
Island Communities Impact Assessment



SHETLAND
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Island Communities Impact Assessment

Core Path Plan Review

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS	Responses
Please provide a brief description or summary of the policy, strategy or service under review for the purposes of this assessment.	Shetland Core Path Plan – Review Core Paths Plans were introduced by Part 1 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. The purpose of the Plan is to designate a system of paths to provide the basic framework of routes (which are) sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area (and which will) link into and support wider networks of other paths and routes. The core path plan comprises of many different types of paths, ranging from natural ground to constructed paths. Taken as a whole, the core paths system caters for all types of users - walkers, cyclists, horse riders, canoeists, people with disabilities, etc - but not all individual routes are designated for every type of user.
STEP 1 - Develop a clear understanding of your objectives	Responses
What are the objectives of the policy, strategy or service?	To ensure Shetland's core path plan continues to provide a basic framework of routes which are sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area and which will link into and support wider networks of other paths and routes.
Do you need to consult?	Initially there will be an informal consultation with key stakeholders and the chance for community councils to feed in. There will be a formal 12 week public consultation as part of the review.
How are islands identified for the purpose of the policy, strategy or service?	All inhabited island communities in Shetland will be considered as part of

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	the review. All Islands already have core paths on them which were designated by a previous public consultation.
What are the intended impacts/outcomes and how do these potentially differ in the islands?	The aim of Shetland's core path plan review is - To ensure Shetland's core path plan continues to provide a basic framework of routes which are sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area and which will link into and support wider networks of other paths and routes. The review process will: • Identify Core Paths to be amended. • Introduce new Core Paths. • Remove obsolete Core Paths. • No physical paths will be constructed; only existing routes will be considered for a core path designation. The impacts/outcomes of the review will not differ in the islands.
Is the policy, strategy or service new?	No – it is an existing plan.
STEP 2 - Gather your data and identify your stakeholders	Responses
What data is available about the current situation in the islands?	Feedback from SAT Ranger surveys of paths and infrastructure. Feedback from members of the public who have contacted the SIC about core path issues. Informal consultation with key stakeholders and the Local Outdoor Access Forum. Feedback from the ASCC.
Do you need to consult?	Yes - Once a draft Core Path Plan has been prepared using the information

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	gathered during informal feedback and evidence collection, it will be issued for a formal 12 week public consultation
How does any existing data differ between islands?	It does not differ. All areas within Shetland have the same data available.
Are there any existing design features or mitigations in place?	None
STEP 3 - Consultation	Responses
Who do you need to consult with?	12-week public consultation, NatureScot and Local Access Forum
How will you carry out your consultation and in what timescales?	Consultation will be online and all going well be in 2026.
What questions will you ask when considering how to address island realities?	All questions will be the same for all areas of Shetland.
What information has already been gathered through consultations and what concerns have been raised previously by island communities?	Information from informal consultation with Key stakeholders. No concerns have previously by island communities.
Is your consultation robust and meaningful and sufficient to comply with the Section 7 duty?	Yes
STEP 4 - Assessment	Responses
Does your assessment identify any unique impacts on island communities?	No
Does your assessment identify any potential barriers or wider impacts?	No
How will you address these?	n/a
You must now determine whether in your opinion your policy, strategy or service is likely to have an effect on an island community, which is significantly different from its effect on other communities (including other island communities). If your answer is NO to the above question, a full ICIA will NOT be required and <u>you can proceed to Step SEVEN.</u> If the answer is YES, an ICIA must be prepared and <u>you should proceed to Step FIVE.</u> To form your opinion, the following questions should be considered: Does the evidence show different circumstances or different expectations or needs, or different experiences or outcomes (such as different levels of satisfaction, or different rates of participation)?	

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• Are these different effects likely? • Are these effects significantly different? • Could the effect amount to a disadvantage for an island community compared to the mainland or between island groups?	
STEP 5 – Preparing your ICIA	Responses
In Step Five, you should describe the likely significantly different effect of the policy, strategy or service:	
Assess the extent to which you consider that the policy, strategy or service can be developed or delivered in such a manner as to improve or mitigate, for island communities, the outcomes resulting from it.	
Consider alternative delivery mechanisms and whether further consultation is required.	
Describe how these alternative delivery mechanisms will improve or mitigate outcomes for island communities.	
Identify resources required to improve or mitigate outcomes for island communities.	
STEP 6 - Making adjustments to your work	Responses
Should delivery mechanisms/mitigations vary in different communities?	
Do you need to consult with island communities in respect of mechanisms or mitigations?	
Have island circumstances been factored into the evaluation process?	
Have any island-specific indicators/targets been identified that require monitoring?	
How will outcomes be measured on the islands?	
How has the policy, strategy or service affected island communities?	
How will lessons learned in this ICIA inform future policy making and service delivery?	
STEP 7 - Publishing your ICIA	Responses
Have you presented your ICIA in an Easy Read format?	n/a
Does it need to be presented in Gaelic or any other language?	n/a

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Where will you publish your ICIA and will relevant stakeholders be able to easily access it?	n/a
Who will sign-off your final ICIA and why?	Liam Drosso – Outdoor Access Officer - Completing the core path review.

ICIAs must be signed off by the staff member who completes it. They must then be approved and signed off by an executive manager or director. If an executive manager completes the ICIA, then the director should approve the ICIA.

ICIA completed by:	Liam Drosso
Position:	Outdoor Access Officer
Signature:	
Date complete:	23/02/2026

ICIA approved by (Executive Manager or Director):	Iain McDiarmid
Position:	Executive Manager - Planning
Signature:	Iain McDiarmid
Date approved:	27/02/26