
Island Communities Impact Assessments

Template Form



SHETLAND
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Island Communities Impact Assessment

Insert Policy, Strategy or Service Title

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS	Responses
Please provide a brief description or summary of the policy, strategy or service under review for the purposes of this assessment.	Development of a Shetland Tree & Woodland Strategy in order that SIC meets the statutory requirement to do so under National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) & Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.
STEP 1 - Develop a clear understanding of your objectives	Responses
What are the objectives of the policy, strategy or service?	<p>The ST&WS has been developed with three strategic objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inform: Increase understanding of the ecological, social and economic value of trees and woodlands in Shetland and serve as a resource for information on trees, including their planting and management, and relevant funding opportunities. 2. Protect: Identify and safeguard existing woodlands and individual trees, especially relict trees, of high nature conservation, landscape or social value by using protective policies. 3. Encourage: Promote tree planting by landowners, land managers and crofters, developers, and the public, guided by the "Right Tree in the Right Place" principle, to ensure appropriate species and site selection.
Do you need to consult?	<p>Formal consultation will occur with relevant external agencies via the SEA.</p> <p>The Strategy will go to public consultation prior to adoption.</p>
How are islands identified for the purpose of the policy, strategy or service?	The Strategy covers all of Shetland (Mainland, inhabited and uninhabited islands).

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<p>What are the intended impacts/outcomes and how do these potentially differ in the islands?</p>	<p>The Strategy is for Shetland as a whole and it is not anticipated that the outcomes will differ in the islands compared to the Mainland.</p> <p>The outcomes should result in more accessible information and signposting in relation to trees, tree planting and aftercare. Information and signposting will provide encouragement for the public, crofters and land managers, who wish to undertake tree planting, to do so appropriately.</p> <p>The strategy also covers protection of existing trees through use of protective policies and compliance with NPF4.</p>
<p>Is the policy, strategy or service new?</p>	<p>This is a new Strategy for Shetland.</p>
<p>STEP 2 - Gather your data and identify your stakeholders</p>	<p>Responses</p>
<p>What data is available about the current situation in the islands?</p>	<p>SIC holds data on existing tree preservation orders. There are currently TPO's in both Lerwick and Scalloway.</p> <p>Shetland Amenity Trust is the data manager for data relating to relict trees. Data is geographically referenced and covers all of Shetland. Data analysis and mapping is to be undertaken within the strategy delivery plan.</p>
<p>Do you need to consult?</p>	<p>Informal external engagement has already occurred between SIC and the following relevant organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shetland Amenity Trust • Scottish Forestry • The Woodland Trust • NatureScot • RSPB Scotland • SEPA • Historic Environment Scotland • SAC Consulting Lerwick

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	These organisations will act as either consultees, delivery partners &/or lead various outputs in the Delivery Plan.
How does any existing data differ between islands?	Unknown at this time, but the data relating to relict trees is Shetland wide and will be mapped as part of the delivery plan. TPO's are currently in place at sites within Lerwick and Scalloway. TPOs will be considered for relict trees as part of the delivery plan.
Are there any existing design features or mitigations in place?	n/a
STEP 3 - Consultation	Responses
Who do you need to consult with?	NatureScot, SEPA and HES will be consultees to the SEA. The strategy will require public consultation prior to SIC adoption.
How will you carry out your consultation and in what timescales?	SEA will be submitted in Q2 2025. Public consultation on the strategy should occur in Q4 2025.
What questions will you ask when considering how to address island realities?	n/a
What information has already been gathered through consultations and what concerns have been raised previously by island communities?	No island specific information or issues have been raised during informal engagement with organisations named above. Island communities have not previously raised concerns with the planning service in relation to trees. The strategy will go to public consultation prior to adoption by SIC so all Shetland residents will have the opportunity to engage.
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

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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 **you can proceed to Step SEVEN.**

If the answer is **YES**, an ICIA must be prepared and **you should proceed to Step FIVE.**

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)?
- 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?	

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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?	Yes
Does it need to be presented in Gaelic or any other language?	No
Where will you publish your ICIA and will relevant stakeholders be able to easily access it?	ICIA can be uploaded to Natural Heritage section of SIC Planning website. ICIA will be uploaded to the Island Communities Impact Assessments
Who will sign-off your final ICIA and why?	Iain McDiarmid, Executive Manager Planning.

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:	Dr Chevonne Angus
Position:	Natural Heritage Officer
Signature:	Chevonne Angus
Date complete:	14/2/2025

ICIA approved by (Executive Manager or Director):	
Position:	
Signature:	
Date approved:	

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Once approved and both the signature boxes are complete, you should publish the ICIA in PDF format on the [Island Communities Impact Assessments](#) page of the Shetland Islands Council website. All services should have a staff member who can edit the website. If not, please contact Community Planning and Development.

Even if a full assessment is not required (where the answer to Step 4 is no), this should still be published.