20 minute neighbourhoods can be tailored to work with both larger towns and more dispersed settlement patterns.

Inverness plays a vital role as a regional centre for services, health, justice, employment, education, sport, culture and tourism and has seen significant expansion in recent years. Key sites for its growth are located primarily to the east along the Moray coast. A sustainable and adaptive growth strategy will continue to be supported by planned investment in education and health and social care services, as well as employment uses. The new railway station serving Inverness Airport will help to connect local communities with growing employment opportunities in the wider area. Inverness Castle, as part of the Inverness and Highland City Region Deal, will be redeveloped and opened up to the public, attracting national and international tourists and encouraging visits to the wider Highlands and Islands.

Fort William, Dingwall, Grantown-on-Spey and Aviemore are key settlements, and the area has strong relationships with adjacent, more coastal settlements such as Mallaig, Oban, Wick and Thurso. Moray also has a strong network of towns including Forres, Elgin and Nairn. In more remote communities there is a need to reverse population decline. A place-based approach (as demonstrated by Fort William 2040), including work to improve town centres and reuse redundant buildings, will support recovery in a way which responds to the strong character and identity of each of the area's towns and villages. Such an approach is evident in Growth Deal projects such as Moray's Cultural Quarter proposal.

A positive approach to rural development could support the development of a network of hubs, and future service provision will require imaginative solutions so that places can be resilient and self-supporting. Investment in strategic health, justice and education facilities is already planned. In the longer term, digital solutions, including mobile and remote health services and virtual education, as well as continued investment in improved connectivity, will play an increasingly important role.

As with other parts of Scotland, more homes will be needed to retain people and attract new residents of all ages. Many communities have taken ownership of their land and this could form the foundations for future development by unlocking further development sites. Refurbishment of existing rural buildings and halting the loss of crofts could help to sustain the area, and new homes should align with infrastructure and service provision. They should also be located and designed to minimise emissions and to complement the distinctive character of existing settlements and wider landscapes. As climate change continues to have an impact, water supplies and drainage will need to be secured and maintained. Flood risk management and changing ecosystems will need to be factored into future plans to ensure nature-based adaptation solutions complement local living. Addressing fuel poverty will require

greater energy efficiency and affordable, low carbon, distributed heat and electricity networks, with a model for increased local generation, having potential to bring benefits. Maintaining connectivity will be essential, particularly through public transport that includes rail access and other active travel networks.

We will continue to support further investment in digital connectivity but will need to go further to adapt to climate change and make use of emerging technologies. Priorities include satellite and mobile solutions to address 'not spots', and to support local living by reducing the need to travel unsustainably. To complement existing physical connections, smart solutions, local hubs, demand responsive transport, and active travel networks will help people to access services and employment and make low carbon local living a more viable option.

To deliver <u>productive places</u>, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should support local economic development by making sustainable use of the area's world-class environmental assets to innovate and lead greener growth.

Natural assets and environmental quality underpin the area's main economic sectors and must therefore be protected, restored and used sustainably. Planning will help to attract investment, grow and diversify businesses and enable local entrepreneurship, micro enterprises, self-employment and social enterprises to flourish. Remote working can be capitalised on to build economically active local communities. This will require the continued roll out of high quality digital infrastructure and maintenance and decarbonisation of transport routes to wider markets. Food miles can be reduced over time with the help of local community-led food growing networks, by supporting locally driven public procurement and, from a land use perspective, protecting higher quality agricultural land.

Ideas are emerging for the area to secure a low carbon future for tourism. Assets such as the North Coast 500 and, more recently, the Kintyre 66 in the adjacent coastal area, as well as the area's high quality environment and associated food and drink products, attract visitors. However, they also require investment in improvements to infrastructure to support local communities and visitors. This will maintain the quality of the experience and the environment, facilitate lower carbon transport, promote 'leave no footprint' and encourage longer stays. This could involve extending the availability of transport services. There are also many regionally significant opportunities to create jobs by growing support services for outdoor activities such as mountain biking, climbing, walking and angling and in support of the country's winter sport and recreation sector that is primarily focussed in this area.

Investment in research and development, business opportunities and local centres of expertise will help to retain benefits locally and broaden the range of skilled jobs. There will also be opportunities to build on and repurpose existing assets to create greener jobs, such as the former nuclear installation at Dounreay and development at Fort William associated with the Lochaber Smelter.

The area's coastline contributes to the beauty and experience of the area and is also a hub for economic activity including fishing, the cruise and marine leisure sectors, and the offshore renewable energy sector. Key ports include the Cromarty Firth (including Port of Cromarty, Nigg and Highland Deephaven), Corpach, Ardersier, Gills Bay, Inverness, Kishorn and Buckie. Through Opportunity Cromarty Firth and other projects, new facilities and infrastructure will help ports to adapt, unlocking their potential to support the transition from fossil fuels through oil and gas decommissioning, renewable energy (including the significant opportunities for marine energy arising from Scotwind) and low carbon hydrogen production and storage, and the expansion of supply chain and services. This will in turn benefit communities by providing employment and income for local businesses.

## **North East**

This area focuses on Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire with cross-boundary links to Moray, and south towards Angus and the Tay estuary.

### **Priorities**

To deliver <u>sustainable places</u>, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should plan infrastructure and investment to support the transition from oil and gas to net zero, whilst protecting and enhancing blue and green infrastructure and decarbonising connectivity.

Action is required to tackle industrial emissions and transition towards a greener future that benefits existing communities and attracts further investment.

Greener energy choices, including hydrogen and on and offshore renewables, have a natural home here and will be at the heart of the area's future wellbeing economy. Investment opportunities focus on the green and blue economy and energy innovation. Significant infrastructure will be required to deliver a hydrogen network for Scotland, including repurposing of existing facilities and the creation of new capacity. £62 million in the Energy Transition Fund is supporting four projects to protect existing jobs and create new jobs in the North East, and across Scotland, by opening up opportunities through energy transition and harnessing private sector funding. This funding aligns with the Aberdeen City Region Deal and continuing support for retraining and skills development. Ports and harbours throughout the area are key assets in the blue economy. As offshore renewables are an important part of Scotland's energy transition, there will be a need to align terrestrial and marine development so as to maximise the potential of this sector.

The area's growth strategy includes a commitment to building with nature by creating multi-functional blue and green networks and improving green spaces in and around settlements, connecting with the national long distance cycling and walking network

and facilitating active travel. Community-led climate action will help to provide locally-driven solutions. A new water supply and waste-water systems will play an important role in building long-term resilience.

Aberdeen is a key transport hub providing vital connections internationally, as well as lifeline services to Orkney and Shetland. Congestion will be reduced as a result of the construction of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route, and the A92/A96 Haudagain Improvement project. In the city, work is ongoing to lock in the benefits and prioritise sustainable transport, including Aberdeen Rapid Transit. More widely the Aberdeen to Central Belt Rail Improvements will bring benefits to both passengers and freight.

The area can lead the way in promoting low emissions vehicles, active travel and public transport connectivity as part of its contribution to net zero. Links south to the Central Belt and west towards Inverness remain vital. Work is progressing on the £200m investment being made to improve journey times and capacity between Aberdeen and the Central Belt for passengers and freight. Continuing improvements to digital connectivity and active travel will reduce the need to travel by unsustainable modes and facilitate further remote, home or hub based working.

To deliver <u>liveable places</u>, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should focus on continued regeneration and encourage more 20 minute neighbourhoods to sustain the skilled workforce and improve local liveability.

A new focus on local living could help to address the high levels of car ownership and respond to the area's dispersed settlement pattern. Growth corridors extending from Aberdeen to Peterhead, Huntly and Laurencekirk will be a focus for future development, and strategic sites include new communities at Chapelton, Grandhome and Countesswells. There is significant potential to promote more compact growth by making better use of brownfield sites and increasing density.

There will be benefits for people of all ages arising from an increase in local living and a shift towards 20 minute neighbourhoods and the creation of connected, walkable, liveable and thriving places, in both urban and rural contexts. The aim is to encourage sustainable travel options, provide communities with local access to the wider range of facilities, services and amenities to support healthier and flourishing communities. In rural places, social and community infrastructure can be designed with different settlements working in clusters as a 'network of places', providing services and amenities that best meet the needs of local rural communities.

The area's towns contribute to its sense of place and further town centre regeneration will help communities to adapt to current challenges and future change. Service provision also needs to reflect the area's character. Several new or extended primary and secondary schools and community facilities are planned and the area will support wider rural communities by hosting a new centre of excellence for rural and remote medicine and social care. Access to good quality open space and opportunities for local food growing, including allotments and community orchards, can benefit health and wellbeing and tackle inequalities as an integral part of placemaking.

The area benefits from a productive coastline that will be a focus for future economic activity and investment associated with offshore renewable energy and the blue economy. The coast is home to communities who will benefit from continued regeneration and a move towards 20 minute neighbourhoods that reduces the need to travel. Key regional priorities include the regeneration of Banff, Macduff, Fraserburgh and Peterhead. Future coastal vulnerability to erosion, sea level rise and flood risk will need to be factored into development strategies. The fishing industry will continue to contribute to the area's strong sense of place and shared heritage, communities and economy, with some ports and harbours also having opportunities in the cruise and marine leisure sectors.

To deliver <u>productive places</u>, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should support continued economic diversification and innovation.

The relocation of some activity at Aberdeen Harbour to the south harbour has been an important element in planning for the future. Further investment will help to realise its full potential as a low carbon hub and gateway. and there may be opportunities for development at the South Harbour to support the carbon capture and storage and hydrogen innovation work at St Fergus and Peterhead in Northern Aberdeenshire. This is also a significant opportunity to improve urban liveability by unlocking waterfront sites for mixed use development close to the city centre. Local people will need to be involved in deciding how potentially significant industrial and business activity can be accommodated, alongside regenerating a vibrant, redesigned city centre in the coming years.

It is essential that environmental impacts arising from relocation of the harbour and any onward reorganisation of the land uses around it are carefully managed in a way that recognises the location's natural assets and sensitivities. We expect the LDPs and consenting processes to be informed by the required impact assessments, to play a crucial role in guiding future development and addressing environmental sensitivities.

### Central

This area broadly covers central Scotland from the Glasgow city region and the Ayrshires in the west to Edinburgh city region in the east, including the Tay cities, the Forth Valley and Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park.

## **Priorities**

To deliver sustainable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should support net zero energy solutions including extended heat networks and improved energy efficiency, together with urban greening and improved low carbon transport.

## Blue and green infrastructure

The greening of the built environment, including former industrial areas, is a long held ambition that we now need to expedite to significantly reduce emissions, adapt to the future impacts of climate change and tackle biodiversity loss. Investment in green infrastructure will support urban sustainability, help to restore biodiversity, contribute to our overall targets for reducing emissions and improve health and wellbeing.

There is much that we have already learned from past work, for example initiatives to naturalise former mining features, reclaiming canals as a cultural heritage and natural asset, and extensive woodland creation. Wider woodland expansion across more urban areas could make a significant contribution to improving air quality and quality of life by reducing pollution, managing water and cooling urban environments. Blue and green networks can help to deliver compact and liveable cities.

Many initiatives will come together to achieve urban greening:

• The <u>Central Scotland Green Network</u> will continue to bring together environmental enhancement projects. Initiatives such as the John Muir Pollinator Way demonstrate how nature networks can help restore and better connect biodiversity and enhance green infrastructure at a landscape scale.

- The Glasgow City Region Green Network, a long-term transformational programme of environmental action, can achieve a step change in the quality and benefits of green places across west central Scotland and bring enhanced biodiversity closer to communities. As part of this, the Clyde Climate Forest is proposing natural solutions at scale across the Glasgow city region.
- The Inner Forth Futures Partnership is tackling the effects of climate change and providing recreation benefits through projects such as peatland restoration and woodland expansion, and supporting the creation of habitat networks.
- The River Leven Project in Fife is a holistic place-based approach to development.
   Blue and green infrastructure will support investment and provide environmental, health and wellbeing benefits for communities.
- The Tayside strategic green and active travel network also aims to create regionally significant assets that contribute to the quality of the area.
- Perthshire Nature Connections Partnership (PNCP) encompasses a long-term, naturebased vision for Perth and Kinross that aims to create a distinct connection between the Cairngorms and Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Parks.
- There is a particular opportunity to build on the successful regeneration of our canals to provide an invaluable strategic greenspace that connects communities across the area as a whole, contributes to its strong post-industrial heritage and provides wider functions such as water management to support future resilience to climate change. The potential of a canal asset should be recognised as a shared priority.

There is a continuing need to invest in renewing and improving the capacity of flooding, water and drainage infrastructure to build the resilience of communities. A catchment-scale approach, using nature-based solutions, can also provide benefits for the health and quality of life of Scotland's urban communities, particularly where solutions seek to deliver multiple benefits, including biodiversity gain and active travel

routes. This approach can also be more costeffective than hard engineering solutions and create lasting jobs. For example, the Glasgow city region recognises the challenges for future adaptation and is identifying sustainable solutions to sea level rise, urban overheating, and water management.

Engineered solutions to adapt our water and drainage infrastructure will be required in some circumstances, but should support more natural benefits as far as possible.

There is scope to continue, and extend, the lessons from the Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership to future proof infrastructure in support of the long-term growth and development of Edinburgh. The Lothian Drainage Partnership is taking this forward with projects emerging within Edinburgh and at the ClimatEvolution Zone in East Lothian.

At a local scale there is significant potential to expand raingardens and sustainable urban drainage systems to help manage surface water as part of blue and green infrastructure for our future cities and towns.

Whilst predominantly urban, this part of Scotland benefits from a rich and diverse rural area and there are many areas where town meets countryside. These green areas and natural spaces are key assets, sustaining communities that could become better places to live if we can achieve this in a way that is compatible with our wider aims for climate change, nature restoration and 20 minute neighbourhoods. The pandemic has demonstrated that many people are looking for more space at home and in their communities. It will be important to plan positively and imaginatively to make sustainable use of the countryside around our cities and towns.

These areas have important functions – productive agricultural land, providing vital ecosystem services and spaces for local food growing, outdoor access and recreation. They support carbon sequestration, including through peatland restoration, woodland creation and conserving natural habitats, and there is scope for innovation in key sectors including sustainable food production.

Planning has the potential to address the impact of climate change on communities whilst also generating renewable heat and facilitating urban cooling from our rivers. Mine water, solar and onshore support for offshore renewables, including development that makes use of existing infrastructure at strategic hubs, all provide opportunities for decarbonisation.

Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park has landscape-scale opportunities to restore and enhance nature and respond to climate change, including through woodland creation and peatland restoration, as well as natural flood risk management. The National Park will continue to support the quality of life and health of the urban population and its future priorities include new infrastructure provision to provide a quality visitor experience and support people to connect with nature, as well as a greener tourism sector supported by innovative low carbon transport solutions. Long distance active travel and rail routes have untapped potential to provide sustainable tourism solutions. The area's communities can adapt to support more localised living and working opportunities, with improved digital connectivity and affordable housing. More integrated planning and land management offers opportunities to support land use change and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The approach also links with and relates to the action area to the north.

## Urban accessibility

A focus on community wealth building, together with growing opportunities for longer term remote working, could address the high levels of transport movement by private car and challenges of congestion and air pollution across the area. Local living, including 20 minute neighbourhoods, will help to minimise future commuting and ensure jobs and income can be spread more evenly across the area. Accessibility and transport affordability can support more resilience which benefits communities who are less connected.

By putting in place <u>mass/rapid transit systems</u> for Edinburgh through plans to extend the tram network, and for Glasgow including the Clyde Metro and multi-modal connectivity, we have an

opportunity to substantially reduce levels of carbased commuting, congestion and emissions from transport at scale.

Connections to the rest of the UK will be strengthened in the longer term through <a href="https://miss.com/high-speed-rail">high-speed-rail</a> connectivity, with stations expected in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Decarbonisation of freight will require the construction of new hubs and associated facilities to support logistics. This will also support growing interest in express logistics from rail operators that would see passenger Electrical Multiple Units converted to carry small freight, targeting the UK parcel market. Ports on the Clyde, Forth and Tay coasts will also play a key role in this transition.

Digital connectivity will facilitate remote working, supporting the growth of towns and villages outwith the larger cities and potentially leading to a renaissance in more rural living. It will be crucial to address digital inequality, whether through cost, infrastructure or skills development, as virtual service provision continues to grow.

To deliver <u>liveable places</u>, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should pioneer low carbon, resilient urban living by rolling out networks of 20 minute neighbourhoods, future proofing city and town centres, accelerating urban greening, investing in net zero homes, and managing development on the edge of settlements.

## 20 minute neighbourhoods

The diversity of this area, from metropolitan districts to rural and dispersed settlements, will require concerted effort to develop networks of places that meet the principles of local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods, and with fair access to a range of services that support sustainable living. Planning should focus on revitalising cities and towns at scale, supporting a finer grained approach to placemaking, and a more intricate mix of land uses and density. This should incorporate networks of natural spaces and blue and green infrastructure, to create health and wellbeing benefits, increase resilience to climate change and support the growth of green job opportunities.

The car-based design of some of our places, including many suburban areas and new towns, mean that a significant shift to a more people centred approach will be required. Planning can help retrofit facilities and services into areas where they are scarce, such as predominantly residential areas, to enable better integrated, mixed-use areas. City, town and neighbourhood centres can be at the heart of this if they are planned to strengthen self-sufficiency and bring services and jobs closer to homes. The recommendations of the recent town centre review can be delivered by supporting a wider range of uses and making the most of their assets.

Accessibility will be a key part of the transition and will involve investment in infrastructure and services in line with the sustainable travel and investment hierarchies, to improve fair access and reduce carbon emissions. Active travel networks will need to expand to make walking, wheeling and cycling an attractive, convenient, safe, and sustainable choice for everyday travel. There are significant opportunities for investment in heat networks, energy storage and the circular economy to create more sustainable neighbourhoods.

### Energy efficient, affordable homes

As well as building new homes to net zero standards, more will need to be done to meet the bigger challenge of upgrading the existing housing stock to reduce emissions and adapt to future climate impacts. Emissions from our homes need to be very substantially reduced – by 2030, they must fall by 68% from 2020 levels.

Improved energy efficiency will be needed, by providing zero emissions heating solutions and more sustainable water management practices for existing settlements and homes. Improving sustainable travel options and reliability will help to reduce transport based emissions associated with our homes.

There is a particular pressure for housing solutions, including provision of affordable homes that meet future needs, in the south east of Scotland. Edinburgh has committed to building affordable homes at scale, and will

need to work with the region to accommodate wider need and demand in a strategic way. Seven strategic sites, supported through the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal, could accommodate up to 45,000 homes and associated economic and employment benefits including: Blindwells, Calderwood, Dunfermline, Edinburgh Waterfront, Shawfair, Tweedbank and Winchburgh. The need for proposals to be supported by low carbon transport solutions, in line with the Infrastructure Investment Plan and National Transport Strategy investment hierarchies and infrastructure first approach, will be critical to their success. The Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Deal identifies infrastructure investment as part of this. These interventions and commitments, taken with the additional transport investment made through the Deal, will ensure the city region continues to grow and flourish. Regionally significant services, including healthcare and social care facilities and investment in the learning estate, is also planned to support future growth and sustain the wellbeing of existing, new and expanding communities.

### Waterfront regeneration

The region's coasts and firths define the area's history and shape its sense of place. There is potential to unlock the strategic importance of coasts, estuary and river corridors for climate mitigation, resilience, and positive environmental change. Coastal change, driven by climate change, will need to be managed to build longterm resilience and future-proof our waterfronts. where this is feasible. Progress has been made to create long distance walking and cycling routes to open up access to waterfront spaces and reclaim them as a resource for people as well as industry. There will be a need to anticipate and mitigate risk from coastal erosion, flood risk and storm surges, with a focus on natural solutions which work with the unique biodiversity and landscape character of these important places.

These coasts are rich in cultural and natural heritage. Along the Inner Forth, various projects provide multiple benefits, including flood management, cultural landscape enhancement, habitat creation, access and

tourism. Edinburgh's waterfront regeneration is ongoing, with Granton benefiting from an ambitious masterplan, the tram extension to Leith progressing and potential development at Seafield helping to redefine the city's relationship with its coastline. This is reusing existing assets and helping Edinburgh to become a more liveable city. A masterplanned approach to regenerating the **Edinburgh Waterfront** can take into account opportunities for the Port of Leith to service the offshore energy sector. More broadly, port facilities should continue to be capable of servicing freight traffic within the Firth of Forth given the importance of east coast freight links.

The successful regeneration of **Dundee Waterfront** has demonstrated the potential to make sustainable use of our urban coasts, and ongoing proposals include the creation of a marina at Victoria Dock and further development of central waterfront sites. Dundee port has an aspiration to expand its operational area into the Firth of Tay. The HRA of NPF4 has identified that such development would have a high probability of resulting in adverse effects on the integrity of European site(s). This would therefore need to be considered carefully at project level, including through the HRA process to ascertain that there will be no adverse effects on European sites, or if this is not the case, whether there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest and relevant statutory tests are met.

### Reuse of brownfield land

A more liveable Central Belt means that we will need to do more to reuse empty buildings and brownfield land, including vacant and derelict land, particularly spaces which have not been used for decades and can be accessed by sustainable modes. This will reduce further urban sprawl and improve local environments. Around 40% of Scotland's vacant and derelict land is concentrated in the Glasgow city region and its reuse for a range of uses is a key priority. Edinburgh has committed to building a significant share of future housing development on brownfield sites and progress is being made in Dundee to repurpose disused sites, including the creation of a new innovation park on the former Michelin site.

A combination of incentives, investment and policy support for productively reusing brownfield land and buildings at risk will be required to steer development away from greenfield locations, whilst also acknowledging their biodiversity value and potential for urban greening. Public-sector led development can shape future markets and deliver development in places where change is needed the most and can deliver multiple benefits. Redevelopment should include, but not be limited to, housing development. By de-risking sites and taking an infrastructure first approach, this land can help to achieve a better distribution of new homes to meet our future needs. This will also reduce pressure in places where growth is no longer sustainable. Key projects include the Eden project on the sites of the former Dundee gasworks, and the redevelopment of Ravenscraig, a longstanding post-industrial site where new development, including improved transport connectivity, can bring new models of low carbon living at scale.

To deliver <u>productive places</u>, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should target economic investment and build community wealth to overcome disadvantage and support a greener wellbeing economy.

This area has a diverse business base and is a key engine of growth for Scotland as a whole. There are many clusters of sites and businesses which form the basis of regional propositions for investment. In line with our aspirations to build a wellbeing economy, opportunities for investment and development should be designed to maximise economic, social and environmental wellbeing, rather than focusing on growth alone. A planned approach can help to target future development in areas of significant economic disadvantage so that new and better jobs are more fairly distributed to help address national, regional and more localised inequality.

## City and town centres

The pandemic has brought obvious challenges for our city centres, but has also unlocked opportunities to take forward new models of working that could better support wellbeing and improve our places in the longer term. The continued growth of remote and local working and the creation of hubs within groups of settlements could significantly reduce the need to travel, whilst also helping to grow local businesses and communities.

This raises significant questions for the future of city centres. Existing offices have the potential to be repurposed to achieve higher density mixed use neighbourhoods with a lower carbon footprint and require careful planning to ensure future communities are properly supported by appropriate services.

Glasgow city centre, an exceptional asset and a primary location and cultural destination, has been significantly impacted by unprecedented changes in working patterns, service provision and the retail sector. Whilst these changes may not be sustained in the long-term, now is the time to accelerate work to diversify the city centre and invest in maintaining and reusing existing buildings so that it can evolve to be a more carbon conscious place. Existing connections mean the centre could sustain many more homes to meet a commitment to doubling the city centre population, revitalising places and creating a 24 hour city that is safe and open to everyone. Significant investment in schools, community services and greenspace will be needed to achieve this and more creative use of the public realm and a low emission zone will help to make this a safer and healthier environment for people of all ages. Innovative solutions, such as retrofitting energy efficiency measures to social housing across the city, could be extended to help improve the built fabric of the city centre's commercial properties.

Edinburgh has similar challenges and opportunities for positive change. High interest in investment and associated demand for new homes means that planning will need to help deliver sustainable development that supports the quality of life of existing and future residents.

As a capital city with a World Heritage Site at its core, it will be crucial that future development takes into account the capacity of the city itself and its surrounding communities and makes the most of its exceptional heritage assets, places and cultural wealth. The City Centre Transformation Plan supports a move away from a car-based city centre to create a more liveable and attractive place to live, work and visit. The Forth Bridge is also an inscribed UNESCO World Heritage Site, and our rich industrial and cultural heritage remains apparent across the area.

Dundee is well on the way towards reinventing itself through regeneration of the waterfront, unlocking strategic sites for new homes and new opportunities for innovation and economic development arising, such as the Michelin Scotland Innovation Park and at the port. Continued regeneration in this area, building on the city's rich culture, sense of place and appetite to innovate will also contribute to the overall aims for this part of Scotland. The V&A will continue to be a focal point for this, evolving to become a National Centre for Design within this UNESCO City of Design.

Town centres throughout this area will also play a critical role in driving a new economic future. The recent town centre review highlights opportunities to expand the range of services and facilities they offer, reuse redundant buildings and provide new homes for a wide range of people. This in turn will ensure their crucial role in defining our sense of place is protected and enhanced, future proofing a key asset for Scotland as a whole.

## Strategic sites

Many business and investment sites are located along key transport corridors and new approaches may be required as investment transitions away from locations that can only be reached by car towards more accessible areas that are connected by low carbon and active travel options.

The <u>Clyde Mission</u> will stimulate investment in sites along the Clyde to build a wellbeing economy and achieve a step-change in the quality of the environment for communities. This

ambitious project will reuse extensive areas of vacant and derelict land in accessible locations and requires a sustainable approach to manage the future impact of climate change. Key sites extend from Greenock Ocean Terminal to Queens Quay, Tradeston, the Broomielaw and Glasgow City Centre, to Clyde Gateway - a longstanding regeneration project which has made exceptional progress in transforming communities and overcoming inequality. A national collaboration to support delivery of the project has significant potential to accelerate change, attract investment and achieve wider benefits for communities. The wider Clyde Coast, an iconic area rich in cultural heritage and natural assets, can be reimagined through collective efforts on regeneration in nearby coastal communities, such as Dunoon and Rothesay. The area's accessibility by train and water means that it is an ideal location for low carbon tourism and leisure.

Aligning with the Clyde Mission, the Ayrshire Councils are working together through their Ayrshire Growth Deal and Community Wealth Building programme to build economic resilience and address unemployment, poverty and inequality across their area, with town centres at the heart of communities. This includes proposals for advanced manufacturing and aerospace engineering which will make use of the existing infrastructure and investment opportunities available at Glasgow and Prestwick airports. Glasgow is already a centre of expertise for manufacturing satellites and will benefit from the associated development of a network of spaceports across the country, whilst supporting wider industry and employment. The Ardeer peninsula is also a significant site for redevelopment of the wider Ayrshire area. Hunterston is a strategic asset with deepwater access, where there are plans for new economic development and employment uses. Development of the site will need to take account of future vulnerability to climate change. A planned marine centre at Ardrossan will provide further opportunities.

The Edinburgh City Region supports investment in significant clusters including the Bioquarter, Mid Fife, Dunfermline, Guardbridge St. Andrews, Galashiels, Cockenzie, Midlothian and the M8 corridor. A strategy for West Edinburgh is emerging which guides a wide range of uses to create a sustainable extension to the city, with added benefit from associated improvements to the quality of place of existing communities. Proposals focus on locating development on and around existing transport corridors and work is ongoing to improve accessibility including the Edinburgh tram extension. Further investment should take into account the impact of new development on potentially compounding existing capacity constraints and congestion, and prioritise sustainable choices.

As the highest single source of industrial emissions in Scotland, and a key part of our future resilience and manufacturing base. continued investment at Grangemouth, and the strategic sites it includes, will be required. Plans are emerging for innovative industry in the Falkirk/Grangemouth Investment Zone, building on the area's strengths in chemicals and making the most of strategic assets including the port and rail connection. There is great potential, not only to reduce emissions at the Grangemouth complex, but also to grow the cluster into a hub of low carbon manufacturing that can help unlock wider decarbonisation across the country, with its strategic location, infrastructure, assets and skills base. Opportunities include renewable energy innovation, bioenergy hydrogen production with carbon capture and storage, and repurposing of existing strategic and critical infrastructure such as pipelines. The skills, knowledge and experience that is currently situated there for the petro-chemicals sector is a prime resource for the transition to net zero. This can form a focal point in a wider masterplan for Forth Valley that brings together opportunities for energy with the circular economy to support wider investment in green economic opportunities.

Coastal sites formerly used for baseload power generation – specifically Longannet and Cockenzie – benefit from existing assets and infrastructure that can be repurposed to form the basis of new proposals. At Cockenzie, work is ongoing to develop an opportunity for a Climate Evolution Zone to generate employment and

provide essential infrastructure for net zero, linked with the potential to expand the new sustainable settlement at Blindwells, within the Greater Blindwells Development Area. There is scope to build on the strategic location and rail connectivity of Longannet to benefit local communities around this part of the Forth. There are further opportunities for a range of economic activities and investment in ports associated with a green economy at Montrose, Dundee, Rosyth, Burntisland, and Methil.

The Levenmouth rail link will reconnect Leven to the mainline rail network with new stations at Leven and Cameron Bridge by 2024 subject to consenting processes. This will enhance the communities it serves and contribute positively to the lives of people who live there by unlocking access to social, cultural, employment and educational opportunity.

The Tay Cities Region has a strong regional proposal for developing clusters of investment in research and innovation supporting a range of sectors in both urban and rural areas including life sciences, energy, digital, and food production. Perth is managing housing development in strategic development areas and transport infrastructure investment and the creation of a bus and rail interchange to support modal shift and establish a new gateway to the city. Work is underway to deliver local heat and energy networks, Perth West Regional Innovation Park and to make Perth the 'Biodiversity Capital of Scotland'. Angus Council is progressing its Mercury Programme to support clean growth, low carbon transport and housing and agri tech which will contribute to future food security and reduce emissions. Key sites include Montrose Port, and the Angus Rural Mobility Hub in Brechin.

Stirling is bringing forward new opportunities for innovation and investment, building on the city's strong heritage and supported by the area's educational institutions. Within Forth Valley, a National Tartan Centre, the Canal corridor, the Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Antonine Wall World Heritage Site, Ochil Hills and Whisky Trail create a unique heritage offering which will support local employment and strengthen the

area's sense of place. Tourism is a key theme in the emerging regional economic strategy for the Forth Valley and both the Falkirk Growth Deal and Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal.

#### **Ports**

Key ports in this area can play a central role in supporting the expansion of renewable energy, in particular offshore wind energy. It will also be important to make use of the infrastructure to reduce road haulage and secure a more sustainable freight sector which directly links to international markets. There are opportunities for enhanced cruise facilities for the Forth, as well as the Clyde where Greenock Ocean Terminal, supported by the Glasgow City Region Deal, can build on its role as a key gateway. There may be opportunities to make use of harbour facilities to support the marine leisure industry.

Development of ports on the Firth of Forth will also need to take account of the potential for a substantial increase in freight and passenger traffic between Scotland and continental Europe, linked to the Scotlish Government's objective that Scotland should accede to the EU as an independent Member State at the earliest possible opportunity.

## South

This area broadly includes Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders, South and East Ayrshires, South Lanarkshire in the west, with links to the Lothians towards the east.

#### **Priorities**

To deliver sustainable places, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should protect environmental assets and stimulate investment in natural and engineered solutions to climate change and nature restoration, whilst decarbonising transport and building resilient physical and digital connections.

This area's forests and woodland are a nationally significant asset and its extensive peatland will need to support carbon storage and sequestration. The Borderlands Natural Capital Programme will develop trials and sector strategies to restore biodiversity, build resilience and make the most of the area's natural assets to support climate change mitigation and adaptation. This will build on the successes of a range of nature restoration projects in the area, such as the Carrifran Wildwoods project.

The UNESCO Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere is a crucial environmental asset which can contribute to the area's future sustainability, liveability and productivity. The South of Scotland Regional Land Use Pilot is providing significant opportunity to work with landowners, landed interests and others to look at the multi-benefits from land use and to maximise natural capital opportunities.

The South of Scotland is an important centre for renewable energy generation. Proposals for consolidating and extending existing wind farms and associated grid improvements and supply chain opportunities will require a carefully planned approach. The Solway Firth has significant potential for renewable energy generation in the future, but development will require careful planning given the sensitivity of the environment and its international importance for nature conservation.

The area's low carbon future will depend on supporting modal shift and reducing car use, given current dependence on the car and need to improve access to services, education and employment. Low emissions vehicles will only go some of the way towards addressing future challenges. Enhancing public transport and improving connectivity between communities in the east and west will help to support thriving and distinct communities.

Public transport, including the bus network, will play an important role in decarbonisation and developing innovative solutions and linkages to the rail system. Active travel should be supported with wheeling, walking and cycling within and between towns and other communities linked to strategic routes for residents and visitors. This is important not only for local sustainability but also as a strategic attraction to take advantage of major outdoor recreation opportunities.

There is also a need to secure better digital links to unlock the potential of rural living and home or hub working. The Borderlands Digital Infrastructure Programme will play a key role in supporting connectivity and responding to future technology and innovation.

To deliver <u>liveable places</u>, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should increase the population by improving local liveability, creating a low carbon network of towns and supporting sustainable rural development.

Quality of life for people living in the area will depend on the network of settlements in the future and existing communities should form the basis of a tailored response to the local living concept. Town centres can be strengthened as they recover from the pandemic. New measures to build resilience to climate change will be required including flood risk management in key settlements.

Housing provision will play a key role in supporting the area's aspirations for economic development as well as in maintaining and growing a working age population. Decarbonisation of existing homes will be required, as well as a strategic approach to rolling out electric vehicle charging. Communities themselves will have a critical role to play in shaping their future development.

The area is already investing in regenerating and future proofing its towns and wider communities. The **Stranraer Gateway** Project is an opportunity to consolidate and bring new impetus to regenerate this strategically located settlement. Plans include expansion of the marina, supported by the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, and low carbon heating can be incorporated as part of the transformation of the wider town. Nearby Cairnryan is a crucial gateway to Scotland, with a need to make best use of existing connections.

Regeneration innovation extends across the area. The HALO Kilmarnock project focuses on the reuse of vacant industrial land to create a low carbon community urban village, acting as an exemplar for innovative transformation of future places. The Ayrshire Manufacturing Investment Corridor project supports the economic generation of Kilmarnock and the wider region, whilst the CoRE (Community Renewable Energy) project in Cumnock seeks to explore, develop and provide solutions to energy supply and storage challenges in urban and non-urban areas, and to help in the development of a new, more flexible energy grid to complement existing power systems.

To deliver <u>productive places</u>, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Plans in this area should support local economic development whilst making sustainable use of the area's world-class environmental assets to innovate and lead greener growth.

The future sustainability of the area will depend on the creation of high quality and green jobs for local people. The local economy will need to diversify from its focus on land based industries (agriculture and forestry), to sustain a wider range of businesses and jobs. An emphasis on community wealth building will help to reduce dependence on public sector employment and a relatively low wage economy associated with rural and primary sectors.

The current approach to investment focuses on strategic growth corridors linking economic hubs with transport routes. Whilst the strategic road network is an asset and contributes to the area's connections north and south, a long-term strategy will require innovation and fresh thinking to ensure that future growth reflects our commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing inequality.

The future growth of the east of the area aims to consolidate existing settlements, capitalise on the strong sense of place of its towns and ensure accessibility by locating new development close to the Borders Rail Line. The Borderlands Place Programme, Borderlands Natural Capital Project, future Regional Land Use Partnerships and other strategic initiatives can support an integrated approach to protecting and restoring the area's natural assets, enhancing the built environment and achieving a greener, fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy across the area.

Employment opportunities can support population growth, help to retain more young people and transition the area away from its current dependence on low wage sectors. New ways of working, including remote working could attract more people to live here, supporting the economy and sustaining local services and facilities. This will also benefit from continued support for local skills development and centres of further and higher education including the Galashiels campus of Heriot Watt University and Glasgow University at the Crichton Campus, Dumfries.

Significant investment sites include the former nuclear power station at Chapelcross which benefits from existing grid connections and is an opportunity to repurpose the land by establishing a green energy park that contributes to national ambitions and innovation. Low carbon accessibility will be a key challenge, as the site is remote from Annan and not served by public

transport. Providing access to wider markets, the port at Cairnryan could create further strategic growth opportunities. The expansion of Tweedbank and an inclusive approach to economic development in the Central Borders and Tweeddale are also strategic opportunities.

The area has aspirations to become a prime outdoor recreation and green tourism destination. Key projects include the South West Coastal Path, and projects supported by the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal; the Mountain Biking Innovation Centre at Innerleithen, updating the cycling experience and facilities at some of the 7stanes sites, and Destination Tweed which will deliver a multi-user path and cycle route from Moffat to Berwick upon Tweed. More could be made of the area's border location and attractions to ensure visitors make better use of local services and support the economy and communities.

The west of the area has a close relationship, and strategic connection to, Northern Ireland and Ireland via Cairnryan, as well as across the English border to Carlisle and onwards to European markets. The connection to Northern Ireland and Ireland is already a focus for freight movements as a result of EU Exit.

In the east, the Scottish Borders has a role to play as part of the Edinburgh City Region, with the Borders Railway opening up new sites for sustainable development towards the north, and the south sustaining rural industries. Work is ongoing to assess the feasibility of extending the Borders Railway from Tweedbank to Carlisle.

### **Annex D - Six Qualities of Successful Places**

# 1. Healthy: Supporting the prioritisation of women's safety and improving physical and mental health

#### Designing for:

- **lifelong wellbeing** through ensuring spaces, routes and buildings feel safe and welcoming e.g. through passive surveillance and use of physical safety measures.
- **healthy and active lifestyles**, through the creation of walkable neighbourhoods, food growing opportunities and access to nature and greenspace
- accessibility and inclusion for everyone regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, ability and culture
- **social connectivity** and creating a sense of belonging and identity within the community
- **environmentally positive places** with improved air quality, reactivating derelict and brownfield land, removing known hazards and good use of green and blue infrastructure

#### 2. Pleasant: Supporting attractive natural and built spaces

#### Designing for:

- **positive social interactions** including quality of public realm, civic spaces, streets and ensuring a lively and inclusive experience
- **protection** from the elements to create attractive and welcoming surroundings, including provision for shade and shelter, mitigating against noise, air, light pollution and undesirable features, as well as ensuring climate resilience, including flood prevention and mitigation against rising sea levels
- **connecting with nature** including natural landscape, existing landforms and features, biodiversity and eco-systems, integrating blue and green infrastructure and visual connection
- variety and quality of play and recreation spaces for people of all ages and abilities
- **enjoyment**, enabling people to feel at ease, spend more time outdoors and take inspiration from their surroundings

# 3. Connected: Supporting well connected networks that make moving around easy and reduce car dependency

#### Designing for:

- **active travel** by encouraging more walking, wheeling and cycling together with reliable, accessible, public transport and shared transport hubs that allow for simple modal shifts
- **connectivity** including strategic cycle routes, local cycle routes, footpaths, pavements, active travel networks, desire lines, destinations, permeability, accessibility and catering for different needs and abilities
- **convenient connections** including local and regional interconnection, infrastructure, sustainable travel, interchange between public transport and active travel and supporting easy modal shifts in transport
- **pedestrian experience** including safe crossing, pedestrian priority, reduced vehicular speed and noise, inclusive design and surfaces, assistive technology, reduced street clutter, catering for suitable vehicular parking and management of loading/unloading and deliveries and refuse collections

# 4. Distinctive: Supporting attention to detail of local architectural styles and natural landscapes to be interpreted into designs to reinforce identity

#### Designing for:

- scale including density, building heights, massing, orientation, building lines and legibility
- **built form** including mix of typologies, types, uses, sizes and tenures
- **sense of place** including design influences, architectural styles, choice of materials and finishes, detailing, landscape design, active frontages and cultural context
- 5. Sustainable: Supporting the efficient use of resources that will allow people to live, play, work and stay in their area, ensuring climate resilience and integrating nature positive biodiversity solutions

#### Designing for:

- **transition to net-zero** including energy/carbon efficient solutions, retrofitting, reuse and repurposing and sharing of existing infrastructure and resources
- **climate resilience and nature recovery** including incorporating blue and green infrastructure, integrating nature positive biodiversity solutions
- **active local economy** including opportunities for local jobs and training, work spaces, enabling working from home, supporting community enterprise and third sector
- **community and local living** including access to local services and facilities, education, community growing and healthy food options, play and recreation and digital connectivity
- 6. Adaptable: Supporting commitment to investing in the long-term value of buildings, streets and spaces by allowing for flexibility so that they can meet the changing needs and accommodate different uses over time

#### Designing for:

- quality and function, ensuring fitness for purpose, design for high quality and durability
- **longevity and resilience** including recognising the role of user centred design to cater for changing needs over time and to respond to social, economic and environmental priorities
- **long-term maintenance** including effective engagement, clarity of rights and responsibilities, community ownership/stewardship, continuous upkeep and improvements

#### Place Standard Tool and the delivery of successful places

The Place Standard contains 14 themes that support the Six Qualities of Successful Places, providing a consistent framework to consider and to assess the quality of new and existing places. The Place Standard tool Design Version is specifically created to support the consideration of development planning and design within the framework of the 14 Place Standard themes and to deliver on the Six Qualities of Successful Places.

## **Annex E - Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement**

This Annex sets out the Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement (MATHLR) for each planning authority in Scotland. This is to meet the requirement of Section 3A(3)(d) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended. The MATHLR is the minimum amount of land, by reference to the number of housing units, that is to be provided by each planning authority in Scotland for a 10 year period. The MATHLR is expected to be exceeded in each Local Development Plan's Local Housing Land Requirement.

Local and National Park Authority	MATHLR
Aberdeen City	7,000
Aberdeenshire	7,550
Angus	2,550
Argyll & Bute	2,150
Cairngorms National Park	850
City of Edinburgh	36,750
Clackmannanshire	1,500
Dumfries & Galloway	4,550
Dundee City	4,300
East Ayrshire	4,050
East Dunbartonshire	2,500
East Lothian	6,500
East Renfrewshire	2,800
Eilean Siar	192
Falkirk	5,250
Fife (Central and South)	5,550
Fife (North)	1,750
All Fife*	7,300
Glasgow City	21,350
Highland	9,500
Inverclyde	1,500
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park	300
Midlothian	8,850
Moray	3,450
North Ayrshire	2,950
North Lanarkshire	7,350
Orkney	1,600
Perth & Kinross	8,500
Renfrewshire	4,900
Scottish Borders	4,800
Shetland	850
South Ayrshire	2,000
South Lanarkshire	7,850
Stirling	3,500
West Dunbartonshire	2,100
West Lothian	9,850

<sup>\*</sup> The total consists of Fife North and Fife Central and South. This reflects that Fife was formerly part of two Strategic Development Plan areas and contributed to separate Housing Need and Demand Assessments.

# Annex F – Glossary of definitions

20 minute neighbourhood	A flexible approach to assessing our places against the concept of local living. A method of achieving connected and often compact neighbourhoods designed in such a way that people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home preferably by sustainable and active travel methods. The principle can be adjusted to include varying geographical scales from cities and urban environments, to rural and island communities. Housing would be planned together with local infrastructure including schools, community centres, local shops and health and social care to significantly reduce the need to use unsustainable methods of travel, to prioritise quality of life, help tackle inequalities, increase levels of health and wellbeing and respond to the climate emergency.
4G	4G is the fourth generation of mobile phone technology, following 2G and 3G. 2G technology was suitable for making calls and sending text messages, while 3G makes it possible to access the internet more effectively through devices such as a mobile, tablet or laptop. It's ideal for services that demand more capacity, like video streaming, mapping and social networking sites.
5G	5G is much faster than previous generations of wireless technology. 5G also offers greater capacity, allowing thousands of devices in a small area to be connected at the same time.  The reduction in latency (the time between instructing a wireless device to perform an action and that action being completed) means 5G is also more responsive. Together these features make 5G highly relevant for industrial applications.  The connectivity and capacity offered by 5G is opening up the potential for new, innovative services while mobile spectrum can be used in more effective ways.
Affordable home/affordable housing	Good quality homes that are affordable to people on low incomes. This can include social rented, mid-market rented, shared-ownership, shared-equity, housing sold at discount (including plots for self-build), self-build plots and low cost housing without subsidy.
Agent of change principle	Where an application is made for development which is likely to be affected by noise from existing development such as, but not limited to, music venues, manufacturing or industrial sites, large retail outlets, etc., the applicant is required to demonstrate both that they have assessed the potential impact on occupants of the proposed development and that the proposed design incorporates appropriate measures to mitigate this impact.
Ancient woodland	Land that has maintained continuous woodland habitat since at least 1750.
Appropriate assessment	Regulation 48 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, as amended, requires an authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for certain plans or projects likely to have a significant effect on a European site in Great Britain (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), to make an 'appropriate assessment' of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives.

Biodiversity	The variability in living organisms and the ecological complexes of which they are part. This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (UN Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992).
Blue economy	The Blue Economy is sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, while preserving the health of marine and coastal ecosystem.
Blue infrastructure	Water environment features within the natural and built environments that provide a range of ecosystem services. Blue features include rivers, lochs, wetlands, canals, other water courses, ponds, coastal and marine areas including beaches, porous paving, sustainable urban drainage systems and raingardens.
Brownfield	Land which has previously been developed. The term may cover vacant or derelict land, land occupied by redundant or unused buildings and developed land within the settlement boundary where further intensification of use is considered acceptable.
Buildings at risk register	The Buildings at Risk Register (BARR) for Scotland (buildingsatrisk.org.uk) has been in operation since 1990 and highlights properties of architectural or historic merit that are considered to be at risk. Buildings at risk are not necessarily in poor condition, they may simply be standing empty with no clear future use or be threatened with demolition.
Business and industry	Business, general industrial and storage and distribution uses and smaller scale business uses such as home-working, live-work units and micro-businesses.
Carbon capture utilisation and storage	Carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) encompasses the methods and technologies used to capture the carbon dioxide generated by large-scale energy intensive processes, such as power generation and industrial processes, and transport that captured carbon dioxide for safe and permanent storage deep underground in a geological formation. In some applications, the captured carbon dioxide can be recycled and used to manufacture useful products, thus giving it economic value.
Carbon-rich soils	Organo-mineral and peat soils are known as carbon-rich soils. A peat soil is defined in Scotland as when soil has an organic layer at the surface which is more than 50cm deep. Organo-mineral soil or peaty soil is soil which has an organic layer at the surface less than 50cm thick and overlies mineral layers (e.g. sand, silt and clay particles). There is also a relatively rare group of soils in Scotland known as humose soils. These have organic rich layers with between 15 and 35% organic matter. These are mineral soils but also considered to be carbon rich.
Carbon sequestration	The long-term removal, capture, or sequestration of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to slow or reverse atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) pollution and to mitigate or reverse climate change.
Carbon sink	A carbon sink is a natural or artificial reservoir that accumulates and stores $CO_2$ for an indefinite period.

Circular economy	A circular economy is one that is designed to reduce the demand for raw material in products; to encourage reuse, repair and manufacture by designing products and materials to last as long as possible in line with the waste hierarchy.  Prevention If you can't prevent, then  Prepare for reuse If you can't prepare for reuse, then  Recycle If you can't recycle, then  Recover other value (e.g. energy) If you can't recover value, then  Disposal Landfill if no alternative available  Waste Hierarchy
Climate change adaptation	Climate change adaptation is about responding to the changes that we have seen in our climate over the last few decades, and preparing for the challenges that we will face as our climate continues to change.
Climate change mitigation	Climate change mitigation refers to efforts to reduce or prevent emissions of greenhouse gasses, which have a direct impact on global average temperatures, and reducing the current concentration of carbon dioxide by enhancing carbon sinks (for example, increasing the area of forest).
Commercial centre	Centres which have a more specific focus on retailing and/or leisure uses, such as shopping centres, commercial leisure developments, mixed retail and leisure developments, retail parks and factory outlet centres.
Community	A body of people. A community can be based on location (for example people who live or work in or use an area) common identity (for example a shared ethnicity, language, age) or common interest (for example the business community, amenity, sports, social or heritage groups).
Community facilities	Buildings or services used by the community, including community halls, recreation centres and libraries.
Community hub	A community hub is a multi-purpose centre, such as a community centre, medical centre or school, that provides a range of high quality and cost effective services to the local community.
Community wealth building	A people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people.
Conservation area	Conservation areas are areas which have special architectural or historic interest that are considered worthy of protection. Their selection, assessment and designation is carried out by the planning authority. To be designated as a conservation area it must meet the criteria of 'special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which is desirable to preserve or enhance', as set out in Section 61 of the Planning Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas (Scotland) Act 1997.

Cultural significance	Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance can be embodied in a place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects.
Cumulative impact	Impact in combination with other development. That includes existing developments as appropriate, those which have permission, and valid applications which have not been determined. The weight attached to undetermined applications should reflect their position in the application process.
Cumulative impacts (in the context of the strategic transport network)	The effect on the operational performance of transport networks of a number of developments in combination, recognising that the effects of a group of sites, or development over an area may need different mitigation when considered together than when considered individually.
Custom-build housing	Where a person tasks a house builder to tailor a home to their preferences before it is built.
Decarbonisation	Reducing the amount of gaseous carbon compounds released by buildings, activities or operations.
Deliverable housing land pipeline	The expected sequencing of the Local Housing Land Requirement over the short (1-3 years), medium (4-6 years) and long-term (7-10 years), set out in the local development plan delivery programme.
Deliverable land	Land that is free from constraints or there is a commitment to overcome constraints, and development is able to be delivered in the period identified for the site within the Deliverable Housing Land Pipeline.
Derelict land	Previously developed land which is un-remediated and/or which has a constraint caused by its previous use which hampers its redevelopment or naturalisation.
Design flood	Magnitude of the flood adopted for the design of a site, usually defined in relation to the severity of the flood in terms of its return period.
Ecosystem services	The benefits people obtain from ecosystems.
Egress (safe, flood free pedestrian access and egress)	A route for the movement of people (not vehicles) of all abilities (on foot or with mobility assistance) between the development and a place of safety outwith the design flood level.
Enabling development	Enabling development is development that would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms, but is essential, to secure the future of an historic environment asset or place which is at risk of serious deterioration or loss.

Essential infrastructure	Essential infrastructure includes digital communications infrastructure; telecommunications infrastructure; all forms of renewable, low-carbon and zero emission technologies for electricity generation and distribution and transmission electricity grid networks and primary sub stations; water and waste water infrastructure; and transport proposals and travel networks identified in the local development plan.
Evidence report	A supporting document to the local development plan. An evidence report summarises the evidence base for those proposals and policies set out in the development plan and demonstrates that appropriate consultation has been undertaken and regard given to the views of the community.
Facilities for managing secondary	Facilities where materials can be collected and sorted into the various component parts or consolidated into bulk quantities for re-use either in their original or an alternative function and for recovery.
materials	'Recovery' means any operation the principal result of which is waste serving a useful purpose by replacing other materials which would otherwise have been used to fulfil a particular function, or waste being prepared to fulfil that function, in the plant or in the wider economy.
	'material recovery' means any recovery operation, other than energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or other means to generate energy. It includes, inter alia, preparing for re-use, recycling and backfilling; 'preparing for re-use' means checking, cleaning or repairing recovery operations, by which products or components of products that have become waste are prepared so that they can be re-used without any other pre-processing.
Flood	The temporary covering by water from any source of land not normally covered by water, but not including the overflow of a sewage system.
Flooding from all sources	Includes:  Watercourse /Fluvial Flooding – caused by excessive rainfall or snow melt within a limited period, which overwhelms the capacity of the watercourse or river channel, particularly when the ground is already saturated. It can also arise as a result of the blockage of a channel and/or associated structures such as small bridges and culverts;
	Pluvial Flooding – occurs when rainwater ponds or flows over the ground (overland flow) before it enters a natural or man-made drainage systems (e.g. a river or sewer/drain). It can also occur when drainage systems are at full capacity. It is often combined with sewer flooding and groundwater flooding;
	Sewer Flooding – occurs when the sewerage infrastructure has to deal with loads beyond its design capacity. This occurs most often as a result of high intensity rainfall events;
	Groundwater Flooding – occurs when the water table rises above ground level. In Scotland this is most commonly associated with the movement of water through sands and gravels, often connected to the rise and fall of river levels; and
	Coastal Flooding – occurs as a result of high tide, storm surge and wave activity raising the level of the sea above adjoining land.

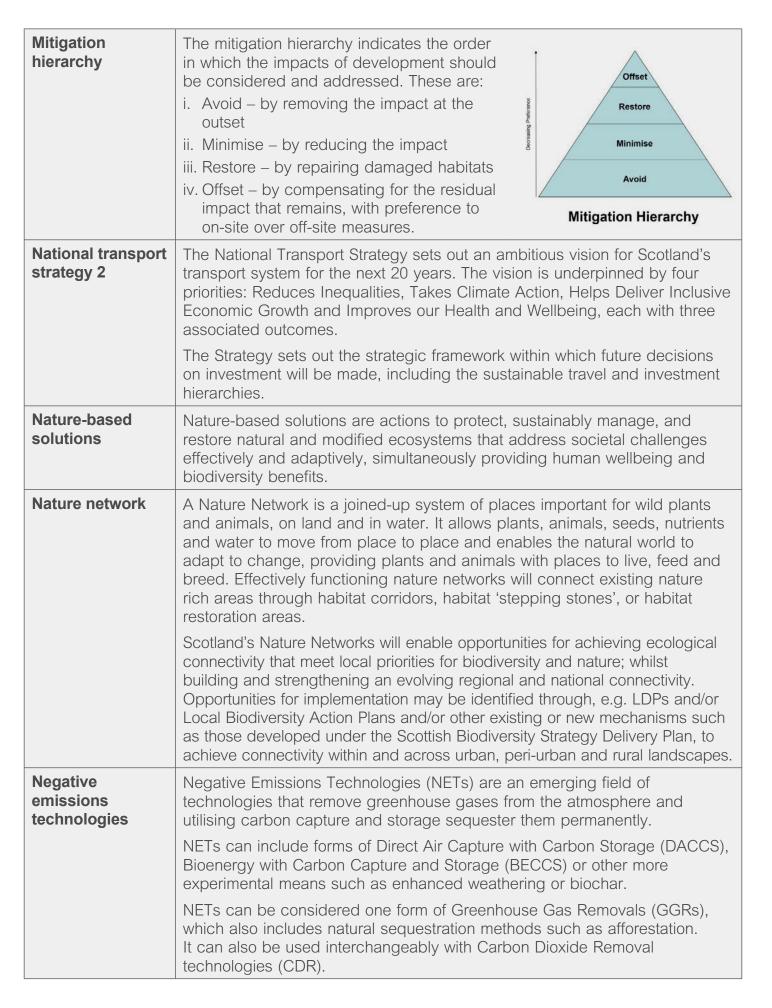
Flood risk	The combination of the probability of a flood and the potential adverse consequences associated with a flood, for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.
Flood risk area or at risk of flooding	For planning purposes, at risk of flooding or in a flood risk area means land or built form with an annual probability of being flooded of greater than 0.5% which must include an appropriate allowance for future climate change.
	This risk of flooding is indicated on SEPA's future flood maps or may need to be assessed in a flood risk assessment. An appropriate allowance for climate change should be taken from the latest available guidance and evidence available for application in Scotland. The calculated risk of flooding can take account of any existing, formal flood protection schemes in determining the risk to the site.
	Where the risk of flooding is less than this threshold, areas will not be considered 'at risk of flooding' for planning purposes, but this does not mean there is no risk at all, just that the risk is sufficiently low to be acceptable for the purpose of planning. This includes areas where the risk of flooding is reduced below this threshold due to a formal flood protection scheme.
Forestry and woodland strategy	A strategy prepared by a planning authority either singly or in collaboration with other planning authorities, which sets out policies and proposals for the development of forestry and woodlands in their area, according to [section A159] of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.
Freeboard	Freeboard is the difference between the design flood level and either the finished floor levels, solum level, or deck level of a specific development. It is a safety margin designed to allow for the uncertainties involved in flood estimation and physical factors that cannot be assessed and vary between sites e.g., post construction settlement and wave action. In many cases an adequate freeboard allowance is 600mm above the design flood level <sup>2</sup> (in some situations a more detailed assessment of appropriate freeboard will need to be carried out).
Gardens and designed landscapes	The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes recognises sites where garden grounds and landscapes have been intentionally laid out for artistic effect which are of national importance. Their selection, assessment and designation is carried out by Historic Environment Scotland. Designed landscapes are managed primarily through the planning process by the appropriate planning authority.
Green infrastructure	Features or spaces within the natural and built environments that provide a range of ecosystem services.
Green networks	Connected areas of green infrastructure and open space, that together form an integrated and multi-functional network.
Green recovery	An economic recovery that helps us work toward net zero emissions in a way that is fair and that maximises the opportunities to deliver a thriving, sustainable economy.

<sup>2</sup> In line with CIRIA Guidance C624 Development and Flood Risk – Guidance for the Construction Industry 2004.

Green space	Space, other than agricultural land, which serves a recreational or an amenity function for the public, or provides aesthetic value to the public such as areas of—  (a) grass, (b) trees, (c) other vegetation, (d) water.
Historic battlefields	The Inventory of Historic Battlefields recognises sites where a nationally important battle took place, soldiers fought and died, and where significant military activities happened. Their selection, assessment and designation is carried out by Historic Environment Scotland. Battlefields are managed primarily through the planning process by the appropriate planning authority.
Historic environment	The historic environment is 'the physical evidence for human activity that connects people with place, linked with the associations we can see, feel and understand'.
Historic environment asset	An asset (or 'historic asset' or 'heritage asset') is a physical element of the historic environment – a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having cultural significance.
Historic marine protected areas	Historic Marine Protected Areas are areas designated in Scottish territorial waters (0-12 miles) under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 for the purpose of preserving marine assets of national importance. These can be wrecks of boats or aircraft or more scattered remains, such as groups of artefacts on the seabed from a submerged prehistoric landscape. Their designation is carried out by Marine Scotland based on advice from Historic Environment Scotland.
Huts	A simple building used intermittently as recreational accommodation (i.e. not a principal residence); having an internal floor area of no more than 30 square meters; constructed from low impact materials; generally not connected to mains water, electricity or sewerage; and built in such a way that it is removable with little or no trace at the end of its life. Huts may be built singly or in groups.

Lifeline links Listed building	A listed building is a built structure of 'special architectural or historic interest'. The term 'building' can be defined as 'anything made by people' such as houses, schools, factories, boundary walls, bridges and sculptures. Listing covers the whole of a building or structure including its exterior, interior and any ancillary structures within its curtilage (provided these were constructed before 1 July 1948). Their selection, assessment and designation is carried out by Historic Environment Scotland under the Planning (Listed
Landbank (construction aggregates)	A landbank is calculated by a Planning Authority and is a means of gauging whether there is sufficient consented construction aggregates (sand/gravel and hard rock) within their relevant market area, to avoid possible disruption and/or delays to supply. The calculation is primarily based on annual extraction figures, sales trends and the known reserves within existing consented sites.
Just transition	Ending our contribution to climate change in a way that is fair and leaves no one behind
Infrastructure investment hierarchy	Scottish Government-wide common hierarchy to aid planning and decision-making, which prioritises enhancing and maintaining our assets over new build. See <u>Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland 2021-22 to 2025-26</u> for further details. To support the Infrastructure Investment Plan and its Infrastructure Investment Hierarchy, also see <u>'A guide to Property Asset Strategy in the Scottish Public Sector'</u>
Infrastructure first	<ul> <li>Putting infrastructure considerations at the heart of placemaking. For the purpose of applying the Infrastructure First policy, the following meaning of infrastructure will apply:</li> <li>communications – including digital and telecommunications networks and connections;</li> <li>existing and planned transport infrastructure and services;</li> <li>water management – supply, drainage systems and sewerage (including flood risk management);</li> <li>energy supplies/energy generation – including electricity and heat networks, distribution and transmission electricity grid networks, and gas supplies;</li> <li>health and social care services – including both services provided in the community directly by Health Boards and services provided on their behalf by contractors such as GPs, dentists and pharmacists;</li> <li>education – including early years, primary, secondary, further and higher education services;</li> <li>green and blue infrastructure; and</li> <li>spaces for play and recreation.</li> </ul>

Local authority supported affordable housing plan	Plans or strategies for housing approved by a local authority e.g. Local Housing Strategy, Strategic Housing Investment Plan or future versions of such documents.
Local housing land requirement	The amount of land required for housing, as identified by the local development plan. The Local Housing Land Requirement (LHLR) is expected to exceed the 10 year Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement (MATHLR) set out in the National Planning Framework.
Local housing strategy	Local Housing Strategies were introduced as part of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 to widen the strategic and enabling role for local authorities in relation to housing in their area. The Local Housing Strategy (LHS) sets out the outcomes the Council and its partners want to achieve, and the actions they will take, to address housing need and demand in their area
Local outcomes improvement plan	A local outcomes improvement plan (LOIP) is produced by a community planning partnership (CPP), and describes its local priorities, what improvements the CPP plans for its local communities, and when it will make these improvements. The LOIP covers the whole of the council area that the CPP is responsible for.
Locality plan	A locality plan is produced by a CPP, and describes its local priorities, what improvements the CPP plans for its local communities, and when it will make these improvements. A locality plan covers a smaller area within a whole CPP area, or may also be produced for groups who share common interests or features, for example, young people leaving care or vulnerable adults.
Locations of concern	A location of concern has been defined as a specific, usually public, site that is used as a location for suicide and which provides either means or opportunity for suicide.
Masterplan	A strategic scheme within which a location is proposed to be regenerated or changed in order to meet a perceived challenge or strategic need.
Masterplan consent area	A masterplan consent area scheme can grant authorisation for the type of development set out in the scheme, within the geographic location (area) to which the scheme relates. In setting out the type of development that the scheme authorises, this can be either expressly specified or described as type of development that is specified in the scheme.
Minimum all- tenure housing land requirement	There is a statutory requirement for the National Planning Framework to contain targets for the use of land in different areas of Scotland for housing. To meet this, the National Planning Framework includes a Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement (MATHLR) for each planning authority in Scotland. The MATHLR is the minimum amount of land, by reference to the number of housing units, that is to be provided by each planning authority in Scotland for a 10 year period, as set out in Annex E. The MATHLR is expected to be exceeded in the local development plans Local Housing Land Requirement.



Net zero	Scotland has set a target to become 'Net Zero' by 2045. This means the amount of greenhouse gas emissions we put into the atmosphere and the amount we are able to take out will add up to zero.
Open space	Space within and on the edge of settlements comprising green space or civic areas such as squares, market places and other paved or hard landscaped areas with a civic function
Open space strategy	An open space strategy is to set out a strategic framework of the planning authority's policies and proposals as to the development, maintenance and use of green infrastructure in their district, including open spaces and green networks. It must contain; an audit of existing open space provision, an assessment of current and future requirements, and any other matter which the planning authority consider appropriate.
Outdoor sports facilities	Uses where sportscotland is a statutory consultee under the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, which establishes 'outdoor sports facilities' as land used as: (a) an outdoor playing field extending to not less than 0.2ha used for any sport played on a pitch; (b) an outdoor athletics track; (c) a golf course; (d) an outdoor tennis court, other than those within a private dwelling, hotel or other tourist accommodation; and (e) an outdoor bowling green.
Peatland	Defined by the presence of peat soil or peaty soil types. This means that "peat-forming" vegetation is growing and actively forming peat or it has been grown and formed peat at some point in the past.
Placemaking	Placemaking is the process of creating good quality places that promotes people's health, happiness and wellbeing. It concerns the environment in which we live; the people that inhabit these spaces; and the quality of life that comes from the interaction of people and their surroundings. Placemaking is a collaborative approach involving the design and development of places over time, with people and communities central to the process.
Place principle	All those responsible for providing services and looking after assets in a place need to work and plan together, and with local communities, to improve the lives of people, support inclusive and sustainable economic growth and create more successful places.
Play sufficiency assessment	A play sufficiency assessment is the assessment of the sufficiency of play opportunities for children in their area, carried out by a planning authority under the duty as set out in Section 7(5) Part 16D(1) of Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. The assessment forms part of the evidence report for the preparation of the Local Development Plan.
Prime agricultural land & land of lesser quality that	Prime agricultural land is that identified as being Class 1, 2 or 3.1 in the land capability classification for agriculture developed by Macaulay Land Use Research Institute (now the James Hutton Institute).
is culturally or locally important for primary use	However, for land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use (i.e. for example food production, flood management, water catchment management and carbon storage), this value should be recognised in decision-making.

Priority peatland habitat	Peatland habitats can be divided into four broad classes (blanket bog, upland raised bog, lowland raised bog, and fen), depending on the types of plants that formed the peat. Priority peatland habitats are sub-sets of these broad habitats which have been recognised under the Scottish Biodiversity Framework as being important to protect for their conservation and biodiversity value.
Protected characteristics	The Equality Act defines the following as protected characteristics:      age     disability     gender reassignment     marriage and civil partnership     pregnancy and maternity     race     religion or belief     sex     sexual orientation
Public benefits	Public benefits as defined by the current Scottish Government policy on woodland removal.
Ramsar sites	Wetlands designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.
Remedial notice (forestry)	A Remedial Notice is a notice issued by Scottish Ministers if it appears to them that a person has failed or is failing to comply with a condition on felling permission, a felling direction (including any condition imposed on it), a restocking direction (including any condition imposed on it), or a registered notice to comply.  A Remedial Notice requires the person to take such steps or stop such
	activity as may be specified in the notice on order to comply with or otherwise give effect to the condition, direction or (as the case may be) registered notice to comply, and, to take steps or stop the activity within the period specified in the notice.
Restocking direction	A Restocking Direction is a notice issued by Scottish Ministers, in response to an unauthorised felling or a failure to comply with a continuing condition on a felling permission. A restocking direction requires an owner of the land on which the felled tree was located or the land to which the continuing condition relates, to stock the land in question.
Recycling facilities	Facilities for the purpose of recycling. Recycling means any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes. It includes the reprocessing of organic material but does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or for backfilling operations. It does not include nuclear reprocessing.
Self-build housing	Where a person builds their own house or appoints their own builder.
Self-provided housing	Includes self-build housing, custom-build housing and collective build housing.

Setting  Scheduled monument	Setting is more than the immediate surroundings of a site or building, and may be related to the function or use of a place, or how it was intended to fit into the landscape or townscape, the view from it or how it is seen from areas round about, or areas that are important to the protection of the place, site or building.  'Setting' is the way the surroundings of a historic asset or place contribute to how it is understood, appreciated and experienced.  Scheduled monuments are archaeological sites or monuments of national importance that are legally protected under the Ancient Monuments and
monument	Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Their selection, assessment and designation is carried out by Historic Environment Scotland who maintains the schedule. Works to Scheduled Monuments are regulated by Historic Environment Scotland through their Scheduled Monument Consent process.
Short term let	The use of a dwellinghouse (a residential house or flat) for rental by persons other than the owner for short periods and for financial or other remuneration.  Typically includes properties advertised as being available for holiday let, although can apply to other situations.
Strategic transport network	Includes the trunk road and rail networks. Its primary purpose is to provide the safe and efficient movement of strategic long distance traffic between major centres, although in rural areas it also performs important local functions.
Sustainable development	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (The Brundtland Definition. Our Common Future, The World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987).
Sustainable investment hierarchy	The National Transport Strategy 2 Sustainable Investment Hierarchy will be used to inform future investment decisions and ensure transport options that focus on reducing inequalities and the need to travel unsustainably are prioritised. We also need to focus on maintaining and safely operating existing assets, taking due consideration of the need to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Investment promoting a range of measures, including innovative solutions, to make better use of existing capacity will then be considered, ensuring that existing transport networks and systems are fully optimised. Only following these steps should investment involving targeted infrastructure improvements be considered.
Sustainable tourism	Sustainable tourism is defined by the United Nation World Tourism Organisation as "tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities."

Sustainable travel	Sustainable travel includes travel by the top three modes in the sustainable travel hierarchy. It is recognised that in some locations, particularly in rural areas, where the top three modes have been judged as unfeasible for day to day travel, low emissions vehicles and shared transport options will play an important role.  Prioritising Sustainable Transport  Walking and wheeling  Cycling  Public transport  Taxis & shared transport  Taxis & shared transport  Private car			
Sustainable travel hierarchy	The National Transport Strategy 2 Sustainable Travel Hierarchy should be used in decision making by promoting walking, wheeling, cycling, public transport and shared transport options in preference to single occupancy private car use for the movement of people. The efficient and sustainable freight transport for the movement of goods, particularly the shift from road to rail should also be promoted.			
Town centre	Centres which display: - a diverse mix of uses, including shopping; - a high level of accessibility; - qualities of character and identity which create a sense of place and further the well-being of communities; - wider economic and social activity during the day and in the evening; and - integration with residential areas.			
Town centre first	The Town Centre First Principle asks that government, local authorities, the wider public sector, businesses and communities put the health of town centres at the heart of decision making. It seeks to deliver the best local outcomes, align policies and target available resources to prioritise town centre sites, encouraging vibrancy, equality and diversity.			
Town centre vision	Towns and town centres are for the wellbeing of people, the planet and the economy. Towns are for everyone and everyone has a role to play in making their own town and town centre successful.			
Transport appraisal	A Transport Appraisal should inform the spatial strategy by appraising the impact of the potential spatial strategy options on the transport network, in line with Transport Scotland's Development Planning and Management Transport Appraisal Guidance. It should determine the potential impacts of development on the transport network and mitigation to address adverse impacts, how they will be funded and who should deliver these. This should inform the Proposed Plan.			

Transport assessment	A Transport Assessment report should aim to provide supporting evidence to accompany the planning application to demonstrate that the development is sited in a location where current and likely future travel behaviour will produce a desired and predicted transport output. The Transport Assessment should provide information in a suitable form to enable the local authority and, if necessary, Transport Scotland to assess and determine the planning application, seek any changes to the proposal and devise necessary planning conditions or negotiate planning or other legal agreements.
Travel plan	A Travel Plan (TP) is a document that sets out a package of positive and complementary measures for the overall delivery of more sustainable travel patterns for a specific development. Their ability and success in influencing travel patterns is dependent upon the commitment of the developer or occupier of a development and the enforcement of travel plan monitoring by the local authority. Travel plans should be implemented to encourage a shift in transport mode for those travelling to and from a development.
Unused or under- used land	An area of land that is stalled awaiting development, or a pocket of land within neighbourhood that is not developed or cannot be developed for other meaningful use or does not have particular identified long-term use.
Vacant land	Previously developed land, without physical constraint, which the Planning Authority has indicated is currently available for redevelopment.
Veteran tree	A veteran tree can be classified as such due to age (including relative age for its species) or for its biological, aesthetic, or cultural interest. Veteran trees are usually mature and provide additional habitat from natural damage, environmental conditions or management (e.g. coppice, decay hollows, fungal fruiting bodies, cavities).
Water compatible uses	Comprise: - flood control infrastructure - environmental monitoring stations - water transmission infrastructure and pumping stations - sewage transmission infrastructure and pumping stations - sand and gravel workings - docks, marinas and wharves - navigation facilities - Ministry of Defence (MOD) defence installations - ship building, repairing, and dismantling - dockside fish processing and refrigeration and compatible activities requiring a waterside location - water-based recreation (excluding sleeping accommodation) - lifeguard and coastguard stations - amenity open space - nature conservation and biodiversity - outdoor sports and recreation and essential facilities such as changing rooms - essential ancillary sleeping or residential accommodation for staff required by uses in this category, subject to a specific operational warning and evacuation plan.

Wellbeing economy	Building an economy that is inclusive and that promotes sustainability, prosperity and resilience, where businesses can thrive and innovate, and that supports all of our communities across Scotland to access opportunities that deliver local growth and wellbeing.
Wheeling	Travelling by wheelchair.
Woodland	Land under stands of trees with a canopy cover of at least 20%, or having the potential to achieve this, including integral open space, and including felled areas that are awaiting restocking (replanting). The minimum area is 0.1 ha and there is no minimum height.
World heritage sites	World Heritage Sites are internationally important cultural and/or natural heritage sites which have been inscribed for their "Outstanding Universal Value". Though no additional statutory controls result from world heritage designation, the impact of proposed development upon the outstanding universal value, including its authenticity and integrity of a World Heritage Site and its setting, is a material consideration in determining planning applications. Their assessment and designation is carried out by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) based on advice from State Parties and the relevant devolved Government.

### **Annex G - Acronyms**

BARR Buildings at Risk Register

BECCS Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage

CCS Carbon Capture and Storage

CCUS Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage CDR Carbon Dioxide Removal technologies

CO<sub>2</sub> Carbon Dioxide

CoRE Community Renewable Energy
CPP Community Planning Partnership

CWB Community Wealth Building

DACCS Direct Air Capture with Carbon Storage
EIA Environmental Impact Assessment

EU European Union

GGRs Greenhouse Gas Removals

HNZ Heat Network Zones

HRA Habitats Regulations Appraisal

HS2 High Speed 2

IGTZ Industrial Green Transition Zones
IIP Infrastructure Investment Plan

kv Kilovolts

LDPs Local Development Plans

LHEES Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy

LOIP Local Housing Land Requirement
LOIP Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

LPPs Local Place Plans

MATHLR Minimum All-Tenure Housing Land Requirement

MOD Ministry of Defence

NETs Negative Emissions Technologies
NPF National Planning Framework
NPF4 National Planning Framework 4

ORIC Orkney Research and Innovation Campus

ORION Opportunity for Renewable Integration with Offshore Networks

PNCP Perthshire Nature Connections Partnership

RSS Regional Spatial Strategies

SDGs Sustainable Development Goals

SEPA Scottish Environment Protection Agency

TP Travel Plan

UK United Kingdom UN United Nations

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation



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<b>7</b> .	REPRESENTATIONS	IN	RELATION	TO	<b>PLANNING</b>
	APPLICATION				

## **Comments for Planning Application 22/0259/IC**

#### **Application Summary**

Application Number: 22/0259/IC

Address: Cornalees Farm Dunrod Road Inverkip PA16 9LX

Proposal: Proposed holiday lodges, support and administration building and access road.

Case Officer: Sean McDaid

#### **Customer Details**

Name: Robert Kirkpatrick

Address: 114 Kirn Drive Gourock

#### **Comment Details**

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: This is the second time I've had to object to the same proposal, I reiterate all my complaints from the last time. This is in the middle of the muirshiel park.

It would turn one of our last natural areas into a party villiage. The proximity to my premises would result in an added security risk as these cottages are used for party's, and I cannot protect my business and water from drunk people at night time. The area is a breeding and hunting ground for rare wildlife and birds. At no point has the applicant approached me as the fishery owner to ask my feelings even though they have specifically mentioned my business in their proposal.

Me and my brother had applied for permission for something similar in a location within the muirshiel park but in a much less relevant area and were told we would not get it as it's within the park so this cannot be allowed either.

## **Comments for Planning Application 22/0259/IC**

### **Application Summary**

Application Number: 22/0259/IC

Address: Cornalees Farm Dunrod Road Inverkip PA16 9LX

Proposal: Proposed holiday lodges, support and administration building and access road.

Case Officer: Sean McDaid

#### **Customer Details**

Name: Mr William Donnachie

Address: Cloak, Cloak Road, Kilmacolm PA13 4SD

#### **Comment Details**

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer made comments neither objecting to or supporting the Planning Application

**Comment Reasons:** 

Comment: Has the lodge project at Cornalees Farm for holiday lodges been approved? Regards

Bill

8.	<b>DECISION NOTICE DATED 3 MAY 2024 ISSUED BY</b>
	HEAD OF REGENERATION AND PLANNING

#### DECISION NOTICE

Refusal of Planning Permission Issued under Delegated Powers

Regeneration and Planning Municipal Buildings Clyde Square Greenock PA15 1LY

Planning Ref: 22/0259/IC

Online Ref: 100606952-001

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(SCOTLAND)REGULATIONS 2013

Mr Euan Caskie 21 Dellingburn Street GREENOCK PA16 9LU Nicholson McShane Architects Douglas Nicholson Custom House 1-01 Custom House Place GREENOCK PA15 1EQ

With reference to your application dated 14th November 2022 for planning permission under the above mentioned Act and Regulation for the following development:-

Proposed holiday lodges, support and administration building and access road. at

Cornalees Farm, Dunrod Road, Inverkip, PA16 9LX,

#### **Category of Application Local Application Development**

The INVERCLYDE COUNCIL in exercise of their powers under the abovementioned Act and Regulation hereby refuse planning permission for the said development.

The reasons for the Council's decision are:-

- 1. The proposed development does not accord with the six factors contributing to successful places of Policy 1 of the adopted and proposed Local Development Plans, in that it fails to meet the 'Distinctive' requirements by not respecting the landscape setting or character.
- 2. No justification has been provided which justifies the essential requirement for a green belt location, with the site not specifically identified in both the adopted and proposed Local Development Plans for such a use. The proposed development would not be compatible with the surrounding established countryside and landscape character, contrary to the provisions of Policy 8 of NPF4, Policy 15 of the adopted Local Development Plan and Policy 15 of the proposed Local Development Plan.
- 3. The proposed development does not accord with the six factors contributing to successful places of Policy 1 of the adopted and proposed Local Development Plans, in that it fails to meet the "Successful Places" requirements by not protecting important views.

The reason why the Council made this decision is explained in the attached Report of Handling.

#### Dated this 3rd day of May 2024

# Mr Stuart W. Jamieson Director Environment and Regeneration

- If the applicant is aggrieved by the decision of the Planning Authority to refuse permission, or to grant permission subject to conditions, the applicant may seek a review of the decision by submitting a Notice of Review within three months beginning with the date of this notice. A Notice of Review shall be addressed to Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services, Inverclyde Council, Municipal Buildings, Greenock, PA15 1LY
- If permission to develop land is refused or granted subject to conditions, and the owner of the land claims that the land has become incapable of reasonably beneficial use in its existing state and cannot be rendered capable of reasonably beneficial use by the carrying out of any development which has been or would be permitted, he may serve on the planning authority a purchase notice requiring the purchase of his interest in the land in accordance with Part 5 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

#### Refused Plans: Can be viewed Online at <a href="http://planning.inverclyde.gov.uk/Online/">http://planning.inverclyde.gov.uk/Online/</a>

Drawing No:	Version:	Dated:	
22-4099-C-002			
20054_D.LP		01.11.2022	
20054_D.101		01.11.2022	
20054_D.102	Rev A	05.09.2023	
20054_D.103		01.11.2022	
20054_D.104		01.11.2022	
Lodge Visual			

9. NOTICE OF REVIEW FORM DATED 8 JULY 2024 TOGETHER WITH STATEMENT OF APPEAL AND OTHER SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS



Municipal Buildings Clyde Square Greenock PA15 1LY Tel: 01475 717171 Fax: 01475 712 468 Email: devcont.planning@inverclyde.gov.uk

Applications cannot be validated until all the necessary documentation has been submitted and the required fee has been paid.

Thank you for completing this application form:

ONLINE REFERENCE 100606952-010

Applicant or Agent Details  Are you an applicant or an agent? * (An agent is an architect, consultant or someone else acting					
Agent Details					
Please enter Agent details					
Company/Organisation: Nicholson McShane Architects	Nicholson McShane Architects				
Ref. Number:  You must enter a Building Name or Number, or both: *					
First Name: * Douglas Building Name: Custom House					
Last Name: * Nicholson Building Number: 1-01					
Telephone Number: * 01475 325025 Address 1 (Street): * Custom House Place					
Extension Number: Address 2:					
Mobile Number: Town/City: * Greenock					
Fax Number: Country: * Scotland					
Postcode: * PA15 1EQ					
Email Address: * consents@nicholsonmcshane.co.uk					
Is the applicant an individual or an organisation/corporate entity? *  Individual  Organisation/Corporate entity					

Applicant De	tails				
Please enter Applicant details					
Title:	Mr	You must enter a Bu	ilding Name or Number, or both: *		
Other Title:		Building Name:			
First Name: *	Euan	Building Number:	21		
Last Name: *	Caskie	Address 1 (Street): *	Dellingburn Street		
Company/Organisation		Address 2:			
Telephone Number: *		Town/City: *	Greenock		
Extension Number:		Country: *	Scotland		
Mobile Number:		Postcode: *	PA16 9LU		
Fax Number:					
Email Address: *					
Site Address	Details				
Planning Authority:	Inverclyde Council				
Full postal address of th	e site (including postcode where available	):			
Address 1:	CORNALEES FARM				
Address 2:	DUNROD ROAD				
Address 3:	INVERKIP				
Address 4:					
Address 5:					
Town/City/Settlement:	GREENOCK				
Post Code:	PA16 9LX				
Please identify/describe	the location of the site or sites				
Northing	671906	Easting	225034		

Description of Proposal
Please provide a description of your proposal to which your review relates. The description should be the same as given in the application form, or as amended with the agreement of the planning authority: * (Max 500 characters)
Proposed holiday lodges, support and administration building and access road
Type of Application
What type of application did you submit to the planning authority? *
Application for planning permission (including householder application but excluding application to work minerals).  Application for planning permission in principle.  Further application.  Application for approval of matters specified in conditions.
What does your review relate to? *
Refusal Notice.  Grant of permission with Conditions imposed.  No decision reached within the prescribed period (two months after validation date or any agreed extension) – deemed refusal.
Statement of reasons for seeking review
You must state in full, why you are a seeking a review of the planning authority's decision (or failure to make a decision). Your statement must set out all matters you consider require to be taken into account in determining your review. If necessary this can be provided as a separate document in the 'Supporting Documents' section: * (Max 500 characters)
Note: you are unlikely to have a further opportunity to add to your statement of appeal at a later date, so it is essential that you produce all of the information you want the decision-maker to take into account.
You should not however raise any new matter which was not before the planning authority at the time it decided your application (or at the time expiry of the period of determination), unless you can demonstrate that the new matter could not have been raised before that time or that it not being raised before that time is a consequence of exceptional circumstances.
Refer to attached Statement of Appeal
Have you raised any matters which were not before the appointed officer at the time the Determination on your application was made? *
If yes, you should explain in the box below, why you are raising the new matter, why it was not raised with the appointed officer before your application was determined and why you consider it should be considered in your review: * (Max 500 characters)

Please provide a list of all supporting documents, materials and evidence which you wish to se to rely on in support of your review. You can attach these documents electronically later in the		nd
Statement of appeal Design statement Location plan and site layout plans Architect's drawing sections and elevations) Architect's visualisations Flood risk assessment, correspondence a Landscape assessment Engineering information including general layouts, roads layouts, le	and independent certification	
Application Details		
Please provide the application reference no. given to you by your planning authority for your previous application.	22/0259/IC	
What date was the application submitted to the planning authority? *	14/11/2022	
What date was the decision issued by the planning authority? *	03/05/2024	
Review Procedure		
The Local Review Body will decide on the procedure to be used to determine your review and process require that further information or representations be made to enable them to determine required by one or a combination of procedures, such as: written submissions; the holding of a inspecting the land which is the subject of the review case.	ine the review. Further information may l	be
Can this review continue to a conclusion, in your opinion, based on a review of the relevant in parties only, without any further procedures? For example, written submission, hearing session Yes No		r
In the event that the Local Review Body appointed to consider your application decides to insp	pect the site, in your opinion:	
Can the site be clearly seen from a road or public land? *	X Yes ☐ No	
Is it possible for the site to be accessed safely and without barriers to entry? *	⊠ Yes □ No	
Checklist – Application for Notice of Review		
Please complete the following checklist to make sure you have provided all the necessary infecto submit all this information may result in your appeal being deemed invalid.	ormation in support of your appeal. Failu	ıre
Have you provided the name and address of the applicant?. *		
	is 🛛 Yes 🗌 No	
Have you provided the date and reference number of the application which is the subject of the review? *	ils Pes I No	
review? *  If you are the agent, acting on behalf of the applicant, have you provided details of your name and address and indicated whether any notice or correspondence required in connection with	Yes No N/A	
review? *  If you are the agent, acting on behalf of the applicant, have you provided details of your name	Yes No N/A	
review? *  If you are the agent, acting on behalf of the applicant, have you provided details of your name and address and indicated whether any notice or correspondence required in connection with review should be sent to you or the applicant? *  Have you provided a statement setting out your reasons for requiring a review and by what	Yes No N/A  The  Yes No  No  No  Int must set out all matters you consider runity to add to your statement of review y information and evidence that you rely	
review? *  If you are the agent, acting on behalf of the applicant, have you provided details of your name and address and indicated whether any notice or correspondence required in connection with review should be sent to you or the applicant? *  Have you provided a statement setting out your reasons for requiring a review and by what procedure (or combination of procedures) you wish the review to be conducted? *  Note: You must state, in full, why you are seeking a review on your application. Your statemer require to be taken into account in determining your review. You may not have a further oppor at a later date. It is therefore essential that you submit with your notice of review, all necessary.	the   X Yes □ No □ N/A  Yes □ No  No  It must set out all matters you consider runity to add to your statement of review	

## **Declare - Notice of Review**

I/We the applicant/agent certify that this is an application for review on the grounds stated.

Declaration Name: Mr Douglas Nicholson

Declaration Date: 08/07/2024



#### nicholson mcshane architects

#### Statement of Appeal

Refusal of Planning Application 22/0259/IC Proposed Holiday Lodges, Support and Administration Building and Access Road at

Cornalees Farm, Dunrod Road, Inverkip, PA16 9LX

#### Introduction

"There remains a challenge in attracting and retaining a range of higher quality accommodation and food and beverage businesses. Such a gap in the local offering will hold back tourism development and restrict making the most from the visitor economy".

\*Inverclyde Regional Tourism Strategy 2016-2020 Building for the Future\*

"To encourage and enable learning, understanding and enjoyment of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park."

Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park Aims

"Develop tourism projects"

Inverclyde Strategy for Tourism Aims

We recognise that any development in the countryside involves a balance between the competing needs of the environment, access, education and the needs of the local economy. We and the applicant are acutely aware of this. As highlighted above, Inverclyde Council's own policies stress the need for more high quality tourist development and Clyde Muirshiel's policies promote the requirement for access to the park. These factors, largely dismissed in the assessment of our application by the officers, must inform any balanced decision on our appeal.

We believe that the chosen site is ideal for a sympathetic development of the type proposed, lying as it does in a small area characterised not by remoteness but by historic and modern infrastructure, tourist development and centuries of industrial endeavour. An area with easy walking and cycling access to truly remote and wild areas of Inverclyde where nature can be enjoyed in full.



### Reasons for Refusal

There are three reasons for the refusal of the application, as follows.

- 1. The proposed development does not accord with the six factors contributing to successful places of Policy 1 of the adopted and proposed Local Development Plans, in that it fails to meet the 'Distinctive' requirements by not respecting the landscape setting or character.
- 2. No justification has been provided which justifies the essential requirement for a green belt location, with the site not specifically identified in both the adopted and proposed Local Development Plans for such a use. The proposed development would not be compatible with the surrounding established countryside and land-scape character, contrary to the provisions of Policy 8 of NPF4, Policy 15 of the adopted Local Development Plan and Policy 15 of the proposed Local Development Plan.
- 3. The proposed development does not accord with the six factors contributing to successful places of Policy 1 of the adopted and proposed Local Development Plans, in that it fails to meet the "Successful Places" requirements by not protecting important views.

#### Analysis of Reasons for Refusal

Reasons 1 and 3 relate to the Local Development Plan(s) requirement to comply with the criteria for "six factors contributing to successful places". We refute this...whether a development proposal complies with these requirements is a value judgement and we believe the officers are mistaken in their conclusions.

Specifically, we refute the opinion that the proposal fails to respect the landscape character and setting, and that it fails to protect important views. The applicant evidenced our approach to these matters in a specialist report from a highly regarded firm of landscape consultants who analysed these aspects in detail. Yet the officers have reached a contrary opinion whilst preferring no evidence as to how their opinions were influenced.



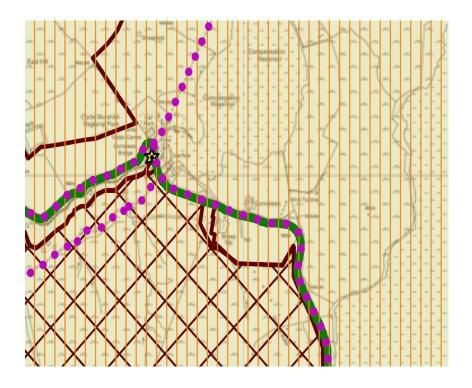
Reason 2 relates to the location of the proposal. This contains a major error...the development site is not located within the Green Belt. It is, instead, located in the designated Countryside.

Policy 15 of the LDP is worded as follows:

Development in the Green Belt and Countryside will only be permitted if it is appropriately designed, located and landscaped, and is associated with:

b) a tourism or recreational use that requires a countryside location.

We have provided justification of the location...how can holiday lodges efficiently serving the requirement for access to the countryside be sited in other than a countryside location?



Site location - within the designated countryside, not the green belt.

A particularly revealing insight into the original assessment project is the following statement:

"There may be some employment generation and economic benefits associated with the development however the development could be located elsewhere within Inver-



clyde, maintaining a contribution to the local economy, which would not require utilising a rural / green belt location."

We suggest that the potential economic benefits of the development, both at construction stage and during operation, are obvious and this statement gives no confidence that a consideration of our application has been balanced. How can a development of lodges specifically located to give immediate access to the countryside be anywhere other than in the countryside? This nature of this type of development is completely unsuited to an urban location.









## Summary

Our planning application comprised a highly detailed package of information including detailed road and junction design, flood risk assessment, drainage design, landscape design and assessment, business plan, layout, building design and visualisations. The applicant has devoted significant resource and effort to provide comprehensive information to the processing officers. We responded to all requests from the processing officers for additional information and for amendment of the proposal. It is ironic, then, that the reasons for refusal are so unbalanced, vague and ill defined.

We ask the elected members of the Local Review Body to take a reasoned, balanced view of the proposal and overturn the officers' refusal. Inverclyde will benefit from this modest, attractive development which will encourage responsible and sustainable enjoyment of the natural environment and help satisfy the goals of tourist and economic development and of access to the countryside.

### **NMA**

July 2024









## Proposed Holiday Eco-Lodges at Cornalees Farm, Greenock

## Design and Access Statement revision A

## Introduction and Description

Our client is the owner of Cornalees Farm which is located to the south of the Compensation Reservoir serving Loch Thom, approximately 4km south of Greenock. The property is a disused farm extending to approximately 4.4Ha. The single track road linking Greenock and Inverkip runs along the southern boundary of the site and gives access to the former farm buildings which comprise the old farmhouse and disused barns grouped around a central courtyard. The majority of the site consists of rough grassland sloping gently from a high point at the south east of the site towards the Compensation Reservoir to the north and west.



Aerial view (overall extent of Cornalees Farm shaded red)

Planning consent has been granted for the conversion of the farmhouse to two dwellings and the conversion of redundant barns to two dwellinghouses (consents 16/0245/IC and



16/0246/IC respectively). A Building Warrant for phase 1 of this development, i.e. the conversion of the barns, was granted in January 2021. The decommissioning of a wind turbine on the site in preparation for its removal (which is a condition of Planning Permission 20/0259/IC for the redevelopment of the barns) has taken place.





Views from east (top) and west (bottom)

## Neighbouring Land Uses and History

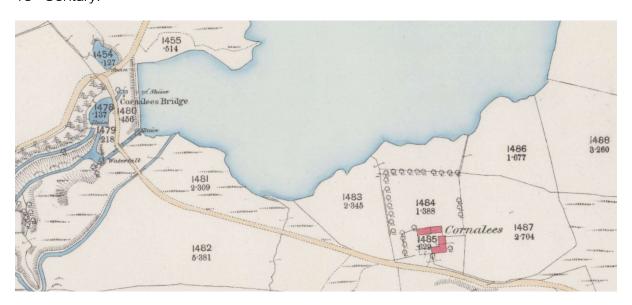
The immediate vicinity of Cornalees Farm accommodates a variety of land uses, as follows:

- Ardgowan Trout Fishery, which includes a shop and cafe facilities in its offering.
- Greenock Cut Visitors Centre and car park.



 The start of the Greenock Cut footpath, the adjoining Nature Trail and the Kelly Cut.

Immediately to the west of the site sits a redundant water pumping station and outbuilding. To the south and east of the site are open areas of rough moorland. The topography of the site is largely man made, having been dramatically altered at the time of the construction of the Compensation Reservoir in the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Cornalees Farm appears on maps of the area dating from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.



## Planning Designations

Cornalees Farm is designated "Countryside" on the adopted 2019 Local Development Plan proposals map and as such is covered by Policy 14. Forming part of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, the application site also falls within Policy 37. Pre-application consultation indicates that Policies 1,8,9,10,11, 27 and 33 will also apply to the proposal. The 2021 Proposed Local Development Plan similarly shows the application site designated "Countryside", this time covered by Policies 15 and 19.

The ground lies adjacent to the West Renfrew Hills Local Landscape Area.

A core path runs along the single track road to the south of the site. The site is not identified as having additional special designations on the Environmental Constraints map.



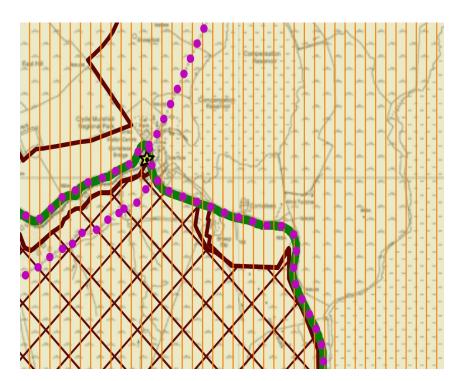
Response to Planning Designations in Local Development Plan 2019.

## Policy 1 - Creating Successful Places.

The development has the potential to respond positively to the criteria identified in Policy

1. It will be:

- Distinctive in its adoption of vernacular building forms whilst being minimally intrusive into the existing landscape.
- Adaptable in satisfying a demand for this type of accommodation in Inverclyde.
- Resource efficient in construction, servicing and in providing in-demand holiday accommodation on the edge of an urban area.
- Easy to move around and connected to local tourist facilities for pedestrians and cyclists by means of the single track Dunrod Road.
- Safe and pleasant in its location, detailing and servicing.
- Welcoming but low key in its location and visual properties within the landscape.



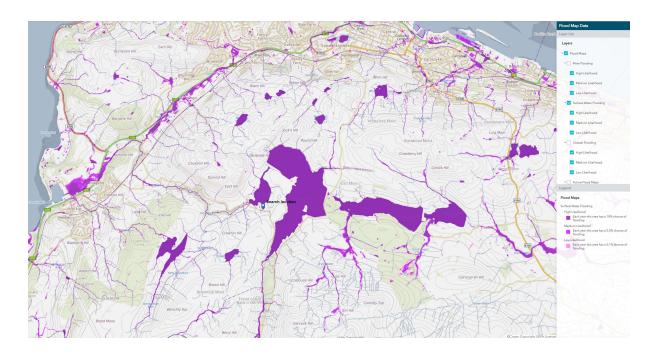
Policy 8 - Managing Flood Risk and Policy 9 - Surface and Waste Water Drainage

The site sits adjacent to the Compensation Reservoir which has a fixed level spillway which maintains a constant upper water level; the site is not identified on SEPA's latest



flood risk maps as being susceptible to flooding. It is intended that surface water from the development will drain into the Compensation Reservoir following 2-stage filtration, and that foul water will be treated by a dedicated sewage treatment plant again with an outflow into the Compensation Reservoir.

A Flood Risk Assessment / Drainage Impact Assessment will be provided to Inverclyde Council as part of the assessment process, in line with the document *Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment: Planning Guidance for Developers.* 



Policy 10 – Promoting Sustainable and Active Travel and Policy 11 – Managing Impact of Development on the Transport Network.

The site lies 6.0 miles by road from Greenock town centre and 2.7 miles by road from the A78 linking Greenock with Inverkip thus giving options for access to the main Invertigate conurbations.

By its very nature the proposed use requires an element of seclusion and a countryside location and it is anticipated that the majority of journeys to the accommodation provided by the development will be by private car. This small-scale development will add little to the demands placed on Dunrod Road (which already serves local tourist and leisure related businesses) and the wider road network.

The car parking and access road layout will comply with the Council's adopted roads guidance and parking standards.



In addition the site is ideally placed for a variety of active travel options including cycling and walking; these are features of the immediate locale with Greenock Cut providing a variety of options for recreation.

Primarily, however, the development will promote sustainable travel by providing "staycation" accommodation and taking advantage of the increasingly prevalent trend for holidaying close to home.

## Policy 14 - Green Belt and Countryside

The development complies with the requirements of clause (b) of the Policy, i.e. it requires a countryside location. The holiday accommodation will draw on the tranquillity of the immediate surroundings in an area which already has a blend of tourist and active leisure uses, making it an ideal location for this development.

## Policy 27 - Tourism Development

The development accords with the requirements of this Policy as follows:

- The neighbouring land uses will not be disturbed by this development. Planning
  permission has already been granted for adjacent leisure-orientated land uses
  and the site lies adjacent to one of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park's publicly
  accessible hubs (Greenock Cut Visitor's Centre).
- As outlined previously, the development will promote sustainable travel by providing "staycation" accommodation to satisfy local demand.
- The design responds to the countryside context in scale and use of materials (refer to below).

## Policy 33 - Biodiversity and Geodiversity

The application site is "non designated" in terms of this Policy. As such the development is designed to minimise the effect on local landscape character and is to conserve and enhance biodiversity by the including of landscaping using native species.

## Policy 37 - Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

The development is fully in accordance with the aims of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park in promoting recreational access to the countryside. The application appreciates that a balance neds to be struck between the retention of countryside and the requirements for access and we believe that this modest, unobtrusive development achieves this balance.



In particular, our response to Clyde Muirshiel's stated objectives is as follows:

Aim - To conserve and enhance natural beauty, heritage and natural history resources of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.

Our proposal will be modestly scaled and sympathetically positioned in the environment. This is a relatively unique part of the Park, with the Greenock Cut Visitor Centre and Ardgowan Fishery as neighbours. We are currently working with our landscape consultants to achieve a scheme which has a minimal visual impact whilst allowing long term management of the site.



Aim - To promote enjoyment of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park by both residents and visitors.

Our proposal will increase the opportunity for visitors to stay within and thus fully experience the Park for short recreation, active leisure or study periods. This will provide an authentic and small scale alternative to the existing town-based or "caravan park" type accommodation.



Aim - To promote the social and economic well-being of the people and communities within the Clyde Muirshiel Park area.

The proposal will generate economic activity within the park boundaries and will benefit neighbouring businesses and the local economy generally.



We note from the Park's Annual Report 2019 / 2020 that particular focus is being placed on the Park as a resource to promote physical and mental health, and as a platform for outdoor learning. Our proposal will support these activities by allowing participants to experience the park for days rather than hours at a time, enough time to immerse themselves in the environment and thus benefit to a much greater extent.

## Proposal

Our proposal is for the erection of a small scale tourism and leisure orientated development of around 12 chalet type holiday lodges located between the original farm buildings and the adjacent Compensation Reservoir. Location is key to the proposal; it will contribute to and draw from nearby leisure activities including fishing, walking, birdwatching and simply relaxing in a beautiful spot. In addition, the unique topography of the site will allow spectacular views to Dunrod hill to the north whilst giving shelter from prevailing south westerly winds.



The main features of the design are as follows (please refer to outline proposal):

1. The lodges will be positioned close to the Compensation Reservoir, taking advantage of the fact that the drainage arrangement from this reservoir prevents flood conditions and an increase in water level. This will allow the lodges to sit low within the landscape to minimise their visual impact (with floor levels around 6m lower than the original farm buildings). The lodges will be single storey and 2/3 bedroom. The visibility of the development will be further mitigated by the concealing effect of the higher ground to the east part of the site which will effectively screen the development from the access road to the east and south.



- 2. Visual screening will be enhanced by means of appropriate planting and landscaping using native species. In addition to providing privacy between lodges, this will dramatically reduce visibility from the public realm.
- 3. The lodges will have a rural vernacular aesthetic consistent with the requirements of Planning Application Advice Note no.8 *Siting and Design of Houses in the Green Belt and Countryside*. This will include stone facades. The lodges will also have "green" roofs further encouraging biodiversity and making the development visually discreet from elevated positions.



- 4. Lodges will be accessed by means of a new single track road with passing places, utilising an existing vehicular access from the adjacent public road. Each lodge will have 2no dedicated car parking spaces.
- 5. Lodges will be designed with enhanced environmental standards to minimise energy usage. They will also be barrier free and designed to allow flexible and unfettered access.
- 6. The development will include a small ancillary building of similar design dedicated to administration and servicing of the lodges.



### Visit Scotland

Consultation has been carried out with Visit Scotland which has provided feedback and statistical support on the proposal (via the Insight Department Greater Glasgow and Clyde valley Factsheet 2019).

Visit Scotland's documented policies, including "Scotland Outlook 2030 Responsible Tourism for a Sustainable Future" have been used to inform the design process. This particular document recognises that tourism is a cornerstone of the Scottish economy with tourist spend at £10.4 billion and a resultant £12 billion economic activity generated



locally as a result. The development will, in its small way, contribute to the attractiveness of Inverclyde and, as a result, of Scotland as a destination for tourism.

Central to Visit Scotland's ethos is sustainability, inclusivity and climate change. The proposed development, in encouraging "staycation" and in its inherent accessibility, will encourage this process. In addition Visit Scotland states that central to their policies for developing responsible tourism is the idea of "Supporting the protection and *considered enjoyment* of Scotland's natural and cultural heritage". We believe that the proposed development serves exactly this purpose.

## Benefits to Local Economy

In drawing holidaymakers to Inverclyde and encouraging local people to holiday close to home, the proposal will provide a welcome long-term benefit to the local economy. In addition, local companies will benefit at the planning and construction stage.



## Section 75

The applicant acknowledges that a Section 75 agreement will be required limiting the occupancy of the accommodation to non-permanent tourist use.



## Summary

Inverclyde will benefit from this modest, attractive development which will encourage responsible and sustainable enjoyment of the natural environment.

## NMA

November 2022.



## LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

on Behalf of

Nicholson McShane Architects

in regard to

Holiday Eco-Lodge Development

at

Cornalees Farm, nr Greenock, Inverclyde

Prepared by



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## **Contents**

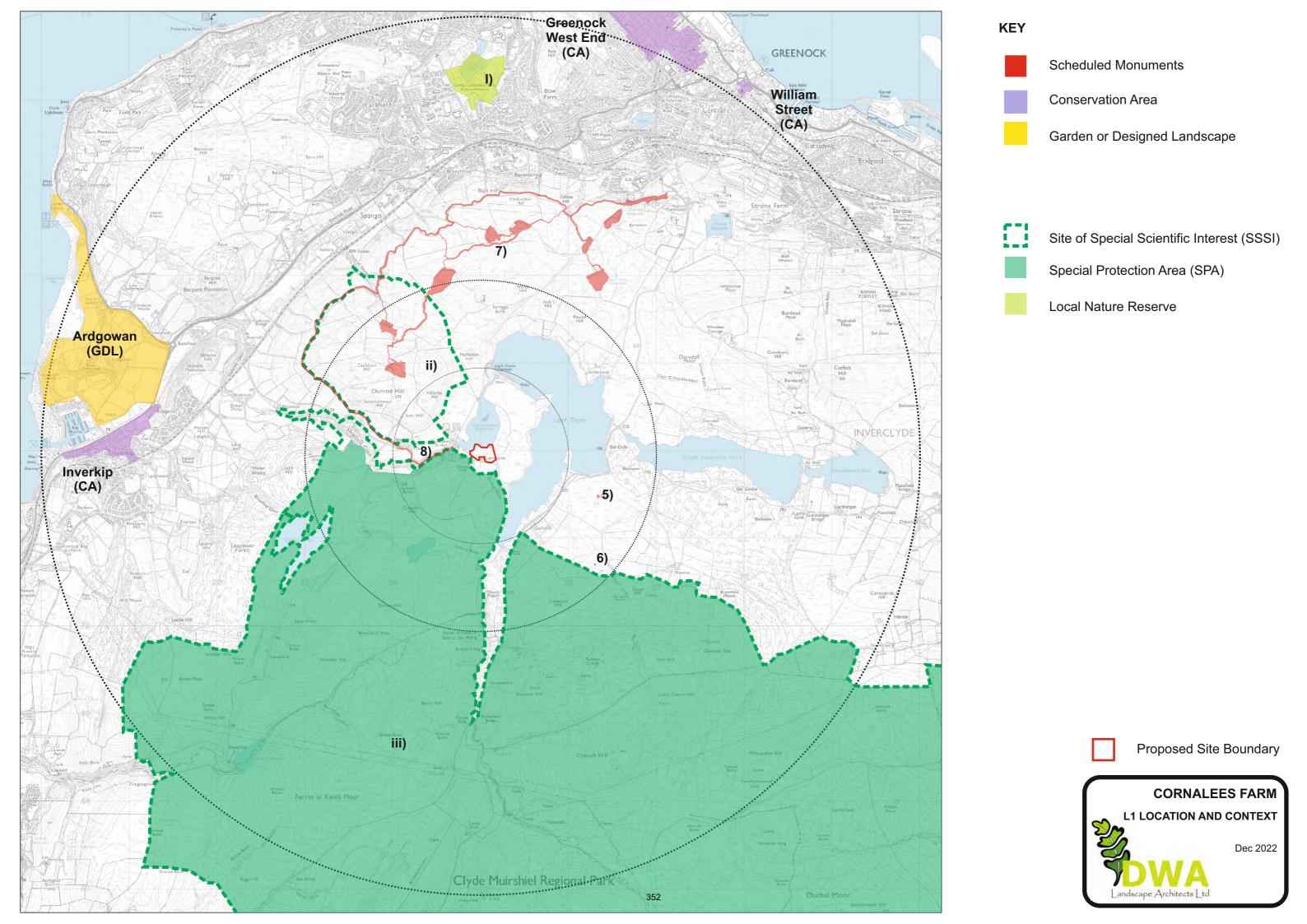
- 1. Introduction
- 2. Location and Context
- 3. Landscape Character
- 4. Landscape Planning Context
- 5. The Proposals
- 6. Landscape Impacts
- 7. Visual Impacts
- 8. Photographic study
- 9. Conclusions and Recommendations

## Illustrations

- L1 Location and Context
- L2 Development Proposals
- L3 Zone of Theoretical Visibility

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The land to the north of Cornalees Farm near Greenock in Invercive is proposed for a development of Holiday Eco Lodges. This would complement an existing consented proposal to develop the existing farm and barn complex as dwelling houses. The proposal would see 12no chalet type buildings arranged within the landscape between the farm and the Loch Thom Compensation Reservoir.
- 1.2 The site lies within the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park which occupies a large area of 230km2 to the west of Glasgow and south and east of the Clyde Estuary. The landscape ranges from Coastal Raised Beaches along the shore to the raised plateau in which the site lies. To the north lies the connecting towns of Port Glasgow, Greenock and Gourock and to the east Inverkip and Wemyss Bay. These all lie on the lower coastal ground with the raised landscape being more remote and sparsely settled. The Greenock Cut Visitor Centre lies close to the east of the site.
- 1.3 The proposed site lies within Inverclyde Council, so the following planning documents have been reviewed.
  - Inverclyde Local Development Plan (Adopted August 2019)
- 1.4 Other documents and resources which will be referred to will be:
  - Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition) published by the Landscape Institute
  - Scottish Planning Policy (June 2014)
  - Photography and Photomontage in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Landscape Institute Advice Note 01/11
  - Pastmap.co.uk Web Database
  - Scotland's Environment Web Database
- 1.5 This Landscape Assessment will present an initial baseline assessment of the features within the landscape which may potentially be impacted by the proposed development. This will consider farm, dwellings, settlements, transport links and any cultural or natural heritage features within a 5km radius. It will also briefly consider the landscape related planning context of the site and landscape character of the area.
- 1.6 From this baseline an assessment of the potential physical or visual impact upon the landscape can be made, supported by a photographic study. A series of conclusions will be made and any recommendations for mitigation set out.



## 2. Location and Context

- 2.1 Drawing L1 shows the study area for the assessment which covers a 5km Radius. The landscape is dominated by the two large bodies of water which lie to the north and northeast. These consist of the Compensation reservoir adjacent to the site and the larger Loch Thom. These water bodies lie in a cauldron formation of hills on all sides with the man-made earth wall dam separating the two to the north of the site. This system of reservoirs form part of the Greenock Cut which was built in 1827 to supply water to Greenock and surrounding towns for industrial and domestic use. Designed by engineer Robert Thom, along with the water bodies the system comprised a 5.5-mile-long narrow canal following the topography to the west and then north. It is now a Scheduled Monument and popular walking route. The Greenock Cut Visitor Centre lies close to the west and provides interpretation and a base for activities within the area.
- 2.2 The landscape is a relatively unsettled one with some properties around the Compensation Reservoir, including the visitor centre and fishery. Cornalees farm in now vacant as is the property which lies adjacent to the dam. Other scattered dwellings lie in the wider area but are few and far between with the larger settlements of Inverkip, Greenock and Port Glasgow lying along the coastal area towards the west and north.
- 2.3 There are no major roads close to the site with a series of narrow minor roads crossing the landscape, passing along the east and south of the water bodies. The area is a popular walking and cycling with a number of paths through the area such as the path following narrow Canal and extending northeast along the water body and over the hill to Greenock.
- 2.4 The landscape of the area has been settled since prehistoric times although the raised and exposed nature of the landscape has limited settlement in some ways relative to the coastal areas. The following is a summary of Designed Gardens and Landscapes (DGL) and Conservation Area (CA) within 5km of the site. A review of the significant scheduled monuments and listed buildings within 2km has also been included. These cultural heritage designations within the landscape may have differing sensitivities depending on their nature but may have the potential to be impacted by the development.

## **Designed Gardens and Landscapes** (within 5km)

1. Ardgowan

## Conservation Areas (within 5km)

- 2. Greenock West End
- 3. William Street
- 4. Inverkip

## **Scheduled Monuments** (within 2km)

- 5. Garvock, Cairn
- 6. Garvock, Farmstead
- 7. Overton Reservoirs 1-8 And Associated Channels, Clyde Muirshiel Park
- 8. Loch Thom-Overton, Water Cut

## **Listed Buildings** (within 2km)

There are none within this range

## Conservation

- 2.5 The remote and unsettled nature of the landscape within the Regional Park is consistent with the range of large-scale natural heritage designations which exist. These designations are shown on drawing L1 Location and Context.
  - I. Coves Community Park (LNR)
  - II. Dunrod Hill (SSSI)
  - III. Renfrewshire Heights (SPA / SSSI)

## **Conclusions**

2.6 The remote nature of the site on the plateau landscape combined with the cauldron topography of the immediate area around the water bodies mean that there are relatively few built features within the landscape – with some notable exception. The nearby Greenock Cut Visitor Centre and path system provide a well-used recreational facility and is likely one of the motivating factors for the type of development proposed. There are some large-scale natural heritage designations within the study area but other than the broad designation of the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park these do not apply directly to the site. Impacts upon these in the wider landscape features will be considered in the course of the assessment.

## 3. Landscape Character

3.1 The site is classified as the Rugged Moorland Hills landscape character type. This is described as follows (where relevant to the Renfrewshire Heights):

**Location and Context** - The Rugged Moorland Hills are found in three areas within Glasgow and the Clyde Valley - Renfrewshire Heights, Kilpatrick Hills and Campsie Fells/Kilsyth Hills.....

## **Key Characteristics**

- Large-scale simple landscape.
- Distinctive upland character created by the combination of elevation, exposure, rugged landform, including a fault line and cliffs, moorland vegetation and the predominant lack of modern development, emphasised by the proximity to low-lying valleys and coastal areas.
- Undeveloped skylines and striking views to the Glasgow conurbation.
- Extensive man-made reservoirs and smaller natural lochs.
- Important backdrop to neighbouring settled landscapes, creating a unique sense of place.
- Sparse settlement and predominant lack of modern development.
- Presence of archaeological sites on hilltops and sides, and on lower ground.
- Sense of apparent naturalness, wild character and remoteness which contrasts strongly with the farmed and developed lowland areas.
- Diversity of landscape experience.

**Landform** - The Rugged Moorland Hills share a common geology, being underlain by basalts which are more resistant than surrounding rocks and have withstood glacial and fluvial erosion to stand as rugged uplands around the north-western part of the Clyde Basin. ..... The landform comprises a series of rounded, locally craggy summits set within an undulating plateau, crossed by a series of burns. Summits range in height between about 400 metres in the Kilpatrick Hills, to 500 metres in the Renfrew Heights and 580 metres in the Campsie Fells. Skylines are generally simple and uninterrupted, with the skyline of the southern ridge an important feature in wider views.

Landcover - Landcover on these hills is dominated by moorland plant communities including heather (particularly on the Renfrew Heights and Kilpatrick Hills) ....... Extensive areas of peatland are found on the Renfrew Heights and the Campsie Fells. Fields, enclosed within drystone walls and hedges push onto some of the more accessible slopes around the edges of these hills. Some of these have been abandoned are becoming invaded by

bracken or rushes, while their boundaries decline. Rough grazing dominates this area as a land use, with a fair amount of plantation and woodland. ...... Extensive areas of rectilinear fields and pasture, some unimproved, are evident. Where grassland in these fields has been improved it creates a brighter green sward which contrasts with the paler hues of the unimproved grassland. The hills have areas of nature conservation interest, including those associated with small streams, burns and wetlands.

Commercial forestry is found in all three areas. Within the Renfrew Heights they are concentrated in the shallow headwater valley of the River Gryfe. In recent years there have been some significant areas of commercial woodland felling e.g. Ladymuir, as trees reach maturity. .....

**Settlement** - Settlement in these exposed upland areas is generally very sparse. However, all three areas of moorland include reservoirs which were constructed to supply nearby urban areas with water. Occasional smaller natural lochs are also present. The uplands are also of recreational importance for the Glasgow conurbation, with several accessible viewpoints. Densely populated settlements such as Clydebank, Dumbarton, Alexandria, Greenock and Bearsden are in very close proximity to this area.

The hills provide long views across the rolling plateaux to the Glasgow conurbation, including the Kelvin Valley and Clyde corridor, emphasising the contrast between the remote upland and the developed lowlands. There are also views south-west from the Renfrewshire Heights out to the Argyll Coast and the Isle of Bute, as well as northwards over the Rosneath Peninsula and Cowal Peninsula to Holy Loch. Within the hills are landmark features including distinctive scarps and hilltops. The John Muir long distance path passes through the Landscape Character Type on its north-west boundary, forming one of the highest stretches of the route. There is also wider provision of recreation opportunities for local communities, including hill walking, mountain biking and fishing. Pylons across the Kilpatrick and Renfrewshire Heights have a local influence, and planes go quite low over the hills in preparation for landing at Glasgow Airport.

There are a number of significant archaeological features within these hills, .... Across the Clyde, there are sections of Roman road and fortlets, testimony to the intense Roman presence in the area. Other prehistoric sites pre-date the Roman occupation of the area. Later prehistoric remains include settlements, field systems, enclosures and burial cairns. There is a wealth of medieval remains in the area including mottes and settlement and agricultural remains. Later evidence of industry in the area is shown with various open cast mines and quarries.

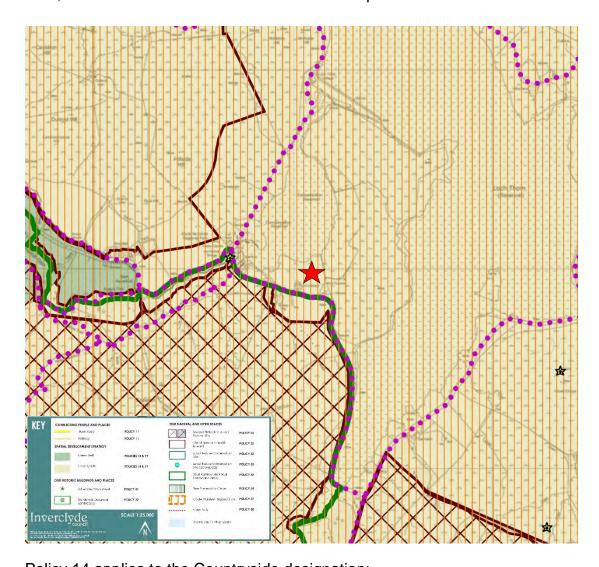
**Perception** - The landscape exhibits strong wild character, some of the strongest in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley region, emphasised by the contrast with neighbouring adjacent densely populated urban areas. There is only a relatively short, abrupt transition from these urban areas and agricultural land to the hills. This increases the apparent sense of naturalness, providing a contrasting solitude where it is possible to enjoy relative remoteness and isolation. The hills themselves have open horizons. ......

## Conclusions

3.2 The landscape type has significance both inwardly and in the wider context with views towards them from the Clyde Valley Basin and Glasgow Conurbation. They are notable for their remote nature despite close proximity to heavily settled areas. Visual impacts in this large-scale landscape may therefore be significant when over a wide area or when seen from out with the area. It is important to retain the sense of naturalness within the landscape but subtle development in appropriate location should be able to be accommodated within the large-scale setting without unduly impacting the overall character.

## 4. Landscape Planning Context

4.1 The Inverclyde Local Development Plan was adopted in August 2019. The excerpt from the proposal map shown below indicates that the site is currently designated as Countryside and as being within the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park. The core path routes are indicated by a dotted purple line and pass close to the south of Cornalees Farm along the road. To the south of the road and extending towards the southwest lies both the Renfrewshire Heights SSSI and SPA, and the West Renfrew Hills Local Landscape Area.



4.2 Policy 14 applies to the Countryside designation:

## "POLICY 14 - GREEN BELT AND COUNTRYSIDE

Development in the Green Belt and Countryside will only be permitted if it is appropriately designed, located, and landscaped, and is associated with:

- a) agriculture, horticulture, woodland or forestry;
- b) a tourism or recreational use that requires a countryside location;
- c) infrastructure with a specific locational need;

- d) the appropriate re-use of a redundant stone or brick building, the retention of which is desirable for its historic interest or architectural character, subject to that interest or character being retained; or
- e) intensification (including extensions and outbuildings) of an existing use, which is within the curtilage of the associated use and is of an appropriate scale and form.

Proposals associated with the uses set out in criteria a)-c) must provide justification as to why the development is required at the proposed location."

- 4.3 The proposed development would fall under section *b)* a tourism or recreational use that requires a countryside location. This type of holiday accommodation is particularly aimed at a rural setting and to take advantage of the opportunities the setting provides i.e., walking, cycling, fishing etc. The Proposal Map also indicates that Policy 19 would apply but following a legal challenge section 7 of the LDP containing this policy has been rescinded.
- 4.4 The proposal map shows the site as being within the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park covered by Policy 37:

## "POLICY 37 - CLYDE MUIRSHIEL REGIONAL PARK

Proposals for development within Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park will be considered with regard to the Park Objectives and Strategy and to the Park's statutory purpose of providing recreational access to the countryside."

4.5 The Objects of the Park are stated as follows on its dedicated website:

## "Our objectives

**Educate** - We are seeking to advance the general public's understanding of the Regional Park and its environment.

**Protection** - We want to protect the Park against inappropriate development.

**Ecology** - We want to safeguard the ecology and the landscape.

**Conserve** - We look forward to conserving and developing the Park for the benefit and amenity of the general public & local communities who use and benefit from the park.

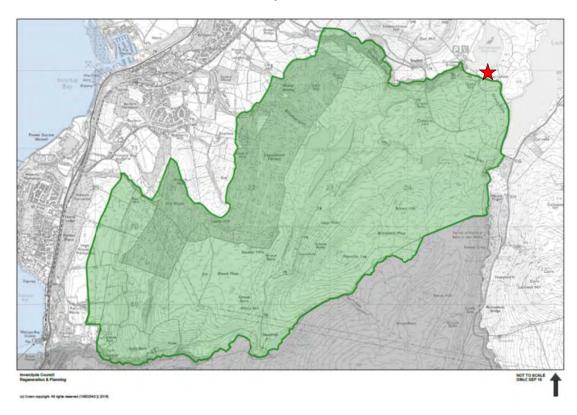
**Restoration** - We want to protect, conserve and restore the habitats and biodiversity of the Regional Park.

**Access** - Promote public access throughout the park in conjunction with the landowners and local authorities, in line with Land Reform legislation and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code."

4.6 The main objective where the proposals can positively contribute is through providing better access to the park for recreation, however there is also scope to provide positive benefits through access to the nearby Visitor Centre and to

positively enhance the ecology and biodiversity through appropriate design. The proposals are intended to provide accommodation with an ecologically friendly and sustainable ethos to help minimise any impacts and promote enhancements where possible. This can be achieved in the design of the land surrounding the lodges, through material choices and in the specification of the green roof systems.

## West Renfrew Hills Local Landscape Area



- 4.7 The Local Landscape Area (LLA) designation is a relatively new one but closely follows the area which was previously recognised as a Regional Scenic Area. Its extents are indicated in the excerpt above. The purposes of LLA designations are stated as:
  - "Safeguard and enhance the character and quality of a landscape which is important or particularly valued locally or regionally; or
  - promote understanding and awareness of the distinctive character and special qualities of local landscapes; or
  - safeguard and promote important local settings for outdoor recreation and tourism."
- 4.8 Much of the description of the landscape is shared with the Rugged Moorland Hills Landscape Character type, with an emphasis on the remote unsettled character and views to and from the raised area. Many of these views seem to orientate towards the west and southwest towards the Clyde Estuary. As the site lies close to, but out with the designated area, the visual relationship

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between it and the LLA will be the key consideration. The West Renfrewshire Hills Statement of Importance views are described as follows:

"Views and skylines – West Renfrew Hills boast a panoramic view stretching to the southwest over the Isle of Bute across the length of the Cowal Peninsula northwards to the Holy Loch and the Rosneath Peninsula. The Renfrew Heights and plateau moorlands separating the Clyde and the Ayrshire basin to the south create strong and containing skylines. These come together to emphasise this narrow part of the Inner Firth of Clyde. The coastal part of Inverclyde is one of the few areas where southwest Highlands. These views across the Firth of Clyde emphasise the contrast between the remote upland and the developed lowlands. views extend beyond the Clyde basin, extending to the Argyll coast and into the Landscape planning and management should aim to conserve the character and special qualities of these Rugged Moorland Hills. Developments and land use changes which undermine the sense of perceived wildness, naturalness and remoteness should be resisted."

4.9 This visual relationship will be assessed in more detail in course of this report.

## **Conclusions**

4.10 Providing the proposed development is designed in a manner which is sensitive to the rural location its nature as a recreational opportunity, promoting access to the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, should mean that it does not conflict with the policies of the Local Development Plan. There are also ways in which it should be possible to positively create benefits through the detailed design of the site and landscape.

## 5. Proposals

- 5.1 The proposed development seeks to construct 12no eco lodge chalet buildings within the land to the north of Cornalees Farm, between it and the edge of the Compensation Reservoir. These would be accessed by a loop road from the existing road to the south of the farm and be set within the existing topography.
- 5.2 The chalets themselves are designed to fit into the landscape with low pitched green roofs and stone and render walling to ensure that they have a natural appearance which reflects the material which exist within the existing landscape. Each chalet would have two parking bays for guests and a decking area.



- 5.3 The overall facility would also be services by a flat roofed support and admin building which would have a similar style of material and green roof.
- 5.4 The proposed layout of the development is shown on the following page.



## 6. Landscape Impacts

6.1 The current edition of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact emphasises the need to consider landscape impacts and visual impacts separately. It is therefore necessary, in this section, to consider how the proposed development is liable to affect the existing landscape on both a local and wider scale.

## **Physical Impacts**

6.2 The site was formerly used as grazing as part of the now disused Cornalees Farm. A mast for a now disused wind turbine sits upon the land northeast of the farm on a concrete platform. This is soon to be dismantled and removed. There are no other structures upon the site where the cabins would sit.



- 6.3 The area proposed appears, in part, to be a transitional zone between the grassland and the water edge with vegetation varying and the ground becoming rough and uneven. This will require some localised work to form platforms for the cabins and access.
- 6.4 There is no risk of rising water levels due to the outflow system for the Compensation Reservoir which maintains the water height at a constant.

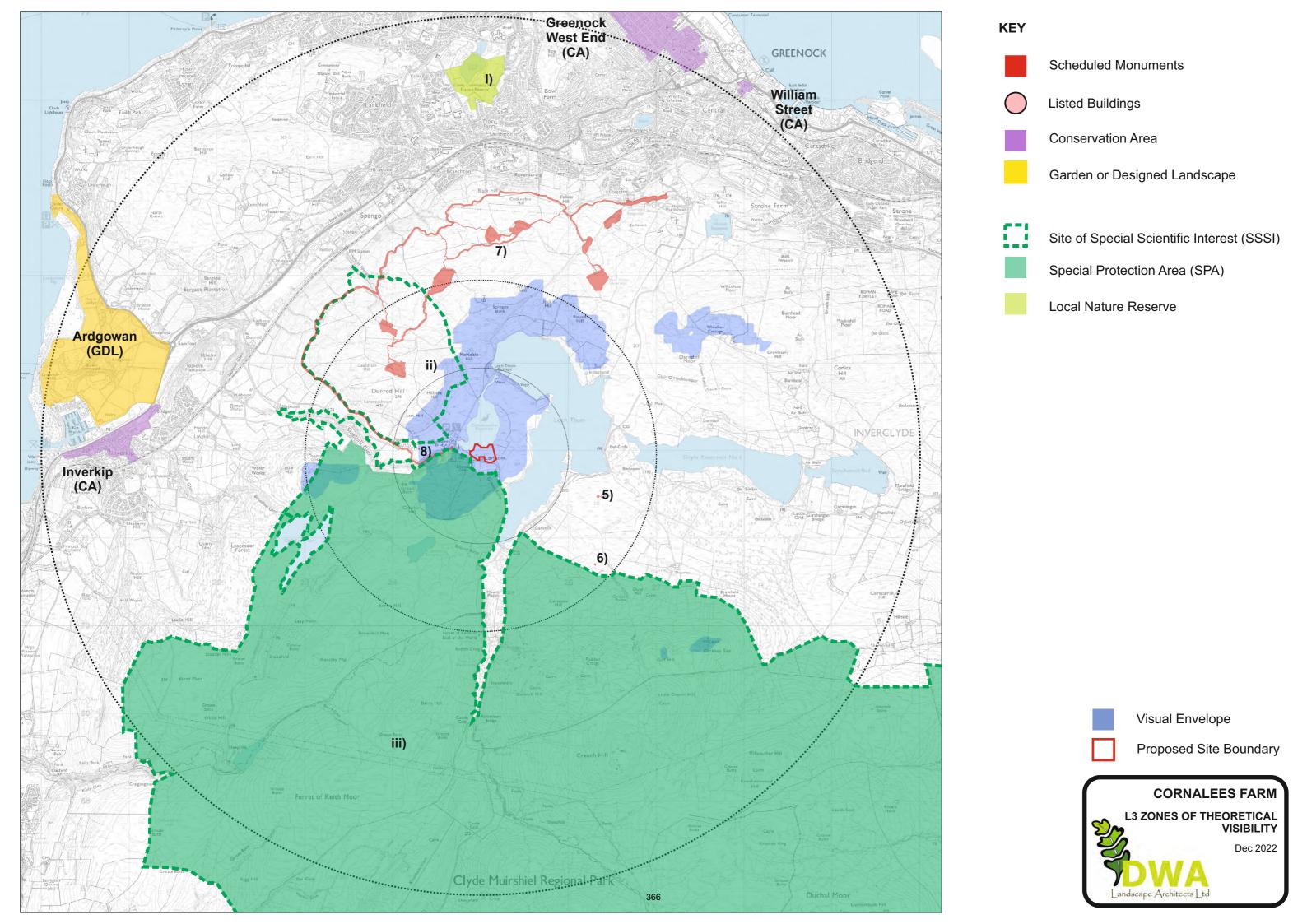
# **Landscape Character Impacts**

6.5 The landscape character of the wider area is on of remoteness and an unsettled landscape, however the site sites at a point which is potentially out with this wider character. There is a cluster of buildings at the southern and western edge of the Compensation Reservoir as it outflows into the Greenock Cut water system and the water body itself is in fact man made, albeit long established. There is scope to implement some appropriate small-scale development which will be associated with the existing buildings and road infrastructure in this location so long as its visual presence within the wider landscape is limited and that it is sensitively designed to be in keeping with the natural landscape.



#### **Conclusions**

6.6 There do not appear to be any significant impacts upon the landscape which would potentially be caused by the proposed development.



# 7. Visual Impacts

# **Zone of Theoretical Visibility**

- 7.1 The following is a study of the visual envelope that the proposed development would be anticipated to create, i.e., the parcel of land from which the turbine would be seen. For the purposes of this study an area of 5km in all directions from the site was therefore used for a detailed visual analysis. This is considered as a more than adequate radius to cover the likely impacts caused by the proposed building within this landscape, and given the contextual factors described in the previous sections. The analysis follows the method set out in "Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Assessment" Third Edition 2013, published by the Landscape Institute.
- 7.2 The visual envelope has been established through ground model analysis software and topographical Land-Form PROFILE data supplied by Ordnance Survey. The 'Zones of Theoretical Visibility' (ZTV) output data show the areas from which the site can be seen based on the topography of the landscape alone. The ground model takes no account of settlements or built structures in the landscape and is a "Bare Earth" representation.
- 7.3 Within the ZTV, there will be areas, which will have a higher degree of visual sensitivity than others. Elements from which the site can be seen from are referred to as visual receptors. These visual receptors have been considered through desktop study and then with on-site analysis.

#### Visual envelope over 5km

7.4 Drawing L3 shows the visual envelope produced by the ZTV computer model for the proposed development. The cauldron formation around the two large water bodies heavily influences the visual envelope, as does the position of the proposed development close to the water line of the lower Compensation Reservoir. This low-lying position relative to the surrounding landscape means that potential views are contained. These extend to the faces of the slopes on the hills facing towards the reservoir on Hillside Hill, McNoble Hill, Scroggy Bank, White Hill, Jocks Hill and Round Hill. There are very few notable visual receptors upon these hills although a system of footpaths provide access to them. To the south the visual envelope extends into the LLA for a short distance but is curtailed by the rise then fall of Crawhin Hill. To the east the views are limited by the topography rising towards Loch Thom which sits on higher ground. Views out with this hill formation will not generally be possible and so generally limited to within 1km to southeast and west and to 2km to the north across the reservoir. Some scattered pockets on high ground are theoretically

- possible in the wider landscape but in reality, the distance and accessibility of the locations will mean that any impacts would be negligible.
- 7.5 The visual envelope is a theoretical representation of potential sight lines which in reality will be fa less when localised variations in the topography and screening elements are considered. An on-site visual appraisal has therefore been undertaken to assess the more detailed visual impacts which may result in the local landscape within the ZTV area.

# Receptors

7.6 An assessment of the impact upon the main receptors which lie within a 5km radius of the site has been made. Drawing L3 show the Zones of Theoretical Visibility or ZTV diagram which has been prepared using the method described previously. Coloured areas show a theoretical visibility of the turbine and clear areas show that views will not be possible from these locations. In addition to the settlements there are other features such as transport routes, core paths, regional parks and cycle networks which are also considered as receptors, requiring analysis.

# **Determination of impact levels**

- 7.7 Impacts reduce considerably the further the receptor is from the subject. The sensitivity of the receptor is also considered to ascertain its susceptibility to impact. This is assessed through consideration of the nature of the receptor i.e., the number of people who might see a development and the reason they are there i.e., a passing view or a permanent residence. Permanent residences will have a potentially high sensitivity to visual impact in their primary views (and to a lesser extent in their secondary views) as will tourist attractions or landscapes with designated value. Transport routes, industrial complexes and farms may have less sensitivity and some conservation sites or historic features may have even less.
- 7.8 The impacts of the proposal are then assessed, firstly based on the visual envelope model, and then through site study which will establish a predicted magnitude of change in the views from a receptor, should the development be implemented. This will be determined by assessing the existing view of the site from the receptor and predicting how this will change, taking into account the distance to the turbine, the existing features and screening elements (or lack of), the orientation of primary views and the overall composition of the view in light of the proposal.
- 7.9 The resulting impact takes into consideration the distance to the receptor, the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of change caused by implementing

the proposal. This is subject to the professional opinion of the landscape architect, through basing the assessment on physical data and on-site observation. It is intended that the resultant impact will represent as true a reflection as is possible.

- 7.10 The following receptors have been separated into 5 categories as listed below:
  - o Farms, Dwellings and Small Hamlets
  - Towns and Villages
  - Transport Routes
  - Cultural Heritage
  - Nature Conservation

# FARMS, DWELLINGS AND SMALL HAMLETS

- 7.11 Small farmsteads or rural households will be sensitive to changes in their permanent views although these may often be mitigated by the presence of agricultural outbuildings and a general anticipation of industrial or agricultural activity across the landscape.
- 7.12 There are very few permanent dwellings of any sort in the immediate vicinity of the site with the site with the farm at Cornalees currently vacant and Loch Thom Cottage also appearing to be disused. To the west lie the Greenock Cut Visitor Centre and fishery which are not residential but well used. These will have views of the development and some visual impact would result. The nature of the proposals as low density eco cabins with green rooves will mean that any impacts are minimal however and in keeping with the recreational nature of the receptor types.

#### **TOWNS AND VILLAGES**

- 7.13 These receptor types refer to larger rural settlements, villages and towns. These groups of receptors are made up of a range of individual receptors of significant levels of sensitivity including many listed buildings. Sensitivity will therefore be high. This is generally mitigated by the increase in density of screening elements within these types of receptors such as tree cover and built structures. Often, they are also associated with water courses and historically are located in sheltered niches in the landscape helping to further limit views in some directions.
- 7.14 As the significant settlement in the study area all lie on the lower coastal zone to the north and west, they are all out with the visual envelope and no impacts would be experienced.

#### TRANSPORT ROUTES

- 7.15 Receptors travelling along main transport routes will experience a constantly changing view of the surrounding countryside. Some views will be brief, and others may change more gradually over distance, but all will generally be briefly experienced, and the degree of impact will alter quickly as progress is made on the route. Orientation relative to direction of travel can also be a factor as views which fall directly in the line of sight will be more noticeable than those lying perpendicular to the direction of travel.
- 7.16 The narrow track road which runs past the south of Cornalees farm will have views of the site although the design and lower position of the lodges will mean that most views would be of the green roof surfaces. Visibility would be possible from around the outflow weir of the reservoir to the west and around 50m after the road turns southwards to the east of the site. Beyond these points the topography of the landscape around the road will screen any views to the site. Views from any other roads in the wider landscape will not be possible.
- 7.17 There are a number of Core Paths which cross the landscape which may have views to the development. The path which comes from the Greenock / Kelly Cut and along the western side of the Compensation Reservoir, past the Loch Thom Dam and through the pass between White Hill and Jock's Hill towards Greenock. This path will have clear views across the reservoir to the site from around the visitor centre and from the rising track towards the summit. There may be some disruption to views around the dam but only briefly. The views will generally be over distance and from above so the lodges would be against the backdrop of the landscape and the green roof surfaces would again help to mitigate any impacts on the views. Additional appropriate native planting could further help to integrate the lodges into the landscape and overall, the low density and style of the lodges would mean that impacts would be medium to low (relative to distance).

#### **CULTURAL HERITAGE**

- 7.18 Cultural heritage receptors can be historical elements within the landscape such as Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings or Designed Gardens and Landscapes or can simply be significant local features which contribute to the character of the study area. Levels of sensitivity will vary greatly depending on the nature of the receptor and may not be related to their classification but rather their function, attraction to visitors and the importance of "setting" to their character.
- 7.19 The only cultural heritage feature which could have potential views of the development would be the section of the Greenock Cut immediately at the southwestern corner of the reservoir. This feature falls away rapidly from the

weir into a tree lined gulley so views would very quickly be screened and would be partially screened by the presence of the boat house adjacent. A series of footpaths emerge from this location, but the topography quickly screens views with the site on lower ground across the road. Amy impacts would be very low.

#### NATURE CONSERVATION

- 7.20 Nature Conservation Sites are usually designated for their ecological or geological features or for their aesthetic value. Generally the former types of sites have a low sensitivity to visual impact but often have the potential to draw visitors to them and so should be considered. The latter types of sites such as Local Landscape Areas have a potentially higher sensitivity to visual impact as they have been designated in order to preserve their visual qualities.
- 7.21 Some views are predicted in the edges of the Dunrod Hill and Renfrewshire Heights SSSIs, but the majority would be unaffected, and these are low sensitivity designations in terms of visual impacts.
- 7.22 An area of the West Renfrewshire Hills on the north facing slope of Crawhin Hill could potentially be affected but this is an area of sheep grazing so unlikely to be of great sensitivity. In the wider designation key views tend to be to the north and west out across the Clyde Estuary towards the islands and Argyle which would not be affected, with Crawhin Hill forming a screen to any views across the wider LLA. Any impacts upon this designated landscape would therefore be very low and any impact on the wider character or key defining features of the Local Landscape Area would be negligible.

#### Conclusions

#### Impact from 0 to 1km

7.23 The nature of the landscape around the site means that there are very few significant visual receptors which could be impacted. In addition to this the cauldron like formation of the topography around the Compensation Reservoir and the difference in height between it and Loch Thom helps to constrain any potential views over distance. There will be some visibility from the Visitor Centre and fishery and from a short section of the road immediately south of the reservoir. Beyond these locations views will quickly be screened by the topography and low-lying position of the proposed lodges. This along with the design of the lodges in a low-density formation with natural materials and green rooves will help to mitigate any impacts. This mitigation could be further enhanced through nature planting in the landscape to help the lodges blend into the landscape.

# Impact from 1 to 2km

7.24 To the north views extend further due to the open water which lies in this direction however these are curtailed by the series of hills which sit at the end of the water bodies separating them from the coastal area and settlements beyond. These hills have few features but are crossed by a system of footpaths. Views will be possible from the Core Path on the west of the reservoir which rises along the side of White Hill before passing a gap and falling towards Greenock. There will be clear views of the development from the path but from an elevated position which will see the lodges against the backdrop of the landscape and for the most part over distance. The green roof surfaces will help to mitigate impacts of the lodges and gain native planting would help to further reduce any impacts. Overall, the nature of the low density development amid the wide panoramic views from the path would mean that impacts upon the path would be low.

# Impact from 2 to 5km

7.25 There will be no visibility of visual impact in the landscape at this range.

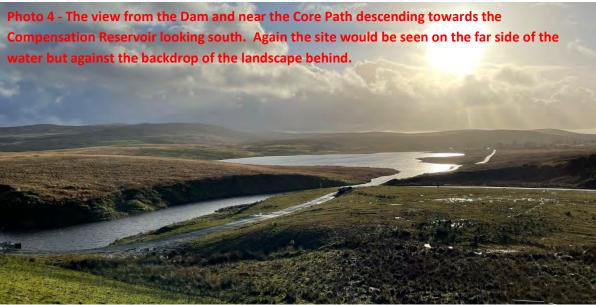
# 8. Photographic study

8.1 The following photograph study has been included to illustrate the assessment set out in the previous sections and were taken at the time of the onsite appraisal on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022.











DWA Landscape Architects Ltd





DWA Landscape Architects Ltd

Photo 8 - The view looking north from the road to the south, from the eastern side of the site. From this area the views of the farm and reservoir behind open up with the lodges located on the lower ground between the farm and water.



DWA Landscape Architects Ltd

# 9. Conclusions

#### **Contextual Conclusions**

9.1 The remote nature of the site on the plateau landscape combined with the cauldron topography of the immediate area around the water bodies mean that there are relatively few built features within the landscape – with some notable exception. The nearby Greenock Cut Visitor Centre and path system provide a well-used recreational facility and is likely one of the motivating factors for the type of development proposed. There are some large-scale natural heritage designations within the study area but other than the broad designation of the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park these do not apply directly to the site. Impacts upon these in the wider landscape features will be considered in the course of the assessment.

# **Landscape Character Conclusions**

9.2 The landscape type has significance both inwardly and in the wider context with views towards them from the Clyde Valley Basin and Glasgow Conurbation. They are notable for their remote nature despite proximity to heavily settled areas. Visual impacts in this large-scale landscape may therefore be significant when over a wide area or when seen from out with the area. It is important to retain the sense of naturalness within the landscape but subtle development in appropriate location should be able to be accommodated within the large-scale setting without unduly impacting the overall character.

# **Planning Policy Conclusions**

9.3 Provided the proposed development is designed in a manner which is sensitive to the rural location its nature as a recreational opportunity, promoting access to the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, should mean that it does not conflict with the Policies of the Local Development Plan. There are also ways in which it should be possible to positively create benefits through the detailed design of the site and landscape.

#### **Landscape Impact Conclusions**

9.4 There do not appear to be any significant impacts upon the landscape which would potentially be caused by the proposed development.

# **Visual Impact Conclusions**

# Impact from 0 to 1km

9.5 The nature of the landscape around the site means that there are very few significant visual receptors which could be impacted. In addition to this the cauldron like formation of the topography around the Compensation Reservoir and the difference in height between it and Loch Thom helps to constrain any potential views over distance. There will be some visibility from the Visitor Centre and fishery and from a short section of the road immediately south of the reservoir. Beyond these locations views will quickly be screened by the topography and low-lying position of the proposed lodges. This along with the design of the lodges in a low-density formation with natural materials and green rooves will help to mitigate any impacts. This mitigation could be further enhanced through nature planting in the landscape to help the lodges blend into the landscape.

### Impact from 1 to 2km

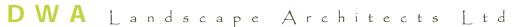
9.6 To the north views extend further due to the open water which lies in this direction however these are curtailed by the series of hills which sit at the end of the water bodies separating them from the coastal area and settlements beyond. These hills have few features but are crossed by a system of footpaths. Views will be possible from the Core Path on the west of the reservoir which rises along the side of White Hill before passing a gap and falling towards Greenock. There will be clear views of the development from the path but from an elevated position which will see the lodges against the backdrop of the landscape and for the most part over distance. The green roof surfaces will help to mitigate impacts of the lodges and gain native planting would help to further reduce any impacts. Overall, the nature of the low density development amid the wide panoramic views from the path would mean that impacts upon the path would be low.

#### Impact from 2 to 5km

9.7 There will be no visibility of visual impact in the landscape at this range.

#### Recommendations

- 9.8 The green roof systems should be planted with similar species to those in the surrounding landscape and, where possible, using turves lifted from the site during construction to ensure local provenance.
- 9.9 Spaces between lodges and along road should be planted with appropriate native species to help integrate the development into the landscape.







# Mr Euan Caskie

# Proposed Development at Cornalees Farm, Inverclyde

Flood Risk Assessment

August 2023

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# **Table of Contents**

1		Introduction	1
2		Legislative and Policy Aspects	
	2.1	NPF4	
	2.2	Local Authority Policy and Guidance with Respect to Flood Risk  SEPA Technical Flood Risk Guidance	
	2.3	Guidance and Policy Constraints with Relevance to Current Site	
		1 Land Use Vulnerability and Design Event	
		2 Constraints on Developable Area	
		2.4.2.1 Surface Water Flooding	
	2.4.	3 Climate Change Considerations	
	2.4.	4 Development Levels and Finished Floor Levels	8
		5 Site Access Considerations	
	2.4.	6 Other Flooding Risks	8
		2.4.6.1 Coastal Flooding	
		2.4.6.2 Reservoir Flooding	
		2.4.6.3 Site Drainage and Sewer Flooding	6
		2.4.6.4 Culverts and Watercourses	9
		2.4.6.5 Existing Flood Defences	
		2.4.6.6 Canal Flooding	
		2.4.6.7 CAR Regulations	9
3		Site Location and Description	10
	3.1	General Site Description	. 10
4		Hydrology Assessment	.15
	4.1	Catchment Delineation: Drains 1, 2 and 3	
	4.2	Design Flow Estimation	15
5		Hydraulic Modelling	17
	5.1	2D Hydraulic Model Build	17
	5.2	Model Results	18
6		Flood Risk Assessment	21
	6.1	Fluvial flooding	
	6.2	Surface Water Flooding	. 22
	6.3	Reservoir Flooding	
	6.4	Groundwater Flooding	
	6.5	Flood Risk to Access	24
7		Flood Management	.25
8		Summary and Conclusions	.26
SI	EPA	CHECKLIST	27
		of Figures	
	-	e 1: General location of the site	
Fi	gure	e 2: Detailed site description	10

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Figure 3: Site topography from LiDAR & location of cross-section	11
Figure 4: Cross-section of the site	11
Figure 5: Catchment areas of Drains 1, 2, and 3	15
Figure 6: Model schematic	18
Figure 7: 1 in 200-year plus climate change event flood depth map	19
Figure 8: 1-Hour, 1 in 200-year + climate change rainfall event	22
List of Tables	
Table 4-1: Catchment characteristics	16
Table 4-2: Design flows	16
Table 5-1: Sensitivity water levels (m AOD)	20
List of Photographs	
Photo 1: Site overview facing east	12
Photo 2: Dunrod Road facing west (drain 3 on right side of road)	13
Photo 3: Channels forming Drain 1 and 2	13
Photo 4: Damaged culvert 3 (under existing farm access)	
Photo 5: Downstream of Culvert 2 (Drain 2)	14
Photo 6: Channel form (Burn 2)	19
Photo 7: Oversnill of the compensation reservoir	

# 1 Introduction

Kaya Consulting Limited was commissioned by Mr Euan Caskie through Cowal Design Ltd. to undertake a Flood Risk Assessment in support of a holiday lodge development at Cornalees Farm in the Inverclyde Council area.

The site consists of greenfield land measuring approximately 4.2 hectares in area. The site is located just off Dunrod Road, east of Inverkip. The site is bounded to the north by a compensation reservoir of Loch Thom, to the south by the Dunrod Road, and to the east and west by greenfield land.

The main source of flood risk is thought to be from a series of informal drains which are represented as surface water flows upon consultation with the SEPA indicative flood maps.

The scope of work includes the following:

- Walkover site visit
- Review of historical maps
- Consultation with Inverciyde Council to identify any records of flooding in this area
- Assessment of flood risk from fluvial sources
- Assessment of surface water flooding risk. This will be based on rainfall-runoff modelling using available LiDAR data
- Assessment of risk from other sources, such as groundwater and existing drainage systems
- Liaison with the developer to identify constraints at the site and options for development
- Flood risk assessment report suitable for submission with a planning application, assuming all risks can be mitigated

Information made available to Kaya Consulting Limited for the study includes the following:

- Site location map
- Indicative site layout plan
- Topographical survey information
- LiDAR DTM data

A general location map of the site is shown in **Figure 1**.

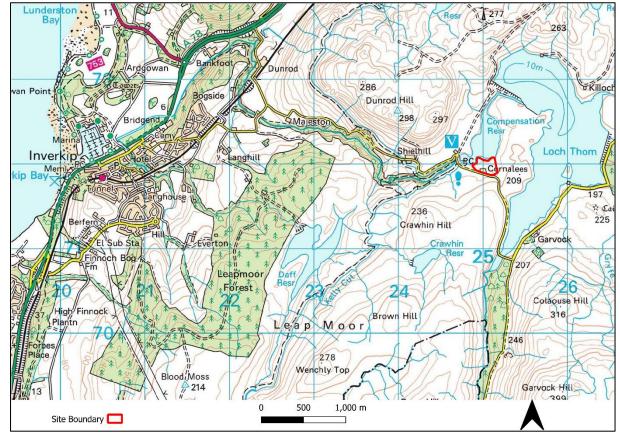


Figure 1: General location of the site

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# 2 Legislative and Policy Aspects

# 2.1 NPF4

Under NPF4 Flood Risk Management requires explicit consideration of climate change, consistent with the key over-arching policies of NPF4, for example;

Climate mitigation and adaptation - Policy 2

Under 2b) NP4 notes 'Development proposals will be sited and designed to adapt to current and future risks from climate change'

In addition, development leading to improvements to channels and river habitats should be encouraged as shown by;

Biodiversity - Policy 3

Under 3a NPF4 notes 'Development proposals will contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity, including where relevant, restoring degraded habitats and building and strengthening nature networks and the connections between them. Proposals should also integrate nature-based solutions where possible'

Furthermore, numerous policies point towards assisting in the re-development of brownfield and other previously developed sites.

In terms of Flood Risk the definition of Flood risk area or at risk of flooding is;

For planning purposes, at risk of flooding or in a flood risk area means land or built form with an annual probability of being flooded of greater than 0.5% which must include an appropriate allowance for future climate change.

This risk of flooding is indicated on SEPA's future flood maps or may need to be assessed in a flood risk assessment. An appropriate allowance for climate change should be taken from the latest available guidance and evidence available for application in Scotland. The calculated risk of flooding can take account of any existing, formal flood protection schemes in determining the risk to the site.

Where the risk of flooding is less than this threshold, areas will not be considered 'at risk of flooding' for planning purposes, but this does not mean there is no risk at all, just that the risk is sufficiently low to be acceptable for the purpose of planning. This includes areas where the risk of flooding is reduced below this threshold due to a formal flood protection scheme.

In contrast to SPP, NPF4 defines a flood risk area as one that lies within the 200-year + climate change floodplain.

Consistent with SPP assessments need to consider flooding from all sources including;

- Watercourse/Fluvial Flooding
- Pluvial Flooding
- Sewer Flooding
- Groundwater Flooding
- Coastal Flooding

Access to sites during flooding is defined as;

Egress (safe, flood free pedestrian access and egress), A route for the movement of people (not vehicles) of all abilities (on foot or with mobility assistance) between the development and a place of safety outwith the design flood level.

The key policy related to flood risk management is;

Flood Risk and Water Management – Policy 22

Policy Intent – To strengthen resilience to flood risk by promoting avoidance as a first principle and reducing the vulnerability of existing and future development to flooding

- a) Development proposals at risk of flooding or in a flood risk area will only be supported if they are for:
  - i. essential infrastructure where the location is required for operational reasons;
  - ii. water compatible uses;
  - iii. redevelopment of an existing building or site for an equal or less vulnerable use; or.
  - iv. redevelopment of previously used sites in built up areas where the LDP has identified a need to bring these into positive use and where proposals demonstrate that longterm safety and resilience can be secured in accordance with relevant SEPA advice

The protection offered by an existing formal flood protection scheme or one under construction can be taken into account when determining flood risk.

In such cases, it will be demonstrated by the applicant that:

- all risks of flooding are understood and addressed;
- there is no reduction in floodplain capacity, increased risk for others, or a need for future flood protection schemes;
- the development remains safe and operational during floods;
- flood resistant and resilient materials and construction methods are used; and
- future adaptations can be made to accommodate the effects of climate change.

Additionally, for development proposals meeting criteria part iv), where flood risk is managed at the site rather than avoided these will also require:

- the first occupied/utilised floor, and the underside of the development if relevant, to be above the flood risk level and have an additional allowance for freeboard; and
- that the proposal does not create an island of development and that safe access/ egress can be achieved.
- b) Small scale extensions and alterations to existing buildings will only be supported where they will not significantly increase flood risk.
- c) Development proposals will:
  - i. not increase the risk of surface water flooding to others, or itself be at risk.
  - ii. manage all rain and surface water through sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), which should form part of and integrate with proposed and existing bluegreen infrastructure.
  - All proposals should presume no surface water connection to the combined sewer;
  - iii. seek to minimise the area of impermeable surface.
- d) Development proposals will be supported if they can be connected to the public water mains. If connection is not feasible, the applicant will need to demonstrate that water for drinking water purposes will be sourced from a sustainable water source that is resilient to periods of water scarcity.
- e) Development proposals which create, expand or enhance opportunities for natural flood risk management, including blue and green infrastructure, will be supported

Compared to SPP, it is noted that the concept of the 'functional floodplain' is no longer part of the policies, neither is the discussion of land raising and compensatory storage. From the various policies it would appear that avoidance is the first principle, i.e., no development in areas at risk from the 1 in 200-year + climate change event; but given the focus on brownfield development it would appear NPF4 will give more flexibility for such sites in that the existing floodplain has lesser importance (i.e., no functional floodplain) allowing flexibility in terms of changing the land form within the site to allow development, while promoting natural flood management measures (opening of culverts) and improvements to biodiversity.

For sites close to the coast Policy 10 considers risks from erosion and flooding. Coastal Development – Policy 10

- a) Development proposals in developed coastal areas will only be supported where the proposal:
  - i. does not result in the need for further coastal protection measures taking into account future sea level change; or increase the risk to people of coastal flooding or coastal erosion, including through the loss of natural coastal defences including dune systems; and ii. is anticipated to be supportable in the longterm, taking into account projected climate change.
- b) Development proposals in undeveloped coastal areas will only be supported where they:
  - i. are necessary to support the blue economy, net zero emissions or to contribute to the economy or wellbeing of communities whose livelihood depend on marine or coastal activities, or is for essential infrastructure, where there is a specific locational need and no other suitable site:
  - ii. do not result in the need for further coastal protection measures taking into account future sea level change; or increase the risk to people of coastal flooding or coastal erosion, including through the loss of natural coastal defences including dune systems; and iii. are anticipated to be supportable in the long-term, taking into account projected climate change; or
  - iv. are designed to have a very short lifespan
- c) Development proposals for coastal defence measures will be supported if:
  - i. they are consistent with relevant coastal or marine plans;
  - ii. nature-based solutions are utilised and allow for managed future coastal change wherever practical; and
  - iii. any in-perpetuity hard defense measures can be demonstrated to be necessary to protect essential assets.
- d) Where a design statement is submitted with any planning application that may impact on the coast it will take into account, as appropriate, long-term coastal vulnerability and resilience

# 2.2 Local Authority Policy and Guidance with Respect to Flood Risk

Inverclyde Council has published their 'Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment: Planning Guidance for Developers' document which outlines the requirements for flood risk assessment submission.

The document generally follows SEPA guidance. The document outlines the process which should be followed for hydraulic modelling and culminates in an FRA checklist:

- Development will not be susceptible to damage due to flooding within the parameters set in the local plan and SPP 2014
- Normal operation of the development will not be susceptible to disruption because of flooding
- Safe access will be maintained throughout the design event.
- The development will not increase the flood risk elsewhere
- The development will provide access to Inverclyde Council to operate flood defences and maintain watercourses
- The development will not degrade the environment
- The development will meet the outlined criteria for its entire design lifetime, including account for climate change

# 2.3 SEPA Technical Flood Risk Guidance

SEPA are a statutory consultee to the planning process concerning flood risk. To support its role and to give guidance to practitioners and local authorities SEPA has published a series of guidance documents. The key documents with direct relevance to flood risk assessment are;

- SEPA (2018a), Flood Risk and Land Use Vulnerability Guidance, July 2018. https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/143416/land-use-vulnerability-guidance.pdf
- SEPA (2019a), Technical Flood Risk Guidance for Stakeholders SEPA requirements for undertaking a Flood Risk Assessment, May 2019. <a href="https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/162602/ss-nfr-p-002-technical-flood-risk-guidance-for-stakeholders.pdf">https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/162602/ss-nfr-p-002-technical-flood-risk-guidance-for-stakeholders.pdf</a>
- 3. SEPA (v2, 2022), Climate change allowances for flood risk assessment in land use planning, March 2022. <a href="https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/426913/lups\_cc1.pdf">https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/426913/lups\_cc1.pdf</a>
- 4. SEPA (2018b), Land Use Planning System, SEPA Development Plan Guidance Note 2a, July 2018. <a href="https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/306609/lups-dm-gu2a-development-management-guidance-on-flood-risk.pdf">https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/306609/lups-dm-gu2a-development-management-guidance-on-flood-risk.pdf</a>
- 5. SEPA (2018c) Planning Information Note 4: SEPA Position on development protected by a Flood Protection Scheme. <a href="https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/306610/planning-information-note-4-sepa-position-on-development-protected-by-a-flood-protection-scheme.pdf">https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/306610/planning-information-note-4-sepa-position-on-development-protected-by-a-flood-protection-scheme.pdf</a>
- 6. SEPA (2020), SEPA Flood Risk Standing Advice for Planning Authorities. November 2020. sepa-flood-risk-standing-advice-for-planning-authorities-and-developers.pdf

Reference 1 provides SEPA's assessment of land use vulnerability which allows the identification of the appropriate return period to be considered in any flood risk assessment, based on the type of development proposed.

Reference 2 is a technical guidance document intended to outline methodologies that may be appropriate for hydrological and hydraulic modelling and sets out what information SEPA requires to be submitted as part of a Flood Risk Assessment.

Reference 3 outlines the most recent SEPA guidance in terms of flow, rainfall and sea level uplifts for climate change.

Reference 4 provides additional planning guidance with respect to flood risk.

Reference 5 provides additional planning guidance with respect to built-development behind flood defences.

Reference 6 provides standing advice for developments where SEPA aren't normally consulted, such as surface water only modelling and extensions.

In addition, The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (as amended) (CAR) describes requirements for any works at or near watercourses that require licensing. SEPA are responsible for the implementation of the Regulations. SEPA's CAR Practical Guide (SEPA, 2021) provides an overview of the regulations, definition of the regimes, levels of authorisation for activities and outlines the General Binding Rules (GBRs). The latest version of the CAR Practical is available online and is regularly updated (https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/34761/car a practical guide.pdf).

With relevance to all developments, the Regulations include a requirement that surface water discharge must not result in pollution of the water environment. It also makes Sustainable Drainage Systems

(SuDS) a requirement for new development, except for runoff from a single dwelling and discharges to coastal waters.

In addition, SEPA (2017) Background Paper on the Water Environment, LUPS-BP-GU2b requires that "A buffer strip of a minimum of 6m on either side of the watercourse is recommended and should be proportional to the bank width, with wider rivers having a larger buffer strip than a narrow burn."

SEPA's (2017) table with recommended buffer strip widths is provided below. It is also noted that "a buffer strip is still required for ditches, however, there is some discretion to reduce the buffer strip to a minimum of 3m depending on requirements for access for maintenance"

Width to watercourse (top of bank)	Width of buffer strip (either side)
Less than 1m	6m
1-5m	6-12m
5-15m	12-20m
15m+	20m+

# 2.4 Guidance and Policy Constraints with Relevance to Current Site

Based on relevant policies and guidance the following sections outlines the principles and constraints under which the flood risk assessment is undertaken.

# 2.4.1 Land Use Vulnerability and Design Event

The proposed development is for a holiday accommodation site that is subject to planning control.

Based on SEPA (2018a), holiday accommodation "Holiday chalet" is considered a 'Most Vulnerable' land use. These developments are considered suitable for land outside the 1 in 200-year + climate change floodplain, in line with NPF4 guidelines.

Based on NPF, the design event for this development is a 1 in 200-year + climate change event.

# 2.4.2 Constraints on Developable Area

# 2.4.2.1 Surface Water Flooding

Land affected by surface water flooding can generally be developed assuming the surface water flood risk can be managed through the development of the site drainage system and land drainage to manage surface water entering the site from outside its boundaries. However, in some cases, where sites currently act to store surface water, development could displace surface water and increase flood risk elsewhere. In these cases, there may be a need to leave areas of surface water storage undeveloped and/or provide storage of equivalent volumes of surface water elsewhere in the site.

The assessment will consider surface water flooding risks for the 1 in 200-year + climate change event.

# 2.4.3 Climate Change Considerations

The development should be resilient against the impacts of climate change, such that properties are not predicted to flood for the design event plus climate change.

The council guidance does not state a required climate change allowance.

SEPA (2022) recommends updated climate change allowances based on UKCP18. For the study area the impact of climate change is a 41% increase in rainfall total (Clyde River Basin Region).

The assessment will consider increases due to climate change of 41%. It will assess the resilience of the site to the impact of climate change on flows. It is noted that these increases may not be consistent with increases considered by Scottish Water for drainage design.

# 2.4.4 Development Levels and Finished Floor Levels

SEPA (2018b) notes that adequate freeboard should be provided for developments involving the erection of new buildings and in the majority of cases, an adequate freeboard allowance would be 600mm above the design flood level (separate from any climate change allowance that may be applied). It is noted that other freeboards can be recommended if supported by appropriate modelling. For redevelopment of existing buildings, the freeboard allowance is considered a recommendation and should be applied as far as practicable.

The assessment will consider Finished Floor Levels based on the 1 in 200-Year + climate change flood level.

# 2.4.5 Site Access Considerations

It is important that developments can be accessed and left during flood events, so that developments do not form islands within flooded areas.

Most councils require any new development to maintain safe access/egress for the appropriate design flood event.

SEPA (2018b) requires the provision of a safe and flood free route during the design event for any development that introduces overnight accommodation onto a site, which enables the free movement of people of all abilities (on foot or with assistance) both to and from a secure place that is connected to ground above the design flood level and/or wider area.

During extreme events there will be surface water flooding on most roads if the event is higher than design conditions. When considering surface water flooding, local councils generally look for 'safe' access to a site, where flood depths are less than approx. 0.3m. However, these requirements vary depending on the size and nature of the site, and the type of development.

#### Access requirements with respect to flooding will be considered in this assessment.

It is noted that this assessment can only consider the local access restrictions to the site and cannot consider wider, regional access issues, e.g., access to hospitals remote to the site. These wider access issues need to be considered by the appropriate local authority within local plans.

# 2.4.6 Other Flooding Risks

### 2.4.6.1 Coastal Flooding

This site is not considered to be at significant risk of coastal flooding.

### 2.4.6.2 Reservoir Flooding

Reservoir flooding needs to be considered as part of this Flood Risk Assessment. This is considered in **Section 6.3**.

## 2.4.6.3 Site Drainage and Sewer Flooding

The design of the site drainage system will be undertaken by others.

#### 2.4.6.4 Culverts and Watercourses

There are not thought to be any culverts that run through the site itself based on historical and Scottish Water mapping.

# 2.4.6.5 Existing Flood Defences

SEPA (2018c) provides guidance with respect to development behind flood prevention schemes.

This site is not thought to be protected by any existing formal flood defences.

### 2.4.6.6 Canal Flooding

Canals in Scotland are operated and managed by Scottish Canals. Failures and overtopping of canals are rare and areas at risk are generally known by Scottish Canals who should be consulted for developments located close to any canal.

There are no canals within vicinity of the site and therefore the site is not considered to be at risk of canal flooding.

#### 2.4.6.7 CAR Regulations

Any crossings or changes to watercourses within the site may require a CAR licence. CAR licences are not required as part of a planning application and are generally conditioned as part of planning consent. However, during the planning process, sufficient information should be provided in a planning application so SEPA can identify whether it is likely that a CAR licence would be granted.

There are no new crossings proposed over watercourses. Crossings may be necessary over overland flow pathways, but these will not likely require a CAR licence.

# 3 Site Location and Description

# 3.1 General Site Description

Cornalees Farm is situated in the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park area of Inverclyde. Specifically, it is located to the east of the town of Inverkip. The site is positioned north of Dunrod Road and west of Loch Thom. Additionally, the Loch Thom compensation reservoir can be found directly to the north of the site.

The site boundary is shown in Figure 2.

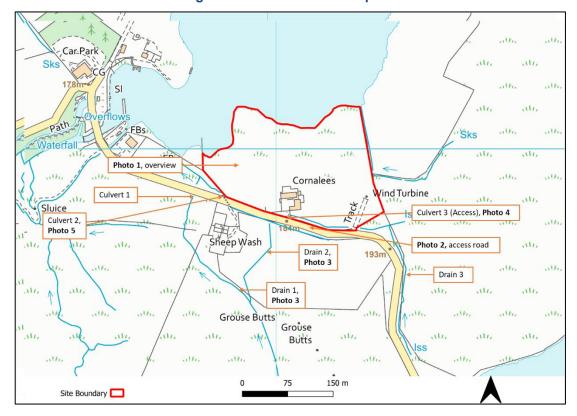


Figure 2: Detailed site description

The site and surrounding topography are shown in **Figure 3**, derived from Phase 3, 0.5m LiDAR DTM (Digital Terrain Model) data. Ground levels generally fall north across the area from the southerly hills to the reservoir in the north. The majority of the site lies between ~184m AOD and ~179m AOD, falling steeply north. There is significantly higher land to the south-east of the site and ground levels drop significantly into the compensation reservoir basin. LiDAR-derived bathymetry is not considered to be reliable and there is no clear definition of the edge of the reservoir or the depth of the reservoir. Dunrod Road runs parallel to the site and represents a change of slope in **Figure 4**, as drainage ditches can be seen in the LiDAR.

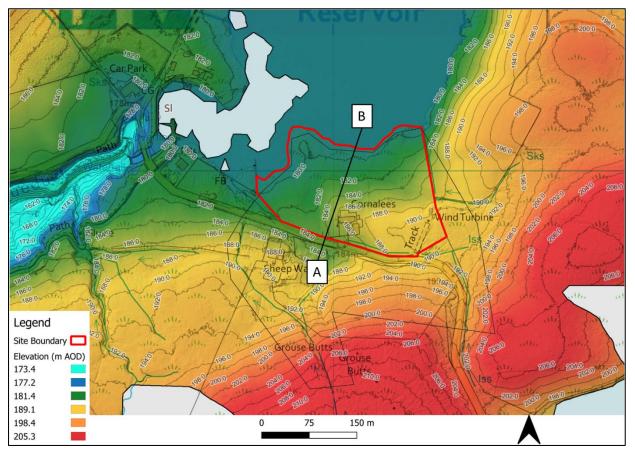
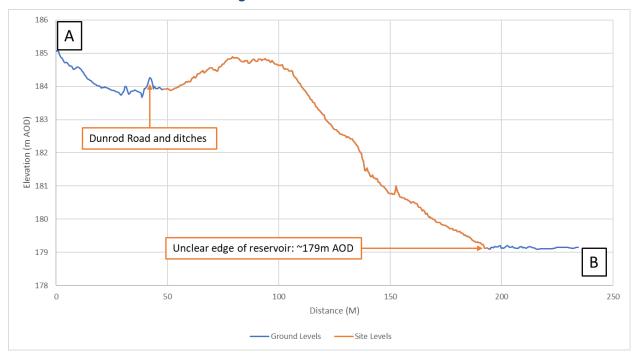


Figure 3: Site topography from LiDAR & location of cross-section





There are several small land drains surrounding the site, see **Figure 2**. Ordnance Survey maps indicate a small channel within the southern boundary of the site; however, following a site visit and investigation of LiDAR data, this drain appears to run parallel with the road and is likely road drainage. Two existing access points to the site exist. The culverts under the accesses are in poor condition and were unable to be measured. Some flow was noted rising from the line of the culvert.

A small watercourse drains a small area to the south of the site before flowing north towards the site, along then under Dunrod Road and into the drain along the road. Close to the western boundary of the site the road drainage channel veers north before eventually discharging into the compensation reservoir.

**Photos 1-5** show the character of the watercourse and associated features. Drain 3 and Culvert 1 could not be photographed.



Photo 1: Site overview facing east



Photo 2: Dunrod Road facing west (Drain 3 on right side of road)







Photo 4: Damaged Culvert 3 (under existing farm access)





# 4 Hydrology Assessment

# 4.1 Catchment Delineation: Drains 1, 2 and 3

The catchments of Drains 1, 2 and 3 are very small and are not defined on the FEH Webservice. Therefore, they have been manually delineated using Phase 3, 0.5m LiDAR DTM data in GIS software. A detailed watershed analysis along with manual contour interpretation generated the catchments which can be seen in **Figure 5**.

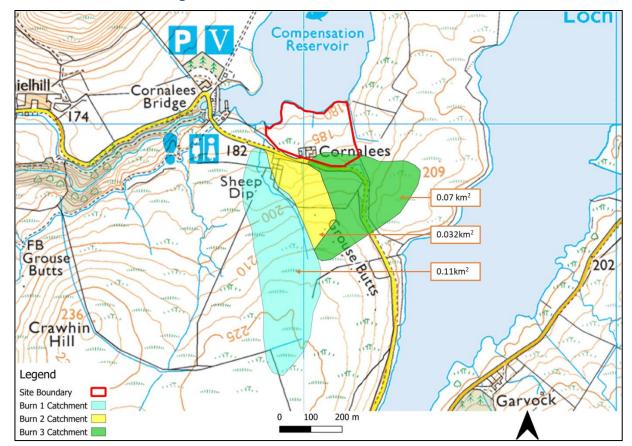


Figure 5: Catchment areas of Drains 1, 2, and 3

# 4.2 Design Flow Estimation

Design flows (**Table** 1) were estimated based on industry-standard methods suitable for a catchment of this size. These include the Institute of Hydrology Report No.124 (IH124) small catchment method and Qmed rural multiplied by the Flood Studies Report (FSR) scaling factors. The following parameters were used:

**Table 4-1: Catchment characteristics** 

Catchment parameter	Value
SAAR (mm)	1790
SOIL	0.5
FARL	1
BFIHOST	0.384
Climate change	1.41

Table 4-2: Design flows

Catchment	1 in 200-Year + Climate Change Event (m³/s)		
	IH124	Qmed*FSR	
Drain 1	0.86	1.34	
Drain 2	0.25	0.47	
Drain 3	0.56	0.91	

Comparison of the results indicates that the Qmed\*FSR method produces slightly higher flows are therefore used in the assessment.

# 5 Hydraulic Modelling

A 2D mathematical model was developed in Flood Modeller Pro software to assess the risk of fluvial flooding from the 3 minor surface water drains. The LiDAR in this area was noted to suitably represent the channels of these drains as they appear to be well defined in the Phase 3, 0.5m DTM.

## 5.1 2D Hydraulic Model Build

The Flood Modeller Pro model parameters included:

- An Active Area using LiDAR DTM data
- A grid-size resolution of 2.0m and a 1 second timestep
- A global Manning's *n* value of 0.045 due to a homogenous grassland domain
- The farm building was raised 10.0m in the LiDAR DTM.
- 100% culvert blockages due to their small size and un-inspectable state
- 3 Inflow boundaries and a Normal Depth downstream boundary condition.

The inflow boundary conditions were positioned where they have been identified on Ordnance Survey mapping as being watercourses. The adjusted Qmed method was used as inflows.

The downstream, Normal Depth, boundary condition was chosen and placed at the edge of the site where the land meets the reservoir, see **Figure 6**. This method was deemed appropriate in place of a water level boundary for 2 reasons; because the reservoir flood risk is being assessed separately; and because of the minor flows which would not significantly impact the water level of the reservoir coupled with the lack of accurate bathymetry and design water level data for compensation reservoir of Loch Thom.

To ensure that the location of the downstream boundary condition did not significantly impact the results, a range of sensitivity runs were undertaken. These include:

- A 20% increase in Manning's *n* roughness
- A 20% decrease in Normal Depth slope
- An allowance for climate change

Blockage scenarios were not included as the culverts were modelled as fully blocked.

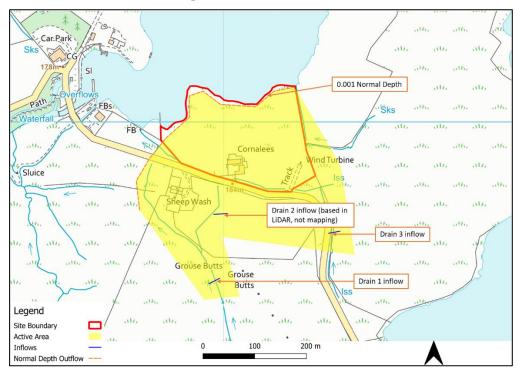


Figure 6: Model schematic

### 5.2 Model Results

The results of the 1 in 200-year + climate change event can be seen in Figure 7.

The results of the modelling predict that the channels of Drains 1 and 2 cannot contain the design flows, or that they are not fully defined in the LiDAR. **Photo 6**, below, indicates that the informal channels are very shallow, supporting the prediction that the flows will spill overland, following ground levels as surface water. The flood water is predicted to flow north towards the site, overtopping the Dunrod Road and flowing through the gulley topography, in the west section of the site. **Figure 3** shows the gulley topography.

Flows from Drain 3 are largely confined to the existing road drainage channels on both sides of the Dunroad Road. The flows are then predicted to spill from these drainage channels at the south-east corner of the site onto the Dunroad Road and follow the topography west. **Photo 2** shows the road level falling steeply west, which supports the modelling prediction.

Flooding does not exceed 0.3m in depth during the 1 in 200-year + climate change flood event, and surface water flows generally do not increase above a velocity of 0.45m/s within the model.

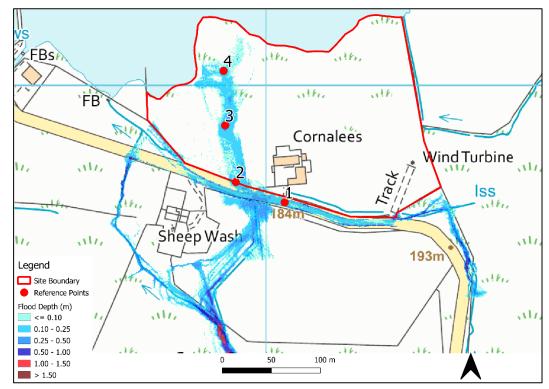


Figure 7: 1 in 200-year plus climate change event flood depth map

Photo 6: Channel form (Burn 2)



**Table 2** shows the water levels (m AOD) at 4 individual reference points (**Figure 7**). The variation between runs is around 0.01-0.05m for the Normal Depth and Manning's n runs, which is expected. The results of the sensitivity analysis were within expectations.

Table 5-1: Sensitivity water levels (m AOD)

Reference point	1 in 200- Year + CC (Base) (m)	Base + 20% increase Manning's <i>n</i> (m)	Base + 20% decrease Normal Depth slope (m)
1	184.53	0.02	0
2	183.48	0.05	0
3	181.50	0.02	0
4	180.16	0.03	0.03

## 6 Flood Risk Assessment

The flood risk assessment considers the risk from:

- Fluvial flooding
- Surface water flooding
- Reservoir flooding
- Groundwater flooding
- Safe Access

## 6.1 Fluvial flooding

Drains 1, 2, and 3 were considered in this flood risk assessment as a source of fluvial flood risk based on their appearance on OS mapping. However, the site walkover, **Photos 1-6**, and results of the hydraulic modelling in **Section 5.2** show that the minor burns, with minor catchments (**Section 4.1**) behave in a similar way to surface water. This is due to the poor, informal drainage channels, for example, **Photo 6**, not having the capacity to convey the 1 in 200-year climate change design flows which have been estimated.

Flood waters of Drain 1 and 2 come out of bank and spill overland, following ground levels north to the Dunrod Road where they continue through gulley topography (**Figure 3**) in the western section of the site before finally discharging directly into the compensation reservoir on the site's northern boundary.

Drain 3 stays within the Dunrod Road's drainage channels, generally, until it reaches the south-east corner of the site, where it comes out of bank and spills, conferencing with the flow pathway of Drain 2.

The depth does not exceed 0.3m during the 1 in 200-year + climate change flood event, and the velocity of the flooding does not generally exceed 0.45m/s.

## **6.2 Surface Water Flooding**

In addition to the modelling undertaken in **Section 5**, 2D rainfall-runoff modelling was also undertaken.

A representative rainfall hyetograph was estimated using ReFH2.3 software with FEH Web-service catchment descriptors for the most intense, 1-hour storm event.

A 41% uplift in rainfall intensity was applied to account for climate change.

The results of the surface water modelling can be seen in **Figure 8**. As with the fluvial modelling, surface water flows north, overtopping the Dunrod Road. The velocity of the surface water flows does not exceed 0.25m/s and depths generally do not exceed 0.3m anywhere in the model.

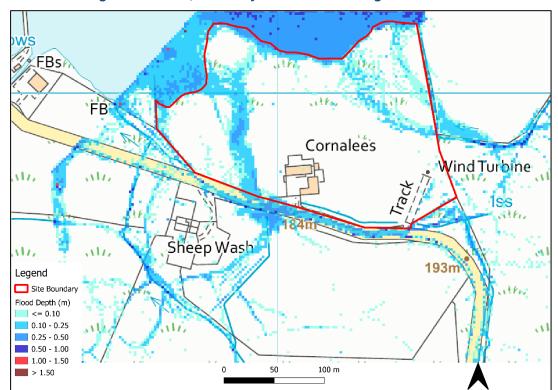


Figure 8: 1-Hour, 1 in 200-year + climate change rainfall event

## 6.3 Reservoir Flooding

The proposed site is located to the west and south of Loch Thom and its compensation reservoir. According to the FEH webservice, the catchment area that drains into the Loch covers an estimated area of up to 16km², with the primary inflow coming from the North Rotten Burn. Additionally, some flows can enter the compensation reservoir from the Kelly cut.

Water flows into Loch Thom and is retained there before being transferred to the compensation reservoir through three 1.1m diamter siphons and a spillway. A second outflow from Loch Thom can be found towards Gryfe Reservoir No. 1, situated to the east of the site.

To leave the compensation reservoir, water flows through a spillway and a small channel located at the base of the embankment.

Consultation with the SEPA indicative reservoir flood maps shows that 3 possible breach scenarios from Loch Thom could occur. South from the embankment between Loch Thom and the compensation reservoir, west over an area of raised banking to the east of the compensation reservoir and east towards the Gryfe Reservoir. The maps indicate during an uncontrolled release of water flooding to the west of the site could occur. Reservoirs are subject to strict regulations in Scotland and as such, reservoir flooding is rare.

However, as the site is bounded by the compensation reservoir to the north, the maximum water level that the compensation reservoir can reach must be considered. Flows reaching the compensation reservoir are routed over the Loch Thom Weir and are stored in the compensation reservoir before discharging over the compensation spill and into the Kip Water. Based on LiDAR data, the Loch Thom Weir compensation reservoir overspill lies at an elevation of 179.15m AOD and measures approximately 23m wide and 1.5m high, see **Photo 7**.

A reservoir routing model was constructed based on spill dimensions obtained from LiDAR and assuming bothg reservoirs are full (which is a very conservative assumption). Flows overspilling from Loch Thom are routed again through the compensation reservoir. Model results for the 200-year plus climate change event indicated that maximum water levels in the compensation reservoir could reach up to 180.6m AOD.



Photo 7: Overspill of the compensation reservoir

## 6.4 Groundwater Flooding

Based on SEPA groundwater flood maps, the site is not at significant risk of groundwater flooding. The site is located in a typically wet moorland area and groundwater levels will be linked to the levels in the adjacent reservoirs.

Recommendations to raise Finished Floor Levels, as set out in **Section 7** should help mitigate the flood risk from groundwater flooding.

Groundwater monitoring is generally undertaken as part of the geotechnical investigation. If it is determined that there is a high groundwater table in this area suitable mitigation measures should be employed to mitigate against the risk of flooding. Alterations to foundations and the positioning of SuDS so they can operate effectively may be necessary if the groundwater table is high.

### 6.5 Flood Risk to Access

**Section 5.2** shows that the proposed western access to the site is predicted to be inhibited by fluvial flood waters up to a depth of 0.3, preventing dry access in the 1 in 200-year + climate change event. However, the eastern site access has less extensive flooding, albeit at ~0.3m deep.

Recommendations as set out in **Section 7** should help mitigate the flood risk to site access.

## 7 Flood Management

Three open channels drain land to the south of the site. The channels are in poor condition and have very small catchments and are likely ephemeral in nature.

As the channels have been identified on OS mapping, they have been assessed as a fluvial risk. Model results indicate that, during a 200-year plus climate change event, flood waters from Drains 2 and 3 would overtop and flood the adjacent road and a low lying pathway through the site.

The drains are likely to be man-made and are in poor condition, with the existing culvert under Cornalees Farm significantly blocked. As a result, flooding at the site is artificial and linked to road and land drainage as the channels clearly do not follow natural topography.

Access to the proposed development will be located close to the existing flow pathway. It is recommended that options are explored to realign and naturalise Drains 2 and 3 either along their existing path or to convey through new channel routes towards Loch Thom. Such management of flood waters would be a significant improvement to flooding in the area and on the existing road network. During extreme events, this route is used as a bypass to get to Greenock and Largs by some areas of Inverclyde. There are no downstream receptors that would be impacted by such proposals but development measures would need to be discussed with land owners and SEPA/Inverclyde Council. NPF4 promotes delivering positive effects from developments and strengthening nature networks and nature-based solutions, so such plans would align with new planning policy.

Conservative reservoir routing calculations have been undertaken to route extreme flows through the adjacent reservoirs. Given the fact that new siphons have been constructed at Loch Thom, it is unlikely that both reservoirs would be sitting full prior to a 200-year plus climate change event, the joint probability of this occurring would likely exceed a 200-year plus climate change event. Model results indicate that flood waters could reach up to 180.6m AOD during an extreme event. It is recommended that finished floor levels are set to a suitable freeboard above this level. It is recommended that ground levels are arranged so that during an extreme event surcharging flood waters from the Drains or surface water culvert or sewer within the site are diverted through the site without impacting properties.

# **8 Summary and Conclusions**

Kaya Consulting Limited was commissioned by Mr Euan Caskie through Cowal Design Ltd to undertake a Flood Risk Assessment in support of a recreational holiday lodge development at Cornalees, near Inverkip in the Inverciyde Council area.

The development is categorised as a 'Most Vulnerable Land Use' based on the SEPA land use vulnerability guidance.

2D hydraulic modelling of 3 minor catchments to the south of the site showed that Drains 1, 2, and 3 do not have adequate capacity to convey the 1 in 200-year + climate change design event. Flood waters are predicted to spill overland and follow surface water pathways north, through gulley-like topography in the site, discharging into the compensation reservoir.

Rainfall-runoff modelling of the 1 in 200-year + climate change storm predicted that surface water flows north, through gulley topography in the site, such as the 2D flow modelling.

A reservoir routing model was constructed based on spill dimensions obtained from LiDAR and assuming both reservoirs are full (which is a very conservative assumption). Flows overspilling from Loch Thom are routed again through the compensation reservoir. Model results for the 200-year plus climate change event indicated that maximum water levels in the compensation reservoir could reach up to 180.6m AOD.

SEPA indicative reservoir maps show that 3 possible reservoir breach scenarios from Loch Thom could flood the western part of the site.

The site is not considered to be at significant risk of groundwater flooding.

Flood Management measures are provided in **Section 7** above.

It is good practice to design finished floor levels at an appropriate height above surrounding ground levels and arrange finished ground levels sloping away from buildings. General ground levels should be finished in a way not to allow ponding of surface water within the site which could increase the risk of flooding of properties. It is good practice to provide within the development site an appropriate overland flow route through which flood waters could escape in the event of the site being flooded during floods exceeding the design flows or following blockage of the site drainage system.

It should be noted that the risk of flooding can be reduced but not totally eliminated given the potential for events exceeding design conditions and given the inherent uncertainty associated with estimating hydrological parameters for any given site.

As with any design, maintenance is an important requirement for an effective drainage system. Regular maintenance programs need to be implemented for all components of the drainage system.

# **SEPA CHECKLIST**

SEPATION TO THE PROPERTY OF TH	essment	(FRA) Chec	klist	(SS-NFR-F-001 - Version 14 - Last updated 28/06	5/2019
This document must be attached within the front co	ver of any Floor	d Dick Accasements	issued to Local Planning Authorities (LPA)	in support of a development proposal whi	ich may he at rick of flooding. The
document will take only a few minutes to complete					ich may be at risk of hooding. The
	and will assist s	EPA III reviewing FR	As, when consulted by LPAS. This docum	ent snould not be a substitute for a FRA.	
Development Proposal Summary					
Site Name:		Comalees			
Grid Reference:	Easting:	225033	Northing: 671907		
Local Authority:			Inverciyde Council		
Planning Reference number (if known):					
Nature of the development:		Recreational		Holiday accomodation	
Size of the development site:		See report	Ha		
Identified Flood Risk:	Source:	Fluvial	Source name:	Burn 1,Burn 2 and Burn 3	
Land Use Planning					
Is any of the site within the functional floodplain? (refer to SPP para 255).		Yes		yes, what is the net loss of storage?	m <sup>3</sup>
Is the site identified within the local development plan?		No	Local Development Plan Name: Allocation Number / Reference:	South Ayrshire LDP Year o	of Publication:
If yes, what is the proposed use for the site as identified in					
the local plan?		Select from List	If Other please specify:		
Does the local development plan and/or any pre-application					
advice, identify any flood risk issues with or requirements		Select from List			
for the site.			If so, please specify:		
What is the proposed land use vulnerability?		Most Vulnerable	Do the proposals represent a	in increase in land use vulnerability?	/es
Supporting Information					
Have clear maps / plans been provided within the FRA		Yes			
(including topographic and flood inundation plans)?		105			
Has sufficient supporting information, in line with our					
Technical Guidance, been provided? For example: site		Yes			
plans, photos, topographic information, structure		res			
information and other site specific information.					
Has a historic flood search been undertaken?		Yes	If flood	records in vicinity of the site please provide details	
is a formal flood prevention scheme present?		No		If known, state the standard of protection offered	d:
Current / historical site use:		Greenfield land			
Is the site considered vacant or derelict?		No			
Development Requirements					
Freeboard on design water level:		See report	m		
Is safe / dry access and egress available?		Pedestrian Only	See Report	Min access/egress level: See Report	
Design levels:	Ground level:	See Report	m AOD	Min FFL: See Report	mAOD
Mitigation					
Can development be designed to avoid all areas at risk of flooding?		Yes			
Is mitigation proposed?		Yes	Recommendations provided		
If yes, is compenstory storage necessary?		No			
Demonstration of compensatory storage on a "like for like"					
basis?		No			
Should water resistant materials and forms of construction be used?		No			

PAGE 1 of 2

SE PAP  lama Intermedia (Intermedia (Inter	essment	(FRA) Chec	klist		(SS-NFR-F-001 - Version 14 - Last u	pdated 28/05/2019	)	
Hydrology								
Is there a requirement to consider fluvial flooding?		Yes						
Area of catchment:	1	see report	km <sup>2</sup>		Is a map of catchment area incl	uded in FRA?	Yes	
Estimation method(s) used (please select all that apply):		Pooled Analysis		lf If	Pooled analysis have group details be	en included?	Select from List	
		Single Site Analysis						
		Enhanced Single Site						
		ReFH2						
		FEH RRM Other	-	J	If other (please specify metho	dology usedly		_
Estimate of 200 year design flood flour			m³/s		il other (please specify filetio	ddiogy used).		_
Estimate of 200 year design flood flow:		see report	m/s m³/s				****	_
Qmed estimate: Statistical Distribution Selected:		NA N/A	m /s		Bassani	Method: for selection:	N/A	_
		N/A			Reasons	for selection.		
Hydraulics				Software used:	Flood Modeller			
Hydraulic modelling method:		2D	I	If other please specify:	Flood Modeller			
Number of cross sections:		NA NA	1	ii outer please specify.				
Source of data (i.e. topographic survey, LiDAR etc):		Lidar	1	Date obtained / surveyed:				
Modelled reach length:		500	m	_				
Any changes to default simulation parameters?		No		If yes please provide details:				
Model timestep:		1	1					
Model grid size:		3						_
Any structures within the modelled length?		Select from List		Specify, if combination:				
Maximum observed velocity: Brief summary of sensitivity tests, and range:		~3	m/s					
variation on flow (%)		41%	94	Please specify o	dimate change scenario considered:	Clude	Basin rainfall uplift	_
		20	0/	Ficuse specify c	mate change scenario considered.	Olyac	busin ruman upin	
variation on channel roughness (%) blockage of structure (range of % blocked)		100	76					
boundary conditions:		Upstream			Downstream			
(1) type		Flow	1		Normal depth			
3.7.21	Specify if other		•	Specify if other:				
(2) does it influence water levels at the site?		Yes			No			
Has model been calibrated (gauge data / flood records)?								
Is the hydraulic model available to SEPA?	4000				1888			
Design flood levels: Cross section results provided?	1000-year	Varies - see report	m AOD 2D mod	ind	1000 year plus climate change	Varies m A	OD	
Long section results provided?		No No	2D mod					
Cross section ratings provided?	l	No	2D mod					
Tabular output provided (i.e. levels, velocities)?	l	No	2D mod					
Mass balance error:		<3	%					
Coastal								
Is there a requirement to consider coastal / tidal flooding?		No						
Estimate of 200 year design flood level:	1	6.97	m AOD					
Estimation method(s) used:		Other		If oth	er please specify methodology used:	Environment Agen	cy Extreme Level	
Allowance for climate change (m):		0.88	m					
Allowance for wave action etc (m):			m					
Overall design flood level:		7.85	m AOD					
Comments								
Any additional comments:								
Approved by: Organisation: Date:	Michael Stewart 19-Jan-23							
Date.								

PAGE 2 of 2

Our Ref: KC2479 Your Ref:



3rd April 2024

Cowal Design

Sent by Email to: Graeme Porch < Graeme.Porch@cowaldesign.co.uk>

Dear Sir,

22/0259/IC Cornalees Farm, Dunrod Road, Inverkip, PA16 9LX Response to SEPA Consultations Response (Ref PCS-PERMS2-11471)

SEPA has provided a consultation response (SEPA Ref PCS-PERMS2-11471) for planning application 22/0259/IC for a proposed holiday development near Inverkip.

This letter provides technical responses related to the points raised in the SEPA consultation.

The responses below refer to the paragraphs within the SEPA consultation letter.

#### Point 1.1

General statement, no technical response required.

#### Point 1.2 to 1.4

The catchments upstream of the site are very small, with the three catchments impacting the site at 0.11km², 0.07km² and 0.032km². In the national catchment database (FEH Webservice) the smallest catchments considered are 0.5km², so the larger of the two catchments is <15% of the minimum size. As a result, it is felt that the use of the two simplified methods in the FRA are appropriate.

To use the ReFH2 method catchment descriptors would need to be generated manually. Descriptors were obtained for a small catchment to the east of the site (nearest small, similar catchment). Then key descriptors for ReFH2 and which need to be adjusted for a different catchment are changed, as shown in Table 1. Based on these descriptors and the ReFH2 small plot method, we obtain a flow of 1.6m³/s for the combined 0.35km² catchment for the three drains flowing towards the site. This compares with values of 1.67m³/s from IH124 in the report and 2.72m³/s for the Q<sub>med</sub> and FSR approach, which was used in the modelling assessment. This indicates that the methods used in the report are sufficiently conservative.

We have not applied the FEH Statistical approach as this would not be appropriate for catchments of this size. The statistical approach requires extrapolation from gauged sites within the national data set and

given the limited number of gauged, small catchments (<25km²) in the dataset the use of statistical approaches for catchments <10-25km² is not normally appropriate.

In the end, given the proposed development and the level of the risk, the flood risk from this small watercourse, will be able to be managed within the site as outlined in the FRA.

Table 1: Catchment Descriptors

Parameter	WINFAP Catchment	Adjusted Site Catchment
EASTING (m)	226350	
NORTHING (m)	670850	
AREA (km²)	1.75	0.212
ALTBAR (°)	338	
ASPBAR	6	
ASPVAR	0.76	
BFIHOST	0.318	
BFIHOST19	0.272	
DPLBAR (m)	1.38	0.35
DPSBAR (m/km)	104.5	88
FARL	1	
FPEXT	0.0445	0
FPDBAR	0.532	
FPLOC	0.939	
LDP	2.75	
PROPWET	0.61	
SAAR (mm)	2070	
SAAR4170 (mm)	1858	
SPRHOST	51.7	
URBCONC2000	-	-
URBEXT2000	0	0
URBLOC2000	-	-

### Point 1.5

There is a spot level survey of the site and comparison between LiDAR and site survey is shown in Figure 1. Overall, the LiDAR appears slightly (50-60mm) above the topographical survey. However, given the nature of the modelling (and conservative nature of the reservoir level predictions), these differences are within the uncertainty of the assessment.

It is thought unlikely that the storm event that produces the peak 200-year event for the small catchment to the south of the site would be the same as the event that produces the 200-year event in the reservoir. In any case the buildings within the site have been located above the 180.6m AOD contour, i.e., above the conservative 200-year + cc level for the reservoir, see Drawing 22-4099-C-020-Proposed External Levels Layout.pdf.

It turned out that the final model run presented in the report was actually based on a 1m grid and 0.5s timestep (see Figure 2 for snapshot). An earlier run used a coarser grid and reference to this was retained in the final report. In the end there was little difference in flood flow pathways for the difference grid sizes, as the main flow pathways picked out in the flood report are well defined in the topography.

We would be happy to discuss any of these points further.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Michael Stewart Kaya Consulting Limited

Figure 1: Comparison of LiDAR and topographical survey

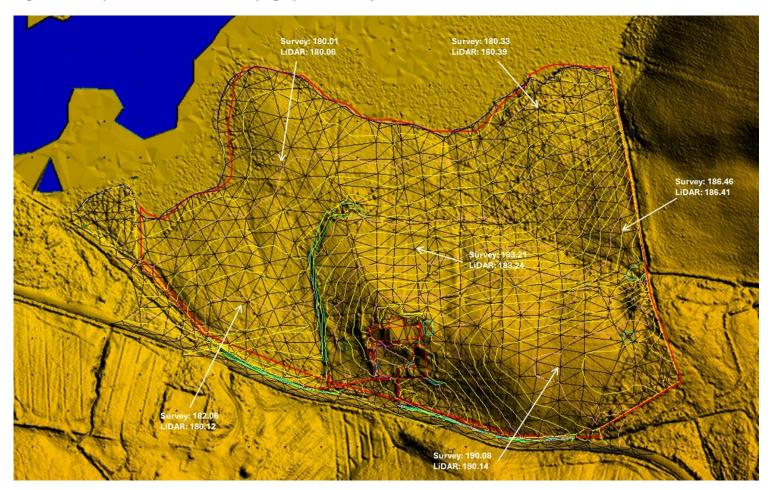
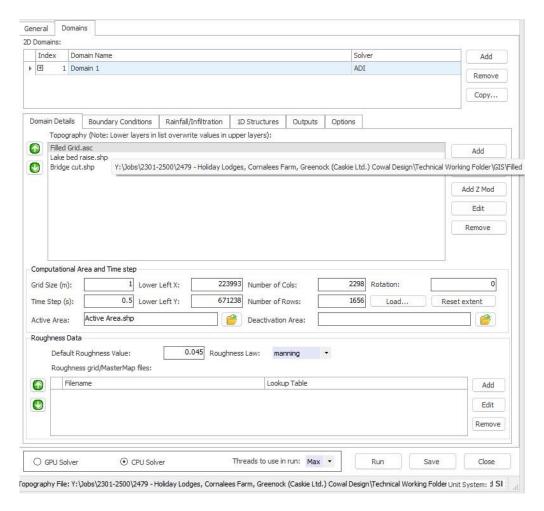


Figure 2: Model run files, showing 1m grid size



# 7. Appendix C

# **Assessment Compliance Certificate**

I certify that all reasonable skill, care and attention to be expected of a qualified and experienced professional in this field has been exercised in carrying out the attached Flood Risk Assessment / Drainage Impact Assessment\* (delete if applicable). The report/s have been prepared for the below named development in accordance with the reporting requirements issued by Inverclyde Council.

Name of Development	Holiday Lodges Cornalees Farm		
Address of Development	Cornalees Farm, Inverkip	_	
	Cornalees	_	
	PA16 9LK		
Name of Developer	Caskie Demolition & Enable Services	_	
Planning Application No.	22/0259/IC	_	
Name and Address of Organisation preparing this Assessment	Cowal Design Pure Offices, 1 Ainslie Road, Hillington Glasgow	_	
	G52 4RU	_	
Signed		_	
Name	Neil Ferguson	_	
Position Held	Director	-	
		-	
Engineering Qualification of person responsible for preparing this Assessment	BEng (hons) MICE	_ (1)	
Date	08 November 2023	_	

Note: 1 – C.Eng from an appropriate Chartered Engineering Institution.

# 8. Appendix D

# **Independent Check Certificate**

I certify that all reasonable skill, care and attention to be expected of a qualified and experienced professional in this field has been exercised in checking the attached Flood Risk Assessment / Drainage Impact Assessment\* (delete if applicable) for the below named development.

Name of Development	Holiday Lodges, Cornalees Farm	
Address of Development	Cornalees Farm, Inverkip	
	Cornalees	
	PA16 9LK	
Name of Developer	Caskie Demolition & Enable Services	
Name and Address of Organisation providing check	Ardmore Point	(1)
	1 Ainslie Road, Glasgow, G52 4RU	
Signed		
Name	Stuart Mitchell	
Position Held	Managing Director	
Engineering Qualification of person responsible for checking this Assessment	CEng (Chartered Civil Engineer)	(2)
Date	15 November 2023	(2)
Daio		

Note: 1 - Organisation to be totally independent of original designer/design organisation. 2 - C.Eng from an appropriate Chartered Engineering Institution.



# **VERIFICATION OF INSURANCE**

Hammond Professional Indemnity Consultants Limited

Somerset House 37 Temple Street Birmingham B2 5DP

Registered in England No. 4799667

AUTHORISED AND REGULATED BY THE FINANCIAL CONDUCT AUTHORITY

V E R I

RIFICAT

Cover is confirmed subject to the terms and conditions issued prior to inception of cover. This document is furnished to you as a matter of information only. The issuance of this document does not make the person or organisation to whom it is issued an additional insured, nor does it modify in any manner the contract of insurance between the insured and the underwriters. Any change or extension to such contract can only be affected by specific endorsement attached thereto.

Policy Holder:

Cowal Design Consultants Limited

Insurer:

**AVIVA INSURANCE LIMITED** 

Policy Reference:

22\*97OSP3068595

**Public Liability:** 

£5,000,000 any one occurrence

**Employers Liability:** 

£10,000,000 any one occurrence

Cover Period:

04/12/2022 to 03/12/2023 (inclusive)

The policy is subject to the insuring agreements, exceptions, exclusions, limitations, conditions and declarations contained therein. The above is accurate at the date of signature. Should the aforementioned contract of insurance be cancelled, avoided, assigned or changed during the above policy in such manner as to affect this document, no obligation to inform the holder of the document is accepted by the undersigned or by the insurers.

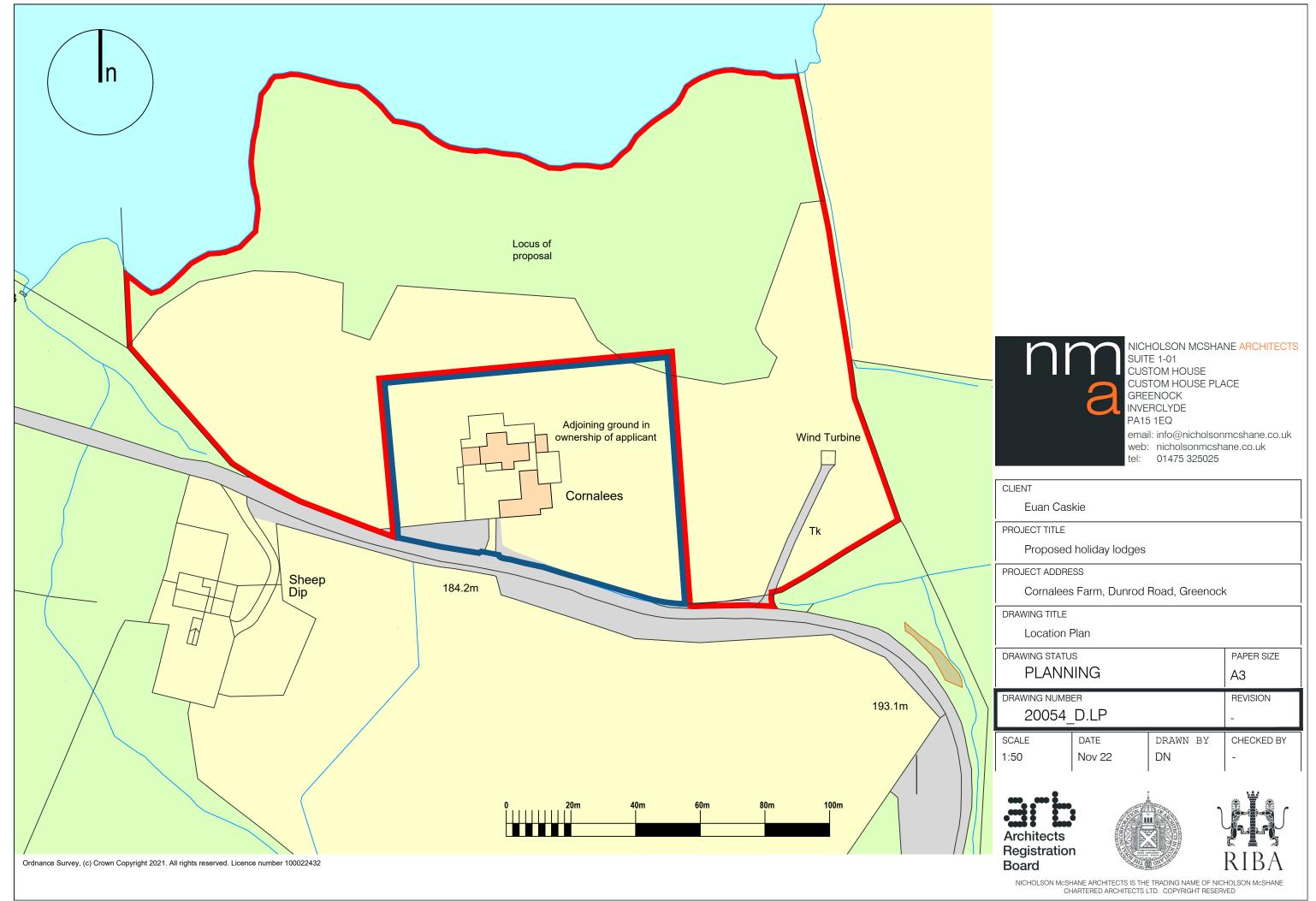
### Signed By:

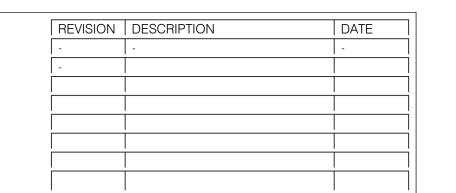
Company Director

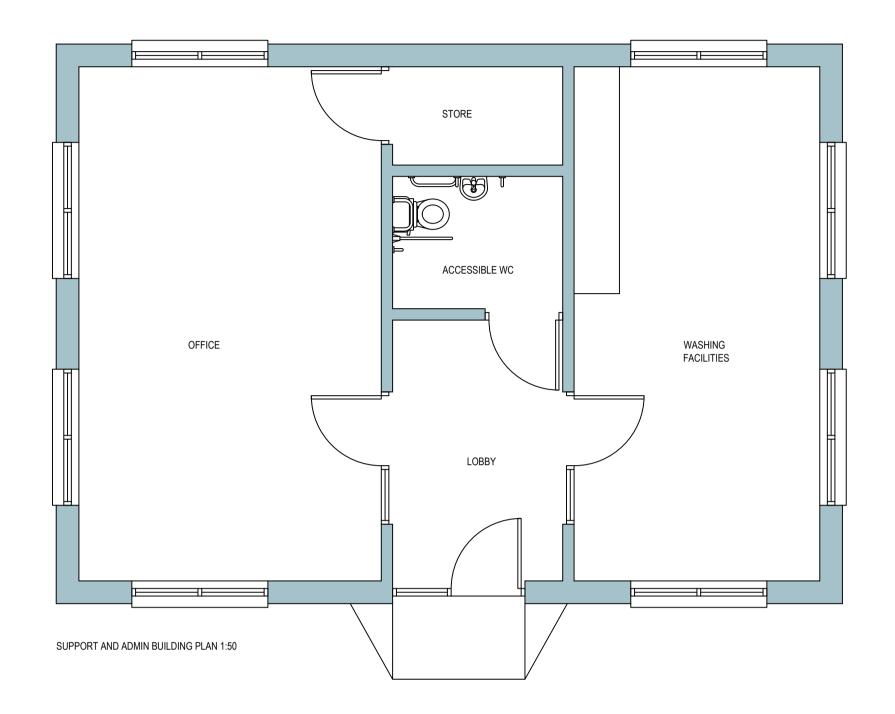
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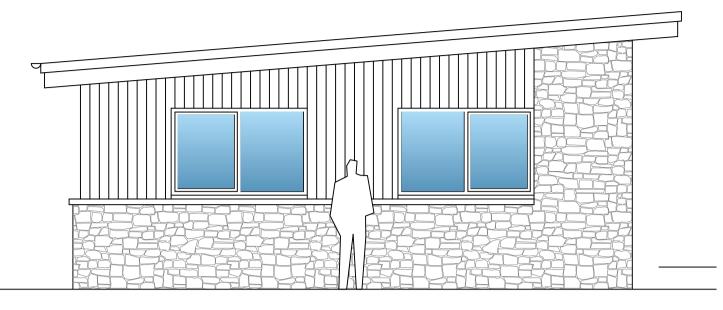
On behalf of: Hammond Professional Indemnity Consultants Ltd Please visit us on <a href="https://www.hammondpi.com">www.hammondpi.com</a>



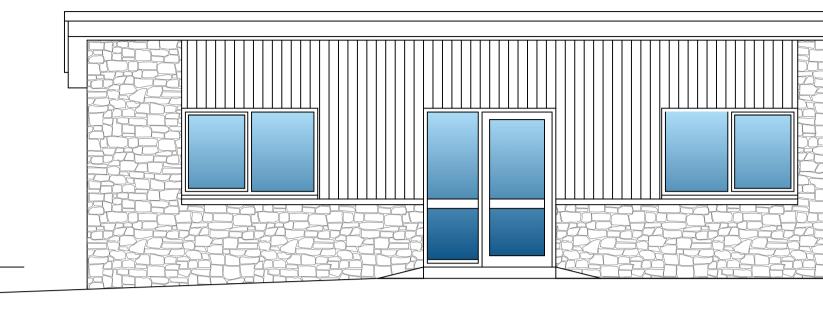




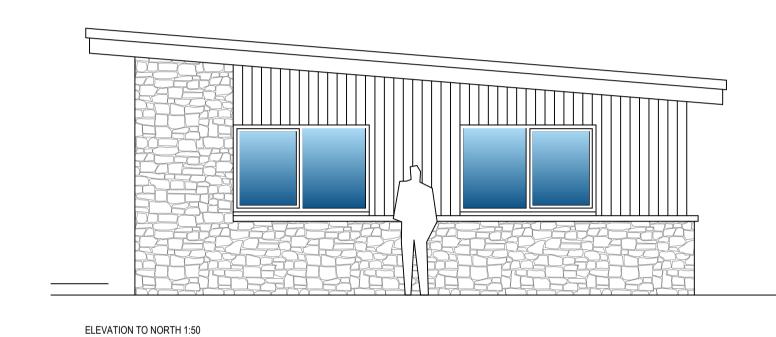


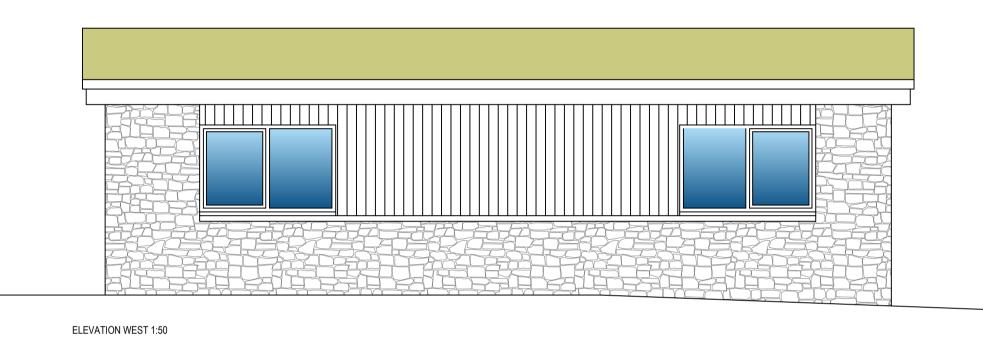


**ELEVATION TO SOUTH 1:50** 















Euan Caskie PROJECT TITLE Proposed holiday lodges

PROJECT ADDRESS Cornalees Farm, Dunrod Road, Greenock

DRAWING TITLE Office / washing facilities building

DRAWING STATUS PAPER SIZE PLANNING A1

DRAWING NUMBER REVISION 20054 D.104 DRAWN BY CHECKED BY

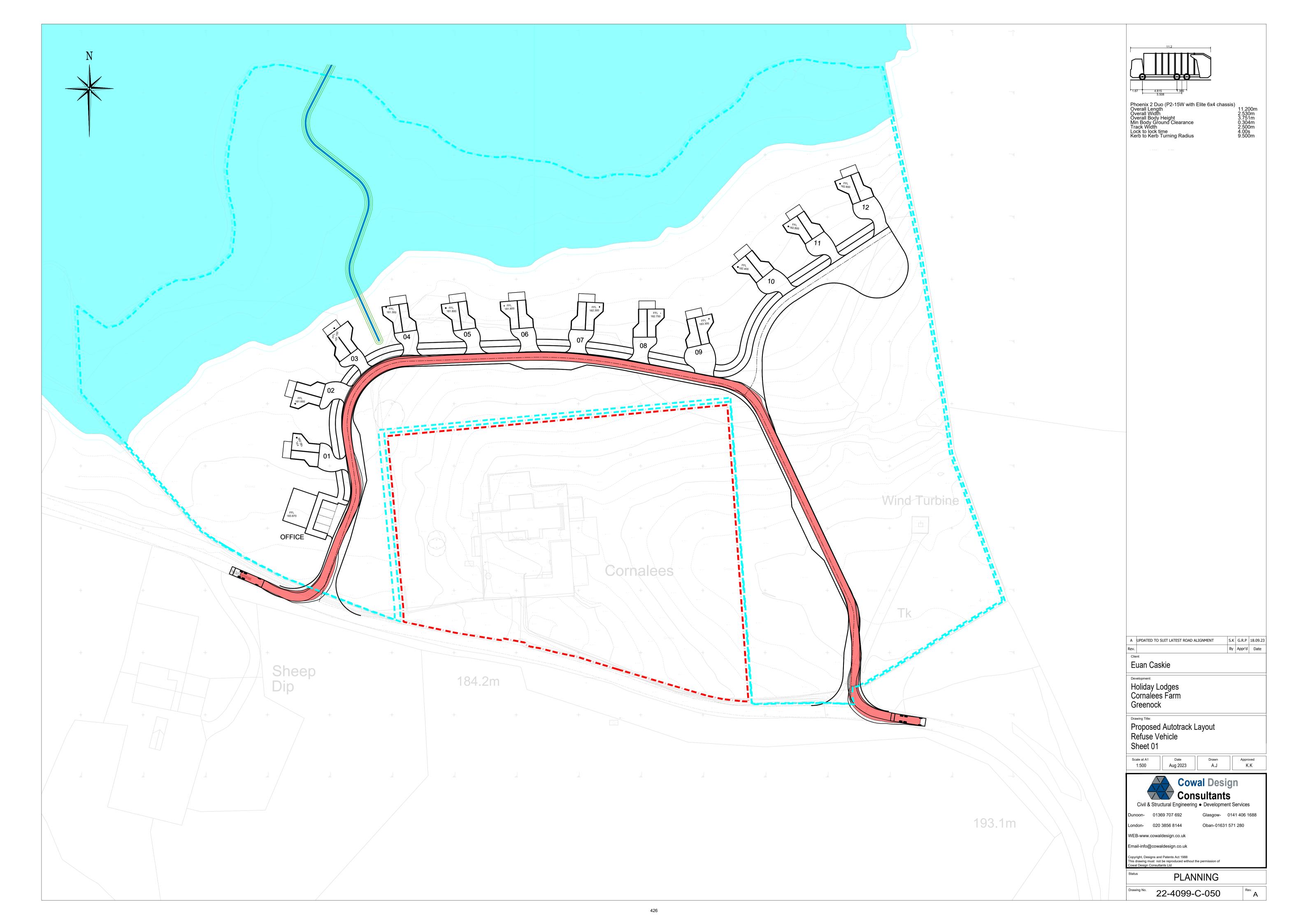


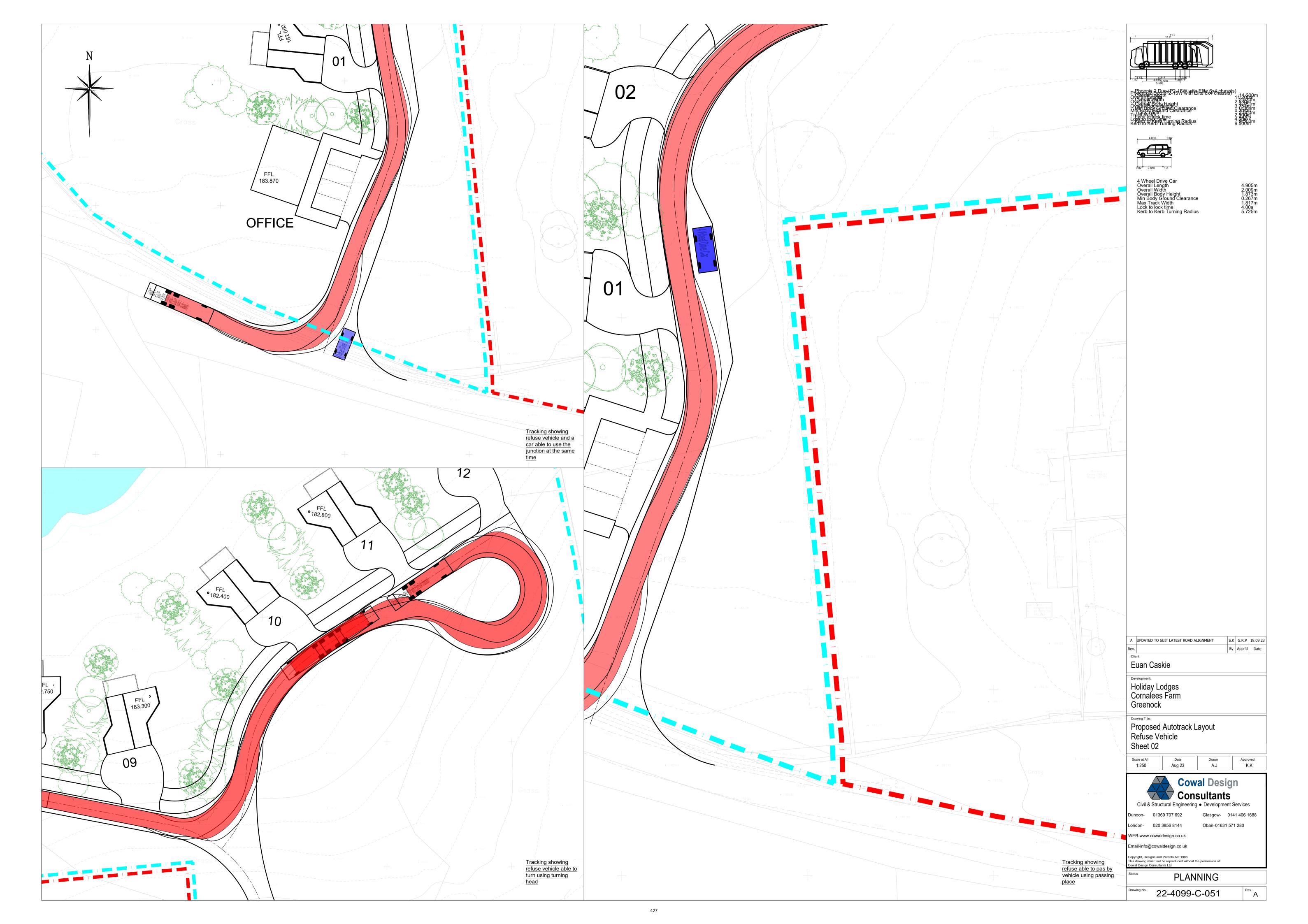


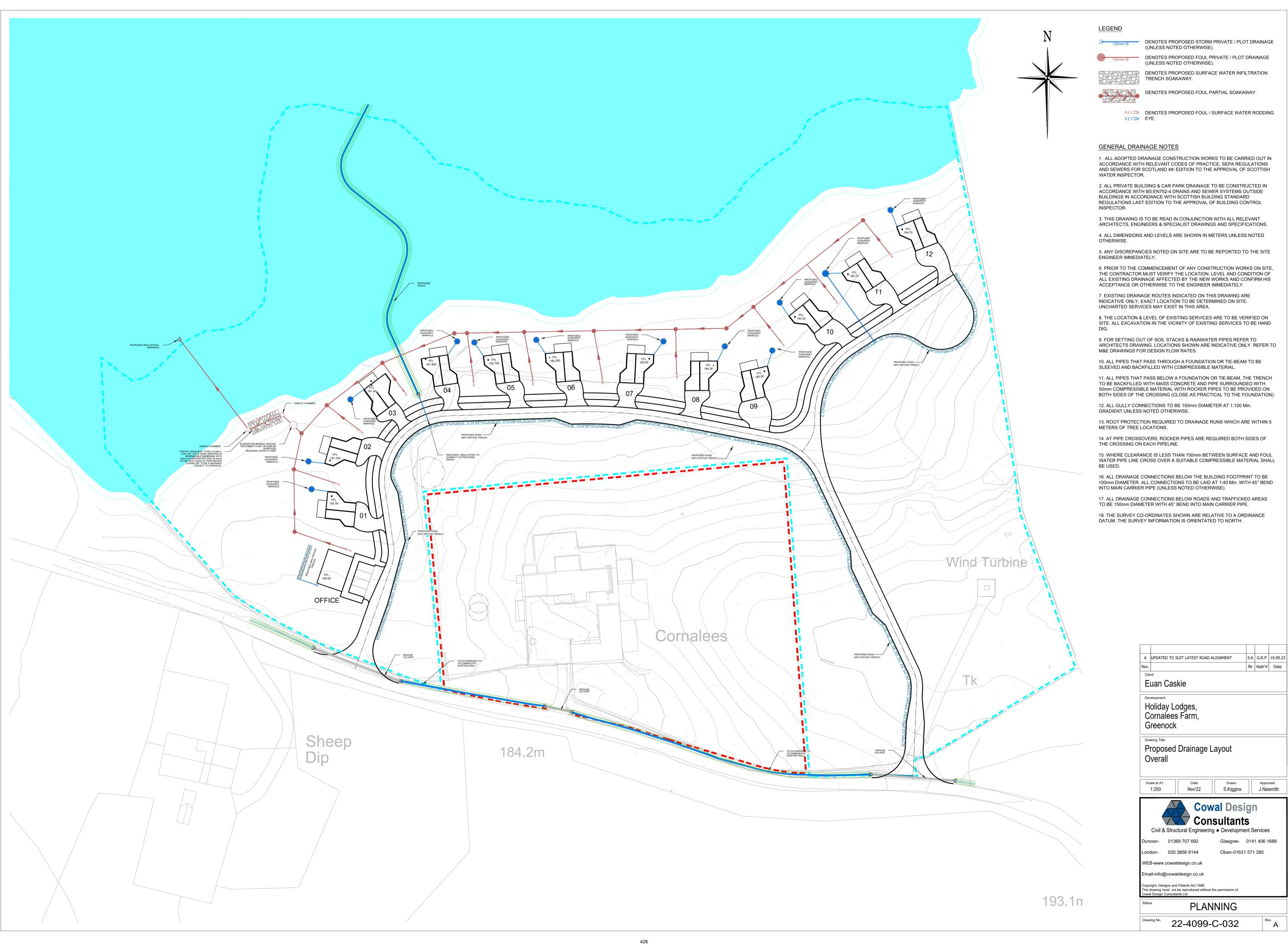


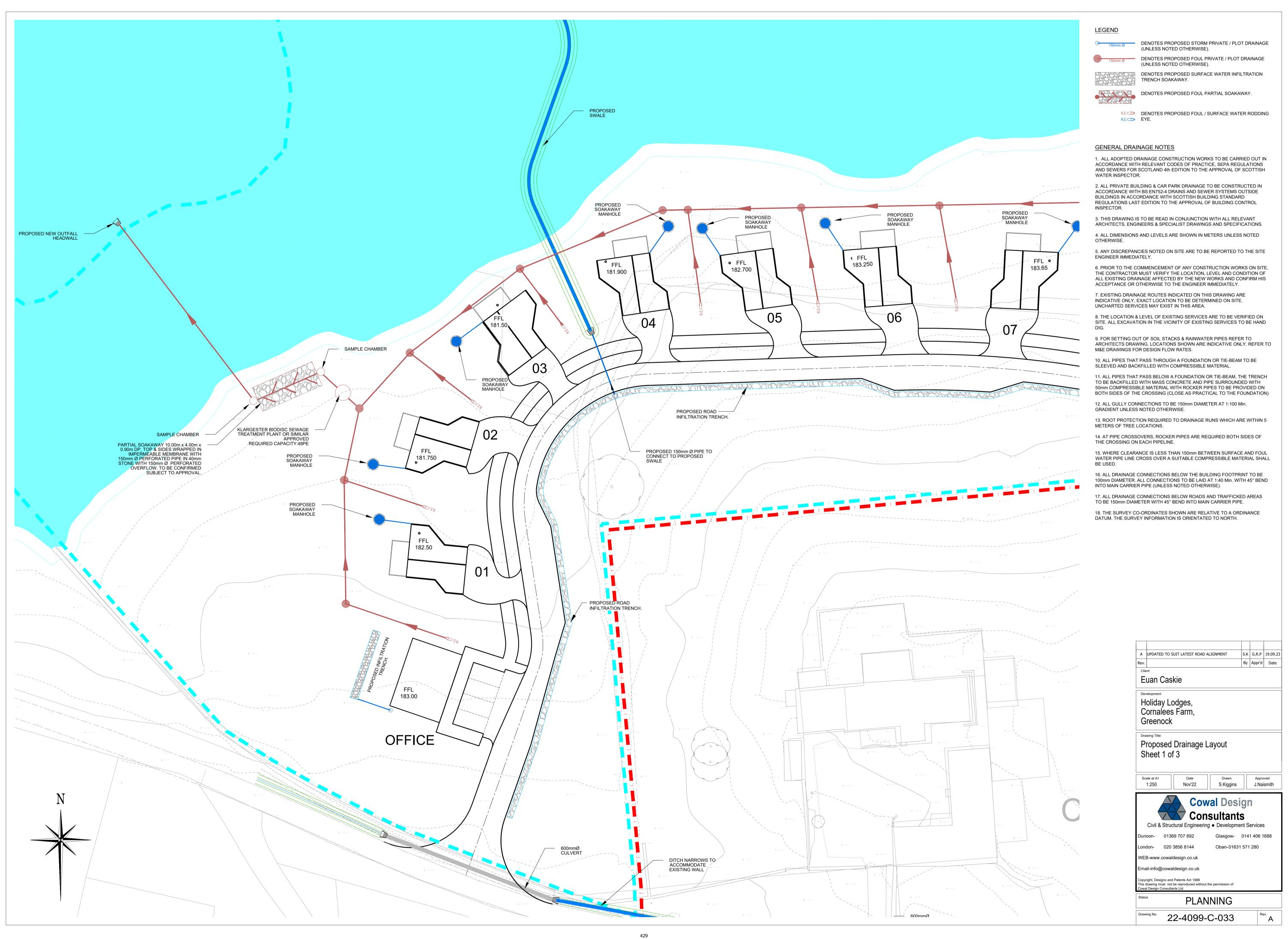


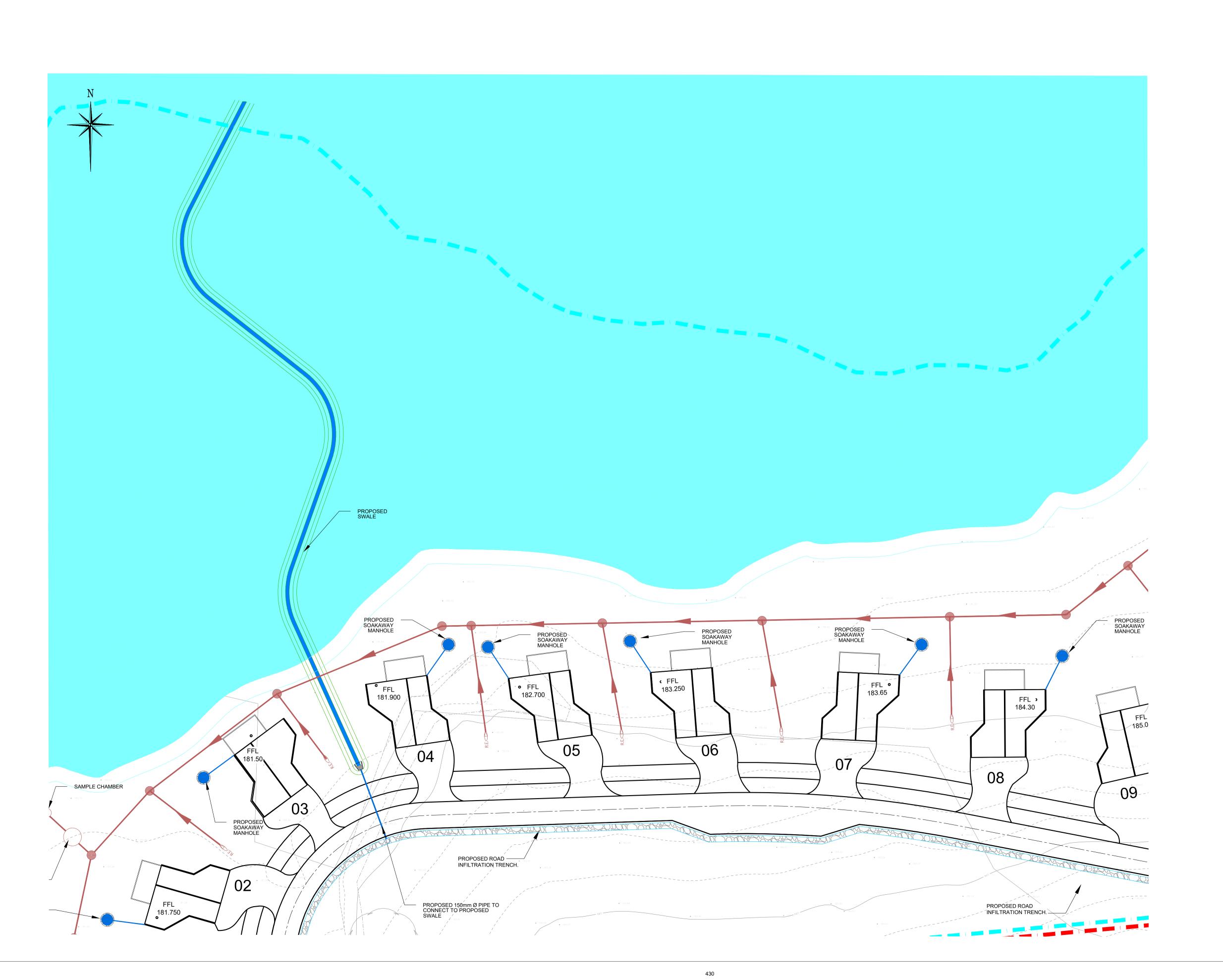






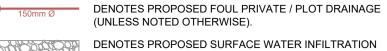






### LEGEND

DENOTES PROPOSED STORM PRIVATE / PLOT DRAINAGE (UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE).



DENOTES PROPOSED FOUL PRIVATE / PLOT DRAINAGE (UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE).



DENOTES PROPOSED FOUL PARTIAL SOAKAWAY.

R.E. DENOTES PROPOSED FOUL / SURFACE WATER RODDING R.E. EYE.

### GENERAL DRAINAGE NOTES

1. ALL ADOPTED DRAINAGE CONSTRUCTION WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH RELEVANT CODES OF PRACTICE, SEPA REGULATIONS AND SEWERS FOR SCOTLAND 4th EDITION TO THE APPROVAL OF SCOTTISH WATER INSPECTOR.

2. ALL PRIVATE BUILDING & CAR PARK DRAINAGE TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH BS:EN752-4 DRAINS AND SEWER SYSTEMS OUTSIDE BUILDINGS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCOTTISH BUILDING STANDARD REGULATIONS LAST EDITION TO THE APPROVAL OF BUILDING CONTROL

3. THIS DRAWING IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL RELEVANT ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS & SPECIALIST DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATIONS.

4. ALL DIMENSIONS AND LEVELS ARE SHOWN IN METERS UNLESS NOTED

5. ANY DISCREPANCIES NOTED ON SITE ARE TO BE REPORTED TO THE SITE ENGINEER IMMEDIATELY.

6. PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF ANY CONSTRUCTION WORKS ON SITE, THE CONTRACTOR MUST VERIFY THE LOCATION, LEVEL AND CONDITION OF ALL EXISTING DRAINAGE AFFECTED BY THE NEW WORKS AND CONFIRM HIS ACCEPTANCE OR OTHERWISE TO THE ENGINEER IMMEDIATELY.

7. EXISTING DRAINAGE ROUTES INDICATED ON THIS DRAWING ARE INDICATIVE ONLY, EXACT LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED ON SITE. UNCHARTED SERVICES MAY EXIST IN THIS AREA.

8. THE LOCATION & LEVEL OF EXISTING SERVICES ARE TO BE VERIFIED ON SITE. ALL EXCAVATION IN THE VICINITY OF EXISTING SERVICES TO BE HAND

9. FOR SETTING OUT OF SOIL STACKS & RAINWATER PIPES REFER TO ARCHITECTS DRAWING. LOCATIONS SHOWN ARE INDICATIVE ONLY. REFER TO M&E DRAWINGS FOR DESIGN FLOW RATES.

10. ALL PIPES THAT PASS THROUGH A FOUNDATION OR TIE-BEAM TO BE SLEEVED AND BACKFILLED WITH COMPRESSIBLE MATERIAL.

11. ALL PIPES THAT PASS BELOW A FOUNDATION OR TIE-BEAM, THE TRENCH TO BE BACKFILLED WITH MASS CONCRETE AND PIPE SURROUNDED WITH 50mm COMPRESSIBLE MATERIAL WITH ROCKER PIPES TO BE PROVIDED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CROSSING (CLOSE AS PRACTICAL TO THE FOUNDATION).

12. ALL GULLY CONNECTIONS TO BE 150mm DIAMETER AT 1:100 Min. GRADIENT UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.

13. ROOT PROTECTION REQUIRED TO DRAINAGE RUNS WHICH ARE WITHIN 5 METERS OF TREE LOCATIONS.

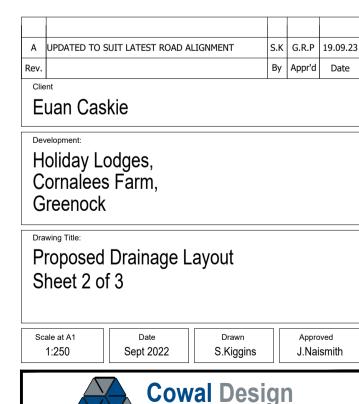
14. AT PIPE CROSSOVERS, ROCKER PIPES ARE REQUIRED BOTH SIDES OF THE CROSSING ON EACH PIPELINE.

15. WHERE CLEARANCE IS LESS THAN 150mm BETWEEN SURFACE AND FOUL WATER PIPE LINE CROSS OVER A SUITABLE COMPRESSIBLE MATERIAL SHALL

16. ALL DRAINAGE CONNECTIONS BELOW THE BUILDING FOOTPRINT TO BE 100mm DIAMETER. ALL CONNECTIONS TO BE LAID AT 1:40 Min. WITH 45° BEND INTO MAIN CARRIER PIPE (UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE).

17. ALL DRAINAGE CONNECTIONS BELOW ROADS AND TRAFFICKED AREAS TO BE 150mm DIAMETER WITH 45° BEND INTO MAIN CARRIER PIPE.

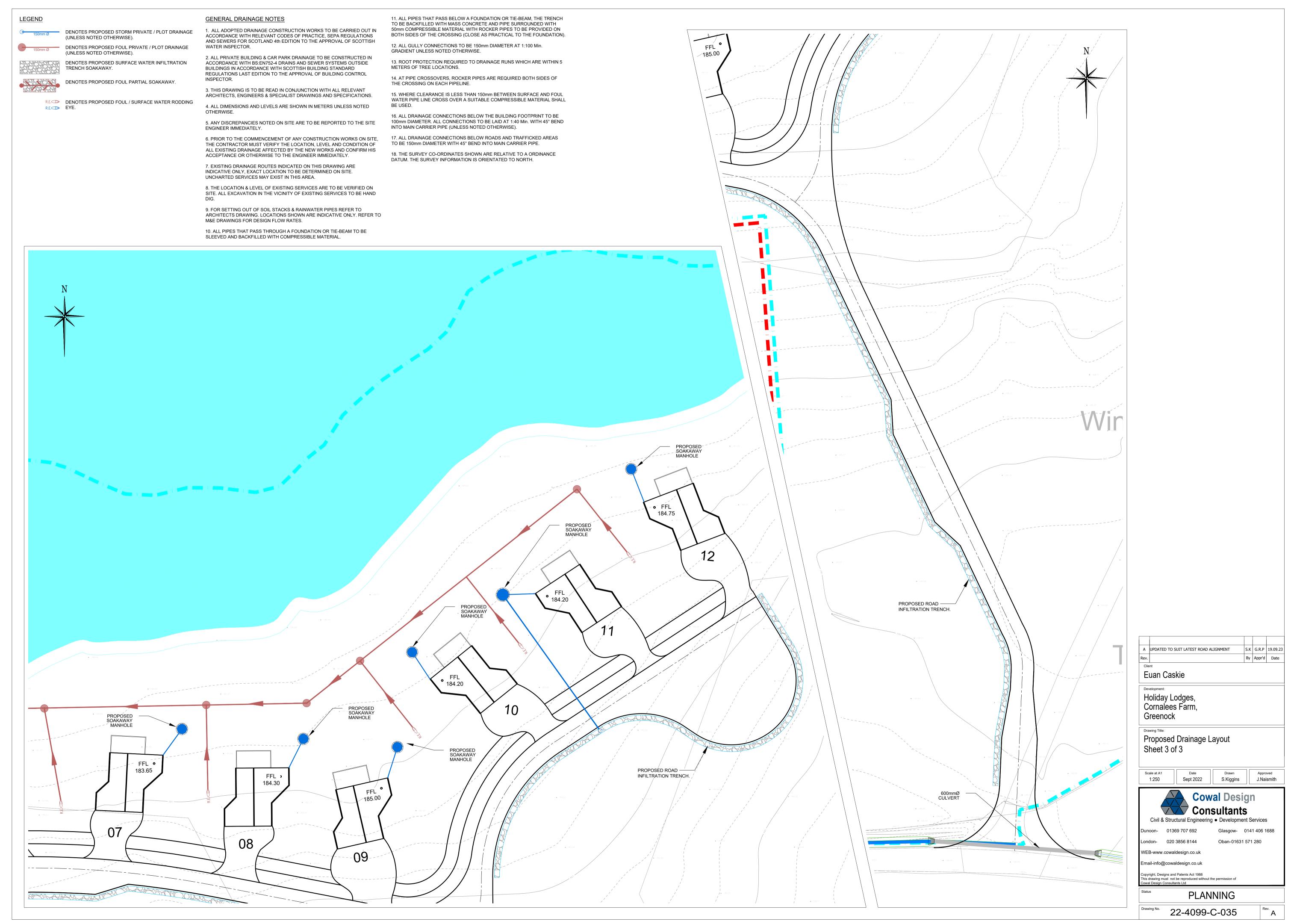
18. THE SURVEY CO-ORDINATES SHOWN ARE RELATIVE TO A ORDINANCE DATUM. THE SURVEY INFORMATION IS ORIENTATED TO NORTH.

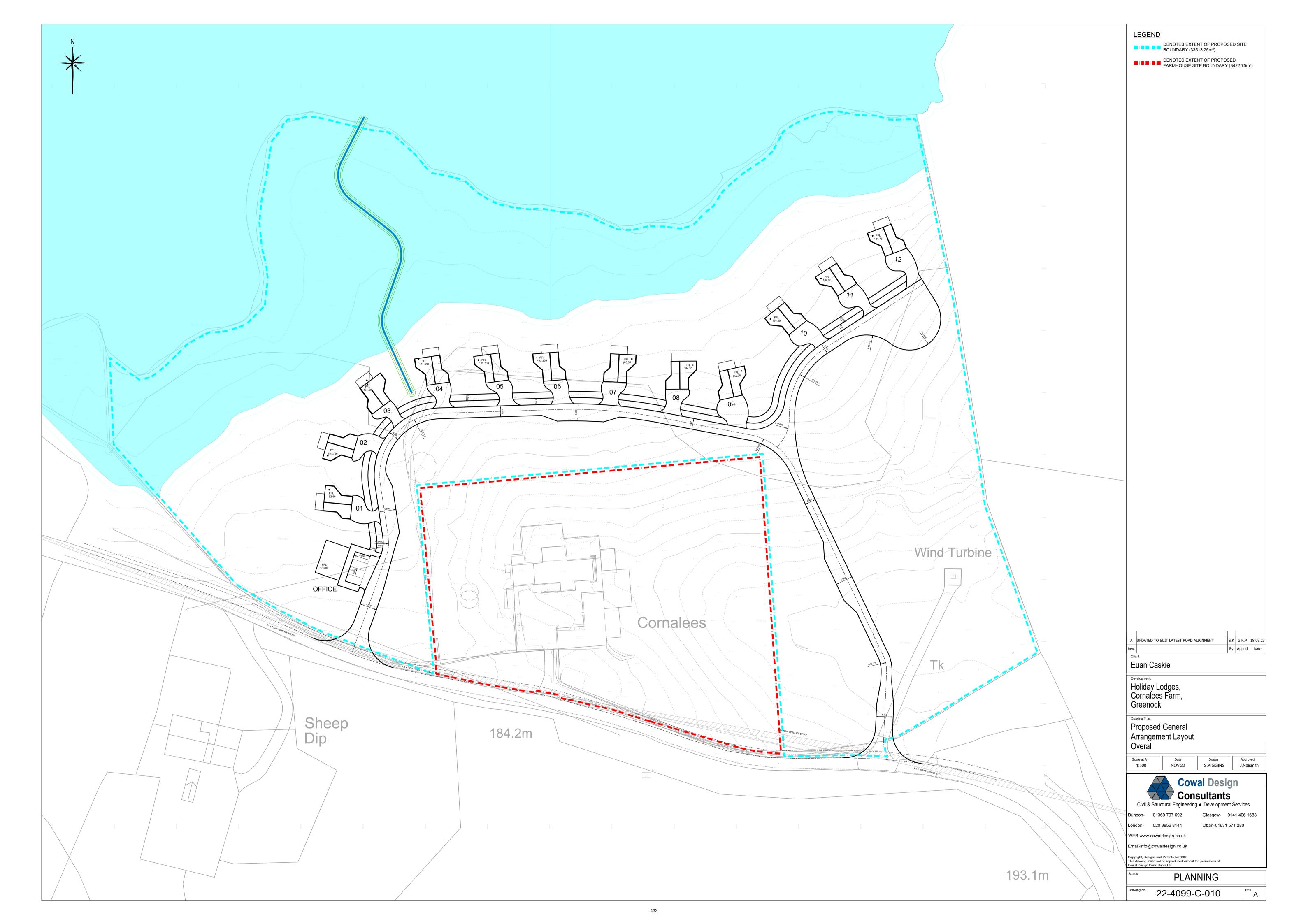




PLANNING

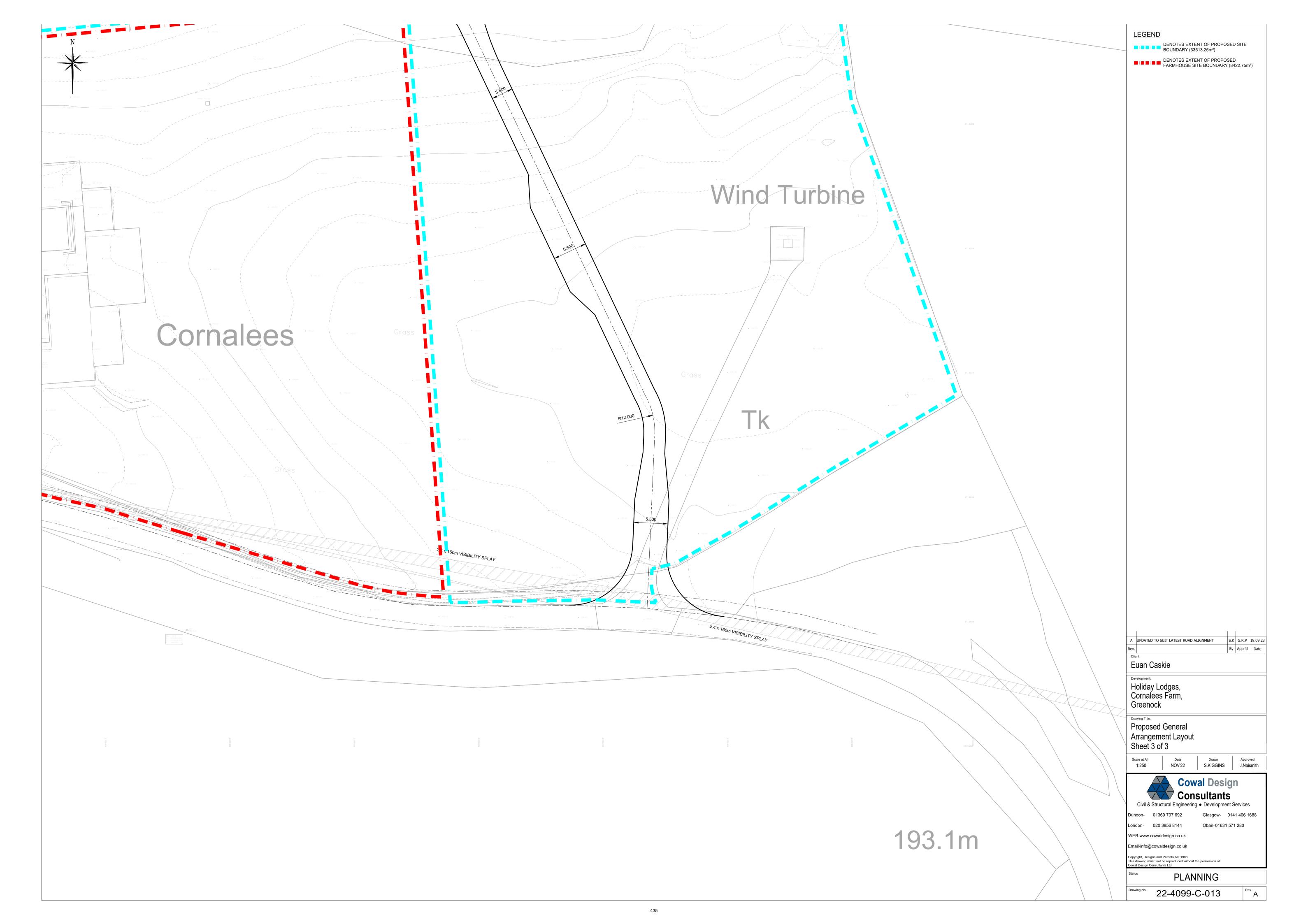
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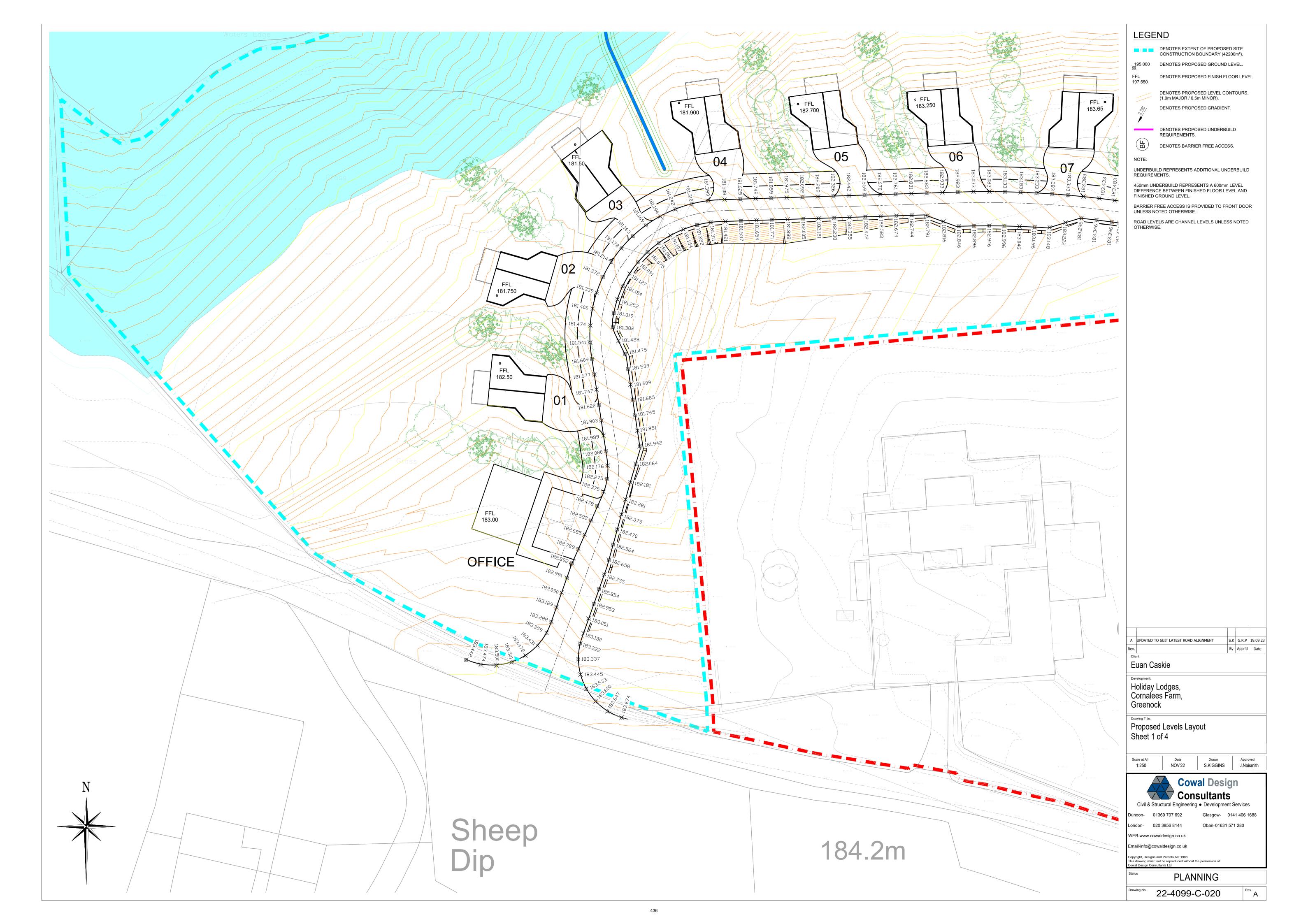






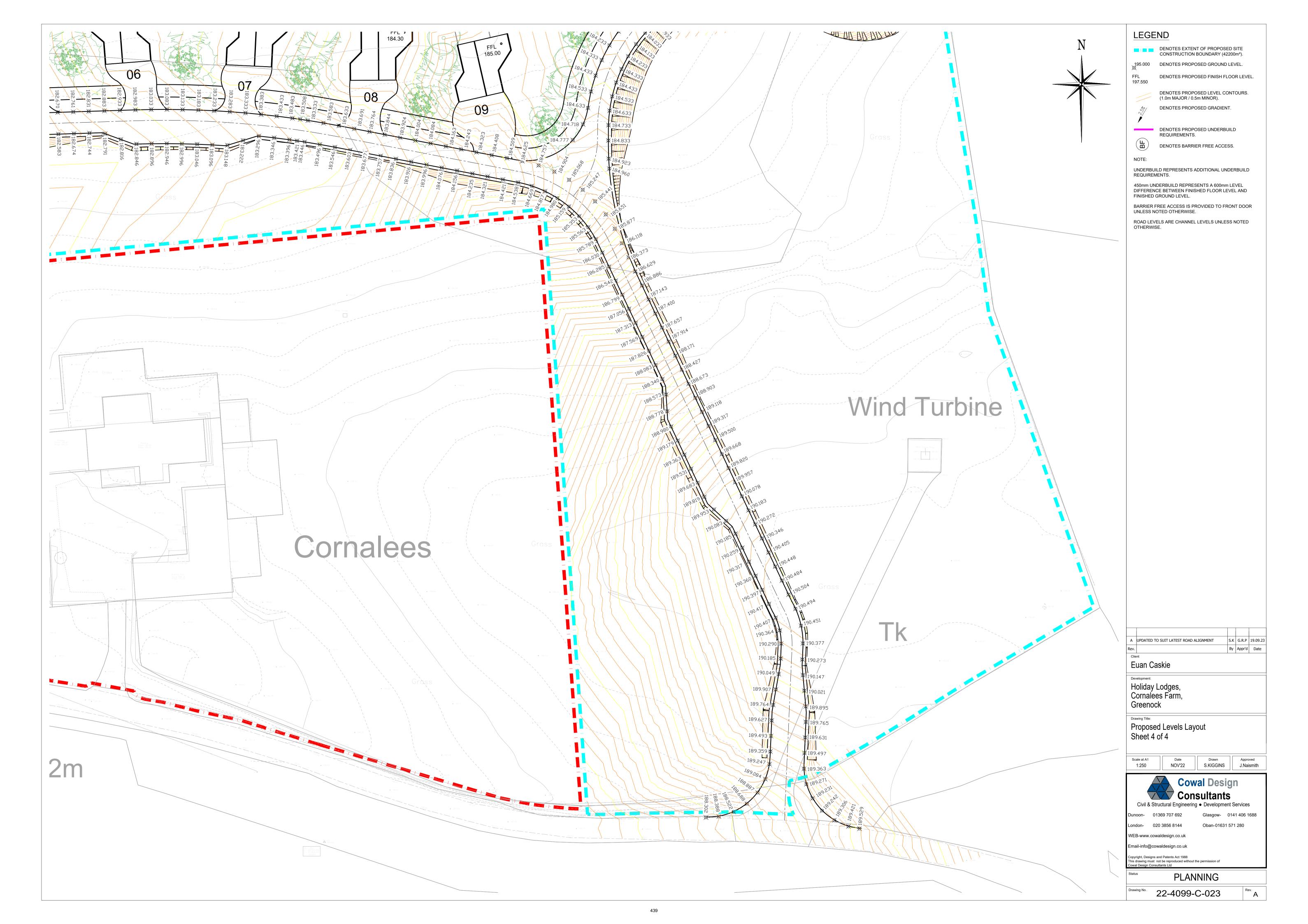




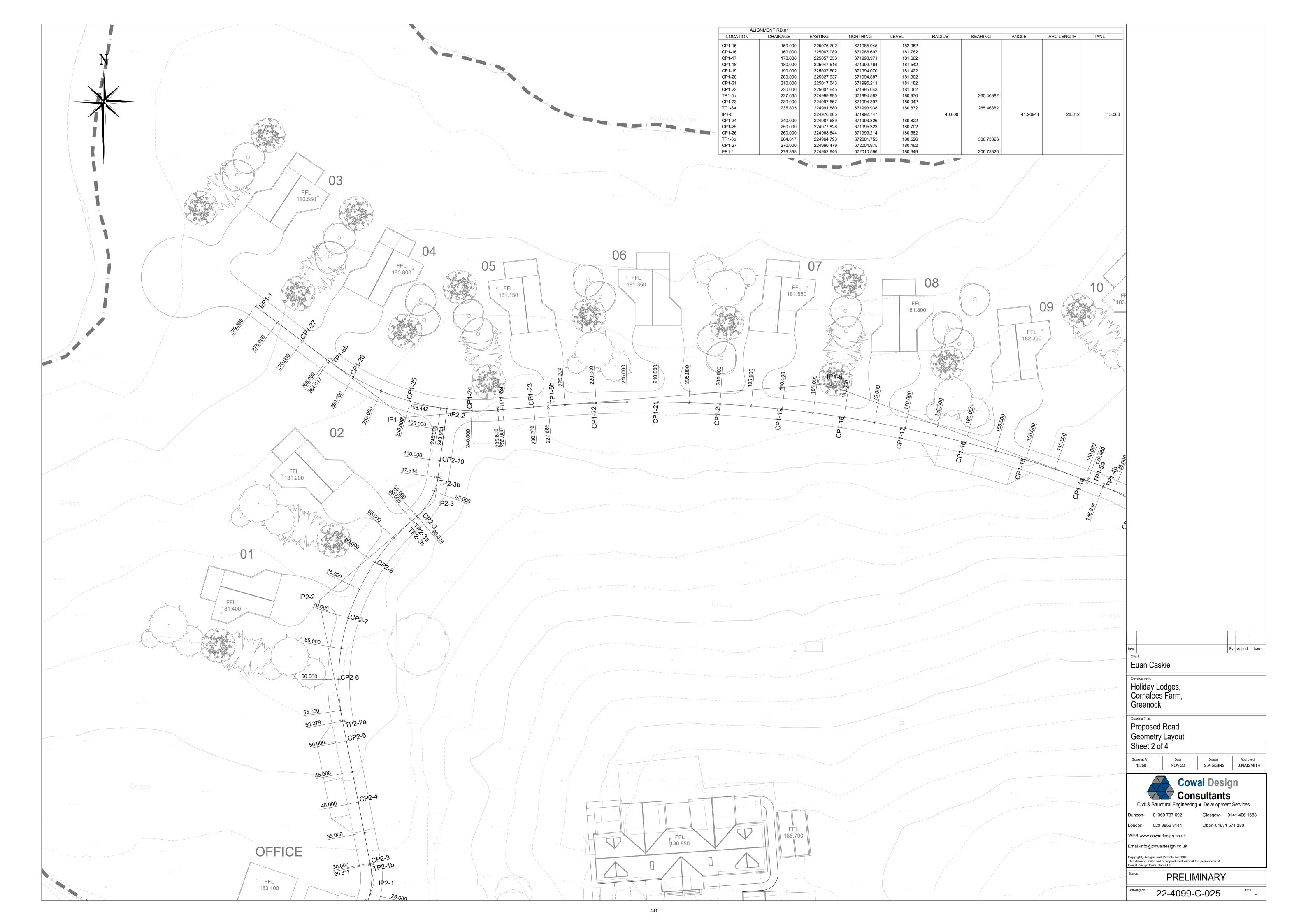




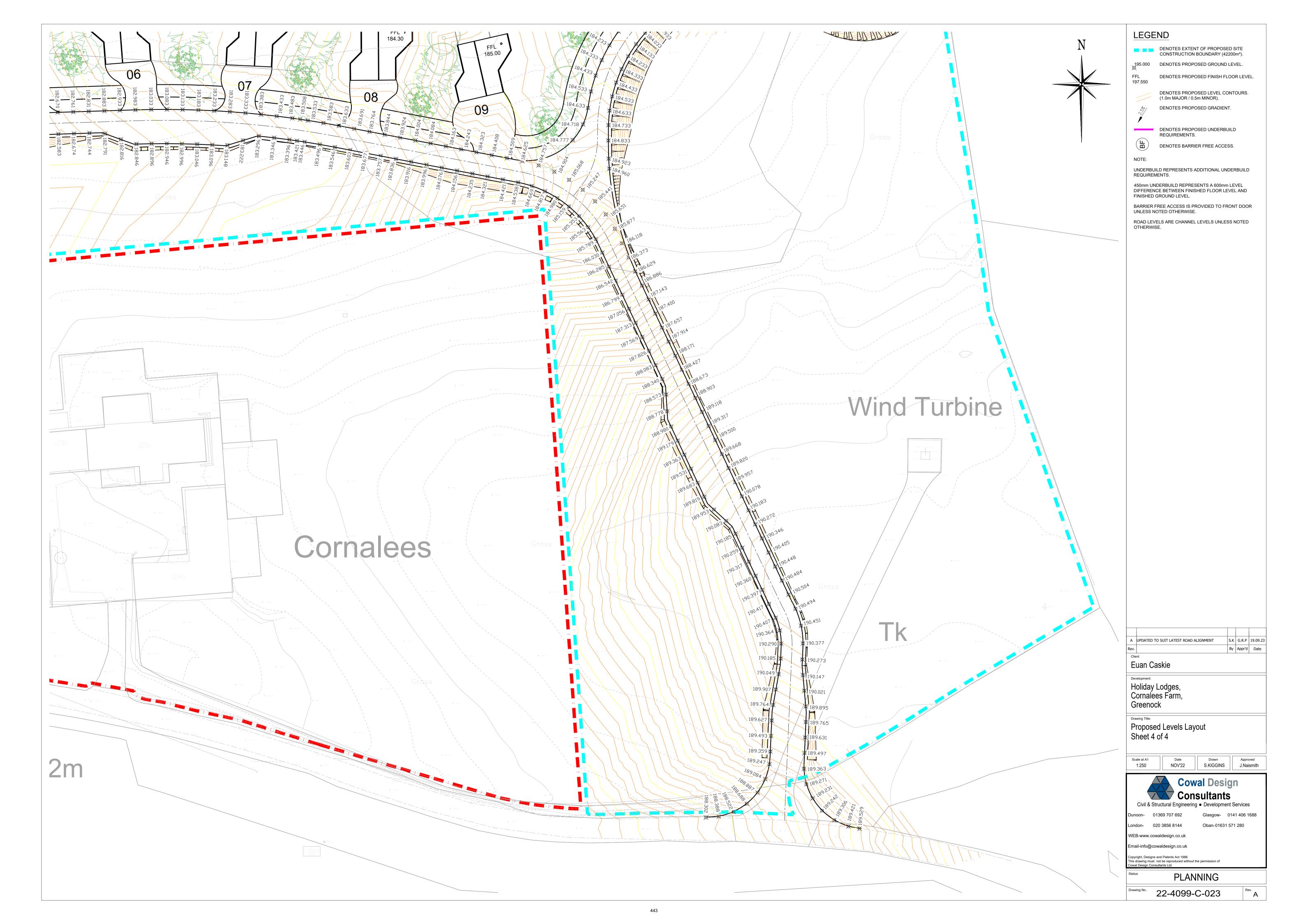


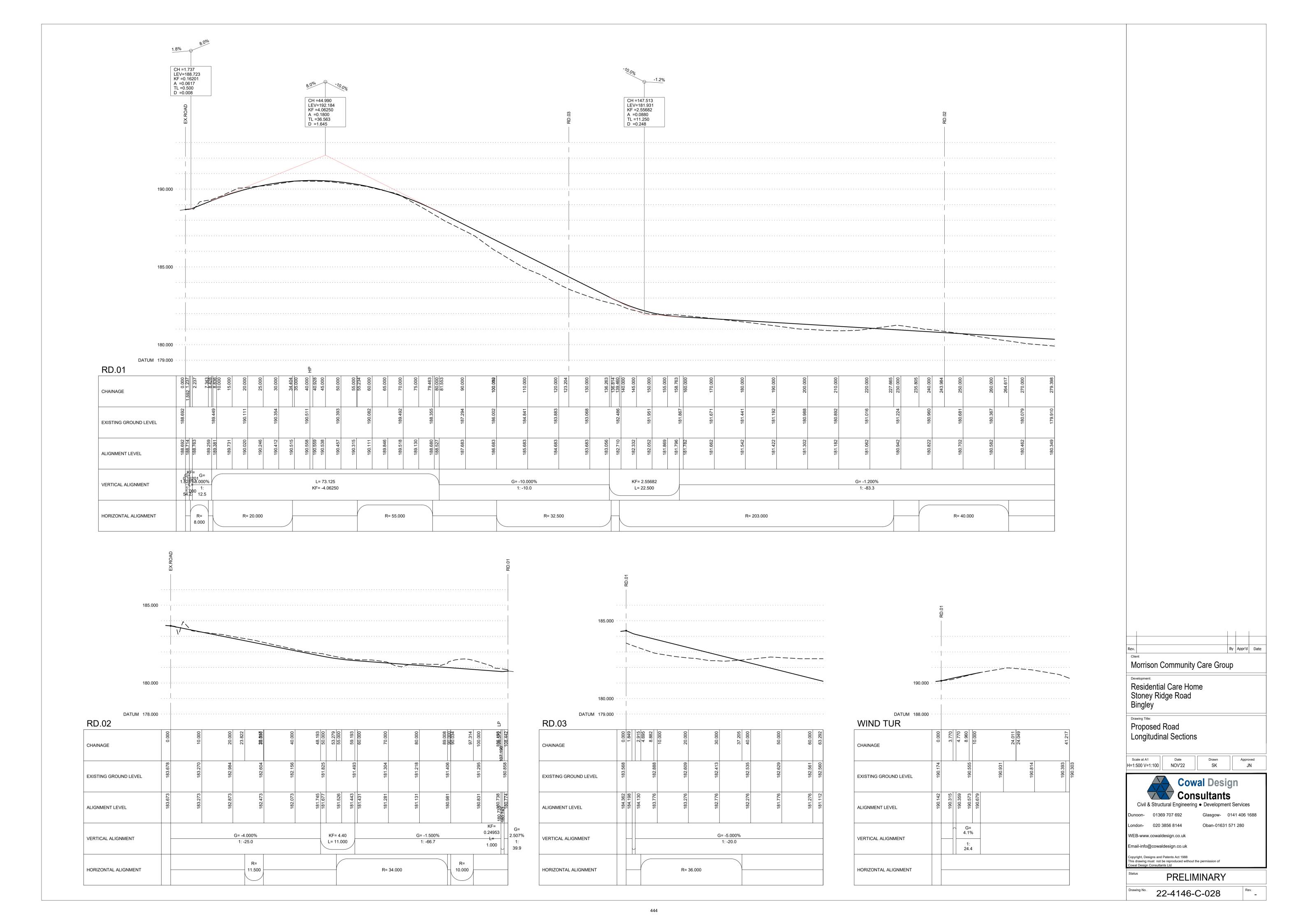


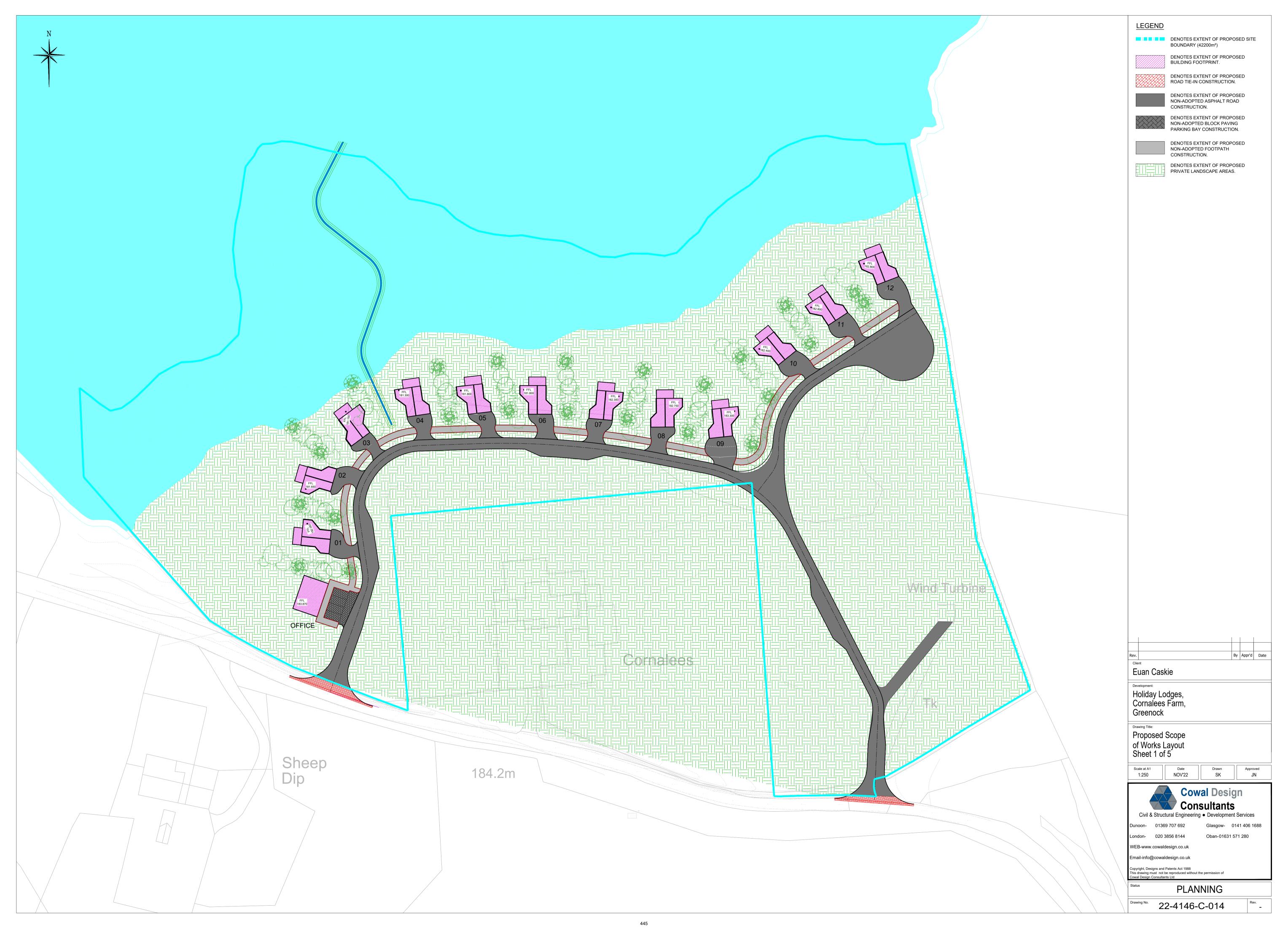


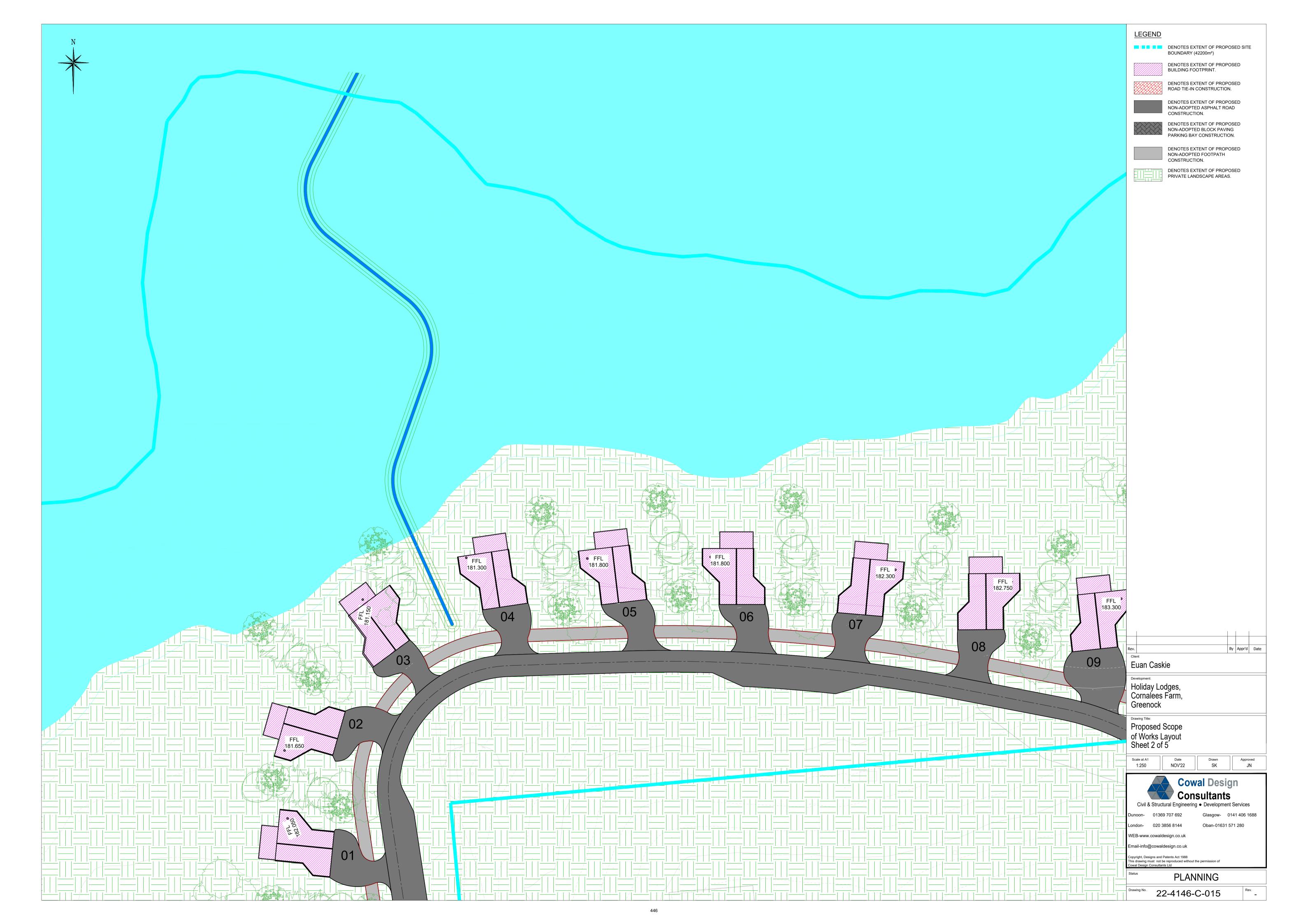


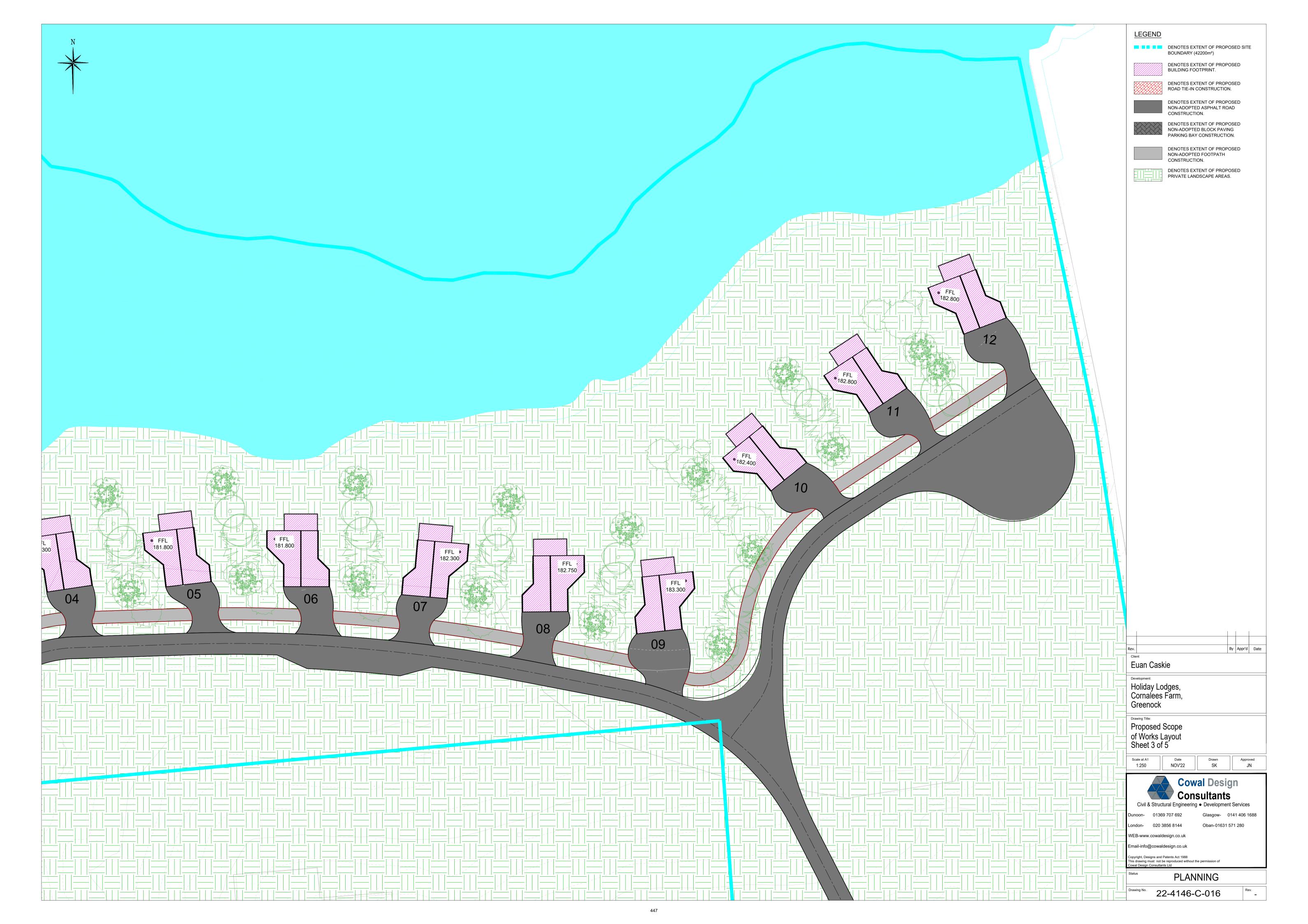


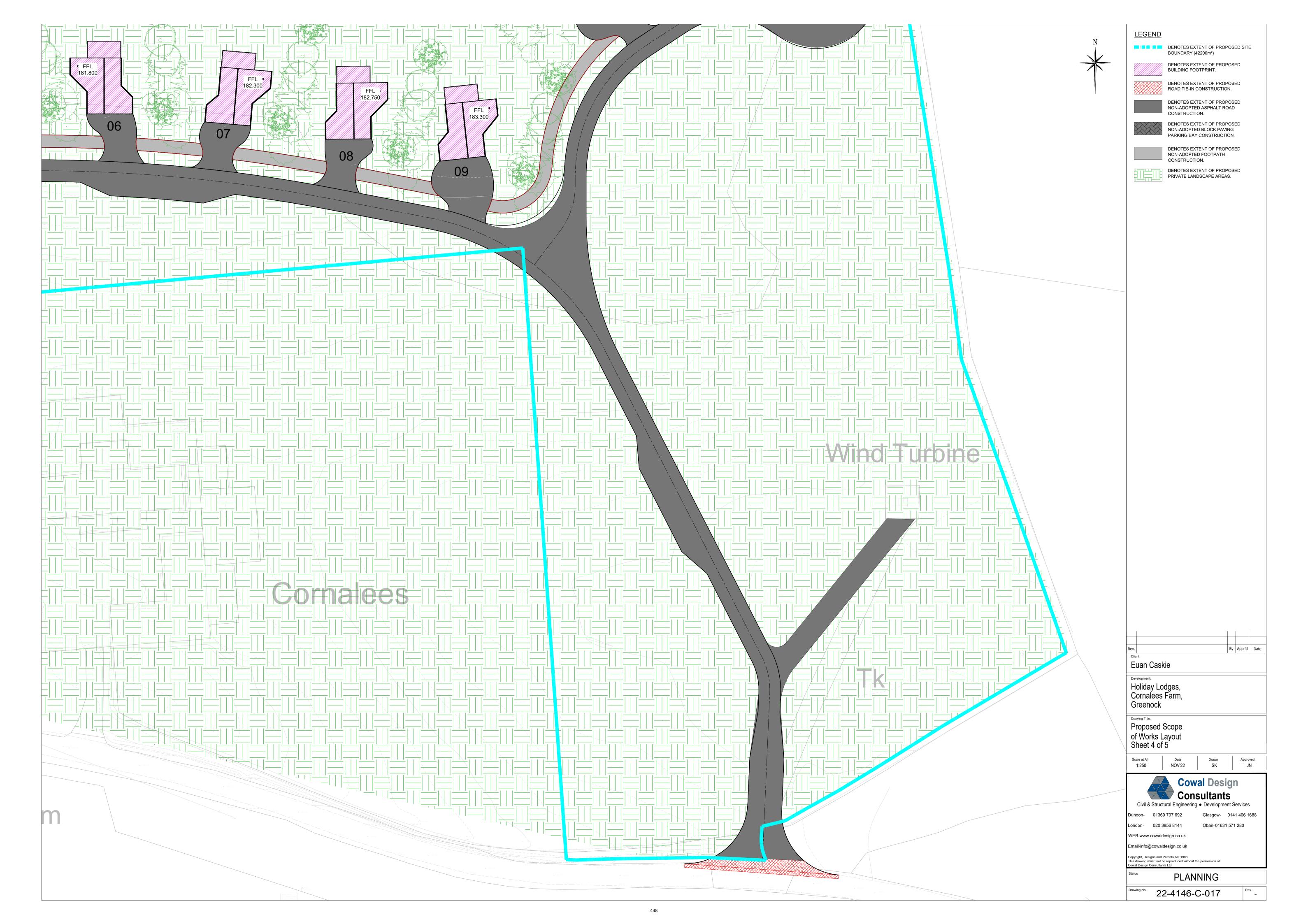


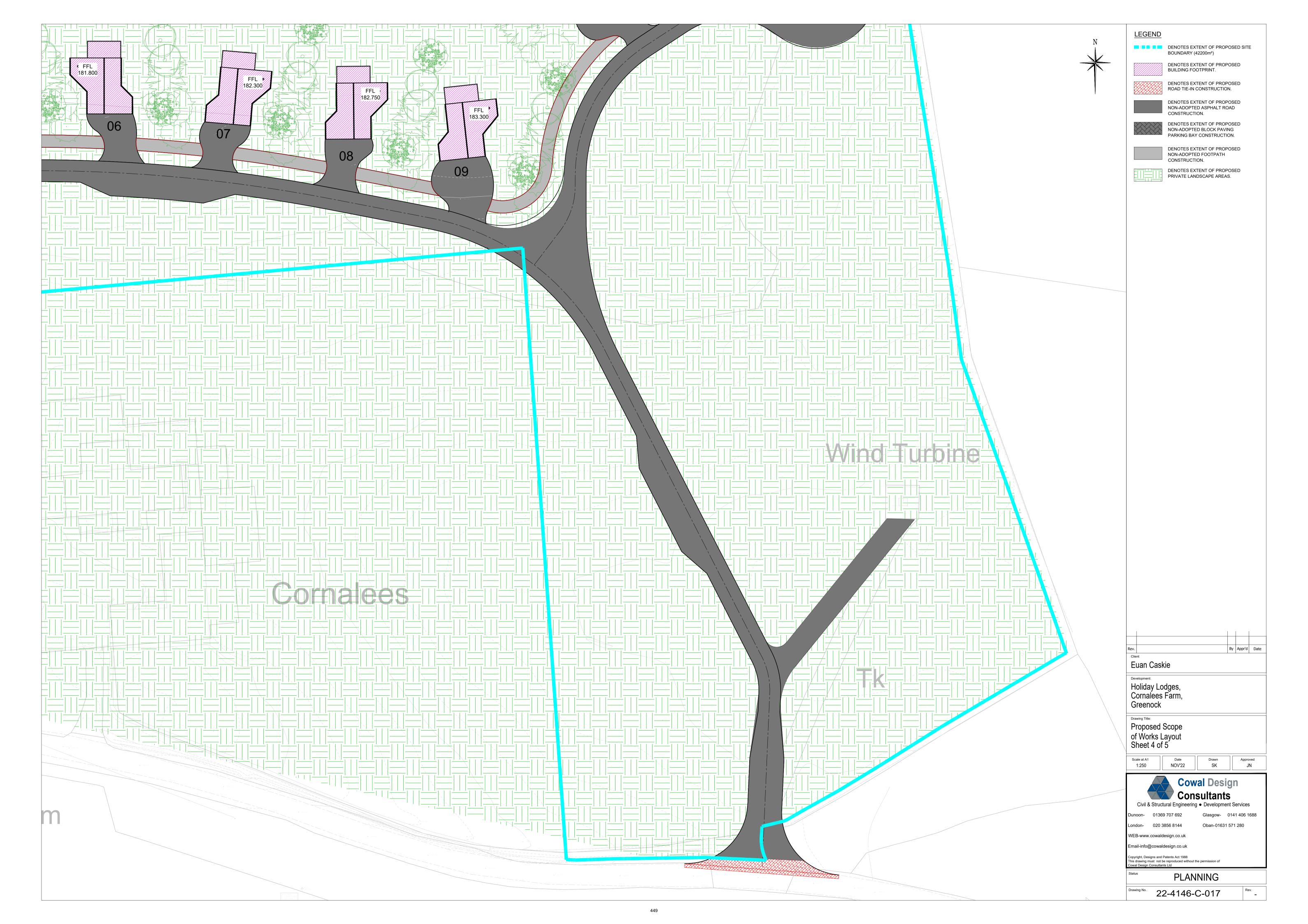










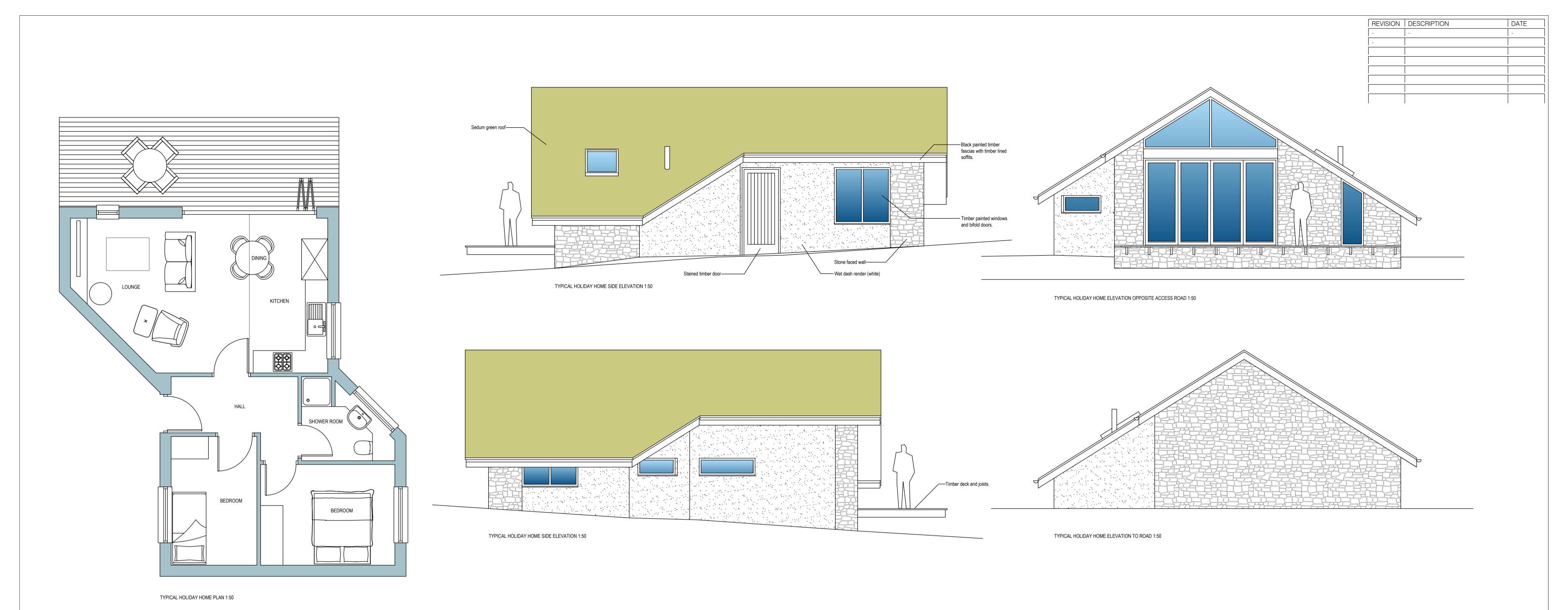


















INVERCLYDE PA15 1EQ

email: info@nicholsonmcshane.co.uk web: nicholsonmcshane.co.uk tel: 01475 325025

CLIENT Euan Caskie

PROJECT TITLE

Proposed holiday lodges

PROJECT ADDRESS

Cornalees Farm, Dunrod Road, Greenock

DRAWING TITLE Typical lodge plans, elevations and images

DRAWING STATUS PAPER SIZE PLANNING

A1 DRAWING NUMBER REVISION 20054 D.103 DRAWN BY CHECKED BY

> Registration Board



## 10. SUGGESTED CONDITIONS SHOULD PLANNING PERMISSION BE GRANTED ON REVIEW

## 22/0259/IC - Review - Suggested Conditions

Should planning permission be granted on review the following conditions are suggested.

## Conditions

1. The development to which this permission relates must have commenced within 3 years from the date of this permission.

Reason: To comply with Section 58 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

2. Prior to the commencement of any construction works on site, the applicant shall provide for the written approval of the Planning Authority a site plan, which confirms the provision of one car parking space for each two bedroom lodge and two car parking spaces for each three bedroom lodge. For the avoidance of doubt the parking spaces shall be a minimum of 3.0m by 6.0m and the approved parking shall then be available for use prior to the first occupation of each lodge.

Reason: In the interests of pedestrian and traffic safety.

3. Development shall not commence until details/samples of all external finishes on the buildings have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. For the avoidance of doubt this relates to the type, finish and colour of all external materials on each new building. Following approval these shall be implemented in their approved form.

Reason: In the interests of visual amenity.

4. Development shall not commence until detailed specification of the type and colour of all hard surfacing to be used on hardstanding areas have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Following approval these shall be implemented in their approved form.

Reason: In the interests of visual amenity.

5. Development shall not commence until details/plans of the proposed finished floor levels of each of the buildings hereby approved, as well as any changes to ground levels within the site, have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The details to be submitted shall relate to a fixed datum point. Following approval these shall be implemented in their approved form.

Reason: In the interests of visual amenity.

6. Prior to the commencement of any development works on site, the applicant shall submit for the written approval of the Planning Authority, a survey for the presence of Japanese Knotweed. For the avoidance of doubt; this shall contain a methodology and treatment statement where any is found. Development shall not proceed until appropriate control measures are implemented. Any significant variation to the treatment methodology shall be submitted for approval, in writing by the Planning Authority prior to implementation.

Reason: To ensure the remediation scheme meets regulatory requirements and all contamination and Japanese Knotweed concerns are managed appropriately.

7. Development shall not commence until details of bin stores/containers to be used to store waste materials and recyclable materials as well as specific details of the areas where these are to be located have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. Following approval these shall be implemented in their approved form before first occupation of the administration/office building or first use of lodges hereby permitted.

Reason: To protect the amenity of the immediate area, prevent the creation of nuisance due to odours, insects, rodents or birds.

8. The administration/office building and lodges hereby approved shall be designed to ensure that at least 25% of the carbon dioxide emissions reduction standard set by Scottish Building Standards is met through the installation and operation of low and zero carbon generating technologies. Development shall not commence until details have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority relating to the proposed low and zero carbon generating technologies to be installed in the buildings. Thereafter the approved low and zero carbon generating technologies shall be implemented in their approved form before the first occupation of the administration/office building or lodges.

Reason: To comply with the requirements of Section 72 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

9. Prior to the commencement of development, confirmation of connection to Scottish Water's Network shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure Scottish Water's acceptance of the drainage regime for the application site and in the interests of the provision of a satisfactory drainage regime.

10. The development hereby permitted shall not commence until an Environmental Investigation and Risk Assessment, including any necessary Remediation Scheme with timescale for implementation, of all pollutant linkages has been submitted to and approved, in writing by the Planning Authority. The investigations and assessment shall be site-specific and completed in accordance with current codes of practice. The submission shall also include a Verification Plan. Any subsequent modifications to the Remediation Scheme and Verification Plan must be approved in writing by the Planning Authority prior to implementation.

Reason: To satisfactorily address potential contamination issues in the interests of human health and environmental safety.

11. Before the development hereby permitted is occupied the applicant shall submit a report for approval, in writing by the Planning Authority, confirming that the works have been completed in accordance with the agreed Remediation Scheme and supply information as agreed in the Verification Plan. This report shall demonstrate that no pollutant linkages remain or are likely to occur and include (but not limited to) a collation of verification/validation certificates, analysis information, remediation lifespan, maintenance/aftercare information and details of all materials imported onto the site as fill or landscaping material. The details of such materials shall include information of the material source, volume, intended use and chemical quality with plans delineating placement and thickness.

Reason: To ensure contamination is not imported to the site and confirm successful completion of remediation measures in the interest of human health and environmental safety.

12. For the avoidance of doubt, the presence of any previously unrecorded contamination or variation to anticipated ground conditions that becomes evident during site works shall be brought to the attention of the Planning Authority and a Remediation Scheme shall not be implemented unless it has been submitted to and approved, in writing by the Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that all contamination issues are recorded and dealt with appropriately.

13. Prior to the commencement of use of the development hereby permitted, the applicant shall provide for the written approval of the Planning Authority, a site plan which demonstrates an access from Dunrod Road, which shall be a minimum of 5.5m wide for a distance of 10m from the edge of road, at a maximum gradient of 10%; the single- track road within the shall be a minimum of 3.5 wide with intervisible passing places no more than 200m apart; the combined width of single-track road plus passing bay shall be 5.5 metres over a length of 15m to allow the safe passage of bin vehicles; tapers 5m long shall be provided at each end; and turning heads at the end of each access near lodge plots 3 and 12 shall be to National Guidelines requirements. Thereafter the access and road arrangement finally agreed shall be constructed and retained for the lifetime of the development.

Reason: In the interests of traffic and pedestrian safety.

14. For the avoidance of doubt, a visibility splay at the site access onto Dunrod Road of 2.4m x 160.0m x 1.05m shall be provided and maintained for the lifetime of the development.

Reason: In the interests of traffic and pedestrian safety.

15. Prior to the commencement of use of the development hereby permitted, the applicant shall provide for the written approval of the Planning Authority, a site plan which demonstrates pedestrian access between all lodges and the administration/office building. Thereafter the pedestrian access arrangements finally agreed shall be constructed and retained for the lifetime of the development.

Reason: In the interests of traffic and pedestrian safety.

16. Prior to the commencement of any development works on site, the applicant shall submit for the written approval of the Planning Authority, full details of how all surface water run off shall be retained within the site both during construction and on completion of the development. Thereafter the surface water run off shall be retained within the site in accordance with the detail finally approved, for the lifetime of the development.

Reason: In the interests of visual amenity.