



Statement of Reasons Core Path Plan 2026 (Review)

Introduction

This paper sets out the reasons for Shetland Islands Council not carrying out an SEA on the Core Path Plan 2026 (Review). This paper should be read in conjunction with the SEA Post-Screening Determination Statement

Determination

It has been determined Shetland Islands Council, following advice from the Strategic Environmental Assessment Consultation Authorities (Historic Environment Scotland, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and NatureScot) that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required for the Core Path Plan 2026 (Review).

The individual consultation authorities' responses to the SEA screening, the screening report itself and the determination notice can be viewed by contacting the Outdoor Access Officer on the below details:

Outdoor Access Officer

Direct Dial: 01595 744169

Email: outdooraccess@shetland.gov.uk

Statement of Reasons

This section sets out why the Council has determined that the Core Path Plan 2026 (Review) will not be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment. The reasons are collated from information gathered during the screening process for the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the responses to the screening from the consultation authorities.

The reasons for not carrying out a full SEA can be summarised as follows;

- The creation of the plan will not involve any physical works or construction of new paths or routes. It will only seek to make a small number of minor amendments to existing core paths or give core path designation to routes that are already established and being used by the public.
- An SEA has already been completed during the creation of the first Core Path Plan.
- The Strategic Environmental Assessment Consultation Authorities all agree that there will not be any significant environmental effects from the implementation of the plan. Shetland Islands Council agrees with this.