

**Strategic Environmental
Assessment**

**Supplementary
Planning Guidance:
Renewable Energy**

SCOPING REPORT

V1.0

Document Responsibility

Author	Position	Company

Version History

Version	Release Date	Notes
0.1	Internal review	LC/JG
0.2	Revised Draft	
1.0	Released to SEA Gateway for comment	

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Cover Note

PART 1

To: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
or
SEA Gateway
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Victoria Quay
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EH6 6QQ

PART 2

An SEA Scoping Report is attached for the plan, programme or strategy (PPS) entitled:

Supplementary Planning Guidance: Renewable Energy

The Responsible Authority is:
East Renfrewshire Council

PART 3

Please tick the appropriate box

- The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(3) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. or
- The PPS falls under the scope of Section 5(4) of the Act and requires an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. or
- The PPS does not require an SEA under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. However, we wish to carry out an SEA on a voluntary basis. We accept that, as this SEA is voluntary, the statutory 5 week timescale for views from the Consultation Authorities cannot be guaranteed.

PART 4

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PART 5

Signature:
(electronic Signature
is acceptable)
Date:

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report is to set out sufficient information on the Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for Renewable Energy to enable the Consultation Authorities to form a view on the consultation period and scope/level of detail that will be appropriate for the Environmental Report.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. As the SPG is a qualifying plan in accordance with section 5(3) of the 2005 Act a SEA is required. With this in mind we have moved straight to the scoping phase of the SEA process.

A previous version of the Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) was prepared as part of the suite of documents intended to supplement the Local Development Plan (LDP). This was considered alongside the environmental assessment of the LDP. However, during the preparation of the LDP, Scottish Planning Policy 2014 (SPP 2014) was published by the Scottish Government. SPP (2014) introduced changes to how local authorities should consider renewable energy developments and included a requirement for the preparation of a spatial framework for onshore wind. This meant that Policy E1 of the LDP had to be amended, with the need for the Renewable Energy SPG to be revised in accordance with SPP (2014).

KEY FACTS

Responsible Authority:
East Renfrewshire Council

Title of Plan:
Supplementary Planning Guidance; Renewable Energy

What prompted the PPS:

Policy E1 of the Local Development Plan outlines the Council's policy on renewable energy. During the development of the Local Development Plan Scottish Planning Policy 2014 was published. The 2014 policy requires local development plans to identify:

- A spatial framework identifying those areas that are likely to be most appropriate for onshore wind farms.
- Indicate the minimum scale of onshore windfarm to which the spatial framework will apply.

The Renewable Energy SPG will address the requirements of Scottish Planning Policy.

Subject:
Renewable Energy

Period covered by PPS:
The same as the Local Development Plan 2015-2020

Frequency of updates:
Every 5 years

Area covered by PPS:

East Renfrewshire administrative authority (See Figure 1)

Purpose and/or Objectives of PPS:

The SPG will supplement policy E1 of the Local Development Plan, taking into consideration the changes within Scottish Planning Policy.

The SPG will set out a spatial framework identifying:

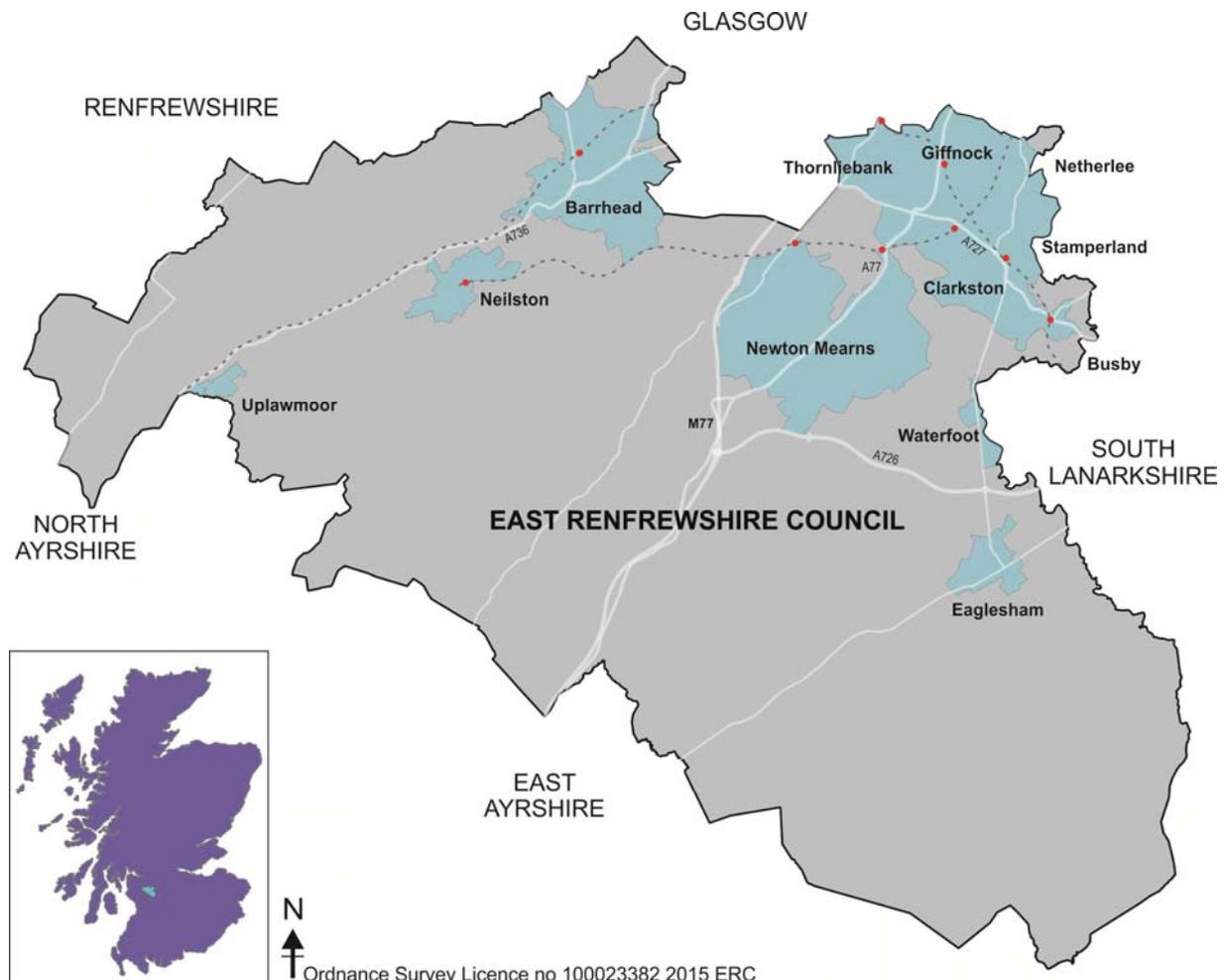
- Areas where windfarms will not be acceptable.
- Areas of significant protection.
- Areas with potential for wind farm development.

Within the hierarchical structure of documents, the SPG sits under Scottish Planning Policy 2014, Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan and East Renfrewshire's Local Development Plan. All of which have been subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment. The SPG will be adopted through the development plan process and will be a material consideration in the assessment of planning applications.

Contact Point:

See Part 4 (page 1).

Figure 1: East Renfrewshire Administrative Authority Area



CONTEXT

East Renfrewshire Council's Local Development Plan was adopted on 25th June 2015 and the SPG Renewable Energy is intended to form part of this plan. Policy E1 is outlined below and includes the need to prepare this SPG.

Policy E1: Renewable Energy

7.2.1. The council will support renewable energy infrastructure developments, including micro-renewable energy technologies on individual properties, wind turbine developments, hydro electric, biomass and energy from waste technologies in appropriate locations. The assessment of applications for such developments will be based on the principles set out in Scottish Planning Policy (2014), in particular, the considerations set out at paragraph 169 and additionally, for onshore wind developments, the terms of Table 1: Spatial Frameworks. Where appropriate, the applicant will be required to submit satisfactory mitigation measures to alleviate any adverse environmental impacts.

7.2.2. The council will prepare statutory supplementary guidance which accords with the Scottish Planning Policy (2014), and which contains the full spatial framework for onshore wind energy, sets policy considerations against which all proposals for renewable energy infrastructure developments will be assessed, and provides further detailed information and guidance on renewable energy technologies.

The SPG will aim to provide clear guidance in the form of the spatial framework for onshore wind, with further emphasis on potential developments in the local area being supported by the Wind Energy Study (2012) and Landscape Capacity Study (2014).

There will also be consideration of alternative renewable energy technologies, however, the majority of the SPG will focus on the delivery of further onshore wind developments within East Renfrewshire and the potential issues.

Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment

Appendix 1 illustrates the matrix we intend to use in the assessment process. The matrix has 20 objectives which will be assessed. Appendix 2 provides further detail on each of the objectives. It also identifies the baseline indicators which can be used to inform the assessment. The baseline data and State of Environment Report which we intend to utilise for the assessment can be found online at www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/sea.

In addition, and as mentioned above, information gained from the following two studies will be considered in the development of the SPG.

Wind Energy Study (2012)

The planning and ecology company Land Use Consultants (LUC) was commissioned in 2012 to carry out a review of the search area for wind energy development of over 20 MW within East Renfrewshire. The objectives of the study were set out in the project brief:

- Review the East Renfrewshire development plan to develop an understanding of how the Wind energy: broad areas of search has been established;*
- Undertake a desk based review of land use and planning designations within the Wind energy: broad areas of search. This should include planning consents/ appeals for wind farm development within East Renfrewshire and adjoining Council areas;*
- Identify areas within East Renfrewshire broad areas of search where turbines could be located causing least visual and landscape impact taking into account significant views, landscape character and cumulative impact from developments both in East Renfrewshire and the adjoining local authority areas;*
- Identify key areas where wind farm development would be unacceptable taking into account significant views, landscape character and cumulative impact from developments both in East Renfrewshire and the adjoining local authority areas; and*
- Propose boundary changes to East Renfrewshire's Wind energy: broad areas of search in light of this analysis.*

The results of the wind energy study will inform the SPG in relation to the further development of wind farms in East Renfrewshire. The conclusions of the study focuses on determining Areas with potential constraints and Areas with no significant constraints, as detailed below.

Areas with potential constraints

Areas of lower landscape capacity for large-scale wind farm development are considered to be potentially constrained. While any proposals will need to demonstrate that landscape and visual amenity are not adversely affected, there will be additional considerations in these areas of lower capacity, including potential for effects on landscape scale, landmarks, key views and cumulative effects.

Several LBSs are located across the study area. Any proposals within an LBS would need to demonstrate that the reasons for designation of the LBS would not be adversely affected by construction and operation of the development.

Some areas to the north of the study area are located within 2 km of Neilston, Newton Mearns or Eaglesham. These areas are potentially constrained in terms of views, and proposals within these areas would need to demonstrate that visual impacts on residential viewers would be minimised.

A number of individual residential properties are located within the study area. Any proposals for wind farms within 500 m of residential properties would need to demonstrate that there would be no unacceptable impacts on residential amenity at individual dwellings.

Areas with no significant constraints

Remaining parts of the study area which are not covered by any potential constraint, are identified as “areas with no significant constraints”. In these areas “appropriate proposals are likely to be supported subject to detailed consideration against identified criteria.”

The areas identified cover around 990 ha in total, and are distributed in two main locations. The largest area (around 778 ha) covers Loch Hill Forest, and is bounded to the south and west by the Queenseat Hill to Drumduff Hill LBS. The northern boundary is defined by the area of lower capacity to the north, and the narrow Dickman’s Glen LBS is excluded.

Several smaller areas are located between the M77 and the Eaglesham Road. These areas lie between LBSs and residential buffers, and are situated either side of Ballageich Hill, which is identified as having lower capacity.

Figure 2: Landscape Character from Wind Energy Study

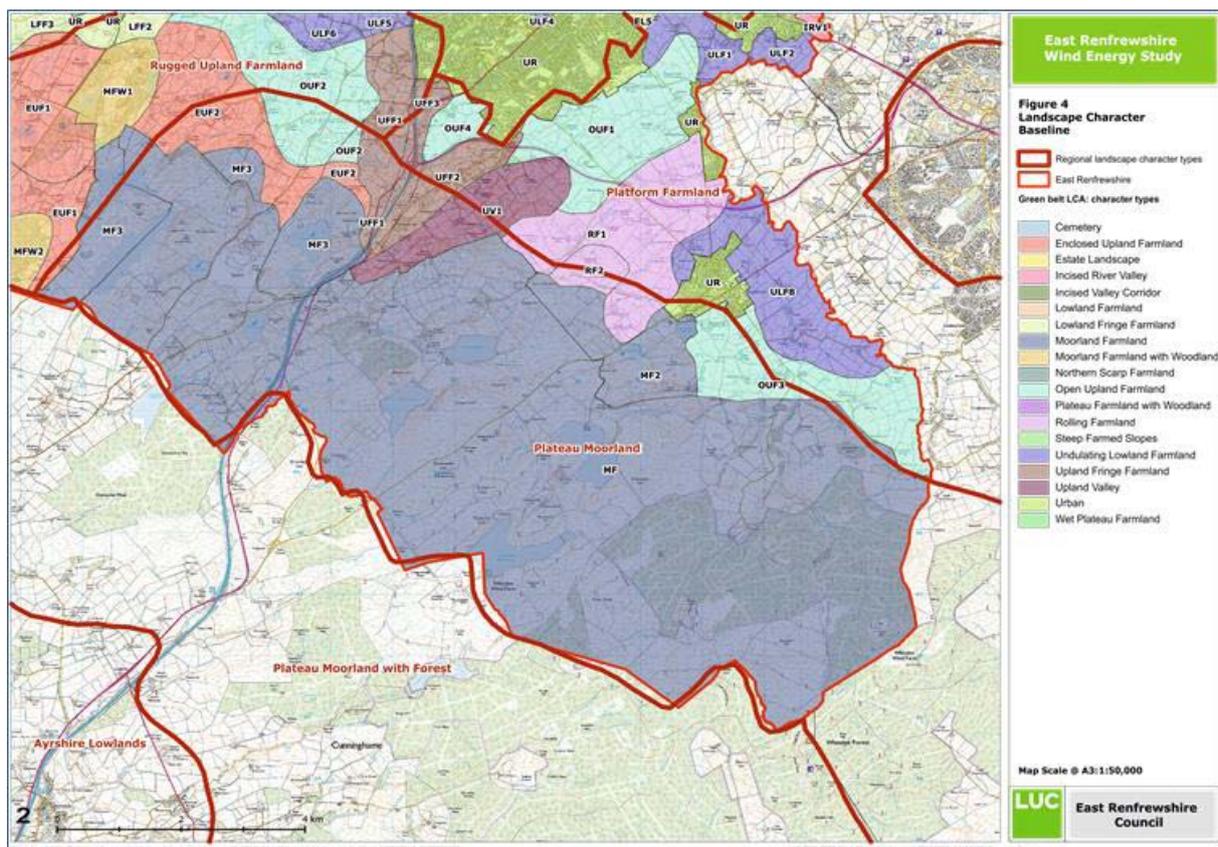


Figure 3: Local Landscape Character from Wind Energy Study

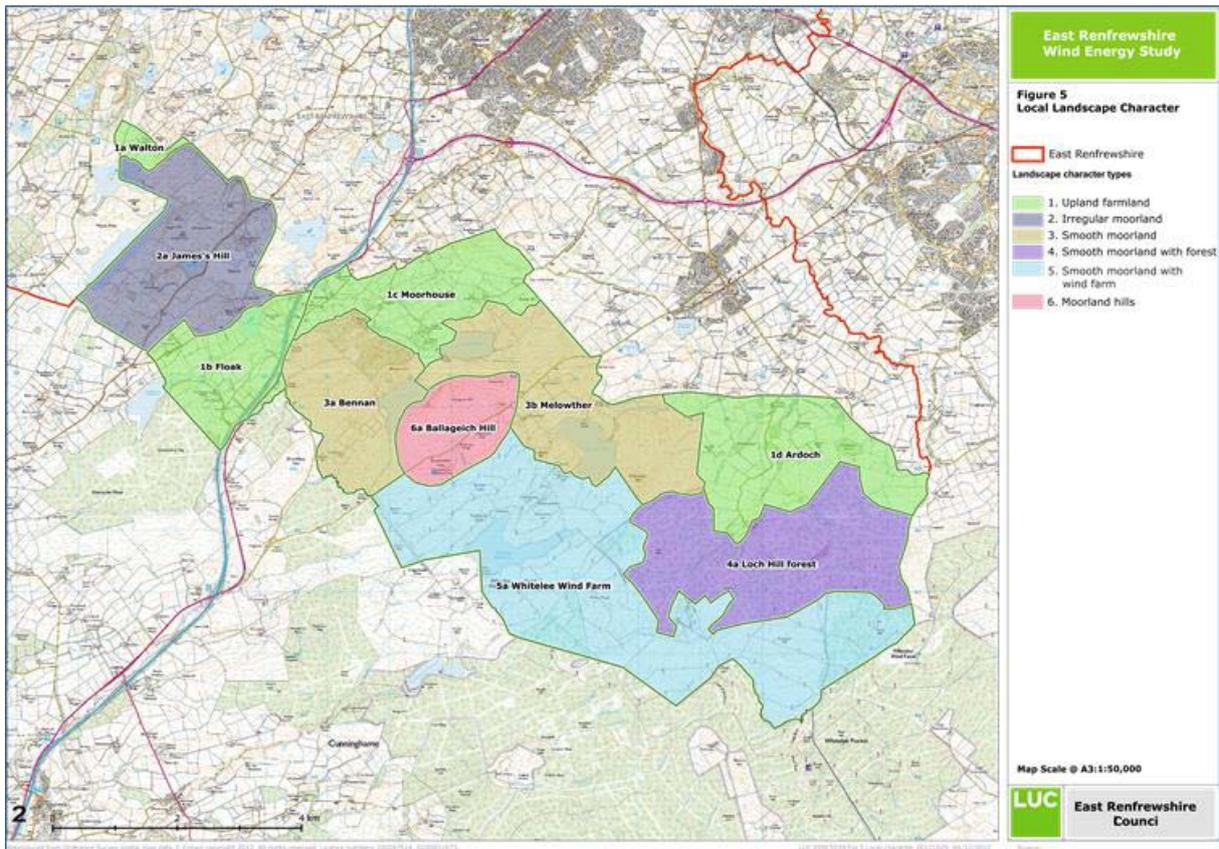


Figure 4: Landscape Capacity from Wind Energy Study

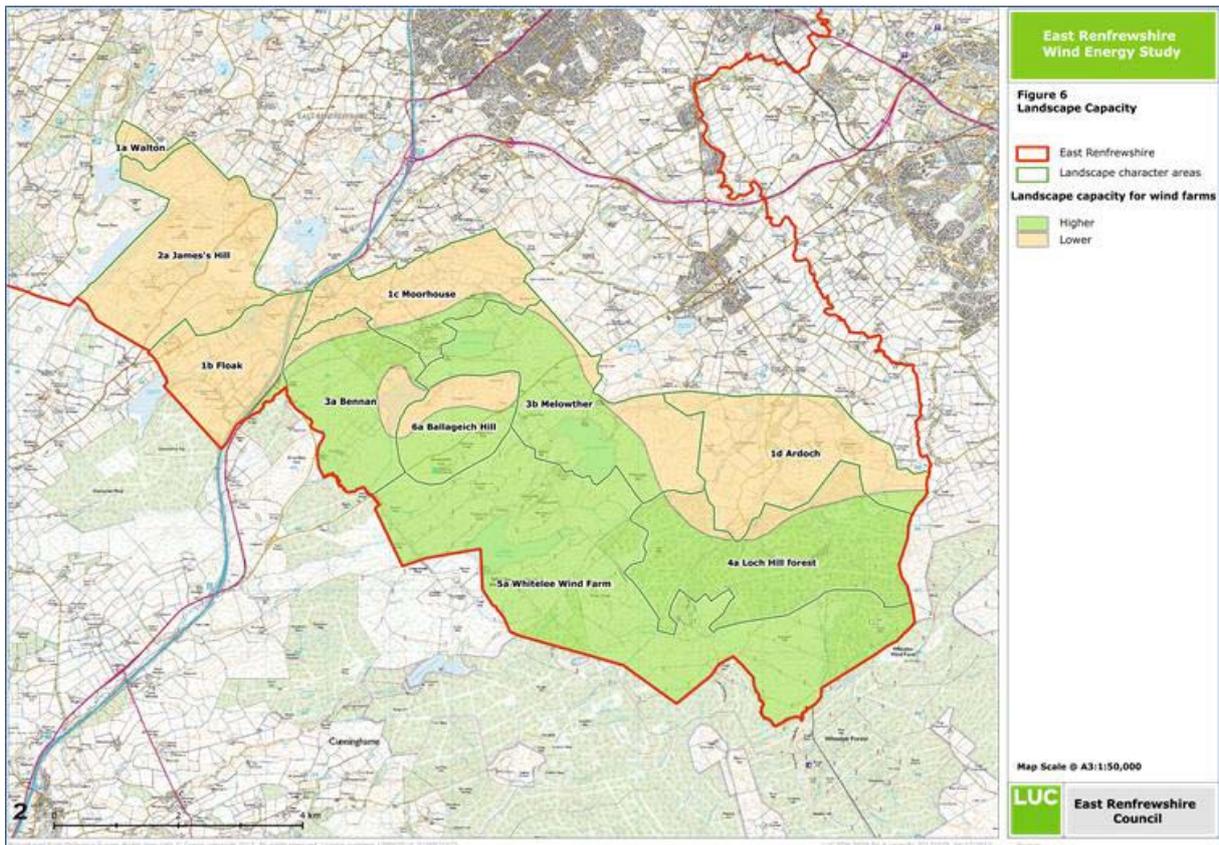
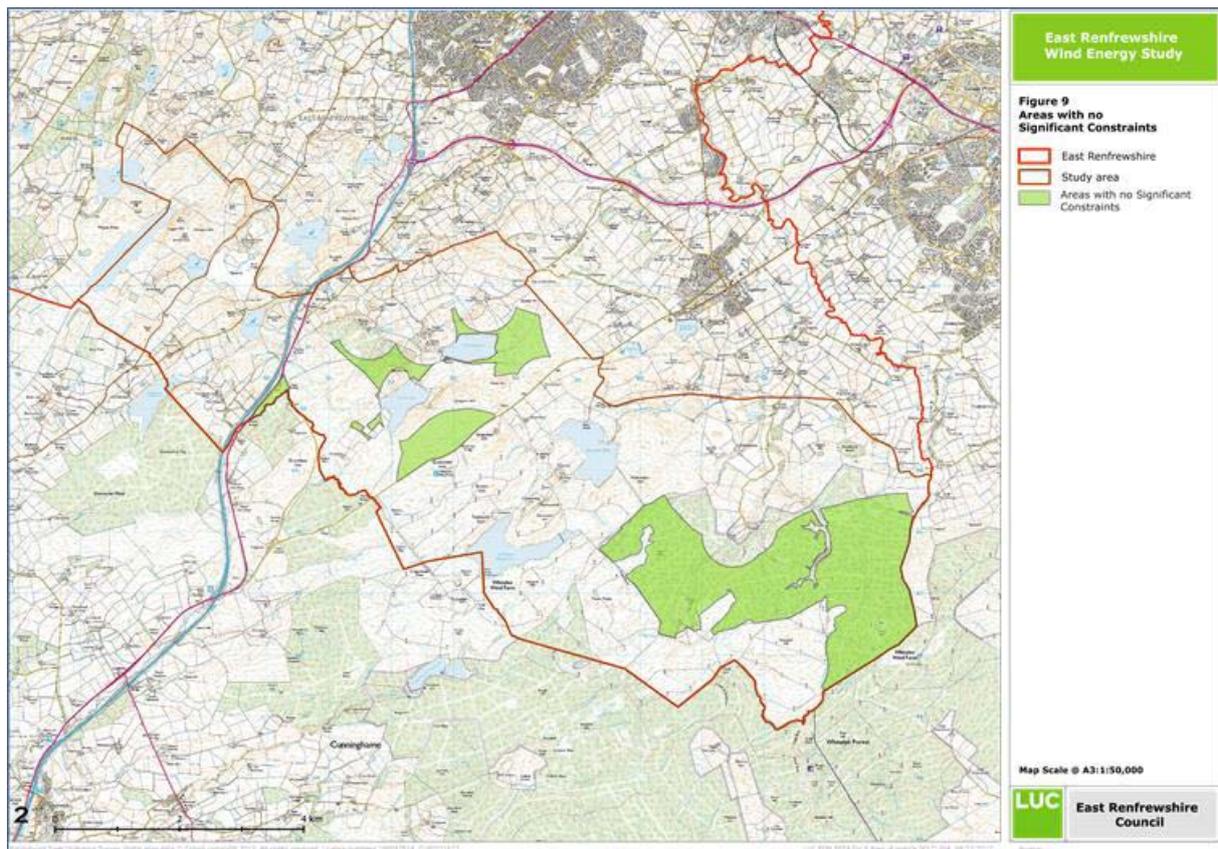


Figure 5: Areas of Greatest Potential for Wind Farm Development from Wind Energy Study



Landscape Capacity Study (2014)

The Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Turbine Development in Glasgow and the Clyde Valley was undertaken between September 2013 and May 2014. The aim was to provide a strategic view of landscape sensitivity to wind energy development, and available capacity for further development, across the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan area. The project was overseen by a steering group comprising Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan Authority, Scottish Natural Heritage, and the eight constituent local authorities. The outputs of the study include an Overview Report and eight local authority reports.

The foundation of the study is the characterisation presented in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Landscape Character Assessment (1999) which provides a regional-scale classification of the landscape. The relative sensitivity and capacity of each of the defined landscape character types was assessed.

The study has identified higher landscape sensitivity in the smaller scale landscapes of East Renfrewshire, and lower sensitivity in the more open landscapes in the south east. These areas of the Plateau Moorland and Plateau Farmland LCTs are judged to have higher levels of underlying capacity, but the current residual capacity is much reduced by the high level of development already operating within this area.

Whitelee wind farm occupies a large part of East Renfrewshire, and is widely visible across much of the Clyde basin to the north. Further development on the moorland may lead to cumulative effects on these wider views. Development of turbines in the farmland to the north of Whitelee may lead to cumulative effects on local views, with turbines of different scales being visible together.

The potential for cumulative effects therefore presents a limiting factor to capacity in these landscapes, as well as in the area around the Levern Valley where cumulative effects may arise from development flanking the valley.

Figure 6: Wind Energy Development and landscape Character from Landscape Capacity Study

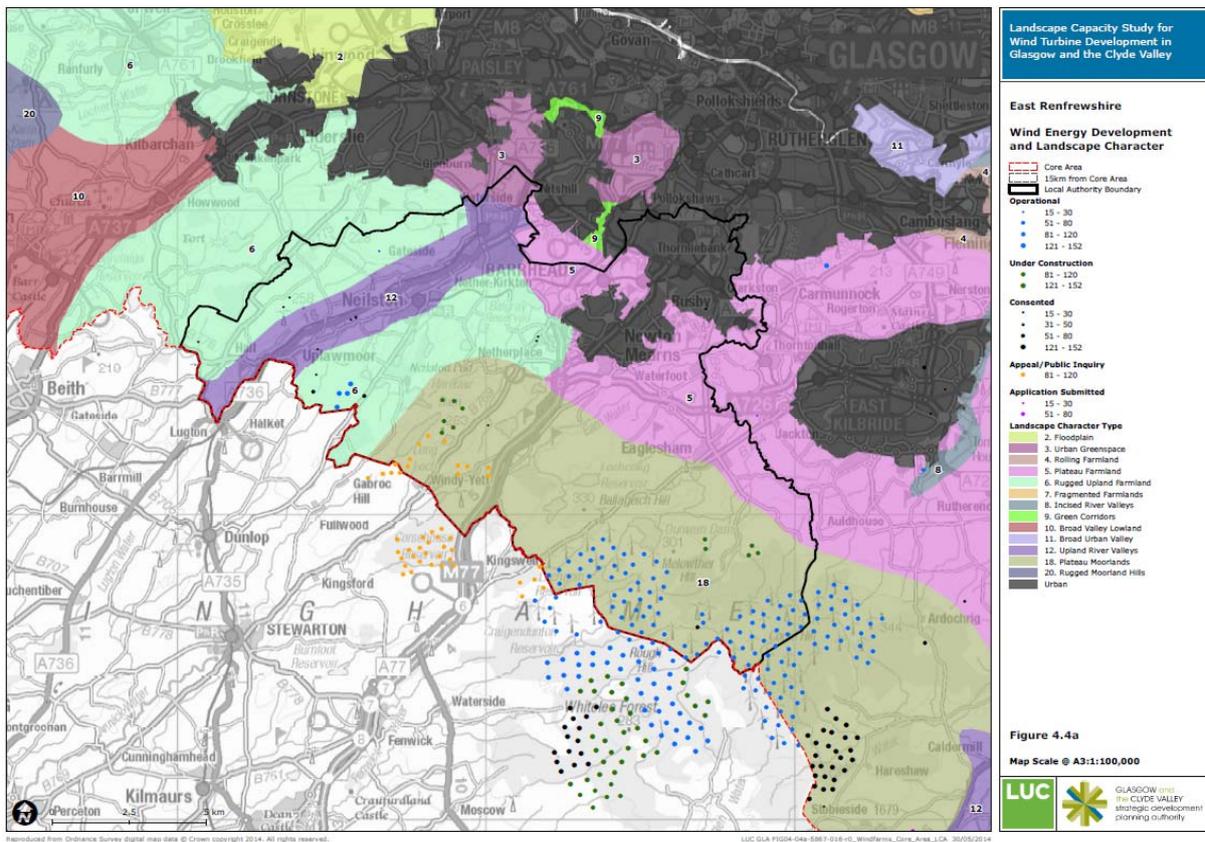


Table 1: Extracts from the Landscape Capacity Study

Table 6.1 Summary of sensitivity and capacity in East Renfrewshire

LCT	Turbine Typology	Sensitivity	Underlying Capacity	Current Residual Capacity
3 Urban Greenspace	Small	Medium	Low capacity for wind energy development at all scales: there may be limited opportunities for small turbines within this landscape	As underlying capacity
	Small-medium	High-medium		
	Medium	High		
	Large	High		
	Very large	High		
5 Plateau Farmland	Small	Low	Moderate to higher overall capacity for wind turbine development at a range of scales, up to large typology	Lower residual capacity for all turbine scales, except for small or small-medium turbines
	Small-medium	Medium-low		
	Medium	Medium		
	Large	High-medium		
	Very large	High-medium		
6 Rugged Upland Farmland	Small	Medium	Moderate to lower capacity for wind energy development at small or small-medium scales, with lower capacity for medium development and limited capacity for large or very large turbines	As underlying capacity
	Small-medium	Medium		
	Medium	High-medium		
	Large	High		
	Very large	High		
12 Upland River Valley	Small	Medium	Lower capacity for wind turbine development at all but the smallest developments	As underlying capacity
	Small-medium	High-medium		
	Medium	High		
	Large	High		
	Very large	High		
18 Plateau Moorlands	Small	Medium - low	Moderate to higher capacity for small, small-medium or medium scale wind turbine development, and moderate capacity at large or very large scales	May be capacity for development which is set back from the ridge
	Small-medium	Medium-low		
	Medium	Medium		
	Large	High-medium		
	Very large	High-medium		

SCOPE AND LEVEL OF DETAIL PROPOSED FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Scoping in/out of SEA Issues

In accordance with Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 East Renfrewshire Council has considered whether the environmental effects (positive and negative) of the SPG are likely to be significant. A summary of our conclusions is given in **Table 2**.

Table 2 – Scoping of SEA issues

SEA Issues	Scoped In	Scoped Out	If scoped out, why
biodiversity, flora, fauna	x		
population		x	Population has been scoped out as the SPG on renewable energy is considered unlikely to have a significant impact on population. The impact to human health has been scoped in.
human health	x		
soil	x		
water	x		
air	x		
climatic factors	x		
material assets	x		
cultural heritage (inc architectural and archaeological heritage)	x		
landscape	x		
Transport		x	Transport has been scoped out as the SPG is considered unlikely to have a significant impact on transport. Whilst it is acknowledged that initial transport disruptions/journeys by large trucks is probable it is considered these are short term impacts unlikely to be considered as significant and which can be addressed through planning conditions.

Reasonable alternatives

The requirement for Local Authorities to set out a spatial framework is set out in the Scottish Planning Policy (2014). The environmental designations to be given protection through the spatial framework are also given within the Scottish Planning Policy (2014).

Given this it would be unreasonable to not produce the Supplementary Planning Guidance which sets out East Renfrewshire's spatial framework.

Additionally there are no reasonable alternatives regarding the environmental designations to be considered as these have been set at a higher level.

East Renfrewshire has been involved in two detailed wind energy studies and it is our intention to go beyond the statutory requirements of Scottish Planning Policy (2014) and use the data generated from the studies to inform the Supplementary Planning Guidance. It would be a reasonable alternative to not take this extra step, however we are of the opinion that including the data specific to the local area will provide a better informed document providing clear guidance to developers and decision makers.

NEXT STEPS

Proposed consultation timescales and methods

It is hoped that the details of the Scoping Report will be agreed within 4 weeks of receipt in the SEA gateway.

The Council then intends to have a 6 week consultation period for the SPG and Environmental Report in the early part of 2016.

Anticipated milestones in the SEA and planning processes related to this PPS

Milestone	Anticipated Date
Production of SPG	January 2016
Production of Environmental Report	January 2016
Consultation	January 2016
Review of SPG and ER following comments received	March 2016
Approval by Council Committee	April 2016
Adoption	May 2016
Post adoption Statement	June 2016

Appendix 2 - Environmental Issues, Objectives and Implications for LDP

Environmental Objectives 1-20	Implications for the SPG	Environmental Issues from Baseline Information	Indicator
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			
1) Protect, enhance and where necessary restore (specified) species and habitats	Is the SPG likely to significantly help to protect species especially protected by law or species identified in national or local biodiversity action plans?	Loss of Local Biodiversity areas through development.	BFF01 – BFF13 WES (2012) LCS (2014)
2) Ensure sustainable use of agricultural and forestry resources	Is the SPG likely to significantly affect prime agricultural land or impact on deciduous woodlands?	Datasets not updated on a frequent basis so difficult to identify issues/trends.	L06 WES (2012) LCS (2014)
Human Health			
3) Provide environmental conditions promoting health and well being (including increasing opportunities for indoor and outdoor recreation)	Is the SPG likely to encourage an increase in outdoor access?	Need for revised open space survey.	L04-L05 T13-T14
4) Minimise noise and vibration	Is the SPG likely to introduce both construction and long term noise/vibration/shadow flicker?		L01
Water			
5) Minimise water pollution	Is the SPG likely to significantly help to protect or enhance the water environment?	Water quality has primarily remained static, with the exception of levern and Annick Waters which have both seen an improvement to their quality.	WS01- WS16 SG02-SG03
6) Ensure sustainable use of water resources	Is the SPG likely to significantly help conserve or protect water resources?		WS01- WS16

7) Ensure development does not increase the risk of flooding	Is the SPG likely to increase the likelihood of flooding or the requirement for flood defence works, or is it likely to have significant adverse effects on the water environment?	Further data needed on existing flooding issues. SEPA potential flood maps consulted in consideration of planning applications.	WS14-WS16
Soil and Geology			
8) Minimise and reduce soil contamination and ensure a high level of soil quality	Is the SPG likely to significantly help protect soils or encourage the sustainable use of soils, or to have adverse effects on soils?	No sites formally identified as contaminated land. Little information regarding remediation of sites.	L07-L09 SG02-SG03
9) Protect, enhance and where necessary restore geological features	Does the SPG take into account the influence of landform, geomorphology and geology or is it likely to significantly exacerbate risks?	Three SSSIs noted for geological interested considered to be in favourable condition.	SG05-SG06 BFF01- BFF02
Air/Climatic Factors			
10) Minimise air pollution and ensure a high level of air quality	Is the SPG likely to significantly help protect the environment from pollution or is it likely to increase the risk of pollution?	No air quality management areas needed within the authority.	A01-A06
11) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	Is the SPG likely to significantly help reduce greenhouse gases and/or energy consumption or increase it?		
12) Reduce energy use and ensure sustainable use of energy	Is the SPG likely to significantly help facilitate renewable energy in appropriate locations or deter its development?	Number of applications for wind turbines monitored.	A08 WES (2012) LCS (2014)
Cultural Heritage			
13) Protect, enhance and where appropriate restore archaeological sites and the historic environment	Is the SPG likely to significantly affect the integrity of any designated sites?	Planning applications are screened by WoSAS. If any negative impact on archaeological sites anticipated request for archaeological survey made.	CH01-CH10
14) Protect, enhance and where appropriate restore the built	Is the SPG likely to make a significant contribution to the regeneration/restoration of derelict, contaminated	Condition of historical environment remains fairly static, with a couple of	L07-L09 CH01-CH02 CH08-CH10

environment and regenerate degraded environments	or otherwise degraded environments or is it likely to increase the area or degradation of such land?	buildings in the Eaglesham area being removed from buildings at risk register.	
Landscape			
15) Protect, enhance and create green spaces important for recreation and biodiversity	Is the SPG likely to significantly help protect, enhance or create, or is it likely to significantly destroy greenspaces important for recreation and biodiversity or diminish their enjoyment?	Areas of greenbelt released for development in Local Development Plan resulting in growing urban area. 2013/14 identified an area of 1.3Ha potentially being affected by Wind Turbines.	L01-L02 L03-L05
16) Protect, enhance and where necessary restore the natural landscape	Is the SPG likely to significantly help protect, enhance or restore, or is it likely to significantly damage or diminish landscape character, local distinctiveness or scenic value or the enjoyment and understanding of the landscape?	The landscape assessment will guide development from sensitive areas. Opinions on Wind turbines are subjective, while some enjoy the visual impact others do not.	L02-L03 L06-L07 WES (2012) LCS (2014)
17) Promote adequate protection of infrastructure, property, material resources and land	Is the SPG likely to significantly affect property or land?		L02-L03
18) Promote sustainable use of material resources	Is the SPG likely to result in the use of material resources that cannot be replaced or sustainably sourced?	There are no active mining areas in ERC, and no areas of potential future mineral resources are readily identified or known.	SG06
19) Promote sustainable use of land including use of brownfield land	Is the SPG likely to encourage the re-use of brownfield land?	Brownfield sites tend to be primarily located within the urban areas and so it is considered unlikely that the spg will encourage the re-use of such sites.	L07-L09
Waste			
20) Reduce waste and promote the	Is the SPG likely to significantly help reduce waste or is it likely to	The percentage of waste recycled is increasing.	W01-W04

sustainable use of waste including recycling and composting	increase waste arising?		
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Appendix 3 - Relationship with other PPS and environmental objectives

A specific requirement of the SEA Legislation is to identify the SPGs relationship with other relevant plans, programmes and Strategies (PPS). Relevant PPS include European, national, strategic and local plans and programmes.

A summary of the key environmental aims and objectives of each PPS and the way in which they will influence the SPG is provided in Table 1.

Framework for analysis proposed for relationship with other PPS and Environmental Objectives

Relevant plans. Programmes and strategies (PPS)	Main requirements of the PPS objective	How it affects, or is affected by the SPG in terms of SEA issues referred to in Schedule 3 of the Act
INTERNATIONAL		
Kyoto Protocol (1997)	The Kyoto Protocol aimed to limit, as well as reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses. The commitment period of the Kyoto protocol expired in 2012 but the Doha Amendment extended the agreement to 2020	The SPG outlines the Councils support for renewable energy's. Renewable energy will reduce the reliance on fossil fuels, the combustion of which contributes to greenhouse gas emission.
The Johannesburg Summit of Sustainable Development (2012)	The 2002 declaration built upon the principles established through the Rio Declaration and further developed principles of sustainable development and sought international commitment to these sustainable development principles	The SPG will encourage the development of renewable energy sources supporting sustainable development whilst protecting designated species and habitats.
Gothenburg Protocol (1999, revised 2012)	The protocol establishes mandatory emission reductions for 4 (now 5) major air pollutants.	The SPG provides a framework for the development of renewable energy. This will reduce the reliance on the combustion of fossil fuels which in turn should reduce pollutant generation.
EUROPEAN		
EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC	The directive requires the protection of species and habitats listed in the Annex's of the directive and classification of Special Areas of Conservation.	Whilst there are no Special Areas of Conservation currently designated in East Renfrewshire, the SPG will comply with the directive in the protection of species listed in the annex's.
EU Birds Directive 2009/147/EC	The directive relates to the protection of all wild bird species naturally occurring within the union. The directive recognises that habitat loss and degradation are the most serious threats to the	There are no Special Protection Areas currently designated within East Renfrewshire. The SPG will comply with the directive by not adversely impacting upon the protection of wild birds, the nests, eggs and habitats.

	conservation of wild birds.	
EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	The Framework aims to improve and protect the water environment on a catchment level.	The SPG will be primarily concerned with renewable energy from onshore wind farms which will not adversely impact the surface water, ground water or aquatic ecosystems. The SPG will take note of other renewable energy technologies, such as hydro electric. In these instances the SPG will ensure it is compliant with aims of the directive.
European Climate Change Programme 2000	Contains a variety of cross cutting themes including energy, industry and transport with the aim of combating climate change.	The SPG will tackle climate change by moving the focus from fossil fuels to encouraging the development of renewable energy sources.
European Landscape Convention (2000)	Promotes landscape protection, management and planning.	The SPG will consider this with regards to landscape impacts.
European Sustainable Development Strategy (2009 review)	Long term objectives in Europe for sustainable development considering issues such as climate change, transport, health and natural resources.	The SPG will support sustainable development by encouraging the renewable energy sources and safeguarding natural resources instead of a reliance on fossil fuels.
NATIONAL		
The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act, 2006	Outlines the system for the preparation of Strategic Development Plans and Local Development Plans.	The SPG will accord with the requirements of the Act as it forms part of the Adopted LDP.
National Planning Framework 3, 2014	Sets out the spatial implications of land use planning policies in Scotland. Outlines support for renewable energy developments and details Scottish Government targets.	The SPG will contribute to meeting Scottish Government renewable energy targets. It will emphasise the need for a reduction in carbon emissions and adaptation to climate change. The protection and enhancement of the area's natural and cultural assets will also be supported.
Scottish Planning Policy (2014)	The Scottish Government's national planning policy considers a wide range of planning issues, including the need for renewable energy technologies to be supported by Local Development Plan's, with particular emphasis on the delivery of electricity and heat. A particular focus is placed on onshore wind and the need for a spatial framework.	This SPG will be prepared to be in line with SPP (2014), in particular the requirements of the onshore wind spatial framework and the focus on delivering renewable energy developments.
The UK Climate Change Programme (2006)	Explains how the UK's Kyoto Protocol target will be achieved, with focus on the need for a significant reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.	The SPG will contribute towards achieving UK targets, including a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.

Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2006	Identifies targets for climate change mitigation and adaptation, including the reduction of greenhouse gas and other emissions.	The SPG will consider climate change scenarios and the promotion of mitigation and adaptation methods.
Scottish Government Electricity Generation Policy Statement 2013	Identifies key aspects of electricity generation in Scotland, examining the necessary changes required to ensure Scottish Government targets are met.	The SPG will focus on actions required to meet Scottish Government's renewable energy targets.
Scottish Government 2020 Routemap for Renewable Energy in Scotland	Targets in the Electricity Generation Policy Statement are outlined with the necessary actions identified.	The SPG will focus on actions required to meet Scottish Government's renewable energy targets.
Scottish Soil Framework 2009	Highlights the various pressures on soils, particularly climate change and identifies policies to combat threats, and protect soils. Outcomes, and actions across a range of sectors are considered.	The SPG will take cognisance of soils and the contribution to soil carbon sequestration.
Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003	Protection of the water environment in connection with implementing the Water Framework Directive. Emphasis on groundwater, surface water and wetlands.	The SPG will consider the importance of the water environment.
Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Act 2003	Outlines the different levels of authorisations to allow for proportionate regulation depending on the risk an activity poses to the water environment. Some activities require authorisation including point source discharges, impoundments and abstractions.	The SPG will take account of the requirements of these regulations when dealing with renewable energy applications in or beside the water environment.
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Contains designations or protected areas, including National Parks and the protection of wildlife, countryside, public rights of way.	The SPG will fully consider the implications of this Act.
Nature conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	Updates the Wildlife and Countryside Act. It sets out measures designed to conserve biodiversity and to protect and enhance the biological and geological natural heritage of Scotland, by the provision of the legal framework for the designation of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).	The SPG will take cognisance of the Act.

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as amended by Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014	Provides protection of scheduled ancient monuments and areas of archaeological importance.	The SPG will take cognisance of this Act.
Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (2004) including 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity (2013)	Strategy to conserve and enhance biodiversity throughout Scotland. Its overall aim is 'to conserve biodiversity for the health, enjoyment and wellbeing of the people of Scotland now and in the future'.	The SPG will take cognisance of this Strategy.
The River Basin Management Plan for the Scotland river basin district 2009-2015	This plan outlines the actions to be taken to protect Scottish waters currently in good condition and to improve the quality of others.	The SPG will support the protection and enhancement of water bodies.
Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) (2011)	Sets out Scottish Ministers' policies, providing direction for Historic Scotland and a policy framework that informs the work of a wide range of public sector organisations.	The SPG will recognise the requirement to take account of the historic environment when undertaking practical mitigation work.
The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2117)	Establishes the framework for air quality improvements across the UK.	The SPG will take cognisance of the strategy and the importance of air quality in protecting human health and the environment.
REGIONAL		
Glasgow Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan 2012-2017	A 20 year strategy for the location of new development and a policy framework to help shape good quality places and enhance the quality of life in the city region.	The SPG will contribute to the delivery of this plan, particularly in terms of climate change, sustainability and low carbon energy.
Clydeplan Main Issues Report 2015	The MIR identifies the key changes which might influence the SDP since its approval in 2012 and which need to be considered when preparing the next SDP. Clydeplan identifies seven main issues, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting a Low Carbon Economy • Supporting Positive Environmental Action • Climate Change Adaptation 	The SPG will contribute to the delivery of this plan, particularly in terms of climate change, sustainability and low carbon energy.
LOCAL		

East Renfrewshire Local Development Plan 2015	Seeks to foster a rich and diverse environment and promote and manage land use change for the benefit of the local community and economy in a manner which is sustainable	The SPG will emphasise the requirement in Policy E1 for the preparation of the SPG.
Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Identifies habitats and species of value to the area	The SPG will take cognisance of this Report.
Outdoor access strategy and core path network	Seeks to ensure that core paths are promoted and are accessible thereby reducing car dependency and increasing enjoyment of the environment through providing good quality network of paths.	The SPG will take cognisance of this Report.
East Renfrewshire Single Outcome Agreement	East Renfrewshire is a thriving attractive and sustainable place for residents and businesses to grow.	The SPG will take cognisance of this Report.
Wind Energy Study 2012	Detailed study that identifies key areas where wind farm development would be unacceptable taking into account significant views, landscape character and cumulative impact from developments both in East Renfrewshire and the adjoining local authority areas.	The SPG will use the results of this study to provide guidance on onshore wind developments in the East Renfrewshire area.
Landscape Capacity Study 2014	Detailed study that aims to provide a strategic view of landscape sensitivity to wind energy development, and available capacity for further development, across the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley area, considering strategic and local issues.	The SPG will use the results of this study to provide guidance on onshore wind developments in the East Renfrewshire area.