

## SHETLAND'S LOCAL PLACE PLANS

### Leaflet 15 - Planning for Natural Hazards and Emergency Resilience

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#### Why should we think about natural hazards?

Shetland communities face a range of natural events including flooding, high winds, prolonged rainfall, and even drought. Planning for these risks helps protect people, property, and services—and ensures communities can recover more quickly.

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#### How do natural hazards affect land use and buildings?

- Flooding and storm surge can damage homes, roads, and infrastructure
  - High winds can affect roofs, trees, and power lines
  - Prolonged rain can saturate land and weaken foundations
  - Drought can impact peatland, water supply and agriculture
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#### Key concepts

- **Shelter and Accommodation:** Identify buildings suitable for emergency shelter
  - **Food and Water:** Plan for emergency food supplies and water access
  - **Medical Support:** Locate defibrillators, first aid stations, and proximity to emergency services
  - **Communication and Access:** Protect the integrity of key routes, utilities and communication channels
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#### What does this look like in Shetland?

- Remote settlements may need localised emergency hubs
  - Coastal areas will face an increasing risk of flooding – places on the coast that flood will flood more often and places near the sea that don't flood at the moment will become more at risk
  - Community halls or schools may double as emergency shelters
  - Wind resilience may require building upgrades or tree management
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#### Things to think about when planning land and buildings:

- **Risk Awareness:** Are you aware of local hazards and vulnerable areas?
  - **Infrastructure:** Are key buildings and routes resilient to storms and flooding?
  - **Community Assets:** Can existing buildings serve emergency roles?
  - **Coordination:** Are emergency services and volunteers part of your planning?
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## Examples:

- **Flood Protection:** Install drainage systems, raise floor levels, and avoid building in flood-prone areas.
  - **Wind Resilience:** Secure roofs, manage vegetation, and use wind-resistant materials and fixings.
  - **Emergency Infrastructure:** Equip community buildings with defibrillators, first aid kits, and backup power.
  - **Community Planning:** Map local risks and identify safe places for shelter and coordination.
  - **Stress Testing:** Consider running periodic 'mock emergency' community run-through drills or events.
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## For information and support:

- [Flooding | Beta | SEPA | Scottish Environment Protection Agency](#)
- [Flood Maps | SEPA - Flood Maps | SEPA](#)
- [Advice for emergencies in Scotland](#)
- [Emergency, Safety and Crime – Shetland Islands Council](#)
- [Voluntary Action Shetland](#)