

# **Good Practice In Rural Development**

**No. 7**

## **Environment and Heritage in Rural Development**

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**and**

**Rural Research Branch  
The Scottish Office Central Research Unit**

**1998**

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## Foreword

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The Scottish National Rural Partnership (SNRP) <sup>1</sup> is charged with the task of promoting rural development. To do this, it is publishing a range of titles in a series under the heading of '*Good Practice in Rural Development.*' These highlight principles of good practice in a number of aspects of rural development. The good practice notes are intended for the attention of all those involved in rural development, particularly local rural partnerships, as guidance which merits careful consideration. Whether or not to follow the guidance in all cases is, of course, a decision for each local rural partnership or other body to make in their particular circumstances.

This guide is the seventh in the *Good Practice in Rural Development* series and addresses the issue of environment and heritage in rural development work.

A list of other publications in the series is contained in the Annex.

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<sup>1</sup> It comprises representatives of The Scottish Office, Scottish Tourist Board, Scottish Natural Heritage, Rural Forum, Scottish Agricultural College, COSLA, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Homes, Forestry Commission, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Landowners Federation, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, National Farmers Union of Scotland, CBI Scotland, and Scottish Crofters Union.

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## Executive Summary

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This guide provides practical advice and information on integrating environment and heritage issues in rural development work to ensure sustainable rural development. It aims to encourage all local rural partnerships - strategic, topic and area - and other local agencies and organisations, to consider environment and heritage factors at all stages of their rural development work.

This guidance aims to inspire to view local natural environmental and historical features as potential contributors to rural development rather than as a constraint or hindrance to development, and to think carefully about the opportunities offered by these resources.

The guidance is based on the principle that consideration of environmental and historical resources in both formulating a strategy and assessing individual projects needs to be undertaken prior to making a decision. This offers the opportunity for

- reducing or avoiding negative impacts;
- highlighting possible environmental improvement and enhancements;
- identifying ways in which the environmental resources in the area can be developed to secure social and economic goals;
- reducing potential conflicts and opposition to individual development proposals.

A 'checklist' approach is highlighted in order to assist partnerships make better informed decisions. A checklist approach can be a valuable way of assessing the impacts of both possible policies and projects, and examples of checklists are provided.

Attention is drawn to the value of community involvement exercises and consultation in establishing the environmental features and concerns of an area, as well as drawing on the information and expertise that exists in local authorities and local agencies such as Scottish Natural Heritage.

# 1. Introduction

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This guide provides practical advice and information on integrating environment and heritage issues in rural development work. It aims to encourage local rural partnerships, and other local agencies and organisations, to consider environment and heritage factors at all stages of their rural development work.

All types of local rural partnerships - strategic, topic and area - will find the guidance helpful in

- inspiring them to think carefully about the development opportunities offered by the local natural and historical resources;
- assisting them in considering the possible effects (both beneficial and detrimental) of rural development projects on the natural and historical resources.

The benefits of considering environment and heritage issues in rural development are set out and practical advice is provided on how to go about it by following a step-by-step approach based on the different stages of development that can be undertaken by local rural partnerships. These are: setting up a partnership; preparing a local rural development strategy; and project development work. Partnerships will find the guidance useful whether they are directly involved in developing their own projects or with advising and assisting the local community to develop projects.

It is intended that this guide is accessible to all, and no prior knowledge of environmental techniques and tools such as environmental impact assessment is required. The annexes offer advice on organisations which it may be appropriate to contact for further help (Annex A) and on sources of further information and guidance (Annex B).

The guide is not prescriptive nor is it intended to force partnerships to follow a set procedure. Rather it sets out a framework for partnerships to consider, encouraging a systematic and comprehensive approach that can be adapted to local circumstances.

## **What is meant by environment and heritage?**

The terms 'environment' and 'heritage' are used to describe natural resources (flora, fauna, ecology, landscape and visual amenity, geology etc.) and historic resources (artefacts, buildings, historic landscapes, local traditions and culture).

## **2. Why consider environment and heritage issues?**

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There are a number of benefits that can be gained from considering environment and heritage issues in local rural development and this section highlights some these.

### **2.1 'Sustainable' development**

'Sustainable' development, often defined as “ensuring that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs” WCED (1987) Bruntland Commission<sup>2</sup>, is the overarching theme of all the Government's policies, and the discussion paper *Towards a Development Strategy for Rural Scotland*<sup>3</sup> emphasised that:

"Sustainable development depends on taking an integrated approach to each of three main policy objectives: economic, social and environmental....these three facets of sustainable development are equally important. We must have regard to all three when taking decisions on any issue affecting rural Scotland, maximising social and economic benefits from environmental investments, as well as maximising environmental benefits from economic and social investments". Identifying and understanding the future effects of a proposed policy or development in relation to the natural and historical resources in an area offers the opportunity for securing sustainable development.

### **2.2 Maximising the opportunities available from environmental resources**

By considering environment and heritage issues in a systematic way, opportunities and ways in which the local heritage resources can be developed to secure social and economic goals can be identified. Wildlife tourism, for example, offers potential economic benefits through direct employment opportunities and indirect benefits generated by spending in the local area on accommodation and services. It can also increase local pride and appreciation of the resource. The SNRP has published guidance on wildlife tourism<sup>4</sup>.

### **2.3 Managing the impacts of development**

Identifying the potential impact of any development on local natural and heritage resources early in the decision making process offers the opportunity for negative impacts to be reduced or avoided. Assessing impact prior to making a decision "is rooted in the common sense wisdom that it is better to prevent a problem than to cure it"<sup>5</sup>. The prevention of problems is essential because once some natural resources have been disturbed or destroyed they cannot be replaced. It is also necessary in some cases to meet legal requirements for protected areas and species, as well as environmental standards in certain developments.

### **2.4 Maximising the benefits of development**

Examining the potential impact of proposed projects can also ensure that positive impacts are emphasised and that the environmental benefits of all types of projects and policies, including those with a primarily social or economic focus, are maximised. The construction of a new village hall, for example, could contribute environmental benefits through landscaping using local species of plants and trees, the use of local materials and design, and incorporate energy efficiency measures.

### **2.5 Reducing conflict**

Ensuring that environment and heritage issues are considered at each step in the development process can reduce potential conflicts and opposition to development. The opportunity to minimise negative impacts and maximise positive benefits is likely to lead to developments that are widely acceptable.

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<sup>2</sup> World Commission on Environment and Development (1987) *Our Common Future*

<sup>3</sup>The Scottish Office (1997) *Towards a Development Strategy for Rural Scotland: A Discussion paper*

<sup>4</sup>*New Ideas in Rural Development No. 5: Setting up a wildlife tourism initiative* by Mary-Ann Smyth, RSK-ERA Ltd (1998)

<sup>5</sup>Kozłowski J M (1989) Integrating ecological thinking into the planning process: a comparison of EIA and UET concepts. WZB Paper FS-II-89-404. Berlin: Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin Für Sozialforschung.

### **3. Considering environment and heritage issues**

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It is important that environment and heritage issues are considered at each step in the development and decision making process, and this section follows a step-by-step approach based on the main stages in the development of a partnership: setting up a partnership, preparing a local rural development strategy and project development work.

The key principles of any approach to integrating environment and heritage issues into rural development are that it is:

- systematic - to ensure that all key environment and heritage issues are considered at all the main stages in the rural development process;
- consistent - to ensure that the same approach is followed for the same reasons; and
- iterative - that decisions on policies and projects can be adjusted and refined in light of the consideration of environment and heritage issues.

#### **3.1 Setting up a Partnership**

The SNRP has already issued advice on setting up partnerships in the first of this series<sup>6</sup> and the guidance note issued by The Scottish Office on local rural partnerships provides advice on partnership membership<sup>7</sup>. This section draws attention to the value of including an organisation or individual with specialist skills in the environment and heritage in the partnership.

Many partnerships will benefit from the representation of local organisations or individuals with environment and heritage knowledge. The local authority, who should have a representative on the partnership, and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) will be able to provide valuable advice on general and local environmental issues. In addition, representatives from local groups such as historical and amenity groups could be considered. There may also be a local forum on sustainable development, a local environmental forum or a Local Agenda 21 group in your area. The advantages of including such representatives include:

- advice in deciding how environment and heritage good practice can be integrated in the activities of the partnership;
- advice on relevant legal requirements relating to the environment and heritage;
- help in identifying any major local environmental and heritage constraints and opportunities at an early stage;
- advice on relevant funding sources to which partnerships may have access.

As well as recognised groups, individuals within the local community with particular expertise in environmental or heritage issues may be able to make a valuable contribution to the partnership. For example, local people often have detailed knowledge about the locations of rare plants and animals; areas which are locally important for recreation; and local historic or cultural features.

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<sup>6</sup>*Good Practice in Rural Development No. 1: Effective Partnership working* by Bill Slee and Patrick Snowden, Univeristy of Aberdeen , with Robert Gordon, Bill Marshall and Andrew Wells (1997)

<sup>7</sup>*Guidance Note on Local Rural Partnerships* The Scottish Office (1996) (1997)

## 3.2 Developing a Strategy

A key task that partnerships may undertake is the preparation of a local rural development strategy and guidance has been issued on this topic in the third of this series<sup>8</sup>. This section highlights how partnerships should take account of environment and heritage issues in preparing strategies.

### Identifying the local context

A strategy sets out the key concerns and development opportunities in an area and contains an action plan to tackle these concerns. Gaining a thorough understanding of the local context is vital in order that the strategy can draw on local strengths and opportunities. The natural environmental and historical resources in rural Scotland offer tremendous opportunities for rural development, and partnerships should consider:

- opportunities for benefiting from natural environment or heritage features (eg developing wildlife or 'green' tourism projects)<sup>9</sup> ;
- opportunities for improving natural environment or heritage features as part of partnership activity (eg renovating historic buildings);
- gaps in access to information on environment and heritage issues;
- problems of environmental pollution or degradation.

Whatever the primary purpose of a partnership, most will benefit from thinking about how natural environmental and historical resources can be used to achieve their broader aims. Tourism, for example, is clearly one area in which the natural environmental and historical resources can be developed to further social and economic aims by providing employment opportunities and encouraging visitors to the area - and many local rural partnerships are already attempting to promote economic development through tourism. Attractions and facilities developed to promote tourism can also benefit the local community. A wildlife viewing centre, for example, can be used as an educational facility for local schools and people. SNH have published a booklet describing the way natural heritage has been used in 6 rural development projects and local rural partnerships may find this helpful<sup>10</sup>.

#### Identifying Opportunities For Improving Heritage Features

The Ardnamurchan Lighthouse Trust includes (amongst others) representatives from the Council, the local enterprise company and SNH and the local community. Key objectives of the partnership were to increase the total number of visitors to the area by providing an all weather attraction and also to promote the cultural heritage of the area. Following a socio-economic feasibility study, a visitor centre has been developed using a redundant lighthouse thus limiting potential environmental impacts from new build and drawing on the setting of a historic feature for the development. A display in the lighthouse focuses on the history and culture of the area and the natural environment, as well as navigation.

Contact: Dot Ferguson, Highland Council. Tel: 01397 707044

<sup>8</sup>*Good Practice in Rural Development No.3: Preparing Local Rural Development Strategies: Frameworks for Action* by Rural Reserach Branch, The Scottish Office Central Research Unit and COSLA (1997)

<sup>9</sup> *Cultural Tourism* (1994) ed by J M Fladmark, The Rbert Gordon University Aberdeen.

<sup>10</sup>*Working Together: the Natural Heritage in Rural Development: Six Scottish Case Studies* by SNH (1996)

Much information on local environment and heritage resources will be available from the local authority. Some, for example, are preparing State of the Environment reports and have accumulated much information for these, as well as through their involvement with Local Agenda 21 planning and biodiversity action plans. In addition, many local authorities will be collecting information on the local natural heritage resources in the area based on guidance issued by SNH<sup>11</sup> to help contribute to their strategic planning.

Information may also be available from other agencies and national organisations and from local amenity groups and wildlife trusts, and suggestions for possible consultation are listed in Annex A.

Community involvement is also a valuable way of gaining factual information on key environmental issues and assets in the area, as well as the views of local people on priorities for development. Local people can provide a rich source of information and are often best placed to identify local needs and opportunities. Asking local people about the features of the local environment that they value will help in the formulation of the strategy and actions. Other guides in this series provide further information on techniques that partnerships can use to involve local communities<sup>12</sup>.

The Scottish Borders Rural Partnership, for example, has encountered concern over environmental issues such as recycling, water quality, pollution, rubbish in the countryside and the need for improved access, particularly to river banks, as part of its 'bottom-up' community development work.

## Deciding on the strategy

As part of the process of considering objectives and policies for incorporation into the strategy, the potential effects on the natural environment and historic resources need to be considered. This exercise is sometimes referred to as an 'environmental appraisal'. In undertaking this process, it is advisable to follow a structured and methodical approach to ensure that:

- objectives match key principles of sustainable development;
- policies are not in conflict;
- opportunities for development offered by natural resources are considered;
- all significant potential impacts are taken account of; and
- environmental improvements are identified.

A 'checklist' can be used to explore the effect of a policy on the natural and historical resources of the area. It may be difficult to assess the impacts of policy objectives that are of a general nature and it is easier to assess impacts of individual projects because more precise information is known about factors such as scale, location, and design. The advantage of using a checklist is that a **guide** to the likely impacts of possible policies can be gained, and policies and objectives can be clarified and modified in the process of their development. It

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<sup>11</sup>*Assessing the Natural Heritage Resource: a guidance note for local authorities* by SNH (1996)

<sup>12</sup>*Good Practice in Rural Development No.2: Community Involvement in Rural Development Initiatives* by Rural Forum and Rural Research Branch, The Scottish Office Central Research Unit (1997)

*Good Practice in Rural Development No.3: Preparing Local Rural Development Strategies: Frameworks for Action* by Rural Research Branch, The Scottish Office Central Research Unit and COSLA (1997)

see also: *Involving Communities in Urban and Rural Regeneration* by Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (1997)

is important, therefore, that these issues are considered during the course of the formulation of the strategy, so that partnerships, in consultation with local communities, will be better informed when deciding on the most appropriate policies and strategic options.

One example of a checklist is that developed for the appraisal of the Highlands and Islands Partnership Objective 1 Programme. This checklist has been adapted to suit the needs of local rural partnerships and is outlined below on pages 7-10. Whilst answering the questions on the list will not in itself deliver a "sustainable initiative", thinking about how to refine a partnership strategy to improve the answers can help shape a more sustainable approach.

The checklist is based on 10 principles for sustainable development and sets out examples of the types of questions which could be asked in relation to each of these 10 principles in developing a strategy. The checklist can also be useful in later stages when any specific project is being planned (see section 3.3.)

Partnerships may wish to devise their own checklist based on local circumstances:

### **A Partnership Developing Its Own Checklist**

Angus Rural Partnership is an example of a strategic partnership which has developed a rural strategy and is committed to encouraging an integrated approach towards the development and implementation of policies and programmes. The Partnership aims to enhance the health, social, economic and environmental well-being of rural communities, ensuring quality, efficiency and a cost-effective and sustainable use of limited resources. During the early stages of its development, the Partnership has been concerned principally with putting the principles of the Rural Strategy into practice, and is currently devising a checklist to assist in the review of environmental and natural heritage issues in the development of new projects. The checklist will focus on sustainability, and will be used to identify other appropriate environmental tools and training opportunities which might be used to improve project design.

Contact: Caire Broadhurst, Angus Rural Partnership. Tel: 01575 574155

# **A Sustainable Development Checklist for the Environment and Local Heritage**

## **Principle 1: Minimise the Use of Non-Renewable Resources**

The use of non-renewable resources such as fossil fuels, mineral ores and aggregates as well as unique and irreplaceable geological, historical, ecological or landscape features which contribute to productivity, biodiversity, scientific knowledge and culture, reduces the stock available to future generations.

### *Some Key Questions*

- *Could the initiative lead to substantial use of non-renewable resources such as aggregates?*
- *Are there opportunities to use renewable in preference to non-renewable resources?*
- *Does the initiative offer opportunities for recycling or re-use of non-renewable materials (eg could natural stone from a property requiring demolition be used elsewhere)?*
- *Is the initiative likely to result in more fossil fuel use through being less fuel (or energy) efficient (eg an increase in the length of or number of vehicle trips)?*
- *Does the initiative facilitate provision of use of public transport or encourage walking or cycling?*
- *Does the initiative provide opportunities to improve energy efficiency in buildings?*

## **Principle 2: Use Renewable Resources within their Capacity for Regeneration**

In using renewable resources from primary production activities such as forestry, fisheries and agriculture there is a maximum sustainable yield from each system after which the resource begins to be degraded.

Renewable resources should be used only at or below a rate at which they can be regenerated in order to maintain or increase the stock for future generations.

### *Some Key Questions*

- *Could the initiative lead to substantial use of renewable resources which have a limited capacity for regeneration such as timber or water?*
- *Could the initiative offer opportunities for regenerating renewable resources which have been degraded by past activities (eg tidying up derelict and vacant land)?*

## **Principle 3: Use and Manage Hazardous and Polluting Substances and Wastes in an Environmentally Sound Way**

A sustainable approach will seek to avoid or reduce the generation of wastes by adopting cleaner, lower waste processes and effective systems of waste management and pollution control.

### *Some Key Questions*

- *Could the initiative lead to generation of substantial quantities of construction, demolition or processing wastes or spoil, to creation or emissions of pollutants into the air or discharges of polluting effluents into water. Could it lead to creation of any quantity of hazardous waste?*
- *Is it possible to incorporate prevention or minimisation of pollution at source (eg waste minimisation, use of cleaner technology) into the initiative?*

- *Could other ways of reducing impacts at source be incorporated into the initiative (eg could a road be designed at grade following the landscape contours rather than in cut to reduce the amount of spoil created)?*
- *Could the initiative re-use, recover or recycle wastes?*
- *Could natural systems such as reedbeds be used to remove pollutants?*

#### **Principle 4: Maintain and Improve Natural Heritage Resources**

The stock and quality of natural heritage resources should be maintained or improved for the enjoyment and benefit of present and future generations and to conserve biological diversity. Natural heritage resources, as defined by SNH (1993) embrace landform, habitats, wildlife and landscapes, the combination of and interrelationships between them and their potential for enjoyment. There are close links to the cultural heritage.

##### *Some Key Questions*

- *Could the initiative result in loss of or damage to:*
  - *protected and endangered species (eg badgers, otters, bats, rare birds or plants)?*
  - *areas designated for their nature conservation or landscape significance by international, national or local authorities or other bodies?*
  - *other natural or semi-natural areas of importance to wildlife, such as green spaces, woodlands and forests, hedgerows, other wildlife corridors (eg riverbanks, disused railway lines)?*
  - *sites of importance for their geology or physiography (eg important rock formations)?*
- *Does the initiative encourage actions which could benefit natural heritage resources by increasing wildlife potential or landscape quality (eg can hedgerows be improved and linked to form effective wildlife corridors)?*
- *Does the initiative encourage actions which could enhance people's enjoyment or benefit from natural heritage resources by improving access?*

#### **Principle 5: Maintain and Improve Soils and Water Resources**

Soil and water are natural, renewable resources which may suffer particular threats from loss by abstraction or erosion or from pollution. The quantity and quality of existing resources should be protected and degraded resources improved where possible.

##### *Some Key Questions*

- *Could the initiative:*
  - *result in discharges of pollutants to water either intentionally or through accidental releases?*
  - *require abstraction of substantial quantities of water from ground or surface supplies?*
  - *result in erosion of soils?*
  - *cause contamination of soils or groundwater?*
  - *cause loss of or damage to good quality agricultural land?*
- *Could the initiative:*
  - *reduce pollution of water?*
  - *reduce the need for abstraction of water from limited resources?*
  - *repair erosion?*
  - *use natural systems such as grass swales, reedbeds and detention ponds to reduce pollution?*

#### **Principle 6: Maintain and Improve Historic and Cultural Resources**

Historic and cultural resources are finite resources which, once demolished or damaged cannot be replaced. As non-renewable resources, the principles of sustainable development require that features, sites or areas of rarity, which represent a particular period or type, or which make a particular contribution to the traditions and culture of an area should be conserved. These may include buildings, other structures or monuments from any period, buried archaeology, designed landscapes, parks and gardens, and facilities which contribute to the cultural life of a community (theatres, etc.). Traditional lifestyles, customs and languages also constitute historic and cultural resources which it may be appropriate to conserve.

### *Some Key Questions*

- *Could the initiative result in loss of or damage to buildings or features which are of cultural or historic significance?*
- *Does the initiative encourage conservation of historic and cultural resources, for example through adaptive re-use of buildings which might otherwise be demolished due to dereliction?*
- *Could the initiative be redesigned to avoid unnecessary pressures on buried features of archaeological significance?*
- *Could interpretative facilities be improved to provide more information on historical sites?*

### **Principle 7: Maintain and Improve Local Environmental Quality**

Air quality, ambient noise, visual and general amenity can all affect the quality of the local environment. Local environmental quality can change dramatically as a result of increased traffic, construction works and quarrying, industrial operations, development of new buildings and infrastructure and increased levels of activity, for example by growing numbers of visitors.

### *Some Key Questions*

- *Could the initiative lead to an increase in emissions of air pollutants into the atmosphere including gaseous emissions from fuel combustion in stationary plant or vehicles, dust from construction or quarrying, odours or other emissions from processes?*
- *Could the initiative cause increased noise or vibration from traffic (road, air, sea), industrial or other processes including blasting etc.?*
- *Will the initiative introduce intrusive new structures into the environment with the potential to cause visual intrusion?*
- *Will the initiative result in increased levels of activity in otherwise quiet areas?*
- *Will the management of visitor activity be improved?*

### **Principle 8: Protect the Global and Regional Atmosphere**

One of the main driving forces behind the emergence of sustainable development has been the evidence of global and regional problems caused by emissions to the atmosphere. The links between combustion emissions, acid rain and acidification of soils and water, between chlorofluorocarbons, destruction of the ozone layer and human health effects and between carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases and climate change are well documented. These impacts are long-term and pervasive and present major threats to future generations. Their management is therefore at the heart of the sustainable development debate and the UK has established targets for reductions in emissions of the key pollutants.

### *Some Key Questions*

- *Could the initiative lead to projects which reduce consumption of fossil fuels and resulting emissions of carbon dioxide, sulphur oxides, nitrogen oxides and unburnt hydrocarbons by reducing traffic, improving energy efficiency, using cleaner technologies?*
- *Could the initiative lead to projects which create sinks for carbon dioxide by new tree planting or sustainable forestry management practices?*
- *Could the initiative lead to projects which replace fossil fuel consumption by, for example, wind, wave or biomass energy or use of waste materials as fuels?*

### **Principle 9: Adopt a Precautionary Approach in Situations of Great Complexity or Uncertainty**

Where detailed knowledge on potentially significant areas, ecosystems, features etc. is not available or where an area or feature is known to be of significance a precautionary approach to development should be applied to ensure irreversible environmental or heritage damage does not occur. It may be necessary to adapt proposals in these circumstances or even not to take them forward at all.

#### *Some Key Questions*

- *Can the scale and significance of impacts be adequately predicted?*
- *Is there a risk of impacts being very widespread, very damaging or irreversible?*
- *Are adequate monitoring systems in place if development is proceeding in a sensitive situation?*

### **Principle 10: Ensure an Equitable Distribution of Costs and Benefits from Development**

To make sustainable decisions effective, efforts need to be made to listen to the needs and views of all the individuals or interests who may be affected, to gain a common understanding of what a sustainable decision entails and to identify the actions required to make it work. To ensure one group is not benefiting at the expense of another all possible interested parties should be involved in the decision-making process about a proposed development.

#### *Some Key Questions*

- *Have all the economic, social, environmental and heritage benefits and/or disbenefits been identified?*
- *Have all the potentially affected parties been identified, consulted and involved in the decision-making process?*
- *Have both material and non-material costs and benefits been considered?*
- *Is there imbalance in who gains and who loses under the initiative (eg does the creation of development land mean the community loses recreational space)?*

### 3.3 Planning Projects

This section highlights ways in which partnerships can consider environment and heritage issues in progressing projects and will help partnerships in developing projects directly, advising and assisting the local community in preparing projects, or responding to local project proposals.

#### **Legal Requirements**

In some circumstances, the way partnerships need to consider environment and heritage issues in project development is prescribed by law. For example, Environmental Assessment (EA) is required by law for certain developments which because of their nature, size or location could have significant impacts. A useful list of the projects that require an Environmental Assessment is contained in DOE (1989)<sup>13</sup> and Annex B gives further guidance. It is unlikely that partnerships will be undertaking or assisting with developments that require an Environmental Assessment, but if you are unsure whether an EA is required the local planning authority will be able to advise you.

Similarly, the local authority and agencies such as SNH, SEPA and Historic Scotland can advise on other legislation which may be relevant to the project. For example, if the project proposal may affect a Scheduled Ancient Monument there will be a requirement to consult with Historic Scotland. SNH will need to be consulted if there could be impacts to protected species such as badgers, otters or bats, or on protected areas such as Special Areas of Conservation.

The environment and heritage impacts of some projects will have to conform with the local development plan and comply with planning and building controls enforced by the local authority, such as those requiring planning permission.

#### **Project appraisal**

Considering environment and heritage issues as an integral part of the project design process ensures that potentially damaging effects are avoided or minimised and that beneficial aspects are enhanced. Some projects are more likely to have an impact on the local environment than others, such as building a new visitor centre or renovating a community hall. However, other projects such as a childcare initiative or employment training scheme may have less obvious impacts - such as an increase in the use of transport or environmental benefits such as the joint use of facilities.

Most project proposals will benefit from consideration of the environmental and heritage aspects at an early stage to ensure that the project is sensitive to the local area and that the environmental benefits are maximised. Carrying out such an assessment can also bring practical benefits such as increasing local support for the project and perhaps securing funding. Many funding organisations require that an application takes account of such issues. The Rural Challenge Fund Bidding Guidance, for example, notes that;

"Where relevant, the bid should demonstrate how the project will respect and wherever possible enhance the built and natural environment. Where development is proposed, it should be consistent with the relevant development plan and have received appropriate planning consent. The assessment will pay close attention to the quality, scale, location and appropriateness of design of any development or redevelopment proposals and will look for sustainable use of resources".

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<sup>13</sup> Department of the Environment/Welsh Office (1989) *Environmental Assessment: a Guide to the Procedures*

Even if a project proposal has arisen from the strategy and associated action plan, and a checklist approach as suggested above was followed in developing the strategy, it will be helpful to consider environment and heritage issues given the more detailed knowledge or the design of the project.

### **Assessing Environmental Effects**

Newton Stewart Initiative is committed to a comprehensive programme of regeneration in the town through enhancement of the natural and physical townscape and landscape through provision of new facilities and enhancement of existing amenities.

An early community consultation exercise enabled a list of projects to be identified and these were developed into a business plan and programme of action. Key projects which are being developed at present include a facelift scheme for the commercial centre, enhancement of an area of local space and plans for a new footbridge across the River Cree and more formal walkway beside the river with interpretation of the ecology of the salmon river. The implications of any planned changes in environmental terms are considered fundamental in developing proposals. A local development company (which is part funded by the Council and Local Enterprise Company) completed an appraisal of the likely environmental effects of developing the footbridge and paths. The findings together with SNH's comments are guiding the detailed design stage ensuring that adverse impacts to the environment will be reduced wherever possible. In the long term the Initiative would wish to implement a monitoring scheme which will consider the environmental implications of all its projects to assess their effects (both positive and negative) on the environment.

Contact: Piotr Lewicki, Newton Stewart Initiative. Tel: 01776 702151

There are a number of steps that can be followed in order to consider the environmental and heritage issues in potential projects<sup>14</sup>.

### **Scoping**

The first step in considering the environmental and heritage aspects of a project involves 'Scoping' - systematically examining a proposed project to check whether there is any likelihood of significant adverse environmental impacts or the potential for creating environmental benefits.

The main tasks involved in scoping will usually include:

- initial research to identify the features of the project which could give rise to environmental and heritage impacts, to collate information on the local environment which could be affected and to identify gaps in the information which is available;
- a review to identify the potential for significant interactions between the project and its environment (impacts);
- preliminary studies to identify the nature, extent and importance of these impacts;
- review of possible alternatives to the project eg alternative sites, or modifications to the site, layout or operations which might reduce environmental impacts;
- identification of potential enhancements which could be provided through the project.

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<sup>14</sup> Local rural partnerships may find it useful to read the SNRP guidance *Good Practice in Rural Development No.6: Developing Projects and Securing Funding* by Halcrow Fox (1998)

These tasks should be completed by a combination of:

- desk studies to collect information on the project and the local environment which is already published or otherwise readily available;
- visits to the site and surrounding areas to identify sensitive features and areas;
- consultation with relevant authorities on statutory requirements;
- consultation with other interested parties;
- the use of a checklist (see below).

### **Using a Checklist**

A checklist approach can help you undertake this scoping exercise by structuring your examination of project proposals. The sustainable development checklist on pages 7-10 could be applied to assessing the likely positive and negative impacts of projects and initiatives.

A simple approach is the use of a 'local sustainability model'. This is used firstly to agree on the current status of the area in terms of its economic, social and environmental sustainability, and then project proposals are considered in terms of how they affect the model<sup>15</sup>. This approach has been used by Highland Perthshire Communities Partnership:

#### **Considering the impacts of projects**

Highland Perthshire Communities Partnership is a local area based rural partnership comprising of 8 community councils, 2 local branches of the SNFU, 5 other local partnerships committed to sustainable development, and also includes representation from the Church, Landowners and Heartland FM, the local community radio enterprise.

A local sustainability model developed by Drew Mackie of Gaia Planning for use by both communities and professionals to 'assess the effects of proposals on the economic, community and environmental sustainability of their area' has been applied to The model consists of a 3 by 3 matrix in which "the columns represent the 3 components of sustainability: the natural environment; the community and its culture; and the economy. The rows represent various states of these components: robust - little affected by external events; stable - locally well-founded but subject to external 'shocks'; and fragile - locally at risk and prey to external effects."

Definitions of these concepts were discussed, adapted for the local context and agreed by the partnership to establish a consensus of the current status of the area within the partnership. The partnership is now using the model for an initial assessment of the potential impacts of local project proposals. A non-numerical 'scoring' system is used to assess changes to the existing state of each aspect of the local sustainability: eg whether a project will change the environment from fragile to stable etc.

The partnership considered this model was a useful tool given their range of backgrounds and disciplines, and its strong local knowledge through its community membership and 'facilitates an overview of the impression that each project may have on the area's perceived baseline'.

Contact: Drew Mackie can be contacted on 0131 445 5930. Gil Orr, HPC Partnership can be contacted on 01796 472772.

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<sup>15</sup>The reports 'Coping with Local Agenda 21' and 'Using the Local Sustainability Model' by Drew Mackie of Gaia Planning are available from Rural Forum.

Another checklist is that issued by Forward Scotland- an initiative which aims to assist communities carry out projects which contribute to sustainable development. Although the checklist does not focus solely on environmental issues, it may help you to consider the environmental aspects of your proposed project.

### **Sustainability Checklist**

Does your project help in the following areas?

#### ***Community Participation***

- encourage local action and decision-making
- involve your community in developing the proposal
- take into account under-represented groups

#### ***Economy and Work***

- link local production with local consumption
- increase employment/vocational training opportunities
- improve environmental awareness of local business

#### ***Transport***

- encourage walking or cycling
- encourage use of public transport
- discourage use of cars/lorries

#### ***Pollution***

- reduce/prevent pollution eg noise, air, water, land

#### ***Energy***

- maximise energy efficiency
- generate energy from renewable resources or waste

#### ***Waste & Resources***

- reduce waste and/or maximise resource use
- encourage reuse and/or repair
- encourage recycling or use recycled products

#### ***Buildings & Land Use***

- provide local amenities
- improve access for disabled
- reuse/conservate building(s)

#### ***Wildlife & Open Spaces***

- encourage use of open spaces for community benefit
- encourage natural plant and animal life

#### ***Integration***

- seek to combine the social, economic and environmental
- seek to integrate the efforts of partners involved

Source: Forward Scotland: Small Grants Big Ideas

## **Consultations**

Local rural partnerships are unlikely to have all the detailed expertise that may be required to assess the opportunities and impacts of some projects on the local natural and built heritage resources. Undertaking consultations in planning and progressing individual projects and initiatives can, therefore, be extremely beneficial. Consultees will vary according to the type of project, and apart from the local authority and statutory agencies, could include local environmental and heritage interest groups and specialists able to assist in identifying appropriate methods for assessment of impacts. For example, if you are planning to renovate an old property and convert it into a community centre, a key consultee would be the planning department at the local authority to clarify relevant policies, whether planning permission is required, whether the building is listed etc. Other consultees could include the local highways department and the police, to check whether there are any traffic problems, local interest groups who may use the building, and residents who could be affected by the change of use.

A list of some possible key consultees is given in Annex A, although this is likely to vary between projects. The Environment Council's Who's Who in the Environment provides some useful information about these organisations. The planning department in the local council will be able to give further advice on who should be consulted.

The way the consultation is carried out will depend upon the type of organisation. It may be carried out, for example, through informal discussions, distribution of project information and written responses. Circulating a short briefing note with the results of the initial scoping exercise can be useful for consultees, so that they can respond with relevant comments and concerns.

Consulting with the local community will also be helpful as local people can provide a wealth of detailed knowledge about the local environment.

### **A Partnership Committed To Effective Consultation**

Huntly Ltd is an area partnership with the principle aim of improving the local economy through the regeneration of business and tourism. As part of a study into traffic management in the town, a public consultation exercise was undertaken inviting comments and views on this and other town centre improvements. As a result a series of measures have been implemented including laying granite sets, putting up cast iron bollards and installing new signing. As part of the initiative Huntly Heritage Group was consulted for advice on the wording for stone slab interpretation points in the Square. The community also wished to make the surrounding countryside more accessible to the public and in particular, to tourists. Improvements to the footpath network including improved signing have been implemented and leaflets advertising walks have been produced. This initiative was designed using local knowledge alongside specialist advice from a footpath consultant who was recommended by the Council. Scottish Natural Heritage guidelines on environmental practice were followed.

Contact: Emma Plumpton, Huntly Ltd. Tel: 01466 794478

### **Detailed Evaluation of Impacts**

If the scoping and consultation have identified the potential to cause significant effects on the environment, then a more detailed examination may be required to predict their scale and significance.

To assist in this, much information may already be available from the local authority and SNH although it may be necessary to carry out surveys and other studies of the local area to establish more detailed or 'site-specific' information to allow impacts to be predicted (or to establish the starting point for monitoring changes once a project is implemented.) They may involve ecological, heritage, landscape and visual surveys or noise or air quality monitoring. Methods will differ according to the type of project and impact, and may include a combination of qualitative and quantitative techniques. Some sources of further information and guidance on how to undertake these assessments is contained in Annex B. These more detailed studies, if required, will need to be prepared by people with relevant experience and technical ability. Whilst some of the necessary expertise may be available from members of the partnership or local community, it is likely that consultants will need to be commissioned. If help is needed, the local authority or one of the statutory agencies may be able to advise. In addition, there are also various directories (eg Environment Business, ENDS) which may be held by the local authority or in larger libraries, which provide information about environmental specialists. You may be able to secure funding for this as part of a feasibility study.

One partnership found that, although an Environmental Assessment was not formally required, carrying out a detailed assessment of the environmental effects of a project helped in its progress:

#### **Use Of Environmental Assessment In Progressing Projects**

The key aim of The Rural Stirling Partnership is to stimulate economic and business development in the Rural Stirling area. In doing so full account is taken of other issues which may impact on the proposals, including the environment. A wide variety of projects is being progressed and the lead organisation ensures the necessary environmental assessments are carried out to comply with legal requirements and to provide information for grant applications. For example, a full environmental assessment has recently been carried out by a private sector development for a mushroom farm and this assisted in taking the project forward. The assessment was able to demonstrate that the proposed site would impact on few sensitive properties in the vicinity and this allayed fears about potential odour problems etc. Other initiatives include energy saving measures to reduce business costs but where the spin-offs include environmental benefits.

Contact: Hugh Lightbody, Rural Stirling Partnership. Tel: 01786 479000

## **Mitigation and Enhancement**

If adverse environmental and heritage effects are likely to occur, consideration needs to be given to how to deal with these impacts. Three types of mitigation (i.e. those measures to reduce the impacts of the proposals) can be considered:

- *avoidance* - redesign of the proposals to avoid environmental damage (eg realignment of an access road to avoid damage to sensitive habitats);
- *reduction* - design to lessen the severity of the impact which cannot be avoided entirely (eg changing the internal redesign of an old building to protect historic features or providing cycle racks to encourage people to leave their cars behind);
- *remedy* - acknowledging some adverse consequences and providing measures to enhance remaining features to compensate for the damage (eg improving the management of remaining woodland and planting new hedgerows).

The organisations and agencies listed in annex A may be able to advise you on reducing the negative impacts of a project proposal.

## **Monitoring Projects**

It is important to review projects periodically in order to:

- examine the environmental effects;
- ensure that any mitigation measures are adequate and effective;
- ensure that no unforeseen impacts are occurring;
- adapt to any change in circumstances; and
- check all legal requirements are being met.

Where a project has the potential to have an effect on the environment, or where it is not possible to predict what effects might occur, monitoring can be a useful way of ensuring that unacceptable impacts do not arise. It can also be useful to monitor whether mitigation measures are working satisfactorily.

When monitoring is used it is important to define some thresholds against which the impact of the project can be assessed. If the threshold is exceeded, action would be taken to prevent the impact recurring and to repair any damage. An example might be, monitoring visitor numbers to a site threatened by footpath erosion. If numbers exceeded a certain level, restrictions would be introduced to control visitor pressure.

The Sustainable Development checklist described earlier could be used to identify key indicators of environment and heritage sustainability which could be monitored across a partnership area (the area of natural habitat, the diversity of species, the condition of historic sites, the level of air or water pollution, and so on).

## **Annex A Sources of Advice and Information**

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Organisations involved in Environment and Heritage which it may be appropriate to contact for information and guidance include:

Archaeological Service (local authority)  
Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland  
The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)  
The Council for Scottish Archaeology  
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Groups (FWAG)  
The Forestry Commission  
Forward Scotland  
Highlands and Islands Enterprise  
Historic Scotland  
Local Authorities  
Local Bird/Badger Groups *etc*  
Local Enterprise Companies  
National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS)  
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monument of Scotland (RCAHMS)  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)  
Scottish Agricultural College (SAC)  
Scottish Enterprise  
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)  
Scottish Landowners Federation  
Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)  
Scottish Office Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries Department (SOAEFD)  
Scottish Wildlife Trust  
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

## **Annex B Further Information and Guidance**

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This annex lists sources of further information and guidance as follows:

### *General Guidance*

- Sustainable Development
- Environmental Assessment
- Environmental Management and Audit
- Policies and Plans

### *Specific Topic Areas*

- Roads and Traffic
- Land Use, Recreation and Access
- Soils and Agriculture
- Forestry
- Geology
- Freshwater
- Marine Environment
- Ecology, Nature Conservation
- Landscape and Visual Assessment
- Cultural Heritage
- Noise and Vibration
- Air Quality

## Sustainable Development

- *Biodiversity - the UK Action Plan* (1994) CM 2428.
- *Climate Change - The UK Programme* (1994) CM 2427.
- DETR/LGA/LGMB (1998) *Sustainable Local Communities for the 21st Century : and How to prepare an effective Local Agenda 21 Strategy*
- English Heritage, English Nature, Countryside Commission (1993) *Conservation Issues in Strategic Plans*, Countryside Commission.
- English Nature (1996) *Strategic Environmental Assessment and Nature Conservation*.
- Keating M (1993) *The Earth Summit's Agenda for Change. A Plain Language of Agenda 21 and Other Rio Agreements*, Centre for our Common Future.
- Local Government Management Board (LGMB) (1991) *Environmental Auditing in Local Government - a Guide and Discussion Paper*.
- Local Government Management Board (LGMB) (1992) *Local Agenda 21, Guide for Local Authorities*, Supplement No 2.
- Local Government Management Board (LGMB) (1994) *Local Agenda 21 Principles and Process: a step-by-step guide*
- Local Government Management Board (LGMB) (1993) *Towards Sustainability. The EC's Fifth Action Programme on the Environment*.
- Morris J (1993) *Local Agenda 21 in the UK: The First Steps*, ECOS 14 (3-4).
- Scottish Natural Heritage (1993) *Sustainable Development and the Natural Heritage: the SNH Approach*, SNH.
- Scottish Natural Heritage (1996) *Working Together, The Natural Heritage in Rural Development*.
- Scottish Office (1997) *Common Purpose*
- Scottish Biodiversity Group (1997) *Biodiversity in Scotland: The way forward*
- *Sustainable Development - the UK Strategy* (1994) CM 2426.
- UK Round Table on Sustainable Development - various reports
- Worldwide Fund for Nature UK (1993) *Sustainability: A Guide for Decision Makers*

## **Environmental Assessment**

- Department of the Environment (1995) *Preparation of Environmental Statements for Planning Projects that Require Environmental Assessment. A Good Practice Guide*, HMSO.
- Department of the Environment/Welsh Office (1994) *Evaluation of Environmental Information for Planning Projects. A Good Practice Guide*, HMSO.
- Department of the Environment/Welsh Office (1989) *Environmental Assessment a Guide to the Procedures*, HMSO.
- Directorate General for Environment, Nuclear Safety and Civil Protection (1994) *EIA Review Checklist*, European Commission.
- Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Regulations (1988) SI No 1221, HMSO.
- Official Journal of the European Communities 1-175/40 (1985) Council Directive of June 1985 on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Public and Private Projects on the Environment (85/337/EEC) OJEC.
- 27 • Scottish Office Environment Department Circular 26/94 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1994, HMSO.
- Scottish Office (leaflet) *Environmental Assessment: A Guide*.
- The Environment Council (1996) *Who's Who in the Environment*, SNH.
- Environment Agency (1996) *Environmental Assessment: Scoping Handbook for Projects*, HMSO.

## **Environmental Management and Audit**

- Commission of the European Communities (1994) EMAS *The Eco Management and Audit Scheme. An Introductory Guide*, Third Draft.
- Department of the Environment (1995) *EC Eco-Management and Audit Scheme: A Participants Guide*, HMSO.
- Department of the Environment (1995) *Introducing EMAS: Because Good Environmental Management is Good Business Sense*.
- East Midlands Advisory Group on the Environment, *Environmental Management Check List*, EMAGE.
- Institute of Environmental Manager, CEBIS and Grampian Enterprise (1994) *The Environmental Manager's Manual: Establishing and Maintaining Successful Environmental Management*, Institute of Environmental Managers.

## Policies and Plans

Relevant policies and plans may include the following:

- International environmental policies include EC Directives or International Conventions (eg Agenda 21; the Convention on Biological Diversity *etc*).
- National policies include:
  - **National Planning Policy Guidelines (NPPG)** including:
    - NPPG 1 The Planning System
    - NPPG 2 Business and Industry
    - NPPG 3 Land for Housing (revised 1996)
    - NPPG 4 Land for Mineral Working
    - NPPG 5 Archaeology and Planning
    - NPPG 6 Renewable Energy
    - NPPG 7 Planning and Flooding
    - NPPG 8 Retailing
    - NPPG 9 The Provision of Roadside Facilities on Motorways and Other Trunk Roads in Scotland
    - NPPG 10 Planning and Waste Management
    - NPPG 11 Sport, Physical Recreation and Open Space
    - NPPG 12 Skiing Development
    - NPPG 13 Transport and Planning
  - **Planning Advice Notes:**
    - PAN 37 Structure Planning
    - PAN 38 Structure Plan: Housing Land Requirements (revised 1996)
    - PAN 39 Farm and Forestry Buildings
    - PAN 40 Development Control
    - PAN 41 Development Plan Departures
    - PAN 42 Archaeology
    - PAN 43 Golf Courses and Associated Developments
    - PAN 44 Fitting New Housing Development into the Landscape
    - PAN 45 Renewable Energy Technologies
    - PAN 46 Planning for Crime Prevention
    - PAN 47 Community Councils and Planning
    - PAN 48 Planning Application Forms
    - PAN 49 Local Planning
    - PAN 50 Controlling the Environmental Effects of Surface Mineral Workings
    - PAN 50 Annex A: The Control of Noise at Surface Mineral Workings
- Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) (these are not directly applicable in Scotland but may be taken as a general indicator of government policy where there is no equivalent at present in Scotland)
- Government Circulars
- Advice issued by environmental and heritage authorities (eg SNH policy on sustainable development, Historic Scotland guidance on Scheduled Ancient Monuments or SOAEFD guidance on Environmentally Sensitive Areas.
- Regional and local policies include:
  - Structure Plans
  - Local Plans
  - Local Agenda 21 plans and environmental charters;
  - Regional sectoral strategies (eg Indicative Forestry Strategies, guidelines on wind energy or fisheries and aquaculture).

## SPECIFIC TOPIC AREAS

### Roads and Traffic

- Countryside Commission (1995) *Roads in the Countryside*, CCP459.
- Department of Trade and Industry (1992) *Guidance on Environmental Assessment of Cross Country Pipelines*, HMSO.
- Department of Transport (1992) *Transport and Works Act 1992, A Guide to Procedures for Obtaining Orders relating to Transport Systems, Inland Waterways and Works interfering with Rights of Navigation*, HMSO.
- Department of Transport/Scottish Office Industry Department/Welsh Office/Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland (1993) *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 5, Assessment and Preparation of Road Schemes, Volume 10: Environmental Design, Volume 11: Environmental Assessment (1994) first Amendment*, HMSO.
- Department of Transport (1993) *Road Lighting and the Environment*, HMSO.
- Institute of Environmental Assessment (1992) *Guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Road Traffic*, FW Cupit Ltd.
- National Rivers Authority (1995) *Guidance Note on the Environmental Assessment of Road and Road Widening Schemes*.
- Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (1994) *Transport and the Environment (18<sup>th</sup> Report)* Cmnd 2674, HMSO.
- Scottish Development Department (1989) *Traffic Impact of Developments in Scotland*, HMSO.
- The Scottish Office and the County Surveyor's Society Scotland (1995) *Fitting Roads: A Balanced Approach to Rural Road Design*.
- The Scottish Office (1998) *Roads, Bridges and Traffic in the Countryside*, HMSO.
- The Scottish Office (1996) *Natural Heritage Designations Review*, Discussion Paper.

### Land Use, Recreation and Access

- Ordnance Survey Maps; Aerial Photographs.
- Organisations such as local authorities, Scottish Rights of Way Society, SPOKES, Ramblers Association, Sustrans *etc* as well as local landowners who may be able to provide information on the location and status of existing and proposed rights of way, paths, cyclist routes, bridleways and horserides as well as other recreation facilities.
- Various policy papers on access including:
  - Scottish Natural Heritage (1994) *Enjoying the Outdoors A Consultation Paper on Access to the Countryside for Enjoyment and Understanding*;
  - Forestry Commission (1995) *Forestry Policy: Access Guidelines*;
  - The Scottish Office (1993) *Conservation Access and Recreation - Code of Practice for Water and Sewerage Authorities and River Purification Authorities*;
  - The Access Forum Scotland's Hills and Mountains: *A Concordat on Access* (1996).
- Rowan-Robinson J, Gordon W M & Reid C T (1993) *Public Access in the Countryside, A Guide to the Law, Practice and Procedure in Scotland*, SNH in association with COSLA.
- Tourism and Environment Task Force various publications including: (1997) *Guidelines for the development of Tourism Management Programmes*; *Positive Impact* Newsletter published three times a year; *Going Green Handbook* (1997) and *A Sense of Place - Interpretive Planning Handbook* (1997). Contact: Chris Taylor, TETF c/o Highlands and Islands Enterprise; 20 Bridge Street, Inverness IV1 1QR.
- Scottish Sports Council (1995) *Earth, Wind and Water*.

## **Soils and Agriculture**

- National Planning Circular 18/87 Agricultural Land.
- National Planning Guidance 1987: Agriculture.
- Listings of designated areas including Environmentally Sensitive Areas.
- MAFF/WOAD (1993) *Code of Good Practice for the Protection of Soil*, MAFF.
- SOAEFD publications including:
  - Set A Side Access Scheme;
  - *Guidance to Farmers and Crofters on Environmentally Sensitive Areas.*
  - *Prevention of Environmental Pollution from Agricultural Activity: Code of Good Practice.*
- SEPA leaflets including:
  - *Diffuse Pollution and Agriculture;*
  - *Soil Protection;*
  - *Pesticides;*
  - *Buffer Strips: Good Farming Practice.*

## **Forestry**

- The Forestry Authority may hold relevant data and will be able to advise on statutory requirements.
- Sustainable Forestry - the UK Programme (1994) CM 2429.
- The UK Forestry Standard :The Government's approach to Sustainable Forestry (1988).
- The Environmental Assessment (Afforestation) Regulations (1988) No 1207, HMSO.
- Forestry Commission (1993) *Environmental Assessment of New Woodlands, Forestry Commission.*
- Scottish Native Woods (1996) *Why Manage Riparian Woodlands?* Information and Guidance for Managers.
- Various Forestry Commission Guidelines including:
  - *Forest Landscape Design* (1994)
  - *Forest Nature Conservation* (1990)
  - *Forest Recreation* (1992)
  - *Forests and Water (Third Edition)* (1993)
  - *Community Woodland Design* (1991)
  - *Archaeology* (1995).
- Forestry Commission Forestry Practice Advice Notes including: Advice Note 3 *Woodlands in Designed Landscapes.*
- Crofters Commission guidance including: *A guide to Crofter Forestry* (1992).

## **Geology**

- British Geological Survey Maps.
- Ordnance Survey Maps, Historical and Recent Editions.
- Listings of Geological Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Sites (RIGS).

## **Freshwater**

- SEPA, SNH, SOAEFD, Salmon Fishery Boards, SWT *etc* may hold relevant data and listings of any designated features.
- SEPA best practice guidance including:
  - *A Guide to Surface Water Best Management Practice* (1996)
  - *Special Requirements*
  - *Guidelines for Pollution Prevention on Civil Engineering Contracts* (1995)
  - *Wetland Treatment Systems: A Practical Design Guide*.
- Scottish Office (1992) *Water Quality Survey of Scotland 1990*, The Environment Department of The Scottish Office.
- RSPB, NRA and RSNC (1994) *The New Rivers and Wildlife Handbook*.
- Association of Directors and River Inspectors of Scotland (ADRIS) (1995) *Groundwater Protection Strategy for Scotland*.
- National Rivers Authority (1992) *River Corridor Surveys - Methods and Procedures Conservation Technical Handbook No 1*.
- The Environmental Assessment (Salmon Farming in Marine Waters) Regulations (1988) No 1218, HMSO.

## **Marine Environment**

- SNH will be able to provide information about designated areas, relevant contacts *etc*.
- The Scottish Office Environment Department *Guidance on the Location of Marine Fish Farms* (1991) Consultative Draft.
- The Crown Estate (1989) *Marine Fish Farming in Scotland: Guidelines on Siting Procedures and Principles*.
- Department of the Environment (1996) *Coastal Zone Management, Towards Best Practice*.
- British Marine Industries Federation (1994) *Guidance Note on Planning Policies for Marine Industries*.
- British Marine Industries Federation (1994) *Guidance Note on Planning Policies for Marine Industries, A Guide for Local Authorities Preparing Policies for their Development Plans*.
- Countryside Commission (1992) *Heritage Coasts: Policies and Priorities*.
- DoE (1992) Planning Policy Guidance Note, *Coastal Planning*, PPG 20.
- DoE (1995) *Policy Guidelines for the Coast*.
- English Heritage and Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (1996) *England's Coastal Heritage; A Statement on the Management of Coastal Archaeology*.
- English Nature, 1993 *A Co-ordinators Guide to Estuary Management Plans*.
- JNCC *Inventories of UK Estuaries*.
- Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee, 1995, *The Code of Practice for Sea Bed Developers*.
- Local Government Training Board, 1995 *Action on the Coast*.
- MAFF (1993) *Coastal Defence and the Environment, A Guide to Good Practice*.
- MAFF (1993) *A Strategic Guide For Managers and Decision Makers*.
- National Coasts and Estuarine Advisory Group, 1994, *Directory of Coastal, Planning and Management Initiatives in England*.
- UK Offshore Operators Association, *Safeguarding the Offshore Environment*.

## Ecology, Nature Conservation

- SNH, the Forestry Authority, local authorities and key non-statutory organisations such as SWT may hold relevant data including:
- listings of designated areas and undesignated areas of known nature conservation importance
- records of protected species and those considered important (eg local rarities, Red Data species *etc*);
- existing Phase 1 or detailed surveys;
- inventories of ancient, long-established and semi-natural woodland.
- SNH will be able to advise on statutory requirements.
- English Nature (1993) *Roads and Nature Conservation Guidance on Impacts, Mitigation and Enhancement*.
- English Nature (1992) *Nature Conservation in Environmental Assessment* (SNH update in progress).
- Institute of Environmental Assessment (1995) *Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment*, E & FN Spon.
- English Nature (1996) *The Significance of Secondary Effects from Roads and Road Transport on Nature Conservation*.
- English Nature (1994) *Nature Conservation Guidelines for Renewable Energy Projects*.
- Local nature conservation strategies.
- Local bird reports.
- Local floras.
- English Nature (1995) *Habitat Creation - A Critical Guide*.
- Fuller RJ (1980) *A Method for Assessing Ornithological Importance of Sites for Nature Conservation*, Biological Conservation 17, 229-239.
- Nature Conservancy Council (1990) *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey: A Technique for Environmental Audit*.
- Ratcliffe DA (1977) *A Nature Conservation Review*, Cambridge University Press.
- RSPB/Birdlife International/WWT/Game Conservancy Trust/BTO/Hawk and Owl Trust/Wildlife Trusts/National Trust (1996) *Birds of Conservation Concern in the UK, Channel Island and Isle of Man*, RSPB.
- RSPB, NRA & RSNC (1994) *The New Rivers & Wildlife Handbook*.
- Stewart A, Pearman D & Preston C D (1994) *Scarce Plants in Britain*, JNCC, Peterborough.

## Landscape and Visual Assessment

- SNH and local authorities will be able to provide information about existing landscape character surveys as well as areas designated for their landscape importance and conservation areas.
- Historic Scotland will provide information on designed (historic parkland) landscapes.
- Ordnance Survey Maps (to help define the area over which the proposals may be visible).
- Land Use Consultants (1992) *Landscape Assessment: Principles and Practice*, Countryside Commission for Scotland.
- Countryside Commission (1993) *Landscape Assessment Guidance*, CCP 423.
- Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Assessment (1995) *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*, E & FN Spon.
- The Scottish Office (1998) *Cost Effective Landscape: Learning from Nature Landscape. Design and Management Policy - A Road Bridges and Traffic in the Countryside Initiative*
- National Rivers Authority (1993) *River Landscape Assessment, Conservation Techniques, Handbook 2*.

## Cultural Heritage

- NPPG 5 Archaeology and Planning and PAN 42 Archaeology - the Planning Process and Scheduled Monument Procedures provide essential policy guidance.
- Some local authorities will have an Archaeological Service which keeps a record of ancient monuments and finds - Sites and Monuments Record. If the council does not have an Archaeological Service the contact is the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland who keep the National Monuments Record.
- The Archaeological Service is responsible for advice on all ancient monuments apart for Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs).
- Historic Scotland should be contacted for information about SAMs and must be contacted before any operations are undertaken within the area of the SAM. It is a criminal offence to undertake certain works within the area of a SAM without the prior written consent of the Secretary of State for Scotland.
- Historic Scotland produce a series of leaflets and other publications which provide useful information including:
  - *Scheduled Ancient Monuments: A Guide to Scheduling under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and its Implications for Owners, Land Managers and Others.*
  - *Managing Scotland's Archaeological Heritage: A Guide to the Management of Archaeological Sites for Owners, Land Managers and Others.*
  - *Archaeological Information and Advice in Scotland: A Guide to National and Local Organisations involved in Archaeology in Scotland.*
  - *The Carved Stones of Scotland: A Guide to Helping in their Protection.*
  - *National Rural Partnership Information: Advice to Local Groups and Occupiers/Owners on Access to Information about the Archaeological Heritage.*
  - *Archaeological Policies and Associated Papers* (1993).
  - *Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas* (1993).
  - *Contractual and Grant Arrangements in Historic Scotland's Archaeology in Historic Scotland's Archaeology Programme, Operational Policy Paper 1* (1996).
  - Land Use Consultants (1987) *The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland*, Countryside Commission for Scotland/Historic Buildings and Monuments Directorate (Scottish Development Department).
  - Crown Estate Commissioners (1995) *Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee Code of Practice for Seabed Developers.*
- *Cultural Tourism* (1994) ed by J. M. Fladmark, The Robert Gordon Univeristy, Aberdeen.

## Noise and Vibration

- The local authority Environmental Health Officer (EHO) will be able to advise on the most relevant guidance for particular developments and the most appropriate approach.
- Department of Transport (1988) *Calculation of Road Traffic Noise*, HMSO.
- Scottish Development Department (1975) *Memorandum of Advice and Instruction* (Noise Insulation (Scotland) Regulations 1975) No 1/74, HMSO.
- Department of the Environment/The Welsh Office (1993) MPG11 *Mineral Planning Guidance: The Control of Noise at Surface Mineral Workings*, HMSO.
- Various British Standards including:
- BS5228 (1984 and 1992) *Noise Control on Construction and Open Sites*.
- BS7445 (1991) *Description and Measurement of Environmental Noise*.
- Department of the Environment Circular 11/95 *The Use of Conditions in Planning Permissions*.
- Department of the Environment (1994) PPG 24: *Planning and Noise*, HMSO.

## Air Quality

- The local authority may hold some relevant information or be able to advise on the most appropriate approach to the assessment.
- Department of the Environment National Air Quality Information Archive on the Internet.
- Department of the Environment Minerals Division (1995) *The Environmental Effects of Dust from Surface Mineral Workings: Volume 1 Summary Report and Best Practice Guides*, HMSO.
- The Meteorological Office (1989) *The Climate of Scotland Some Facts and Figures*, HMSO.
- Parrett PW (1992) *Dust Emissions: A Review*, Computational Mechanics Publications.
- WHO (1987) *Air Quality Guidelines for Europe*, European Series No 23, WHO Regional Publications.
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## **Annex C Scottish National Rural Partnership Publications**

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### **'Good Practice in Rural Development' Series**

*No 1: Effective Partnership Working* by Bill Slee and Patrick Snowdon (with Robert Gordon, Bill Marshall and Andrew Wells), University of Aberdeen (1997) ISBN: 0-7480-6440-0 £2.50

*No 2: Community Involvement in Rural Development Initiatives* by Rural Forum and Rural Research Branch, The Scottish Office Central Research Unit (1997) ISBN: 0-7480-6482-6 £2.50

*No 3: Preparing Local Rural Development Strategies: Frameworks for Action* by Rural Research Branch, The Scottish Office Central Research Unit and COSLA (1997) ISBN: 0748-66107-7 £2.50

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*Scottish Rural Transport Action Guide: practical advice on how to address your community's transport needs* by Stephanie Herbert, The Scottish Office Central Research Unit (1996) ISBN: 0-7480-5810-9 £5.00

*Scottish Rural Services Checklist* (1996) ISBN: 0-7480-3148-0 (no charge)\*

*People, Prosperity and Partnership: Progress report* (1996) ISBN: 0-7480-3161-8 (no charge)\*

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*Services in Rural Scotland* by Mackay Consultants (1996) ISBN: 0-7480-51190-2 £10

*Scottish Rural Life Update: a revised socio-economic profile of rural Scotland* by Nick Williams, Mark Shucksmith, Helen Edmond and Andy Gemmell, University of Aberdeen (1996) ISBN: 0-7480-5486-3 £10

*Living in Rural Scotland: a study of life in four rural communities* by Karen MacNee, The Scottish Office Central Research Unit (1996) ISBN: 0-7480-51191-0 £10

*Community Involvement and Rural Policy* by John Bryden, Drennan Watson, Catherine Storey and Jeroen van Alphen, The Arkleton Trust (Research) Ltd. (1997) ISBN: 0-7480-6483-4 £5

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