



# Appendix A: Policy, plan and programme review

This policies, plans and programmes review comprises a succinct review of policies, plans and programmes relevant to the SEA process for the SSEP. The policies, plans and programmes included in this review are regional and above due to the strategic level of the SSEP. The intention of this exercise is to explore the environmental context for the plan through undertaking a review of the high-level messages from key policies, plans and programmes, and by proxy, of key government departments and agencies. This is with the aim of informing the aspects the SEA needs to focus on in terms of the legislative and policy context.

The review has been presented through a series of concise summaries which discuss the central objectives of relevant international, national and regional policies, plans and programmes.

The following overview presents the international, UK-wide and national policies, plans and programmes of relevance to the SSEP SEA process, organised by SEA topic. Accompanying each policy/plan/programme is a summary of the key overarching aims of the document.



## Air quality

Table A.1 Plans, policies and programmes and their key objectives as relevant to the air quality SEA topic

Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<b>International</b>			
<a href="#">Clean Air Strategy 2019</a>	2019	Plan	<p>The Clean Air Strategy explains how the UK Government will tackle all sources of air pollution, sets out policy direction, and outlines measures that will drive the move to zero emission transport modes. The strategy links into other national level policies, outlining the same targets and strategies across multiple documents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The strategy includes numerous aims and goals, many drawn from other policy documents, that are collated in brief in the executive summary. These are framed in the following topics:</li> <li>• Protecting the nation's health;</li> <li>• Protecting the environment;</li> <li>• Securing clean growth and innovation;</li> <li>• Action to reduce emissions from transport;</li> <li>• Action to reduce emissions at home;</li> <li>• Action to reduce emissions from farming;</li> <li>• Action to reduce emissions from industry; and</li> <li>• Leadership at all levels.</li> </ul> <p>The Clean Air Strategy effectively summarises government policy with an impact on air quality from multiple different areas. Multiple government initiatives are listed where action has been taken by central government. Of particular importance, and reinforced</p>



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			<p>by the Clean Air Strategy, is the adoption of challenging and enforceable local Air Quality Strategies.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context</a>	1991	-	<p>The Convention was adopted in 1991 and entered into force in September 2007. The Convention and Protocol lie in an area of mixed competence (environment). The UK and the EU are parties to the Convention. The EU has implemented the EIA Directive that has been transposed into UK domestic law.</p> <p>The Convention sets out the obligations of Parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning. It also lays down the general obligations of Parties to consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have significant transboundary effects. A revision to the Convention in 2004 indicated that affected Parties should be allowed to participate in scoping as appropriate.</p> <p>The Protocol on SEA (Kiev, 2003) augments the Espoo Convention and requires Parties to assess the environmental effects of their plans and programmes. The protocol also proposes extensive public participation in Government decision making. The UK has signed but not ratified the Protocol. The EU has ratified, and implements through the SEA Directive, transposed in UK domestic law.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the environmental impact of new energy infrastructure is considered at an early stage of planning.</p>
<b>UK-wide</b>			
<a href="#">The Air Quality (Amendment of</a>	2019	Policy	<p>These regulations set legally binding limits for concentrations in outdoor air of major air pollutants that impact public health such as particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) and</p>



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<a href="#">Domestic Regulations (EU Exit) Regulations 2019</a>			<p>nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>). As well as having direct effects, these pollutants can combine in the atmosphere to form ozone, a harmful air pollutant (and potent greenhouse gas) which can be transported great distances by weather systems. It also incorporates the 4<sup>th</sup> air quality daughter directive that sets targets for levels in outdoor air of certain toxic heavy metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland</a>	2007	Plan	<p>This Strategy sets out air quality objectives and policy options to further improve air quality in the UK from today into the long-term. As well as direct benefits to public health, these options are intended to provide important benefits to quality of life and help to protect the environment.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">Environment Act 2021</a>	2021	Policy	<p>The Environment Act sets out that the SoS may by regulations set long-term targets in respect of any matter which relates to a) the natural environment; or b) people's enjoyment of the natural environment. A long-term target must be in respect of at least one matter within each of the four priority areas: a) air quality; b) water; c) biodiversity; and d) resource efficiency and waste reduction.</p> <p>The Act specifically requires the SoS to set by future regulation statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in two priority areas: air quality (PM2.5 air quality target) and biodiversity (species abundance target) and includes an important new target to reverse the decline in species abundance by the end of 2030. The SoS must also prepare an environmental improvement plan for significantly improving the natural environment for a period no shorter than 15 years.</p>



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			The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.
<a href="#">The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004</a>	2004	Policy	<p>To comply with these regulations, if it is determined that a proposed plan or programme, or a modification to an existing plan or programme, is likely to have a significant environmental effect it will need a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA). The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Environmental Improvement Plan</a>	2023	Plan	<p>This plan sets out a series of ten goals for the environment, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife.</li><li>• Goal 2: Clean air.</li><li>• Goal 3: Clean and plentiful water.</li><li>• Goal 4: Managing exposure to chemicals and pesticides.</li><li>• Goal 5: Maximise our resources, minimise our waste.</li><li>• Goal 6: Using resources from nature sustainably.</li><li>• Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change.</li><li>• Goal 8: Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards.</li><li>• Goal 9: Enhancing biosecurity.</li><li>• Goal 10: Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment.</li></ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Environmental Protection Act 1990</a>	1990	Policy	<p>This act brings in a system of integrated pollution control for the disposal of wastes to land, water and air. There are three parts of the Act. These are:</p>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part I – establishes integrated pollution control and gives Local Authorities new powers to control air pollution from a range of prescribed processes;</li> <li>• Part II – improves the rules on waste disposal; and</li> <li>• Part III – covers statutory nuisances and clean air.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Levelling Up &amp; Regeneration Act</a>	2023	Policy	<p>The UK Government has identified 12 policy areas for improvement by 2030 Initiates Planning reforms in England, including changes to the role of Local Planning Authorities (LPAs); the introduction of national development management policies (NDMPs); reforms to the Local Plan-making process; and seeking to improve outcomes for the natural environment, including through the introduction of an Environmental Outcomes focus to environmental assessment.</p> <p>It should be noted that in Scotland and Wales, the Act does not alter the executive competence of Ministers or the legislative competence of Parliament.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Nationally Significant Infrastructure: Action plan for reforms to the planning process</a>	2023	Plan	<p>This Action Plan sets out the reforms to the NSIP regime that will be implemented to ensure the system can support future infrastructure needs.</p> <p>To meet the objectives of ensuring the NSIP consenting process is better at meeting statutory timescales, faster where environmental and community concerns can be addressed before examination, greener for the environment, fairer for communities and more resilient in resourcing, five reform areas have been developed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Setting a clear strategic direction</b>, where National Policy Statements and wider government policy reduce the policy ambiguity faced by individual projects.</li> </ol>



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			<p>2. <b>Bringing forward operational reforms to support faster consenting</b> with an emphasis on delivering proportionate examinations for all projects, strengthening pre-application advice and introducing a fast-track consenting timeframe for projects that meet quality criteria.</p> <p>3. <b>Realising better outcomes for the environment</b> replacing the cumbersome environmental assessment processes with new Environmental Outcomes Reports; reviewing the protected sites and species policy framework (including Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)) and introducing biodiversity net gain and developing principles for marine net gain for NSIPs.</p> <p>4. <b>Recognising the role of local authorities and strengthening community engagement with NSIPs</b>, with greater support and measures to embed community input and benefits much earlier in the process.</p> <p>5. <b>Improving system-wide capacity and capability</b>, including through developing skills and training and extending proportionate cost recovery by the Planning Inspectorate and key statutory consultees to support effective preparation and examination of NSIPs and build resilience into the system.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Planning Act 2008</a>	2008	Policy	<p>This legislation sets out how the planning system should deal with nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIP). The legislation created a regime of National Policy Statements (NPS). These NPS give reasons for the policy set out in the statement and must include an explanation of how the policy takes account of Government policy relating to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. They include the Government's objectives for the development of nationally significant infrastructure in a particular sector and state:</p>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How this will contribute to sustainable development.</li> <li>• How these objectives have been integrated with other Government policies.</li> <li>• How actual and projected capacity and demand have been considered.</li> <li>• Consider relevant issues in relation to safety or technology.</li> <li>• Circumstances where it would be particularly important to address the adverse impacts of development.</li> <li>• Specific locations, where appropriate, in order to provide a clear framework for investment and planning decisions.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<b>English</b>			
<a href="#">A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment</a>	2018	Plan	<p>The Government's 25-Year Environment Plan sets out their position on environmental improvements, focussed on delivering cleaner air and water across the country, protecting at-risk wildlife, and improving natural habitats in England. The Plan sets the following key actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using and managing land sustainably, including embedding an "environmental net gain" principle into development.</li> <li>• Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes.</li> <li>• Connecting people to the environment to improve health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• Increase resource efficiency and reducing pollution.</li> <li>• Securing clean, healthy and productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans.</li> <li>• Protecting and improving the global environment.</li> </ul>



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			The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.
<a href="#">The Environmental Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations 2023</a>	2023	Policy	<p>These Regulations set an annual mean concentration target. The target is that by the end of 2040, the annual mean level of PM2.5 in ambient air must be equal to or less than 10 µg/m³ ("the target level").</p> <p>The annual mean concentration target is met by the end of 2040 if, at every relevant monitoring station, the annual mean level of PM2.5 in ambient air, calculated in accordance with Regulation 15 and rounded to the nearest whole number of µg/m³, is equal to or less than the target level in the year 2040.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</a>	2024	Policy	<p>The NPPF sets out the government's planning policies for England and was most recently revised in December 2024. The main amendments to this policy with regards to energy come under 'Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change'. The update to the NPPF should assist decision makers dealing with proposals to use and improve existing renewable energy sites giving weight to the advantages of doing so. The addition of a new paragraph under this header specifies that "<i>Wind Energy Development involving one or more turbines can also be permitted through Local Development Orders, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders</i>". The increase in accepted routes to achieve development of Wind Turbine sites is intended to make the process more flexible and therefore quicker and easier to increase wind farms producing renewable or low carbon energy.</p> <p>The NNPF is accompanied by relevant Planning Practice Guidance as follows:</p>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Air quality</b> (2016): Provides guidance on how planning can take account of the impact of new development on air quality.</li> <li>• <b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> (2020): Explains requirements of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to the NPPF.</p>
<a href="#">Planning for the Future</a>	2020	Policy	<p>This white paper sets out the Government's proposals for "<i>once in a generation</i>" reform of England's planning system, and separate proposals to reform the current system of calculating housing need proved controversial.</p> <p>The three pillars of the white paper are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning for development;</li> <li>• Planning for beautiful and sustainable places; and</li> <li>• Planning for infrastructure and connected places.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this white paper.</p>
<a href="#">The Smoke Control Areas (Authorised Fuels) England (No. 2) Regulations 2014</a>	2014	Policy	<p>The Regulations provide a list of fuels which are authorised to be used in smoke control areas in England. According to the compliance actions, if located in a smoke control area, it must be ensured that only the following fuels are used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anthracite;</li> <li>• Semi-anthracite;</li> <li>• Electricity;</li> <li>• Gas;</li> <li>• Low volatile steam coals; and</li> </ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fuels described in the Schedule to these regulations.</li> </ul> <p>The overall purpose of the Regulations is to improve air quality.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning and Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2018</a>	2018	Policy	<p>These Regulations amend the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. These new regulations set out the procedures to be followed in relation to EIA linked to nationally significant infrastructure projects in England and Wales. The objective is to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to help integrate environmental considerations into the preparation of proposals for development to reduce their impact on the environment.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<b>Scottish</b>			
<a href="#">The Air Quality Standards (Scotland) Regulations 2010 and The Air Quality (Scotland) Amendments Regulations 2016</a>	2016	Policy	<p>The 2010 Regulations were made under powers conferred by section 2(2) of the European Communities Act. They detail the limit or target values for several pollutants considered of concern for human health for the purpose of Air Quality Management.</p> <p>The 2016 Regulations set out the objectives adopted in Scotland for the purpose of Local Air Quality Management. The achievement or likely achievement of an air quality objective prescribed by the Regulations shall be determined by reference to the quality of air at locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Which are situated outside of buildings or other natural or man-made structures; and</li> <li>Where members of the public are regularly present.</li> </ul>



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			The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.
<a href="#">Cleaner air for Scotland 2: Towards a better place for everyone</a>	2021	Plan	<p>This is a new air quality strategy to replace Cleaner Air for Scotland – The Road to a Healthier Future, setting out the Scottish Government's air quality policy framework for the next five years and a series of actions to deliver further air quality improvements. Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 (CAFS 2) is shaped around 10 general themes, which largely reflect the high-level recommendations arising from the CAFS review:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Health – A precautionary approach.</li> <li>2. Integrated policy.</li> <li>3. Placemaking.</li> <li>4. Data.</li> <li>5. Public engagement and behaviour change.</li> <li>6. Industrial emissions regulation.</li> <li>7. Tackling non-transport emissions sources.</li> <li>8. Transport.</li> <li>9. Governance, accountability and delivery.</li> <li>10. Further progress review.</li> </ol> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)</a>	2023	Policy	<p>The NPF4 sets out Scotland's spatial principles, regional priorities, national developments and national planning policy.</p> <p>Part 1 – A National Spatial Strategy for Scotland 2045 sets out six overarching spatial principles which play a key role in delivering UN SDGs and Scottish national outcomes:</p>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just transition;</li> <li>• Conserving and recycling assets;</li> <li>• Local living;</li> <li>• Compact urban growth;</li> <li>• Rebalanced development; and</li> <li>• Rural revitalisation.</li> </ul> <p>Part 2 – National Planning Policy sets out 33 policies on topics including tackling the climate and nature crises; climate mitigation and action; and biodiversity.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to the NPF4.</p>
<a href="#">The Smoke Control Areas (Authorised Fuels) (Scotland) Regulations 2014</a>	2014	Policy	<p>These Regulations provide a list of fuels which are authorised to be used in smoke control areas in Scotland. The compliance actions set out that, if located in a smoke control area, it must be ensured that only the following fuels are used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anthracite;</li> <li>• Semi-anthracite;</li> <li>• Electricity;</li> <li>• Gas;</li> <li>• Low volatile steam coals; and</li> <li>• Fuels described in the Schedule to these regulations.</li> </ul> <p>The overall purpose of the Regulations is to improve air quality.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>



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<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013</a>	2013	Policy	<p>This Order provides for procedures connected with pre-application consultation; applications for planning permission; the planning authority; consultations; local development orders; certificates of lawful use or development; and the maintenance of registers of planning applications.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017</a>	2017	Policy	<p>EIA is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects arising from a proposed development.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<b>Welsh</b>			
<a href="#">Future Wales: The National Plan 2040</a>	2021	Plan	<p>This Plan is a 20-year development plan for the whole of Wales. Planning decisions must be made in accordance with Future Wales unless material considerations indicate otherwise. It sets out Welsh Government land use priorities and provides a national land use framework for regional Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) and LDPs. It concentrates on development and land use issues of national significance, indicating areas of major opportunities and change, and also highlighting areas that need protecting and enhancing.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>



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<a href="#">Llwybr Newydd: The Wales Transport Strategy 2021</a>	2021	Plan	<p>This Strategy sets out the vision for an accessible, sustainable and efficient transport system. The Strategy sets out three priorities over the next 5 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Priority 1:</b> Bring services to people in order to reduce the need to travel.</li> <li>• <b>Priority 2:</b> Allow people and goods to move easily from door to door by accessible, sustainable and efficient transport services and infrastructure.</li> <li>• <b>Priority 3:</b> Encourage people to make the change to more sustainable transport.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">Planning Policy Wales</a>	2021	Policy	<p>Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (11<sup>th</sup> Edition) was published alongside Future Wales. It sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), Welsh Government Circulars, and policy clarification letters, which together with PPW provide the national planning policy framework for Wales. PPW, the TANs, Mineral TANs (MTANs), and policy clarification letters comprise national planning policy.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Planning (Wales) Act 2015</a>	2015	Policy	<p>This Act sets out a series of legislative changes to deliver reform of the planning system in Wales, to ensure that it is fair, resilient and enables development. The act addresses five key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modernised framework for the delivery of planning services;</li> <li>• Strengthening the plan led approach – the act introduces a legal basis for the preparation of a National Development Framework and Strategic Development Plans;</li> </ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved resilience – the act allows the Welsh Ministers to direct local planning authorities to work together and for local planning authorities to be merged;</li> <li>• Frontloading and improving the development management system – the act will introduce a statutory pre- application procedure for defined categories of planning application; and</li> <li>• Enabling effective enforcement and appeals – the act enables changes to enforcement procedures to secure prompt, meaningful action against breaches of planning control and increase the transparency and efficiency of the appeal system.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Smoke Control Areas (Authorised Fuels) (Wales) Regulations 2019</a>	2019	Policy	<p>The Regulations provide a list of fuels which are authorised to be used in smoke control areas in Wales. The compliance actions, if located in a smoke control area, state that it must be ensured that only the following fuels are used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anthracite;</li> <li>• Semi-anthracite;</li> <li>• Electricity;</li> <li>• Gas;</li> <li>• Low volatile steam coals; and</li> <li>• Fuels described in the Schedule to these regulations.</li> </ul> <p>The overall purpose of the Regulations is to improve air quality.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning and Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2018</a>	2018	Policy	<p>These Regulations amend the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. These new regulations set out the procedures to be followed in relation to EIA linked to nationally significant infrastructure projects in England and Wales. The objective is to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to help integrate environmental considerations into the preparation of proposals for development to reduce their impact on the environment.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>

## Climate change

Table A.2 Plans, policies and programmes and their key objectives as relevant to the climate change SEA topic

Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<b>International</b>			
<a href="#">Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context</a>	1991	-	<p>The Convention was adopted in 1991 and entered into force in September 2007. The Convention and Protocol lie in an area of mixed competence (environment). The UK and the EU are parties to the Convention. The EU has implemented the EIA Directive that has been transposed into UK domestic law.</p> <p>The Convention sets out the obligations of Parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning. It also lays down the general obligations of Parties to consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have significant transboundary effects. A revision to the Convention in</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>2004 indicated that affected Parties should be allowed to participate in scoping as appropriate.</p> <p>The Protocol on SEA (Kiev, 2003) augments the Espoo Convention and requires Parties to assess the environmental effects of their plans and programmes. The protocol also proposes extensive public participation in Government decision making. The UK has signed but not ratified the Protocol. The EU has ratified, and implements through the SEA Directive, transposed in UK domestic law.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the environmental impact of new energy infrastructure is considered at an early stage of planning.</p>
<a href="#">UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement etc.)</a>	Various	-	<p>A series of international agreements setting targets and legally binding agreements for industrialised countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure contributes to these international agreements.</p>
<a href="#">UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement, Articles: ENER.21 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, ENER.22 Support for Renewable Energy, ENER.23 Cooperation in the Development of Offshore Renewable</a>	Various	-	<p>Following the UK's departure from the EU, the UK is released from the EU Renewable Energy Directive 2009 (2009/28/EC) and EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU). The Trade and Cooperation (TAC) reaffirms a number of the UK and EU targets and ambitions relating to renewable energy. The TAC sets out the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Parties shall promote energy efficiency and the use of the energy from renewable sources;</li> <li>• The UK reaffirms its 2030 ambitions regarding renewables and energy consumption as set out in its National Energy and Climate Plan;</li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">Energy, and ENER.26 Research, Development and Innovation</a>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Parties shall ensure support for integration of electricity from renewable sources in the electricity market;</li> <li>• The Parties shall cooperate in the development of offshore renewable energy; and</li> <li>• The Parties shall promote research, development and innovation in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with these targets and ambitions.</p>
<b>UK-wide</b>			
<a href="#">British Energy Security Strategy</a>	2022	Plan	<p>This Strategy builds on the 'Ten-Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution', and the 'Net Zero Strategy'. It comes in light of rising global energy prices, provoked by surging demand after the pandemic, as well as Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This will be central to weaning Britain off expensive fossil fuels, which are subject to volatile gas prices set by international markets that the Government are unable to control. It will boost Britain's diverse sources of homegrown energy for greater energy security in the long-term.</p> <p>With regard to nuclear, the Strategy outlines the target that by 2050 up to a quarter of electricity consumed in Great Britain will be from nuclear (up to 24 GW by 2050). Nuclear may also have a part to play in production of hydrogen.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">Centralised Strategic Network Plan</a>	Emerging	Plan	<p>NESO are currently developing a Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP). The CSNP will take a broad, whole energy system view to transforming the pace and scale of our planning.</p> <p>NESA are also developing a high-level initial methodology, which will centre around the decisions set out in Ofgem's decision document on the framework for the CSNP. It will</p>



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			<p>capture the key processes of the new framework concentrating on electricity transmission network planning.</p> <p>For electricity, it will integrate the onshore and offshore transmission networks in Great Britain as well as cross-border electricity interconnectors and offshore hybrid assets. NESO propose to focus on areas of significant change from their current approach to network planning. For example, NESO will outline how they will expand analysis of year-round system needs across the transmission network; how environmental and community impacts can be considered at the high-level design stage; and how we they will develop the framework to allow Transmission Operators and third parties to develop network options.</p> <p>NESO intend to conduct a comprehensive consultation on the CSNP in early 2024 to provide opportunity for feedback from a broad range of stakeholders before they publish a more comprehensive, final methodology for the CSNP later in 2024.</p> <p>NESO's transitional methodology known as the Transitional Centralised Strategic Network Plan (tCSNP) will publish early network recommendations in 2024.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Clean Growth Strategy</a>	2017	Plan	<p>This Strategy deals specifically with the challenge of trying to grow the UK's economy whilst reducing its emissions. This issue is dealt with across multiple strategies, and several sectors have a large role to play. This strategy details the approach of each sector and sets out key policies for each.</p> <p>The guiding principles of the Strategy are to, through nurturing low carbon technologies, processes, and systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet the UK's domestic commitments at the lowest possible net cost to UK taxpayers, consumers, and businesses; and</li> </ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise the social and economic benefits for the UK from this transition.</li> </ul> <p>The key policies to achieve this are sorted into the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accelerating clean growth;</li> <li>• Improving business and industry efficiency (25% of emissions);</li> <li>• Improving our homes (13% of emissions);</li> <li>• Accelerating the shift to low carbon transport (24% of emissions);</li> <li>• Delivering clean, smart, flexible power (21% of emissions);</li> <li>• Enhancing the benefits and value of our natural resources (15% of emissions);</li> <li>• Leading in the public sector (2% of emissions); and</li> <li>• Government leadership in driving clean growth.</li> </ul> <p>Regarding transport, the primary aim described in detail is a pathway to, by 2032, achieve a 32% reduction in carbon emissions compared to 1990, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accelerating uptake of ULEVs;</li> <li>• Developing a more efficient and low carbon freight system;</li> <li>• A cleaner public transport system;</li> <li>• A reduction in the number of shorter journeys made by car; and</li> <li>• A near <b>doubling of sustainable bioenergy</b> used in the transport sector.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Clean Power 2030</a>	Emerging	Programme	<p>NESO have been asked to provide advice to the Government on decarbonising the power system as part of the newly announced Mission Control for clean power by 2030. NESO are now establishing a programme to deliver this analysis.</p> <p>The SEPP should ensure that new energy infrastructure considers this emerging piece of advice.</p>



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<a href="#">The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019</a>	2019	Policy	<p>This Act aims to improve carbon management, helping the transition towards a low-carbon economy in the UK and to demonstrate UK leadership internationally.</p> <p>Key provisions of the Act include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A legally binding target of at least an 80% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and a reduction in emissions of at least 34% by 2020 (both against 1990 baseline) (note: the 2050 target has now been amended to net zero);</li> <li>• A carbon budgeting system that caps emissions over five-year periods;</li> <li>• Creation of the Committee on Climate Change;</li> <li>• Further measures to reduce emissions, including measures on biofuels; and</li> </ul> <p>A requirement for the Government to report at least every five years on the risks to the UK of climate change, and to publish a programme setting out how these will be addressed.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain</a>	2021	Plan	<p>Part 2a of the plan makes commitments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase cycling and walking;</li> <li>• Deliver zero emission buses and coaches;</li> <li>• Decarbonise Britain's railways;</li> <li>• Deliver a zero emissions fleet of cars, vans, motorcycles, and scooters;</li> <li>• Accelerate maritime decarbonisation; and</li> <li>• Accelerate aviation decarbonisation.</li> </ul> <p>Part 2b of the plan makes commitments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver a zero emission freight and logistics sector;</li> <li>• Deliver decarbonisation through places;</li> </ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise the benefits of sustainable low carbon fuels;</li> <li>• Increase hydrogen's role in a decarbonised transport system;</li> <li>• Increase mode choice to deliver better efficiency; and</li> <li>• Support UK research and development as a decarbonisation enabler.</li> </ul> <p>The plan notes that over time, the use of zero emission vehicles will become cleaner still as the use of renewable energy in the UK's electricity mix continues to increase – the carbon intensity of the grid reduced by over 40% in the last five years alone.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Design Principles for National Infrastructure</a>	2020	Plan	<p>This plan identifies four principles to guide the planning and delivery of major infrastructure projects. These principles, developed by the Commission's Design Group in consultation with all infrastructure sectors, were created to guide the future projects which will upgrade and renew the UK's infrastructure system. They should be applied to all economic infrastructure: digital communications, energy, transport, flood management, water and waste.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">The Economics of Climate Change: The Stern Review</a>	2006	-	<p>This review examines the evidence on the economic impacts of climate change and explores the economics of stabilising greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The second part of the review considers the complex policy challenges involved in managing the transition to a low-carbon economy and in ensuring that societies are able to adapt to the consequences of climate change.</p> <p>The document clearly identifies that adaptation is the only available response for impacts that will occur over the next few decades.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this review.</p>



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<a href="#">Energy Act 2023</a>	2023	Policy	<p>Under this Act, the new Independent System Operator and Planner (ISOP) takes on statutory responsibility for planning Britain's electricity and gas networks as well as for continuing to operate the electricity system, and must provide advice, analysis, and information in connection with these responsibilities at the request of the government or Ofgem.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Energy Security Bill Policy Statement: Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package Measures</a>	2023	Policy	<p>This policy statement describes the measures Government intends to bring forward as part of the Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package, but for which primary legislation is not necessary. The Government will explore the most effective mechanism to implement a strategic monitoring system and is developing Offshore Wind Environmental Standards. The Government is proposing to implement the Offshore Wind Environmental Standards under the National Policy Statement designated under the Planning Act 2008. A review of the National Policy Statement is ongoing and the Government will publish a response to the public consultation on the National Policy Statement in due course.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy statement.</p>
<a href="#">Energy White Paper</a>	2020	Policy	<p>This White Paper builds on the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution to outline the Government's domestic and international strategy for delivering net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shifting from fossil fuels and towards new low-carbon power and renewables, for example by investing £385 million in the Advanced Nuclear Fund;</li> <li>• Maintaining the affordability of energy for consumers;</li> <li>• Increasing energy efficiency of households, buildings and the energy system as a whole; and</li> </ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creating up to 250,000 'green' jobs by 2030 in a 'Green Industrial Revolution'.</li></ul> <p>The Paper sets out the aim to bring at least one further large-scale nuclear project to the point of Final Investment Decision by the end of this Parliament (i.e. expected to be by May 2024).</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure adheres to this white paper.</p>
<a href="#">The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004</a>	2004	Policy	<p>To comply with these regulations, if it is determined that a proposed plan or programme, or a modification to an existing plan or programme, is likely to have a significant environmental effect it will need a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA).</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Environmental Improvement Plan</a>	2023	Plan	<p>This plan sets out a series of ten goals for the environment, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife.</li><li>• Goal 2: Clean air.</li><li>• Goal 3: Clean and plentiful water.</li><li>• Goal 4: Managing exposure to chemicals and pesticides.</li><li>• Goal 5: Maximise our resources, minimise our waste.</li><li>• Goal 6: Using resources from nature sustainably.</li><li>• Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change.</li><li>• Goal 8: Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards.</li><li>• Goal 9: Enhancing biosecurity.</li><li>• Goal 10: Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment.</li></ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>



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<a href="#">Flood Risk Management Plans 2021 to 2027</a>	2022	Plan	<p>Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) explain the risk of flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water, groundwater and reservoirs. FRMPs set out how risk management authorities will work with communities to manage flood risk over the next six years. They must cover areas of the River Basin District (RBD) where flood risk is significant. These areas are called Flood Risk Areas (FRAs). The Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) identify FRAs through preliminary flood risk assessments. FRMPs also meet the aims of the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Strategy for England.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Flood and Water Management Act 2010</a>	2010	Policy	<p>This act provides for a better, more comprehensive management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses, helps safeguard community groups from unaffordable rises in surface water drainage charges and protects water supplies to the consumer. The key concepts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood and coastal erosion risk management;</li> <li>• Strategies for natural flood and coastal erosion; and</li> <li>• The establishment of regional flood and coastal communities.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Floods and Water (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019</a>	2019	Policy	<p>The Regulations ensure that the existing floods and water regime will continue to operate effectively following the UK's exit from the EU.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Holistic Network Design</a>	2022	Plan	<p>The Holistic Network Design (HND) is a first of its kind, integrated approach for connecting 23GW of offshore wind to Great Britain.</p>



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			<p>By considering future offshore generation out to 2030, infrastructure can be planned to bring power to the grid cohesively, ensuring maximum benefit for consumers, local communities and the environment.</p> <p>The HND provides a recommended offshore and onshore design for a 2030 electricity network, that facilitates the Government's ambition for 50GW of offshore wind by 2030. The HND enables investment and delivery of infrastructure, including locations in North and South Wales, the Scottish Islands and West Coast, and the East Coast of Scotland and Aberdeenshire, Lancashire, North-East England, and Yorkshire &amp; Humber, opening the door for more jobs and economic growth in these regions.</p> <p>The recommended design in the HND has equally considered four different objectives to make sure the most appropriate approach is taken forwards, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Cost to consumer</li><li>2. Deliverability and operability</li><li>3. Impact on environment</li><li>4. Impact on local communities</li></ol> <p>Developed in consultation with the UK, Scottish and Welsh Governments, Ofgem, Transmission Owners, offshore wind developers and environmental stakeholders, the HND primarily includes offshore wind projects that secured seabed leases through The Crown Estate's Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 and Crown Estate Scotland's ScotWind Leasing Round. It also assumes 1GW of floating wind from the upcoming Celtic Sea leasing round and some additional projects that are due to connect at a similar place and time to others in scope.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>



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<a href="#">Independent Assessment of UK Climate Change Risk</a>	2021	-	<p>This report provides the Adaptation Committee's statutory advice to Governments on priorities for the forthcoming national adaptation plans and wider action. It is informed by extensive new evidence gathered for the accompanying Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) Technical Report. More than 60 risks and opportunities have been identified, fundamental to every aspect of life in the UK covering the natural environment, health, homes, infrastructure, and the economy.</p> <p>This new evidence shows that the gap between the level of risk the UK face and the level of adaptation underway has widened. Adaptation action has failed to keep pace with the worsening reality of climate risk.</p> <p>The Committee identifies eight risk areas that require the most urgent attention in the next two years. They have been selected on the basis of the urgency of additional action; the gap in UK adaptation planning; the opportunity to integrate adaptation into forthcoming policy commitments; and the need to avoid locking in poor planning, especially as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The eight areas of risk are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Risks to the viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards;</li><li>• Risks to soil health from increased flooding and drought;</li><li>• Risks to natural carbon stores and sequestration from multiple hazards leading to increased emissions;</li><li>• Risks to crops, livestock and commercial trees from multiple hazards;</li><li>• Risks to supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate-related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks;</li><li>• Risks to people and the economy from climate-related failure of the power system;</li></ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risks to human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings; and</li> <li>• Multiple risks to the UK from climate change impacts overseas.</li> </ul> <p>Ten principles for good adaptation planning that should form the basis for the next round of national adaptation plans are also recommended. These are intended to bring adaptation into mainstream consideration by government and business.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this report.</p>
<a href="#">Industrial decarbonisation strategy</a>	2021	Plan	<p>The aim of this strategy is to show how the UK can have a thriving industrial sector aligned with the net zero target, without pushing emissions and business abroad, and how government will act to support this. This strategy is part of a series of publications from government, which combined show how the net zero transition will take place across the whole UK economy.</p> <p>The strategy aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show how the UK can have a thriving industrial sector aligned with the net zero target, without pushing emissions and business abroad;</li> <li>• Show how and when government will act to support this, while sharing the costs and risks fairly between industry, its customers and the taxpayer; and</li> <li>• Start a conversation with industry, its workforce, customers and communities about the future of industry in a net zero world.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">Levelling Up &amp; Regeneration Act</a>	2023	Policy	<p>The UK Government has identified 12 policy areas for improvement by 2030 Initiates Planning reforms in England, including changes to the role of Local Planning Authorities (LPAs); the introduction of national development management policies (NDMPs); reforms to the Local Plan-making process; and seeking to improve outcomes for the</p>



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			<p>natural environment, including through the introduction of an Environmental Outcomes focus to environmental assessment.</p> <p>It should be noted that in Scotland and Wales, the Act does not alter the executive competence of Ministers or the legislative competence of Parliament.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Marine Spatial Prioritisation Programme</a>	Emerging	Programme	<p>This programme, led by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), in collaboration with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), will address the management of all activities in English waters.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this emerging programme.</p>
<a href="#">National Infrastructure Assessment</a>	2018	Plan	<p>This Assessment analyses the UK's long-term economic infrastructure needs, outlining a strategic vision over the next 30 years and setting out recommendations for how identified needs should be met. The Assessment provides a long-term strategy for how to adapt the UK's infrastructure to deal with the pressures of climate change.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">National Infrastructure Strategy</a>	2020	Plan	<p>This Strategy sets out the government's plans to transform the UK's infrastructure networks. It is based around three central objectives: economic recovery; levelling up and strengthening the Union; and meeting the UK's net zero emissions target by 2050. This will be enabled by clear support for private investment and through a comprehensive set of reforms to the way infrastructure is delivered.</p> <p>This Strategy sets out early actions that the government will take to build the infrastructure needed to achieve net zero, improve air quality, create a greener urban environment and minimise the impact of flooding.</p>



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			The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.
<a href="#">Overarching National Policy Statement for energy (EN-1)</a>	2023	Policy	<p>This National Policy Statement (NPS) sets out national policy for energy infrastructure. Part 1 of this NPS sets out the background context to the NPSs, including the scope of EN-1 and geographical coverage. Part 2 outlines the policy context for the development of nationally significant energy infrastructure. Part 3 explains the urgent need for significant amounts of large-scale energy infrastructure in meeting government's energy objectives. Part 4 sets out the general policies for the submission and assessment of energy infrastructure applications. Part 5 outlines generic impacts which arise from the development of all types of energy infrastructure covered by the energy NPSs.</p> <p>The Government's objectives for the energy system are to ensure the UK's supply of energy always remains secure, reliable, affordable, and consistent with meeting the Government's target to cut greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, including through delivery of the Government's carbon budgets and Nationally Determined Contribution. This will require a step change in the decarbonisation of the UK's energy system.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure adheres to this NPS.</p>
<a href="#">Natural gas electricity generating infrastructure (EN-2)</a>	2023	Policy	<p>This NPS, taken together with the Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1), provides the primary policy for decisions by the SoS on applications they receive for nationally significant natural gas electricity generating stations.</p> <p>Applicants should ensure that their applications, and any accompanying supporting documents and information, are consistent with the instructions and guidance given to applicants in this NPS, EN-1 and any other NPSs that are relevant to the application in question.</p>



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			The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure adheres to this NPS.
<a href="#">National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure (EN-3)</a>	2023	Policy	<p>This NPS, taken together with the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), provides the primary policy for decisions by the SoS on applications they receive for nationally significant renewable energy infrastructure defined by Section 1.6 of this NPS. These include the following types of nationally significant renewable electricity generating stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy from biomass and/or waste including mixed waste containing non-renewable fractions (&gt;50 MW in England and &gt;350MW in Wales);</li> <li>• Pumped hydro storage (&gt;50 MW in England and &gt;350MW in Wales);</li> <li>• Solar photovoltaic (PV) (&gt;50 MW in England and &gt;350MW in Wales);</li> <li>• Offshore wind (&gt;100MW in England and &gt;350MW in Wales); and</li> <li>• Tidal stream (&gt;100MW in England and &gt;350MW in Wales).</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure adheres to this NPS.</p>
<a href="#">National Policy Statement for natural gas supply infrastructure and gas and oil pipelines (EN-4)</a>	2023	Policy	<p>This NPS, taken together with the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), provides the primary policy for decisions by the SoS on applications it receives for natural gas supply infrastructure and gas and oil pipelines as defined at Section 1.6 of this NPS. This includes the following types of nationally significant natural gas and oil infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Underground gas storage and LNG facilities which meet one of the following two tests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The storage or working capacity test: a project would pass this test if the storage capacity on completion of the proposal is expected to be at least 43 million standard cubic metres (Mcm) of gas or higher; or</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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			<p>– The maximum flow rate test: a project would pass this test if it has a projected maximum flow rate of at least 4.5 Mcm of gas per day (Mcm/d).</p> <p>An alteration to an underground gas storage facility or an LNG facility will be for the SoS to consider if it increases the storage capacity or the maximum flow rate of the facility by the above volumes. Applications under this category will include: underground gas storage in natural porous strata (depleted hydrocarbon fields, aquifers); underground gas storage in caverns; and LNG facilities capable of receiving, storing and re-gasifying LNG.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gas reception facilities with a projected maximum flow rate of at least 4.5 Mcm/d (there is no capacity test). An alteration to a gas reception facility will be for the Secretary of State to consider if it increases the maximum flow rate by the above volume. Applications under this category will cover gas reception facilities where gas is received in gaseous form from outside England, Scotland, and Wales.</li> <li>• Gas transporter pipelines (onshore), which are (a) expected to be more than 800mm in diameter and more than 40 kilometres in length or (b) the construction of which is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. The design operating pressure must be more than 7 bar gauge and must be expected to convey gas for supply (directly or indirectly) to at least 50,000 customers, or potential customers, of one or more gas supplier. These pipelines are referred to in this NPS as Gas Transporter Pipelines.</li> <li>• Pipelines over 16.093km (10 miles) long which would otherwise require authorisation under s.1 of the Pipe-lines Act 1962, together with diversions to such pipelines regardless of length.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure adheres to this NPS.</p>



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<a href="#">National Policy Statement for electricity networks infrastructure (EN-5)</a>	2023	Policy	<p>This NPS, taken together with the Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1), provides the primary policy for decisions taken by the SoS on applications it receives for electricity networks infrastructure as defined at Section 1.6 of this NPS. This includes above ground electricity lines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whose nominal voltage is expected to be 132kV or above (other than a 132kV line associated with the construction or extension of a devolved Welsh generating station);</li> <li>• Whose length is greater than 2km;</li> <li>• That are not a replacement line falling within Section 16(3)(ab) of the 2008 Act; and</li> <li>• That are not otherwise exempted for reasons set out in Sections 16(3)(b) and (c), (3A) and (3B) of the 2008 Act.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, this NPS will apply to other kinds of electricity networks infrastructure including offshore transmission of any type; underground cables at any voltage; associated infrastructure; and lower voltage overhead lines, where that infrastructure becomes subject to the 2008 Act in the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If it constitutes associated development for which consent is sought along with an NSIP such as an offshore wind generating station or relevant overhead line; or</li> <li>• If the SoS gives a direction under Section 35 of the 2008 Act (for developments which, when completed, will be wholly in one or more of the areas specified in subsection 35(3)) that it should be treated as an NSIP and requires a development consent order (DCO).</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure adheres to this NPS.</p>
<a href="#">National Policy Statement for nuclear</a>	2011	Policy	<p>This NPS, taken together with the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), provides the primary basis for decisions taken by the Infrastructure Planning</p>



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<a href="#">power generation (EN-6)</a>			<p>Commission (IPC) on applications it receives for nuclear power stations (as specified at Section 1.9 of this NPS). The way in which NPSs guide IPC decision making, and the matters which the IPC is required by the Planning Act 2008 to consider when considering applications, are set out in Sections 1.1 and 4.1 of EN-1.</p> <p>With regards to Section 1.9, this NPS has effect in relation to nuclear power generation with a capacity of more than 50 megawatts (MW) on a site listed within this NPS (see Section 2.3 and Part 4 of this NPS).</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure adheres to this NPS.</p>
<a href="#">Nationally Significant Infrastructure: Action plan for reforms to the planning process</a>	2023	Plan	<p>This Action Plan sets out the reforms to the NSIP regime that will be implemented to ensure the system can support future infrastructure needs.</p> <p>To meet the objectives of ensuring the NSIP consenting process is better at meeting statutory timescales, faster where environmental and community concerns can be addressed before examination, greener for the environment, fairer for communities and more resilient in resourcing, five reform areas have been developed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Setting a clear strategic direction</b>, where National Policy Statements and wider government policy reduce the policy ambiguity faced by individual projects.</li> <li>2. <b>Bringing forward operational reforms to support faster consenting</b> with an emphasis on delivering proportionate examinations for all projects, strengthening pre-application advice and introducing a fast-track consenting timeframe for projects that meet quality criteria.</li> <li>3. <b>Realising better outcomes for the environment</b> replacing the cumbersome environmental assessment processes with new Environmental Outcomes Reports; reviewing the protected sites and species policy framework (including Habitats</li> </ol>



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			<p>Regulations Assessment (HRA)) and introducing biodiversity net gain and developing principles for marine net gain for NSIPs.</p> <p>4. <b>Recognising the role of local authorities and strengthening community engagement with NSIPs</b>, with greater support and measures to embed community input and benefits much earlier in the process.</p> <p>5. <b>Improving system-wide capacity and capability</b>, including through developing skills and training and extending proportionate cost recovery by the Planning Inspectorate and key statutory consultees to support effective preparation and examination of NSIPs and build resilience into the system.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Net Zero Innovation Portfolio</a>	2021	-	<p>The Net Zero Innovation Portfolio is a £1 billion fund, announced in the 2020 Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution. It aims to accelerate commercialisation of low carbon technologies and decrease the costs of decarbonisation.</p> <p>Focused on 10 priority areas, it includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future offshore wind;</li> <li>• Nuclear advanced modular reactors (supported through the aligned Advanced Nuclear Fund);</li> <li>• Energy storage and flexibility;</li> <li>• Bioenergy;</li> <li>• Hydrogen;</li> <li>• Homes;</li> <li>• Direct air capture and greenhouse gas removal (GGR);</li> <li>• Advanced carbon capture, usage and storage (CCUS);</li> </ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrial fuel switching; and</li> <li>• Disruptive technologies.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this portfolio.</p>
<a href="#">Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener</a>	2021	Plan	<p>The UK's new Net Zero Strategy sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet the Government's net zero target by 2050. It sets out, for the first time, how the Government plans to deliver its emissions targets of Net Zero in 2050 and a 78% reduction from 1990 to 2035.</p> <p>The Government sets out that the exact technology and energy mix in 2050 cannot be known now, and the path to net zero will respond to the innovation and adoption of new technologies over time. It is expected to rely on the following key green technologies and energy carriers, which interact to meet demand across sectors and to remain low carbon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electricity from low carbon generation and storage technologies meets higher demand for low carbon power in buildings, industry, transport, and agriculture.</li> <li>• Hydrogen can complement the electricity system, especially in harder to electrify areas like parts of industry and heating, and in heavier transport such as aviation and shipping. A range of low carbon production methods could be used.</li> <li>• Carbon capture usage and storage (CCUS) can capture CO<sub>2</sub> from power generation, hydrogen production, and industrial processes – storing it underground or using it. This technology also supports negative emissions from engineered greenhouse gas removals – bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) and Direct Air Carbon Capture and Storage (DACCS).</li> </ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biomass combined with CCUS can remove carbon from the atmosphere and support low carbon electricity and hydrogen generation. Biomass and other wastes can also support low carbon fuels for industry, buildings, and transport.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</a>	2013	-	<p>An explanation of the offshore SEA process, including documentation of the most recent assessment and related consultation.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this document.</p>
<a href="#">Planning Act 2008</a>	2008	Policy	<p>This legislation sets out how the planning system should deal with nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIP). The legislation created a regime of National Policy Statements (NPS). These NPS give reasons for the policy set out in the statement and must include an explanation of how the policy takes account of Government policy relating to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. They include the Government's objectives for the development of nationally significant infrastructure in a particular sector and state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How this will contribute to sustainable development.</li> <li>How these objectives have been integrated with other Government policies.</li> <li>How actual and projected capacity and demand have been considered.</li> <li>Consider relevant issues in relation to safety or technology.</li> <li>Circumstances where it would be particularly important to address the adverse impacts of development.</li> <li>Specific locations, where appropriate, in order to provide a clear framework for investment and planning decisions.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>



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<a href="#">Planning Practice Guidance – Climate Change</a>	2014	-	<p>Advises how planning can identify suitable mitigation and adaptation measures in plan-making and the planning application process to address the potential impacts of climate.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this guidance.</p>
<a href="#">Policy Statement on Onshore Wind</a>	2024	Policy	<p>This policy statement makes revisions to planning policy that place onshore wind on the same footing as other energy development in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy statement.</p>
<a href="#">Powering Up Britain: Net Zero Growth Plan and Powering Up Britain: Energy Security Plan</a>	2023	Plan	<p>These two plans set out policies which will ensure delivery of energy security and increase the UK's international economic competitiveness, while delivering on net zero. The Energy Security Plan is focused on changing decades of reliance on imported fossil fuels by reducing demand and boosting home grown energy, giving energy resilience the priority it deserves. The Net Zero Growth Plan focuses on the UK's long-term decarbonisation trajectory and how it can improve the UK's competitiveness, deliver an industrial renaissance and level up the whole of the UK. The plan outlines the Government's progress since 2022 in greater detail and summarises next steps to delivering for various sectors: each responsible for a defined range of carbon savings between now and 2050. Sectors cover power; fuel supply and hydrogen; industry; heat and buildings; transport; natural resources, waste and F-gases; and greenhouse gas removals (GGRs).</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Regional Energy Strategic Plan</a>	Emerging	Plan	<p>The Regional Energy Strategic Plan (RESP) will enable the coordinated development of the energy system across multiple vectors, provide confidence in system requirements</p>



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			<p>and enable network infrastructure investment ahead of need. Ultimately, this will support the energy system's transition to net zero in a cost-effective manner.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this emerging plan.</p>
<a href="#">Renewable and Low Carbon Energy</a>	2015	-	<p>Guidance to help local councils in developing policies for renewable and low carbon energy and identifies the planning considerations.</p> <p>Examples of the considerations for particular renewable energy technologies that can affect their siting include proximity of grid connection infrastructure and site size, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For biomass, appropriate transport links;</li> <li>• For hydro-electric power, sources of water; and</li> <li>• For wind turbines, predicted wind resource, considerations relating to air safeguarding, electromagnetic interference and access for large vehicles.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this guidance.</p>
<a href="#">Strategy and Policy Statement for Energy Policy in Great Britain</a>	2024	Plan	<p>This strategy and policy statement has been developed in accordance with the Energy Act 2013 and sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government's strategic priorities and other main considerations of its energy policy;</li> <li>• The policy outcomes to be achieved as a result of the implementation of that policy; and</li> <li>• The roles and responsibilities of those who are involved in implementation of that policy.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy and policy statement.</p>



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<a href="#">The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution</a>	2020	Plan	<p>The Ten Point Plan demonstrates the UK's progress towards reaching the legally binding obligation of reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, as in the last 30 years emissions have been cut by 43%. The cumulative effect of the Plan will be to reduce UK emissions by 180 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e between 2023 and 2032. Key components of the Plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Investment in renewables such as offshore wind and hydrogen;</li><li>• Investment in new and advanced nuclear power;</li><li>• Carbon removal through investment in CCUS and wildlife protection; and</li><li>• Demand reduction through shifts in transport and improving the efficiency of buildings.</li></ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<b>English</b>			
<a href="#">Climate Change Adaptation Manual</a>	2020	-	<p>This manual sets out four key principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adaptation should aim to maintain or enhance the environmental, social and economic benefits provided by a system, while accepting and accommodating inevitable changes to it.</li><li>• Adaptation should not solve one problem while creating or worsening others. Action that has multiple benefits and avoids creating negative effects for other people, places and sectors should be prioritised.</li><li>• Adaptation should seek to increase resilience to a wide range of future risks and address all aspects of vulnerability, rather than focusing solely on specific projected climate impacts.</li><li>• Approaches to adaptation should be flexible and not limit future action.</li></ul>



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			The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with the four key principles set out within this manual.
<a href="#">Flood and coastal erosion risk management: policy statement</a>	2020	Policy	<p>This policy statement sets out the government's long-term ambition to create a nation more resilient to flood and coastal erosion risk. It sets out five policy areas which will drive this ambition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrading and expanding our national flood defences and infrastructure;</li> <li>• Managing the flow of water more effectively;</li> <li>• Harnessing the power of nature to reduce flood and coastal erosion risk and achieve multiple benefits;</li> <li>• Better preparing our communities; and</li> <li>• Enabling more resilient places through a catchment-based approach.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy statement.</p>
<a href="#">National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England</a>	2020	Plan	<p>This Strategy describes what needs to be done by all risk management authorities involved in flood and coastal erosion risk management for the benefit of people and places. The Strategy has three core ambitions concerning future risk and investment needs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Climate resilient places:</b> working with partners to bolster resilience to flooding and coastal change across the nation, both now and in the face of climate change.</li> <li>2. <b>Today's growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow's climate:</b> Making the right investment and planning decisions to secure sustainable growth and environmental improvements, as well as resilient infrastructure.</li> </ol>



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			<p>3. <b>A nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change:</b> Ensuring local people understand their risk to flooding and coastal change and know their responsibilities and how to take action.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</a>	2024	Policy	<p>The NPPF sets out the government's planning policies for England and was most recently revised in December 2024. The main amendments to this policy with regards to energy come under 'Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change'. The update to the NPPF should assist decision makers dealing with proposals to use and improve existing renewable energy sites giving weight to the advantages of doing so. The addition of a new paragraph under this header specifies that <i>"Wind Energy Development involving one or more turbines can also be permitted through Local Development Orders, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders"</i>. The increase in accepted routes to achieve development of Wind Turbine sites is intended to make the process more flexible and therefore quicker and easier to increase wind farms producing renewable or low carbon energy.</p> <p>The NNPF is accompanied by relevant Planning Practice Guidance as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Climate change</b> (2019): Advises how to identify suitable mitigation and adaptation measures in the planning process to address the impacts of climate change.</li><li>• <b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> (2020): Explains requirements of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.</li><li>• <b>Flood risk and coastal change</b> (2022): Advises how to take account of and address the risks associated with flooding and coastal change in the planning process.</li></ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Renewable and low carbon energy</b> (2023): Guidance to help local councils in developing policies for renewable and low carbon energy and identifies the planning considerations.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to the NPPF.</p>
<a href="#">Natural England's climate change risk assessment and adaptation plan</a>	2021	Plan	<p>This plan outlines the following themes in developing response to the biodiversity and climate crises in an integrated way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning climate change adaptation with the aim of restoring ecological process at a landscape scale as part of nature recovery to enhance resilience and accommodate inevitable change.</li> <li>• Working on adaptation can deliver multiple benefits, including integrating climate change mitigation, biodiversity and enhancing the quality of life for people.</li> <li>• Recognising the benefits of local level adaptation and delivering adaptation in a place-based way.</li> <li>• Using a natural capital and ecosystem approach to account for the multiple benefits that nature provides to society.</li> <li>• Developing adaptive management that takes account of change in the natural world both in the policy advice and delivery space.</li> <li>• Ensuring different work programmes have a joined-up approach to adaptation.</li> <li>• Developing the evidence base to support practical adaptation, including monitoring and evaluation of adaptation actions.</li> <li>• Developing a joined-up approach to Nature-based Solutions which deliver mitigation and adaptation with measurable benefits for nature and people.</li> </ul> <p>The following key overarching risks and opportunities are identified:</p>



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			<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Risks to the viability of the Nature Recovery Network and the recovery of threatened species and habitats.</li><li>2. Risks to the status of protected sites for biodiversity and geodiversity.</li><li>3. Risks to the ability of the SSSI network, Marine Protected Area (MPAs), NNRs and protected landscapes to adapt to climate change.</li><li>4. Risks to natural capital and its contribution to agriculture, fisheries and sustainable development including farm advice and net gain.</li><li>5. Risks to the viability of natural areas for people to access and connect with nature.</li><li>6. Risks and Opportunities for different species and habitats under changing climatic conditions.</li><li>7. Opportunities for landscape scale measures to tackle climate change that enhance the natural environment.</li><li>8. Opportunities for nature recovery and nature-based solutions to help nature and society adapt to climate change.</li><li>9. Opportunities for nature-based solutions to provide additional space for people to connect with nature and cope with climate change.</li></ol> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Nature for Climate Fund</a>	2023	-	<p>The Nature For Climate Peatland Grant Scheme (NCPGS), administered by Natural England, has awarded Restoration Grant funding to five successful applicants. Over the next four years they will each receive a share of £16 million from the Nature for Climate Fund, to restore peatland. This is Natural England's first round of NCPGS Restoration Grants, with more rounds planned for the next two years.</p>



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			<p>Peatlands are Earth's largest terrestrial carbon store, holding more than twice the amount of carbon in all the world's forests. They cover 10.9% of England's land area. Unfortunately, 87% of our peatlands are degraded. In this state, they do not capture and store carbon but emit an estimated 10 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent every year.</p> <p>The NCPGS aims to capture this carbon by setting 35,000 ha of degraded peatland on a path to restoration by 2025. This will help deliver the UK's Net Zero target. It will contribute to the Nature Recovery Network with wider benefits to biodiversity, water quality and natural flood management.</p>
<a href="#">The Nature Recovery Network</a>	2020	Plan	<p>The Nature Recovery Network (NRN) is a major commitment in the government's 25 Year Environment Plan. By bringing together partners, legislation and funding, we can restore and enhance the natural environment.</p> <p>The NRN will help us deal with three of the biggest challenges we face: biodiversity loss, climate change and wellbeing.</p> <p>Establishing the NRN will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance sites designated for nature conservation and other wildlife-rich places – newly created and restored wildlife-rich habitats, corridors and stepping stones will help wildlife populations to grow and move;</li> <li>• Improve the landscape's resilience to climate change, providing natural solutions to reduce carbon and manage flood risk, and sustaining vital ecosystems such as improved soil, clean water and clean air;</li> <li>• Reinforce the natural and cultural diversity of our landscapes and protect our historic natural environment; and</li> </ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable us to enjoy and connect with nature where we live, work and play – benefiting our health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• Through work to create the NRN, by 2042 the Government will:</li> <li>• Restore 75% of protected sites on land (including freshwaters) to favourable condition so nature can thrive;</li> <li>• Create or restore 500,000ha of additional wildlife-rich habitat outside of protected sites;</li> <li>• Recover threatened and iconic animal and plant species by providing more, diverse and better connected habitats;</li> <li>• Support work to increase woodland cover; and</li> </ul> <p>Achieve a range of environmental, economic and social benefits, such as carbon capture, flood management, clean water, pollination and recreation.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with the NRN.</p>
<a href="#">Planning for the Future</a>	2020	Policy	<p>This white paper sets out the Government's proposals for "<i>once in a generation</i>" reform of England's planning system, and separate proposals to reform the current system of calculating housing need proved controversial.</p> <p>The three pillars of the white paper are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning for development;</li> <li>• Planning for beautiful and sustainable places; and</li> <li>• Planning for infrastructure and connected places.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this white paper.</p>



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<a href="#">Shoreline Management Plans</a>  Shoreline Management Plans covering the coastline in England can be accessed <a href="#">here</a>  Shoreline Management Plans covering the coastline in Wales can be accessed <a href="#">here</a>	2024	Plan	<p>A Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal processes and helps to reduce these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment. SMPs are developed by Coastal Groups with members mainly from local councils and the Environment Agency. There are 22 SMPs covering England and Wales.</p> <p>They provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence on how the shoreline has changed and may change in future; and</li> <li>• Information on the risks from flooding and erosion to people and the developed, historic and natural environment within the SMP area.</li> </ul> <p>SMPs then identify the most sustainable approach to managing the flood and coastal erosion risks to the coastline in the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short-term (0 to 20 years);</li> <li>• Medium term (20 to 50 years); and</li> <li>• Long term (50 to 100 years).</li> </ul> <p>Planning authorities can use SMPs to guide where they plan and permit development, including the designation of Coastal Change Management Areas.</p> <p>The SSEP should therefore seek to have due regard to the relevant SMP in the delivery of new energy infrastructure.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning and Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment)</a>	2018	Policy	<p>These Regulations amend the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. These new regulations set out the procedures to be followed in relation to EIA linked to nationally significant infrastructure projects in England and Wales. The objective is to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to help integrate environmental considerations into the preparation of proposals for development to reduce their impact on the environment.</p>



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<a href="#">(Amendment) Regulations 2018</a>			The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.
<a href="#">Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) and the Fourth Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting</a>	2023	Programme	<p><b>NAP3</b> – Every 5 years, the government produces an assessment of the risks and opportunities from climate change and reports on how they will adapt in the NAP. This approach to climate adaptation is world leading, placing the UK at the forefront of global efforts to manage climate risk. NAP3 explains the government’s plans to adapt to climate change over the next 5 years from 2023 to 2028, including: protecting the natural environment; supporting business in adapting to climate change; adapting infrastructure (e.g. electricity networks and railways); protecting buildings and their surroundings (e.g. from hotter temperatures); protecting public health and communities; and mitigating international impacts on the UK (e.g. on food supplies imported from abroad). The Climate Change Act and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act require Northern Ireland, Wales, and Scotland to have their own plans for climate adaptation. These plans are closely aligned, and Northern Ireland, Wales, and Scotland have contributed to NAP3.</p> <p><b>Climate Adaptation Reporting</b> – The government’s strategy for the fourth round of climate adaptation reporting under the Adaptation Reporting Power (ARP). ARP was introduced under the CCA 2008. It gives the SoS the power to direct organisations with functions of a public nature and statutory undertakers to produce reports detailing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current and future projected impacts of climate change on their organisation;</li> <li>• Proposals for adapting to climate change; and</li> <li>• An assessment of progress towards implementing the policies and proposals set out in previous reports.</li> </ul> <p>Reporting is usually undertaken in a 5-yearly cycle. Following strong support for the proposals in our consultation, the fourth round of reporting will be undertaken to a</p>



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			<p>different timescale than previous rounds. This will improve the alignment of adaptation reporting with other elements of the statutory framework for climate change adaptation. The closing date for the next round will therefore be brought forward to late 2024 (from 2026). After this, reporting will return to its 5-yearly cycle.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this programme.</p>
<a href="#">UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022</a>	2022	-	<p>The UK government is required to undertake an assessment of the risks from climate change faced by the UK every five years under the Climate Change Act 2008. The third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) identifies 61 UK-wide climate risks and opportunities that cross-cut multiple sectors of the economy. The potential impact of these risks includes changes to health and productivity and disruption to households, businesses and public services. Estimated damages caused by climate change could be at least 1% of GDP by 2045 and the report highlights that more action is needed in the majority of risk areas to increase resilience and reduce the costs associated with climate change. Decision making, such as for new housing or infrastructure, should consider the effects of climate change to avoid the need for costly remedial actions later and this should include low probability, high impact events, and interdependent or cascading risks.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this assessment.</p>
<b>Scottish</b>			
<a href="#">Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and Climate Change</a>	2019	Policy	<p>The 2009 Act outlines commitments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set a target for the year 2050, an interim target for the year 2020, and to provide for annual targets, for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;</li> </ul>



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<a href="#">(Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019</a>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give advice to the Scottish Ministers relating to climate change;</li> <li>• Confers power on Ministers to impose climate change duties on public bodies;</li> <li>• Make further provision about mitigation of and adaptation to climate change;</li> <li>• Make provision about energy efficiency, including provision enabling council tax discounts; and</li> <li>• Make provision about the reduction and recycling of waste; and for connected purposes.</li> </ul> <p>The 2019 Act, which amends the 2009 Act, sets targets to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net-zero by 2045 at the latest, with interim targets for reductions of at least 56% by 2020, 75% by 2030, 90% by 2040. The Act embeds the principles of a Just Transition, which means reducing emissions in a way which tackles inequality and promotes fair work, at the heart of Scotland's approach to reaching net-zero.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Climate Ready Scotland: Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024</a>	2019	Programme	<p>The second Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme sets out policies and proposals to prepare Scotland for the challenges that will be faced as our climate continues to change in the decades ahead. The Programme is a requirement of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and addresses the risks set out in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (UK CCRA) 2017, published under Section 56 of the UK Climate Change Act 2008. The Programme takes an outcomes-based approach, derived from both the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Scotland's National Performance Framework. There are seven outcomes in the programme:</p>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Outcome 1:</b> Our communities are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe in response to the changing climate.</li> <li>• <b>Outcome 2:</b> The people in Scotland who are most vulnerable to climate change are able to adapt and climate justice is embedded in climate change adaptation policy.</li> <li>• <b>Outcome 3:</b> Our inclusive and sustainable economy is flexible, adaptable and responsive to the changing climate.</li> <li>• <b>Outcome 4:</b> Our society's supporting systems are resilient to climate change.</li> <li>• <b>Outcome 5:</b> Our natural environment is valued, enjoyed, protected and enhanced and has increased resilience to climate change.</li> <li>• <b>Outcome 6:</b> Our coastal and marine environment is valued, enjoyed, protected and enhanced and has increased resilience to climate change.</li> <li>• <b>Outcome 7:</b> Our international networks are adaptable to climate change.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this programme.</p>
<a href="#">Environment Strategy for Scotland: Visions and Outcomes</a>	2020	Plan	<p>This document sets out a vision for Scotland's environment and the Government's role in tackling the global crises. It identifies the outcomes on which they need to focus to achieve their vision. The vision is as follows:</p> <p><i>"By 2045: By restoring nature and ending Scotland's contribution to climate change, our country is transformed for the better – helping to secure the wellbeing of our people and planet for generations to come.</i></p> <p><i>Scotland's natural environment is central to our identity as a nation. It is fundamental to our health, our quality of life and our economy.</i></p>



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			<p><i>We want Scotland's nature to be resilient and abundant. We want to use its full potential to improve the wellbeing of people in Scotland – ensuring everyone can enjoy the life-supporting benefits it provides.</i></p> <p><i>We share one planet and are sustained by the health of its natural systems. In Scotland, we will play our full part in responding to the global climate and nature crises – meeting our responsibilities to people across the planet and to future generations. We will be innovators and work collaboratively with others to develop solutions to global problems.</i></p> <p><i>Through our work, our country will be transformed for the better. Our natural environment will be restored and resilient to whatever the future may bring. Our net zero, circular economy will be inclusive and sustainable, providing opportunities for all to prosper. We will have reduced the global impact of our consumption. And we will have supported the creation of an economy that thrives while securing wellbeing for our people and our planet.”</i></p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009</a>	2009	Policy	<p>This Act introduced a more sustainable and modern approach to flood risk management. It designated all local authorities, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Water and Scottish Ministers, as ‘Responsible Authorities’, and laid the duty upon them to work to reduce flood risk. It placed a great deal of emphasis on the importance of partnership working and cooperation among authorities to help achieve the goal of reducing flood risk.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this policy.</p>



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<a href="#">National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)</a>	2023	Policy	<p>The NPF4 sets out Scotland's spatial principles, regional priorities, national developments and national planning policy.</p> <p>Part 1 – A National Spatial Strategy for Scotland 2045 sets out six overarching spatial principles which play a key role in delivering UN SDGs and Scottish national outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Just transition;</li><li>• Conserving and recycling assets;</li><li>• Local living;</li><li>• Compact urban growth;</li><li>• Rebalanced development; and</li><li>• Rural revitalisation.</li></ul> <p>Part 2 – National Planning Policy sets out 33 policies on topics including tackling the climate and nature crises; climate mitigation and action; and biodiversity.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to the NPF4.</p>
<a href="#">National Transport Strategy 2</a>	2020	Plan	<p>This Strategy sets out an ambitious vision for Scotland's transport system for the next 20 years. The vision is underpinned by four priorities – reduce inequalities, take climate action, help deliver inclusive economic growth, and improve Scotland's health and wellbeing – each with three associated outcomes.</p> <p>This Strategy was developed following a comprehensive review of the original National Transport Strategy (published in 2006), based on three pillars: collaborative working with partners; engaging with stakeholders; and building an evidence base.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>



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<a href="#">Scottish Energy Strategy: The Future of Energy in Scotland</a>	2017	Plan	<p>This Strategy sets out the Scottish energy strategy for the period until 2050 and includes 2030 'whole-system' energy targets relating to renewables and energy efficiency. The Strategy is consistent with the Scottish Climate Change Act. The 2050 vision of the Scottish Energy Strategy priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy efficiency;</li> <li>• Renewable and low carbon solutions;</li> <li>• Consumer engagement and protection;</li> <li>• System security and flexibility;</li> <li>• Innovative local energy systems; and</li> <li>• Strengthening the oil and gas industries.</li> </ul> <p>National opposition to new nuclear power is confirmed in the strategy, but it is acknowledged that there is increasing interest in the development of new nuclear technologies. The Strategy is duty bound to assess new technologies and low carbon energy solutions.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018-2032 – update</a>	2020	Plan	<p>This update to Scotland's 2018-2032 Climate Change Plan sets out the Scottish Government's pathway to the new and ambitious targets set by the Climate Change Act 2019. It is a key strategic document on the green recovery from COVID-19. The Government have committed to reduce emissions by 75% by 2030 (compared with 1990) and to net zero by 2045.</p> <p>Part 1 of the Update sets out the progress that is being made in delivering the commitments and the further actions to be taken to secure a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Part 2 of the update is dedicated to the 'Coordinated Approach' to</p>



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			meeting the emissions reduction targets. This section looks at how to take a cross-cutting, systems-based approach that harnesses opportunities for inclusive jobs, growth and well-being. The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.
<a href="#"><u>Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy</u></a>	2020	Plan	This plan aims to identify sustainable plan options for the future development of commercial-scale offshore wind energy in Scotland, including deep water wind technologies, and covers both Scottish inshore and offshore waters. The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.
<a href="#"><u>State of Nature Scotland Report</u></a>	2023	Plan	This Report is the most precise review of how nature in Scotland is faring. It provides compelling evidence of the twin biodiversity and climate crises. Working with professionals from more than 50 nature and conservation organisations, the recent report – which updates and supersedes previous editions in 2013, 2016 and 2019 – uses the latest and best data from monitoring schemes and biological recording centres, collected by thousands of skilled volunteers and professional naturalists, to provide a benchmark for the status of wildlife. The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this report.
<a href="#"><u>The Town and Country Planning (Development Management</u></a>	2013	Policy	This Order provides for procedures connected with pre-application consultation; applications for planning permission; the planning authority; consultations; local development orders; certificates of lawful use or development; and the maintenance of registers of planning applications.



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<a href="#">Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013</a>			The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017</a>	2017	Policy	EIA is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects arising from a proposed development. The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.
<b>Welsh</b>			
<a href="#">Adapting to Climate Change: Guidance for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Authorities in Wales</a>	2021	-	This guidance aims to inform the design and resilience of flood and coastal risk management schemes, which should consider credible and reasonable climate change impacts. The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this guidance.
<a href="#">The business of becoming a sustainable nation</a>	2016	-	This prospectus sets out how the Government have created the environment businesses need to drive their long-term, sustainable growth in Wales: quick response and strong support from the Welsh Government; relevant skills and academic expertise; robust physical and powerful virtual infrastructure; innovation networks; established supply chains, and more. The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this prospectus.



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<a href="#">Energy Efficiency in Wales</a>	2016	Plan	<p>This Strategy, which covers the period from 2016 until 2026, has a vital contribution to make to the well-being of future generations in Wales. It will drive actions to deliver against the goals set out in our new and historic Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act: tackling poverty and the global threat of climate change, building resilience for our communities, boosting green growth in the economy and addressing the health inequalities caused by poor energy efficiency.</p> <p>Besides addressing the energy “trilemma” of affordability, security of energy supply and the need for decarbonisation, the Strategy is designed to play a major role in driving economic growth – supporting the growth of green jobs and skills throughout Wales and increasing the competitiveness of our businesses.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">Environment (Wales) Act 2016</a>	2016	Policy	<p>Legislation introduced by the National Assembly for Wales enabling the planning and management of the natural resources of Wales in a more sustainable, proactive and joined-up way than was previously possible. The Act has seven main parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable management of natural resources;</li> <li>• Climate change;</li> <li>• Charges for carrier bags;</li> <li>• Collection and disposal of waste;</li> <li>• Fisheries for shellfish;</li> <li>• Marine licensing; and</li> <li>• Flood and coastal erosion committee.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">Flood risk assessments: climate change allowances</a>	2016	-	<p>When considering new development proposals, Technical Advice Note 15: Development and Flood Risk (TAN15) states that it is necessary to take account of the potential impact of climate change over the lifetime of development. The Flood Consequence Assessment guidance document sets out the climate change allowances that should be used in flood consequence assessments submitted in support of relevant planning applications, and to inform development plan allocations.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this guidance.</p>
<a href="#">Future Wales: The National Plan 2040</a>	2021	Plan	<p>This Plan is a 20-year development plan for the whole of Wales. Planning decisions must be made in accordance with Future Wales unless material considerations indicate otherwise. It sets out Welsh Government land use priorities and provides a national land use framework for regional Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) and LDPs. It concentrates on development and land use issues of national significance, indicating areas of major opportunities and change, and also highlighting areas that need protecting and enhancing.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Llwybr Newydd: The Wales Transport Strategy 2021</a>	2021	Plan	<p>This Strategy sets out the vision for an accessible, sustainable and efficient transport system. The Strategy sets out three priorities over the next 5 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Priority 1:</b> Bring services to people in order to reduce the need to travel.</li> <li>• <b>Priority 2:</b> Allow people and goods to move easily from door to door by accessible, sustainable and efficient transport services and infrastructure.</li> <li>• <b>Priority 3:</b> Encourage people to make the change to more sustainable transport.</li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.
<a href="#">Local ownership of energy generation in Wales: policy statement</a>	2020	Policy	<p>The intent of this policy is to retain social and economic benefit from future energy developments located in Wales. It expects all new energy projects in Wales to include at least an element of local ownership, in order to retain wealth within Wales and provide real benefit to communities across Wales. It defines 'community ownership' of a renewable energy project as a renewable energy or renewable storage development located in Wales, which is wholly owned by a social enterprise whose assets and profits are committed to the delivery of social and/or environmental objectives. It sets out that the Welsh Government supports renewable and low carbon energy projects developed by communities, or benefit the host community or Wales as a whole.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy statement.</p>
<a href="#">National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales</a>	2020	Plan	<p>This Strategy sets out Welsh policies on flood and coastal erosion risk management. It establishes a delivery framework that meets the needs of Wales, and sets out four overarching objectives for managing flood and coastal erosion risk in Wales:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the consequences for individuals, communities, businesses and the environment from flooding and coastal erosion;</li> <li>• Raise awareness of and engaging people on flood and coastal erosion risk;</li> <li>• Provide an effective and sustained response to flood and coastal erosion events; and</li> <li>• Prioritise investment in the most at risk communities.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">Natural Resources Wales – Guidance and advice</a>	Various	-	<p>Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has recently produced technical guidance which is relevant to energy technologies. These provide information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine aggregate extraction;</li> <li>• Offshore wind developments;</li> <li>• Marine renewable energy developments;</li> <li>• Using adaptive management for marine developments;</li> <li>• Scoping an Environmental Impact Assessment for marine developments;</li> <li>• Marine ecology datasets for marine developments – guidance for developers on the datasets NRW holds that is useful in scoping assessments;</li> <li>• Marine vertebrate conservation legislation in Wales;</li> <li>• Benthic habitat assessments for marine developments;</li> <li>• Marine physical processes and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</li> </ul> <p>NRW has further relevant guidance under development which will be added to their website as soon as it is available.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with NRW's technical guidance.</p>
<a href="#">Net Zero Wales</a>	2021	Plan	<p>This Plan intends to set out a path to net zero and a greener, stronger, fairer Wales. It focuses on Wales's second carbon budget (2021–2025). It also looks ahead to build the foundations for Carbon Budget 3 and Wales's 2030 target, as well as net zero by 2050. The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Planning Policy Wales</a>	2021	Policy	<p>Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (11<sup>th</sup> Edition) was published alongside Future Wales. It sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. It is supplemented by a</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), Welsh Government Circulars, and policy clarification letters, which together with PPW provide the national planning policy framework for Wales. PPW, the TANs, Mineral TANs (MTANs), and policy clarification letters comprise national planning policy.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to PPW.</p>
<a href="#">Planning (Wales) Act 2015</a>	2015	Policy	<p>This Act sets out a series of legislative changes to deliver reform of the planning system in Wales, to ensure that it is fair, resilient and enables development. The act addresses five key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modernised framework for the delivery of planning services;</li> <li>• Strengthening the plan led approach – the act introduces a legal basis for the preparation of a National Development Framework and Strategic Development Plans;</li> <li>• Improved resilience – the act allows the Welsh Ministers to direct local planning authorities to work together and for local planning authorities to be merged;</li> <li>• Frontloading and improving the development management system – the act will introduce a statutory pre- application procedure for defined categories of planning application; and</li> <li>• Enabling effective enforcement and appeals – the act enables changes to enforcement procedures to secure prompt, meaningful action against breaches of planning control and increase the transparency and efficiency of the appeal system.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">Prosperity for all: a climate conscious Wales</a>	2019	Plan	<p>This is the climate change adaptation plan for Wales. The Plan shows how Wales are acting, over the next five years, to address the areas of greatest risk. The Plan aims to achieve this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting people, communities, buildings and infrastructure from flooding;</li> <li>• Protecting water supplies from drought and low river flows;</li> <li>• Tackling land management practices that exacerbate climate risks; and</li> <li>• Managing risks to ecosystems and agricultural businesses.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Prosperity for all: a low carbon Wales</a>	2019	Plan	<p>This Plan sets out how Wales aims to meet the first carbon budget (2016–2020) and consequently the 2020 interim target through 100 policies and proposals across Ministerial portfolios. It sets out pathways for the different emissions sectors including looking at sector ambition, emissions profile, the actions to be taken and how the sector is contributing to the well-being goals. The sector chapter pathways are power, buildings, transport, industry, land use, agriculture, waste and F-gases.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Technical Advice Notes</a>	2017	-	<p>Technical advice notes (TANs) provide detailed planning advice. Local planning authorities take them into account when they are preparing development plans. There are 24 TANs. Relevant TANs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TAN 15: Development and Flood Risk</b> – Guidance for local planning authorities to reduce flood risk and develop away from high-risk areas.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this TAN.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning and Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2018</a>	2018	Policy	<p>These Regulations amend the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. These new regulations set out the procedures to be followed in relation to EIA linked to nationally significant infrastructure projects in England and Wales. The objective is to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to help integrate environmental considerations into the preparation of proposals for development to reduce their impact on the environment.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>

## Community wellbeing

Table A.3 Plans, policies and programmes and their key objectives as relevant to the community wellbeing SEA topic

Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<b>International</b>			
<a href="#">The Aarhus Convention</a>	2001	-	<p>The Aarhus Convention is a multilateral environmental agreement through which the opportunities for citizens to access environmental information are increased and transparent, and reliable regulation procedure is secured. It encourages access to information, public participation and access to justice.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this convention.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context</a>	1991	-	<p>The Convention was adopted in 1991 and entered into force in September 2007. The Convention and Protocol lie in an area of mixed competence (environment). The UK and the EU are parties to the Convention. The EU has implemented the EIA Directive that has been transposed into UK domestic law.</p> <p>The Convention sets out the obligations of Parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning. It also lays down the general obligations of Parties to consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have significant transboundary effects. A revision to the Convention in 2004 indicated that affected Parties should be allowed to participate in scoping as appropriate.</p> <p>The Protocol on SEA (Kiev, 2003) augments the Espoo Convention and requires Parties to assess the environmental effects of their plans and programmes. The protocol also proposes extensive public participation in Government decision making. The UK has signed but not ratified the Protocol. The EU has ratified, and implements through the SEA Directive, transposed in UK domestic law.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the environmental impact of new energy infrastructure is considered at an early stage of planning.</p>
<a href="#">WHO Closing the Gap in a Generation</a>	2008	-	<p>This World Health Organisation (WHO) report aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve daily living conditions;</li> <li>• Tackle inequitable distribution of power, money and resources; and</li> <li>• Measure and understand the problem and assess the impact on action.</li> </ul> <p>Recommendations are made to tackle inequalities.</p> <p>At the request of the British government, Marmot chaired an independent review to propose the most effective evidence-based strategies for reducing health inequalities</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>in England. The Review was tasked with identifying relevant evidence, showing how this could be translated into policy, and advising on delivery, including indicators and targets. Fair Society, Healthy Lives: A Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England Post-2010 ("The Marmot Review") was published in 2010 and set out key policy objectives, based around the social determinants of health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give every child the best start in life;</li> <li>• Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives;</li> <li>• Create fair employment and good work for all;</li> <li>• Ensure a healthy standard of living for all;</li> <li>• Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities; and</li> <li>• Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure considers this WHO report.</p>
<a href="#">WHO Guidelines for Community Noise</a>	1999	-	<p>This WHO report provides guidance with regard to recommended internal and external noise levels for various building uses, outlining the potential health impacts associated with noise. Specifically, the document recommends internal and external noise levels that would provide an acoustic environment that is conducive to uninterrupted speech and sleep.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to these WHO guidelines.</p>
<a href="#">WHO Environmental noise guidelines for the European Region</a>	2018	-	<p>This WHO report provides recommendations for protecting human health from exposure to environmental noise originating from various sources: transportation (road traffic, railway and aircraft) noise, wind turbine noise and leisure noise. It provides robust</p>



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			<p>public health advice underpinned by evidence, which is essential to drive policy action that will protect communities from the adverse effects of noise. In terms of their health implications, the recommended exposure levels can be considered applicable in other regions and suitable for a global audience.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to these WHO guidelines.</p>
<b>UK-wide</b>			
<a href="#">Children's Environment and Health Action Plan (CEHAP)</a>	2007	Plan	<p>This report summarises current initiatives which address children and young people's environment and health issues in the UK. The main findings of the report are that the UK has long recognized both the importance of, and the health benefits gained from, a clean and healthy environment. A range of initiatives have already led to a significant reduction in child death rates and ill health (mortality and morbidity) across the UK.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Countryside and Rights of Way Act</a>	2000	Policy	<p>This Act contains five Parts and 16 Schedules and provides for public access on foot to certain types of land, amends the law relating to public rights of way, increases measures for the management and protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and provides for better management of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) (now referred to as 'National Landscapes').</p> <p>The Act is compliant with the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights, requiring consultation where the rights of the individual may be affected by these measures.</p>



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			<p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Design Principles for National Infrastructure</a>	2020	Plan	<p>This plan identifies four principles to guide the planning and delivery of major infrastructure projects. These principles, developed by the Commission's Design Group in consultation with all infrastructure sectors, were created to guide the future projects which will upgrade and renew the UK's infrastructure system. They should be applied to all economic infrastructure: digital communications, energy, transport, flood management, water and waste.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004</a>	2004	Policy	<p>To comply with these regulations, if it is determined that a proposed plan or programme, or a modification to an existing plan or programme, is likely to have a significant environmental effect it will need a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA).</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Environmental Improvement Plan</a>	2023	Plan	<p>This plan sets out a series of ten goals for the environment, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife.</li><li>• Goal 2: Clean air.</li><li>• Goal 3: Clean and plentiful water.</li><li>• Goal 4: Managing exposure to chemicals and pesticides.</li><li>• Goal 5: Maximise our resources, minimise our waste.</li></ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal 6: Using resources from nature sustainably.</li> <li>• Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change.</li> <li>• Goal 8: Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards.</li> <li>• Goal 9: Enhancing biosecurity.</li> <li>• Goal 10: Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure considers the ten goals set out within this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Levelling Up &amp; Regeneration Act</a>	2023	Policy	<p>The UK Government has identified 12 policy areas for improvement by 2030 Initiates Planning reforms in England, including changes to the role of Local Planning Authorities (LPAs); the introduction of national development management policies (NDMPs); reforms to the Local Plan-making process; and seeking to improve outcomes for the natural environment, including through the introduction of an Environmental Outcomes focus to environmental assessment.</p> <p>It should be noted that in Scotland and Wales, the Act does not alter the executive competence of Ministers or the legislative competence of Parliament.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Nationally Significant Infrastructure: Action plan for reforms to the planning process</a>	2023	Plan	<p>This Action Plan sets out the reforms to the NSIP regime that will be implemented to ensure the system can support future infrastructure needs.</p> <p>To meet the objectives of ensuring the NSIP consenting process is better at meeting statutory timescales, faster where environmental and community concerns can be addressed before examination, greener for the environment, fairer for communities and more resilient in resourcing, five reform areas have been developed:</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Setting a clear strategic direction</b>, where National Policy Statements and wider government policy reduce the policy ambiguity faced by individual projects.</li> <li>2. <b>Bringing forward operational reforms to support faster consenting</b> with an emphasis on delivering proportionate examinations for all projects, strengthening pre-application advice and introducing a fast-track consenting timeframe for projects that meet quality criteria.</li> <li>3. <b>Realising better outcomes for the environment</b> replacing the cumbersome environmental assessment processes with new Environmental Outcomes Reports; reviewing the protected sites and species policy framework (including Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)) and introducing biodiversity net gain and developing principles for marine net gain for NSIPs.</li> <li>4. <b>Recognising the role of local authorities and strengthening community engagement with NSIPs</b>, with greater support and measures to embed community input and benefits much earlier in the process.</li> <li>5. <b>Improving system-wide capacity and capability</b>, including through developing skills and training and extending proportionate cost recovery by the Planning Inspectorate and key statutory consultees to support effective preparation and examination of NSIPs and build resilience into the system.</li> </ol> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Planning Act 2008</a>	2008	Policy	<p>This legislation sets out how the planning system should deal with nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIP). The legislation created a regime of National Policy Statements (NPS). These NPS give reasons for the policy set out in the statement and must include an explanation of how the policy takes account of Government policy relating to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. They include the</p>



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			<p>Government's objectives for the development of nationally significant infrastructure in a particular sector and state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How this will contribute to sustainable development.</li> <li>• How these objectives have been integrated with other Government policies.</li> <li>• How actual and projected capacity and demand have been considered.</li> <li>• Consider relevant issues in relation to safety or technology.</li> <li>• Circumstances where it would be particularly important to address the adverse impacts of development.</li> <li>• Specific locations, where appropriate, in order to provide a clear framework for investment and planning decisions.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<b>English</b>			
<a href="#">A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment</a>	2018	Plan	<p>The Government's 25-Year Environment Plan sets out their position on environmental improvements, focussed on delivering cleaner air and water across the country, protecting at-risk wildlife, and improving natural habitats in England. The Plan sets the following key actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using and managing land sustainably, including embedding an "environmental net gain" principle into development.</li> <li>• Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes.</li> <li>• Connecting people to the environment to improve health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• Increase resource efficiency and reducing pollution.</li> <li>• Securing clean, healthy and productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans.</li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Protecting and improving the global environment.</li></ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">England Trees Action Plan 2021 to 2024</a>	2021	Plan	<p>Building on ambitions outlined in the 25 Year Environment Plan, Government will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Nature Recovery:</b> The government will continue to improve the condition and increase the extent of most precious woodland habitats, such as protected sites and irreplaceable ancient woodlands.</li><li><b>Levelling up through a thriving forest economy:</b> The government will encourage demand for UK grown timber which can reduce the carbon footprint from imports and reduce emissions by replacing carbon-intensive materials and encourage innovative green finance for trees and woodlands.</li><li><b>Trees and woodlands for water and soil:</b> The right trees and woodland in the right places along and near rivers and within water catchments present opportunities for improving water quality, for flood alleviation and nature recovery. Soil is critical to supporting trees and woodland and the government will improve the understanding of appropriate soil management to sequester carbon and protect this precious resource from degradation and inappropriate tree establishment.</li><li><b>Trees and woodlands for people in town and country:</b> Trees and woodlands can cool the settlements, improve air quality and contribute to community cohesion and sense of place. The government will take steps to improve public access to trees and woodlands in a responsible way, encourage community-led tree planting and invest in partnerships with communities and local government.</li></ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Heritage and landscape:</b> Trees and woodlands are important features in the landscapes. The government will encourage greater landscape scale planning which will enhance and transform landscape character, while protecting and conserving heritage assets from inappropriate tree planting and during woodland management.</li> <li>• <b>Trees outside woodlands:</b> Trees throughout the environment such as wood pastures, ancient and veteran trees, scrub, scattered and hedgerow trees contribute to England's natural beauty and are important spaces for nature. The government must continue to protect and enhance these features.</li> <li>• <b>Healthy, resilient trees and woodlands:</b> The government will act now to help the trees and woodlands adapt, to enhance their resilience to stresses by reducing risks and encouraging greater diversity.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">England Tree Strategy Consultation</a>	2020	Plan	<p>A consultation aiming to inform the Government update on tree, woodland and forestry policy – looking to increase tree planting, connect people to nature and improve woodland management leading to supporting the economy and helping to address climate change. Trees are stated as <i>“a unique natural asset that play a crucial role in combating the biodiversity and climate crises”</i>. Subject to consultation, the government is looking to increase tree planting to 30,000 hectares per year spread out over the UK by 2025. This will contribute towards the Nature Recovery Network, aiming to either restore or create 500,000ha of habitat that is dense in wildlife. The strategy aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and improve our trees and woodlands by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Sustainable management of invasive species;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Stronger protection for ancient woodland;</li> <li>– Greater proportion of woodland in active management; and</li> <li>– Adapting treescapes for other uses such as natural flood management.</li> <li>• Engage people with trees and woodland by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Improving green infrastructure quality, supporting better long-term health; and</li> <li>– Using Community Forests to improve access to existing woodlands and create new ones.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Supporting the economy by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Expanding the market for wood products and upskilling farmers and land managers to add trees into their businesses.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Support sustainable timber and further sustainable uses such as within energy.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">The Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006</a>	2006	Policy	<p>The European Environmental Noise Directive (END) was implemented in England by The Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006 and seeks to manage the impact of environmental noise through strategic noise mapping and the preparation and implementation of Noise Action Plans. Under these regulations, the third round of strategic noise mapping has been undertaken and updated Noise Action Plans have been prepared.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Green Infrastructure Standards</a>	2023	–	<p>The Green Infrastructure Standards are a key component of the Green Infrastructure Framework. The Standards aim to provide clarity on the quality and quantity of green</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>infrastructure needed to deliver climate change adaptation, net zero and wellbeing benefits. They define what good green infrastructure “looks like”. The five headline Standards are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Green Infrastructure Strategy Standard</li> <li>2. Accessible Greenspace Standard</li> <li>3. Urban Nature Recovery Standard</li> <li>4. Urban Greening Factor Standard</li> <li>5. Urban Tree Canopy Cover Standard</li> </ol> <p>The headline Standards distinguish the recommended levels of achievement for major new developments and for area wide application.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with these standards.</p>
<a href="#">Marine planning in England</a>	2014	Plan	<p>There are 11 marine plans in England. A marine plan will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage local communities to be involved in planning;</li> <li>• Make the most of growth and job opportunities;</li> <li>• Consider the environment from the start;</li> <li>• Enable sustainable development in the marine area;</li> <li>• Integrate with planning on land;</li> <li>• Save time and money for investors and developers by giving clear guidance on things to consider or avoid;</li> <li>• Encourage shared use of busy areas to benefit as many industries as possible; and</li> <li>• Encourage developments that consider wildlife and the natural environment.</li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with these plans.</p>
<a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</a>	2024	Policy	<p>The NPPF sets out the government's planning policies for England and was most recently revised in December 2024. The main amendments to this policy with regards to energy come under 'Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change'. The update to the NPPF should assist decision makers dealing with proposals to use and improve existing renewable energy sites giving weight to the advantages of doing so. The addition of a new paragraph under this header specifies that <i>"Wind Energy Development involving one or more turbines can also be permitted through Local Development Orders, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders"</i>. The increase in accepted routes to achieve development of Wind Turbine sites is intended to make the process more flexible and therefore quicker and easier to increase wind farms producing renewable or low carbon energy.</p> <p>The NNPF is accompanied by relevant Planning Practice Guidance as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> (2020): Explains requirements of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.</li><li>• <b>Healthy and safe communities</b> (2022): Guidance on promoting healthy and safe communities.</li><li>• <b>Noise</b> (2019): Advises on how planning can manage potential noise impacts in new development.</li><li>• <b>Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space</b> (2014): Gives key advice on open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and the new Local Green Space designation.</li></ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to the NPPF.</p>
<a href="#">The Nature Recovery Network</a>	2020	Plan	<p>The Nature Recovery Network (NRN) is a major commitment in the government's 25 Year Environment Plan. By bringing together partners, legislation and funding, we can restore and enhance the natural environment.</p> <p>The NRN will help us deal with three of the biggest challenges we face: biodiversity loss, climate change and wellbeing.</p> <p>Establishing the NRN will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enhance sites designated for nature conservation and other wildlife-rich places – newly created and restored wildlife-rich habitats, corridors and stepping stones will help wildlife populations to grow and move;</li><li>• Improve the landscape's resilience to climate change, providing natural solutions to reduce carbon and manage flood risk, and sustaining vital ecosystems such as improved soil, clean water and clean air;</li><li>• Reinforce the natural and cultural diversity of our landscapes and protect our historic natural environment; and</li><li>• Enable us to enjoy and connect with nature where we live, work and play – benefiting our health and wellbeing.</li></ul> <p>Through work to create the NRN, by 2042 the Government will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Restore 75% of protected sites on land (including freshwaters) to favourable condition so nature can thrive;</li><li>• Create or restore 500,000ha of additional wildlife-rich habitat outside of protected sites;</li></ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recover threatened and iconic animal and plant species by providing more, diverse and better connected habitats;</li> <li>Support work to increase woodland cover; and</li> <li>Achieve a range of environmental, economic and social benefits, such as carbon capture, flood management, clean water, pollination and recreation.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Noise Policy Statement for England</a>	2010	Policy	<p>The objectives of the Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) set out three noise levels to be defined by the noise assessor: These are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>No Observed Effect Level (NOEL)</b> – This is the level below which no effect can be detected; below this level there is no detectable effect on health and quality of life due to noise.</li> <li><b>Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level (LOAEL)</b> – This is the level above which adverse effects on health and quality of life can be detected.</li> <li><b>Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level (SOAEL)</b> – This is the level above which significant adverse effects on health and quality of life can occur.</li> </ul> <p>The NPSE considers that the noise levels above the SOAEL would be seen to have, by definition, significant adverse effects and would be considered unacceptable. Where the assessed noise levels fall between the LOAEL and the SOAEL noise levels the policy statement requires that:</p> <p><i>“all reasonable steps should be taken to mitigate and minimise adverse effects on health and quality of life while also taking into account the guiding principles of sustainable development. This does not mean that such adverse effects cannot occur but that efforts should be focused on minimising such effects”</i></p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>Where noise levels are below the LOAEL it is considered there will be no adverse effect. Once the noise levels are below the NOEL there will be no observable change. For the present guidance, a numerical definition of LOAEL is given by the WHO Guidelines for Community Noise and BS8233:2014 Guidance on Sound Insulation and Noise Reduction for Buildings.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to the NPSE.</p>
<a href="#">Planning for the Future: A guide to working with National Highways on planning matters</a>	2023	Plan	<p>This document describes the approach taken to engage in the planning system and the issues looked at when considering draft planning documents and planning applications. It is aimed at local authorities, developers, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPS), community groups and others involved in plan making / development management in respect of land close to any part of the Strategic Road Network (SRN). The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this document.</p>
<a href="#">Planning for the Future</a>	2020	Policy	<p>This white paper sets out the Government's proposals for "<i>once in a generation</i>" reform of England's planning system, and separate proposals to reform the current system of calculating housing need proved controversial.</p> <p>The three pillars of the white paper are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning for development;</li> <li>• Planning for beautiful and sustainable places; and</li> <li>• Planning for infrastructure and connected places.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning and Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2018</a>	2018	Policy	<p>These Regulations amend the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. These new regulations set out the procedures to be followed in relation to EIA linked to nationally significant infrastructure projects in England and Wales. The objective is to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to help integrate environmental considerations into the preparation of proposals for development to reduce their impact on the environment.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<b>Scottish</b>			
<a href="#">Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015</a>	2015	Policy	<p>This Act will help to empower community bodies through the ownership or control of land and buildings, and by strengthening their voices in decisions about public services. There are 11 topics covered by the Act:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. National outcomes.</li> <li>2. Community planning.</li> <li>3. Participation requests.</li> <li>4. Community rights to buy land.</li> <li>5. Asset transfer requests.</li> <li>6. Delegation of Forestry Commissioners' functions.</li> <li>7. Football clubs.</li> <li>8. Common good property.</li> <li>9. Allotments.</li> <li>10. Participation in public decision-making.</li> </ol>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.
<a href="#">The Environmental Noise (Scotland) Regulations 2006 as amended by The Environmental Noise (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2018</a>	2006	Policy	<p>The 2006 Regulations introduced strategic noise mapping and noise action planning for areas such as large urban areas and major transport corridors. It is stated that Scottish Ministers must prepare Strategic Noise Maps and Noise Action Plans which identify Quiet Areas and areas where management of noise is required- identified as Noise Management Areas (NMAs). The Noise Action Plans must include measures to manage noise.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016</a>	2016	Policy	<p>This Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes provision for a land rights and responsibilities statement;</li> <li>• Establish the Scottish Land Commission, provide for its functions and the functions of the Land Commissioners and the Tenant Farming Commissioner;</li> <li>• Makes provision about access to, and provision of, information about owners and controllers of land;</li> <li>• Makes provision about engaging communities in decisions relating to land;</li> <li>• Enables certain persons to buy land to further sustainable development;</li> <li>• Makes provision for non-domestic rates to be levied on shootings and deer forests; to make provision about the change of use of common good land;</li> <li>• Makes provision about the management of deer on land;</li> <li>• Makes provision about access rights to land; and</li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amends the law on agricultural holdings to provide for new forms of agricultural tenancy; to remove the requirement to register before tenants of certain holdings can exercise a right to buy; to provide a new power of sale where a landlord is in breach of certain obligations; to provide about rent reviews; to expand the list of the persons to whom holdings can be assigned or bequeathed and to whom holdings can be transferred on intestacy and to make provision about landlords' objections to such successor tenants; to provide for certain holdings to be relinquished where landlords agree or assigned to persons new to or progressing in farming; to provide for a 3 year amnesty period in relation to certain improvements carried out by tenants and to provide for notice of certain improvements proposed by landlords; and for connected purposes.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)</a>	2023	Policy	<p>The NPF4 sets out Scotland's spatial principles, regional priorities, national developments and national planning policy.</p> <p>Part 1 – A National Spatial Strategy for Scotland 2045 sets out six overarching spatial principles which play a key role in delivering UN SDGs and Scottish national outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Just transition;</li> <li>Conserving and recycling assets;</li> <li>Local living;</li> <li>Compact urban growth;</li> <li>Rebalanced development; and</li> <li>Rural revitalisation.</li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>Part 2 – National Planning Policy sets out 33 policies on topics including tackling the climate and nature crises; climate mitigation and action; and biodiversity.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to the NPF4.</p>
<a href="#">National Transport Strategy 2</a>	2020	Plan	<p>This Strategy sets out an ambitious vision for Scotland's transport system for the next 20 years. The vision is underpinned by four priorities – reduce inequalities, take climate action, help deliver inclusive economic growth, and improve Scotland's health and wellbeing – each with three associated outcomes.</p> <p>This Strategy was developed following a comprehensive review of the original National Transport Strategy (published in 2006), based on three pillars: collaborative working with partners; engaging with stakeholders; and building an evidence base.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">Planning advice notes (PANs)</a>	Various	Plan	<p>Relevant PANs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PAN 1/2011 Planning and Noise</b> – Provides advice on the role of the planning system in helping to prevent and limit the adverse effects of noise.</li> <li>• <b>PAN 3/2010: Community Engagement</b> – Sets out effective community engagement in the planning process.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with these PANs.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning (Development</a>	2013	Policy	<p>This Order provides for procedures connected with pre-application consultation; applications for planning permission; the planning authority; consultations; local</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013</a>			development orders; certificates of lawful use or development; and the maintenance of registers of planning applications. The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017</a>	2017	Policy	EIA is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects arising from a proposed development. The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.
<b>Welsh</b>			
<a href="#">Building Better Places: The Planning System Delivering Resilient and Brighter Futures</a>	2020	Policy	This document sets out the Welsh Government's planning policy priorities to assist in acting in the recovery period after the Covid-19 pandemic crisis. The planning system should be centre stage in the consideration of built and natural environment issues that have arisen from this situation. The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this document.
<a href="#">The business of becoming a sustainable nation</a>	2016	-	This prospectus sets out how the Government have created the environment businesses need to drive their long-term, sustainable growth in Wales: quick response and strong support from the Welsh Government; relevant skills and academic expertise; robust physical and powerful virtual infrastructure; innovation networks; established supply chains, and more.



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this prospectus.
<a href="#">Future Wales: The National Plan 2040</a>	2021	Plan	<p>This Plan is a 20-year development plan for the whole of Wales. Planning decisions must be made in accordance with Future Wales unless material considerations indicate otherwise. It sets out Welsh Government land use priorities and provides a national land use framework for regional Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) and LDPs. It concentrates on development and land use issues of national significance, indicating areas of major opportunities and change, and also highlighting areas that need protecting and enhancing.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Green Growth Wales: Investing in the Future</a>	2014	-	<p>This prospectus sets out how the sustainable use of our natural resources can create a new economic model that will deliver wealth creation and economic growth both today and in to the future. It sets out our key offers around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our wealth of natural resources;</li> <li>• A flexible and committed Government; and</li> <li>• Practical and customised support for business.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this prospectus.</p>
<a href="#">Llwybr Newydd: The Wales Transport Strategy 2021</a>	2021	Plan	<p>This Strategy sets out the vision for an accessible, sustainable and efficient transport system. The Strategy sets out three priorities over the next 5 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Priority 1:</b> Bring services to people in order to reduce the need to travel.</li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Priority 2:</b> Allow people and goods to move easily from door to door by accessible, sustainable and efficient transport services and infrastructure.</li> <li>• <b>Priority 3:</b> Encourage people to make the change to more sustainable transport.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">Local ownership of energy generation in Wales: policy statement</a>	2020	Policy	<p>The intent of this policy is to retain social and economic benefit from future energy developments located in Wales. It expects all new energy projects in Wales to include at least an element of local ownership, in order to retain wealth within Wales and provide real benefit to communities across Wales. It defines 'community ownership' of a renewable energy project as a renewable energy or renewable storage development located in Wales, which is wholly owned by a social enterprise whose assets and profits are committed to the delivery of social and/or environmental objectives. It sets out that the Welsh Government supports renewable and low carbon energy projects developed by communities, or benefit the host community or Wales as a whole.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy statement.</p>
<a href="#">Planning Policy Wales</a>	2021	Policy	<p>Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (11<sup>th</sup> Edition) was published alongside Future Wales. It sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), Welsh Government Circulars, and policy clarification letters, which together with PPW provide the national planning policy framework for Wales. PPW, the TANs, Mineral TANs (MTANs), and policy clarification letters comprise national planning policy.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to PPW.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">Planning (Wales) Act 2015</a>	2015	Policy	<p>This Act sets out a series of legislative changes to deliver reform of the planning system in Wales, to ensure that it is fair, resilient and enables development. The act addresses five key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modernised framework for the delivery of planning services;</li> <li>• Strengthening the plan led approach – the act introduces a legal basis for the preparation of a National Development Framework and Strategic Development Plans;</li> <li>• Improved resilience – the act allows the Welsh Ministers to direct local planning authorities to work together and for local planning authorities to be merged;</li> <li>• Frontloading and improving the development management system – the act will introduce a statutory pre- application procedure for defined categories of planning application; and</li> <li>• Enabling effective enforcement and appeals – the act enables changes to enforcement procedures to secure prompt, meaningful action against breaches of planning control and increase the transparency and efficiency of the appeal system.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Prosperity for all: economic action plan</a>	2019	Plan	<p>This plan aims to growing the Welsh economy inclusively, spread opportunity and promote well-being.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Technical Advice Notes</a>	2017	Plan	<p>Technical advice notes (TANs) provide detailed planning advice. Local planning authorities take them into account when they are preparing development plans.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>There are 24 TANs. Relevant TANs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TAN 11: Noise</b> – How to use the planning system to reduce the adverse impact of noise.</li> <li>• <b>TAN 23: Economic Development</b> – Guidance on the role of land use planning in generating wealth, jobs and income.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to these TANs.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning and Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2018</a>	2018	Policy	<p>These Regulations amend the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. These new regulations set out the procedures to be followed in relation to EIA linked to nationally significant infrastructure projects in England and Wales. The objective is to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to help integrate environmental considerations into the preparation of proposals for development to reduce their impact on the environment.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</a>	2015	Policy	<p>This Act explains what is meant by ‘sustainable development’ and requires public bodies to carry out sustainable development. It requires bodies to set well-being objectives that are to contribute to the achievement of well-being goals and to take steps to meet those objectives, and further requires indicators that measure progress towards achieving the well-being goals.</p> <p>In addition, Well-Being Plans, prepared by Public Service Boards under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act, assess the state of well-being in that area and set local objectives accordingly.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.

## Cultural heritage and historic environment

Table A.4 Plans, policies and programmes and their key objectives as relevant to the cultural heritage and historic environment SEA topic

Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<b>International</b>			
<a href="#">Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage</a>	2001	-	<p>The UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, adopted in 2001, is intended to enable States to better protect their submerged cultural heritage. The convention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets out basic principles for the protection of underwater cultural heritage;</li> <li>• Provides a detailed State cooperation system; and</li> <li>• Provides widely recognised practical rules for the treatment and research of underwater cultural heritage.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this convention.</p>
<a href="#">Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe</a>	1992	-	<p>The European Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe (revised) replaced and updated the original London Convention of 1969. It reflected the change in the nature of threats to archaeological heritage. It established a body of new basic legal standards for Europe, to be met by national policies for the protection of</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">(The Valetta Convention)</a>			<p>archaeological assets as sources of scientific and documentary evidence, in line with the principles of integrated conservation. It makes the conservation and enhancement of archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. It is particularly concerned with arrangements to be made for cooperation among archaeologists and town and regional planners in order to ensure optimum conservation of archaeological heritage.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this convention.</p>
<a href="#">Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context</a>	1991	-	<p>The Convention was adopted in 1991 and entered into force in September 2007. The Convention and Protocol lie in an area of mixed competence (environment). The UK and the EU are parties to the Convention. The EU has implemented the EIA Directive that has been transposed into UK domestic law.</p> <p>The Convention sets out the obligations of Parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning. It also lays down the general obligations of Parties to consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have significant transboundary effects. A revision to the Convention in 2004 indicated that affected Parties should be allowed to participate in scoping as appropriate.</p> <p>The Protocol on SEA (Kiev, 2003) augments the Espoo Convention and requires Parties to assess the environmental effects of their plans and programmes. The protocol also proposes extensive public participation in Government decision making. The UK has signed but not ratified the Protocol. The EU has ratified, and implements through the SEA Directive, transposed in UK domestic law.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the environmental impact of new energy infrastructure is considered at an early stage of planning.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">The World Heritage Convention</a>	1972	-	<p>This convention noted that cultural heritage and the natural heritage are increasingly threatened with destruction not only by the traditional causes of decay, but also by changing social and economic conditions which aggravate the situation with even more formidable phenomena of damage or destruction. It considered that deterioration or disappearance of any item of the cultural or natural heritage constitutes a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of all the nations of the world.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this convention.</p>
<b>UK-wide</b>			
<a href="#">Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</a>	1979	Policy	<p>Under this Act, a monument which has been scheduled is protected against any disturbance including unlicensed metal detecting.</p> <p>Permission must be obtained for any work which might affect a monument above- or below-ground. Historic England gives advice to the Government on each application. In assessing an application, the SoS will try to ensure any works on protected sites are beneficial to the site or are essential for its long-term sustainability.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004</a>	2004	Policy	<p>To comply with these regulations, if it is determined that a proposed plan or programme, or a modification to an existing plan or programme, is likely to have a significant environmental effect it will need a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA).</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">Environmental Improvement Plan</a>	2023	Plan	<p>This plan sets out a series of ten goals for the environment, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife.</li> <li>• Goal 2: Clean air.</li> <li>• Goal 3: Clean and plentiful water.</li> <li>• Goal 4: Managing exposure to chemicals and pesticides.</li> <li>• Goal 5: Maximise our resources, minimise our waste.</li> <li>• Goal 6: Using resources from nature sustainably.</li> <li>• Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change.</li> <li>• Goal 8: Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards.</li> <li>• Goal 9: Enhancing biosecurity.</li> <li>• Goal 10: Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">The Heritage Statement 2017</a>	2017	-	<p>This heritage statement sets out how the government will support the heritage sector and help it to protect and care for our heritage and historic environment in the coming years, in order to maximise the economic and social impact of heritage and to ensure that everyone can enjoy and benefit from it.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this statement.</p>
<a href="#">Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953</a>	1953	Policy	<p>This Act provides for the preservation and acquisition of buildings of outstanding historic or architectural interest and their contents and related property, and to amend the law relating to ancient monuments and other objects of archaeological interest.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.
<a href="#">Levelling Up &amp; Regeneration Act</a>	2023	Policy	<p>The UK Government has identified 12 policy areas for improvement by 2030 Initiates Planning reforms in England, including changes to the role of Local Planning Authorities (LPAs); the introduction of national development management policies (NDMPs); reforms to the Local Plan-making process; and seeking to improve outcomes for the natural environment, including through the introduction of an Environmental Outcomes focus to environmental assessment.</p> <p>It should be noted that in Scotland and Wales, the Act does not alter the executive competence of Ministers or the legislative competence of Parliament.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">National Heritage Act 1983 and National Heritage Act 2002</a>	1983	Policy	<p>The 1983 Act established the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission (known as Historic England) and delegated the functions of scheduling of ancient monuments and listing of historic buildings. The 2002 Act broadened the powers of Historic England in two ways. It allowed Historic England to become involved in underwater archaeology in English territorial water and to trade in overseas countries. These powers have now been transferred to Historic England.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Nationally Significant Infrastructure: Action plan for reforms to the planning process</a>	2023	Plan	<p>This Action Plan sets out the reforms to the NSIP regime that will be implemented to ensure the system can support future infrastructure needs.</p> <p>To meet the objectives of ensuring the NSIP consenting process is better at meeting statutory timescales, faster where environmental and community concerns can be</p>



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			<p>addressed before examination, greener for the environment, fairer for communities and more resilient in resourcing, five reform areas have been developed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Setting a clear strategic direction</b>, where National Policy Statements and wider government policy reduce the policy ambiguity faced by individual projects.</li> <li>2. <b>Bringing forward operational reforms to support faster consenting</b> with an emphasis on delivering proportionate examinations for all projects, strengthening pre-application advice and introducing a fast-track consenting timeframe for projects that meet quality criteria.</li> <li>3. <b>Realising better outcomes for the environment</b> replacing the cumbersome environmental assessment processes with new Environmental Outcomes Reports; reviewing the protected sites and species policy framework (including Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)) and introducing biodiversity net gain and developing principles for marine net gain for NSIPs.</li> <li>4. <b>Recognising the role of local authorities and strengthening community engagement with NSIPs</b>, with greater support and measures to embed community input and benefits much earlier in the process.</li> <li>5. <b>Improving system-wide capacity and capability</b>, including through developing skills and training and extending proportionate cost recovery by the Planning Inspectorate and key statutory consultees to support effective preparation and examination of NSIPs and build resilience into the system.</li> </ol> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Planning Act 2008</a>	2008	Policy	<p>This legislation sets out how the planning system should deal with nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIP). The legislation created a regime of National Policy</p>



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			<p>Statements (NPS). These NPS give reasons for the policy set out in the statement and must include an explanation of how the policy takes account of Government policy relating to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. They include the Government's objectives for the development of nationally significant infrastructure in a particular sector and state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How this will contribute to sustainable development.</li> <li>• How these objectives have been integrated with other Government policies.</li> <li>• How actual and projected capacity and demand have been considered.</li> <li>• Consider relevant issues in relation to safety or technology.</li> <li>• Circumstances where it would be particularly important to address the adverse impacts of development.</li> <li>• Specific locations, where appropriate, in order to provide a clear framework for investment and planning decisions.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990</a>	1990	Policy	<p>Governs special controls in respect of buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest. Any alteration, extension or demolition of a listed building in a way that affects its character as a building of special interest requires Listed Building Consent.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Protection of Military Remains Act 1986</a>	1986	Policy	<p>This Act prohibits entering and tampering with wrecked military vessels or aircraft. All military aircraft is automatically protected under this legislation, but vessels need to be designated individually. The Act enabled the government to establish controlled sites</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			around wrecks in UK water or protected places for those in international water. The legislation is administered by the Ministry of Defence. The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.
<a href="#">Protection of Wrecks Act 1973</a>	1973	Policy	This Act allows the Government to designate a restricted area around the site of a vessel lying on or in the seabed in UK territorial waters if they are satisfied that, on account of the historical, archaeological or artistic importance of the vessel, or its contents or former contents, the site ought to be protected from unauthorised interference. The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.
<b>English</b>			
<a href="#">England Trees Action Plan 2021 to 2024</a>	2021	Plan	Building on ambitions outlined in the 25 Year Environment Plan, Government will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Nature Recovery:</b> The government will continue to improve the condition and increase the extent of most precious woodland habitats, such as protected sites and irreplaceable ancient woodlands.</li><li>• <b>Levelling up through a thriving forest economy:</b> The government will encourage demand for UK grown timber which can reduce the carbon footprint from imports and reduce emissions by replacing carbon-intensive materials and encourage innovative green finance for trees and woodlands.</li><li>• <b>Trees and woodlands for water and soil:</b> The right trees and woodland in the right places along and near rivers and within water catchments present opportunities for improving water quality, for flood alleviation and nature recovery. Soil is critical to</li></ul>



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			<p>supporting trees and woodland and the government will improve the understanding of appropriate soil management to sequester carbon and protect this precious resource from degradation and inappropriate tree establishment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Trees and woodlands for people in town and country:</b> Trees and woodlands can cool the settlements, improve air quality and contribute to community cohesion and sense of place. The government will take steps to improve public access to trees and woodlands in a responsible way, encourage community-led tree planting and invest in partnerships with communities and local government.</li><li>• <b>Heritage and landscape:</b> Trees and woodlands are important features in the landscapes. The government will encourage greater landscape scale planning which will enhance and transform landscape character, while protecting and conserving heritage assets from inappropriate tree planting and during woodland management.</li><li>• <b>Trees outside woodlands:</b> Trees throughout the environment such as wood pastures, ancient and veteran trees, scrub, scattered and hedgerow trees contribute to England's natural beauty and are important spaces for nature. The government must continue to protect and enhance these features.</li><li>• <b>Healthy, resilient trees and woodlands:</b> The government will act now to help the trees and woodlands adapt, to enhance their resilience to stresses by reducing risks and encouraging greater diversity.</li></ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>



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<a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</a>	2024	Policy	<p>The NPPF sets out the government's planning policies for England and was most recently revised in December 2024. The main amendments to this policy with regards to energy come under 'Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change'. The update to the NPPF should assist decision makers dealing with proposals to use and improve existing renewable energy sites giving weight to the advantages of doing so. The addition of a new paragraph under this header specifies that <i>"Wind Energy Development involving one or more turbines can also be permitted through Local Development Orders, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders"</i>. The increase in accepted routes to achieve development of Wind Turbine sites is intended to make the process more flexible and therefore quicker and easier to increase wind farms producing renewable or low carbon energy.</p> <p>The NPPF is accompanied by relevant Planning Practice Guidance as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> (2020): Explains requirements of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.</li><li>• <b>Historic environment</b> (2019): Advises on enhancing and conserving the historic environment.</li></ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to the NPPF.</p>
<a href="#">Planning for the Future</a>	2020	Policy	<p>This white paper sets out the Government's proposals for <i>"once in a generation"</i> reform of England's planning system, and separate proposals to reform the current system of calculating housing need proved controversial.</p> <p>The three pillars of the white paper are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planning for development;</li><li>• Planning for beautiful and sustainable places; and</li></ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning for infrastructure and connected places.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this white paper.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning and Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2018</a>	2018	Policy	<p>These Regulations amend the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. These new regulations set out the procedures to be followed in relation to EIA linked to nationally significant infrastructure projects in England and Wales. The objective is to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to help integrate environmental considerations into the preparation of proposals for development to reduce their impact on the environment.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<b>Scottish</b>			
<a href="#">Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS)</a>	2019	Policy	<p>This is a policy statement for decision making for the whole of the historic environment. It's used at national and local levels, from funding decisions to applications to wind farms. There are six policies within the document which define how the historic environment should be managed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Policies for managing the historic environment.</li> <li>2. Decisions affecting any part of the historic environment should be informed by an inclusive understanding of its breadth and cultural significance.</li> <li>3. Decisions affecting the historic environment should ensure that its understanding and enjoyment as well as its benefits are secured for present and future generations.</li> <li>4. Plans, programmes, policies and strategies, and the allocation of resources, should be approached in a way that protects and promotes the historic environment. If</li> </ol>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>detrimental impact on the historic environment is unavoidable, it should be minimised. Steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored, and mitigation measures should be put in place.</p> <p>5. Changes to specific assets and their context should be managed in a way that protects the historic environment. Opportunities for enhancement should be identified where appropriate. If detrimental impact on the historic environment is unavoidable, it should be minimised. Steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored, and mitigation measures should be put in place.</p> <p>6. Decisions affecting the historic environment should contribute to the sustainable development of communities and places.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014</a>	2014	Policy	<p>This Act sets out Historic Environment Scotland's role and legal status, including changes in processes for the designation of monuments and buildings (scheduling and listing) and for consents relating to scheduled monuments, listed buildings and conservation areas. The Act amended the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979;</li> <li>• Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997;</li> <li>• Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005; and</li> <li>• Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)</a>	2023	Policy	<p>The NPF4 sets out Scotland's spatial principles, regional priorities, national developments and national planning policy.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>Part 1 – A National Spatial Strategy for Scotland 2045 sets out six overarching spatial principles which play a key role in delivering UN SDGs and Scottish national outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just transition;</li> <li>• Conserving and recycling assets;</li> <li>• Local living;</li> <li>• Compact urban growth;</li> <li>• Rebalanced development; and</li> <li>• Rural revitalisation.</li> </ul> <p>Part 2 – National Planning Policy sets out 33 policies on topics including tackling the climate and nature crises; climate mitigation and action; and biodiversity.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to the NPF4.</p>
<a href="#">Our Past, Our Future: Strategy for Scotland's Historic Environment</a>	2023	Plan	<p>Our Past, Our Future is Scotland's new strategy for the historic environment. It sets out a national mission to sustain and enhance the benefits of Scotland's historic environment, for people and communities now and into the future.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland</a>	2014	Plan	<p>Our Place in Time is Scotland's strategy for the historic environment. It sets out a vision of how our historic environment can be understood, valued, cared for and enjoyed.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Planning advice notes (PANs)</a>	Various	Plan	Relevant PANs include:



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology</b> – Intended to inform the day-to-day work of a range of local authority advisory services and other organisations that have a role in the handling of archaeological matters within the planning process.</li> <li>• <b>PAN 60: Planning for Natural Heritage</b> – Provides advice on how development and the planning system can contribute to the conservation, enhancement, enjoyment and understanding of Scotland's natural environment and encourages developers and planning authorities to be positive and creative in addressing natural heritage issues.</li> <li>• <b>PAN 71: Conservation Area Management</b> – Complements existing national policy and provides further advice on the management of conservation areas. It identifies good practice for managing change, sets out a checklist for appraising conservation areas and provides advice on funding and implementation.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with these PANs.</p>
<a href="#">Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act (1997)</a>	1997	Policy	<p>This Act consolidates certain enactments relating to special controls in respect of buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest with amendments to give effect to recommendations of the Scottish Law Commission.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning (Development Management</a>	2013	Policy	<p>This Order provides for procedures connected with pre-application consultation; applications for planning permission; the planning authority; consultations; local development orders; certificates of lawful use or development; and the maintenance of registers of planning applications.</p>



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<a href="#">Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013</a>			The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017</a>	2017	Policy	<p>EIA is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects arising from a proposed development.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order and Trees in Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Regulations 2010</a>	2010	Policy	<p>These Regulations are made under the powers conferred on the SoS by sections 160(8), 161(3) and (4), 173 and 275 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act. They require an application to be made for cutting down, topping, lopping or uprooting of any tree with a TPO or within a Conservation Area. This application must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specify the operations for which consent is sought;</li> <li>• Give reasons for carrying out such operations;</li> <li>• Identify the protected tree or trees which would be affected by such operations; and</li> </ul> <p>The protected tree or trees must be identified by means of a map or plan of a size and scale sufficient for the purpose.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<b>Welsh</b>			
<a href="#">Future Wales: The National Plan 2040</a>	2021	Plan	This Plan is a 20-year development plan for the whole of Wales. Planning decisions must be made in accordance with Future Wales unless material considerations indicate otherwise. It sets out Welsh Government land use priorities and provides a national land



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			<p>use framework for regional Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) and LDPs. It concentrates on development and land use issues of national significance, indicating areas of major opportunities and change, and also highlighting areas that need protecting and enhancing.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Planning Policy Wales</a>	2021	Policy	<p>Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (11<sup>th</sup> Edition) was published alongside Future Wales. It sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), Welsh Government Circulars, and policy clarification letters, which together with PPW provide the national planning policy framework for Wales. PPW, the TANs, Mineral TANs (MTANs), and policy clarification letters comprise national planning policy.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to PPW.</p>
<a href="#">Planning (Wales) Act 2015</a>	2015	Policy	<p>This Act sets out a series of legislative changes to deliver reform of the planning system in Wales, to ensure that it is fair, resilient and enables development. The act addresses five key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modernised framework for the delivery of planning services;</li> <li>• Strengthening the plan led approach – the act introduces a legal basis for the preparation of a National Development Framework and Strategic Development Plans;</li> <li>• Improved resilience – the act allows the Welsh Ministers to direct local planning authorities to work together and for local planning authorities to be merged;</li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frontloading and improving the development management system – the act will introduce a statutory pre- application procedure for defined categories of planning application; and</li> <li>• Enabling effective enforcement and appeals – the act enables changes to enforcement procedures to secure prompt, meaningful action against breaches of planning control and increase the transparency and efficiency of the appeal system.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Priorities for the Historic Environment of Wales</a>	2018	Plan	<p>This document sets out the priorities for the historic environment in Wales.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Technical Advice Notes</a>	2017	Plan	<p>Technical advice notes (TANs) provide detailed planning advice. Local planning authorities take them into account when they are preparing development plans. There are 24 TANs. Relevant TANs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TAN 24: The Historic Environment</b> – Guidance on how to consider the historic environment in development plans and planning decisions.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this TAN.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning and Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment)</a>	2018	Policy	<p>These Regulations amend the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. These new regulations set out the procedures to be followed in relation to EIA linked to nationally significant infrastructure projects in England and Wales. The objective is to provide a high level of protection of the</p>



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<a href="#">(Amendment) Regulations 2018</a>			environment and to help integrate environmental considerations into the preparation of proposals for development to reduce their impact on the environment.  The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.

## Ecology and biodiversity

Table A.5 Plans, policies and programmes and their key objectives as relevant to the ecology and biodiversity SEA topic

Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<b>International</b>			
<a href="#">Berne Convention</a>	1886	-	The principal aims of the Convention are to ensure conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats (listed in Appendices I and II of the Convention); to increase cooperation between contracting parties; and to regulate the exploitation of those species (including migratory species) listed in Appendix III. To this end the Convention imposes legal obligations on contracting parties, protecting over 500 wild plant species and more than 1,000 wild animal species.  The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure does not lead to any harm to these plant and animal species.
<a href="#">Bonn Convention</a>	1983	-	The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, also known as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) or the Bonn Convention, is an international agreement that aims to conserve migratory species throughout their



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			<p>ranges. The agreement was signed under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme and is concerned with conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale.</p> <p>Fundamental principles of the convention are set out in Article 2. The parties acknowledge the importance of migratory species being conserved and of range states agreeing to act to this end "whenever possible and appropriate", "paying special attention to migratory species the conservation status of which is unfavourable and taking individually or in cooperation appropriate and necessary steps to conserve such species and their habitat." Further in Article 2(2), the parties "acknowledge" [but do not commit in stronger language, i.e. Art 2(3) "shall"] "the need to take action to avoid any migratory species becoming endangered".</p> <p>Article 2(3) of the convention states that the parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Should promote, cooperate in and support research relating to migrator species;</li> <li>b. Shall endeavour to provide immediate protection for migratory species included in Appendix I; and</li> <li>c. Shall endeavour to conclude AGREEMENTS covering the conservation and management of migratory species included in Appendix II.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure does not lead to any harm to these migratory species.</p>
<a href="#">The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017</a>	2017	Policy	<p>This legislation translates into UK legislation, the EEC Council Directive 92/43/EEC, The Conservation of Natural Habitats and of wild fauna and flora, known as the Habitats Directive. This legislation protects habitats and species across Europe and so includes species of animal found in the UK. These species are known as European Protected Species (EPS) and these regulations are the primary regulations protecting these</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>species, not the Wildlife and Countryside Act. These species include the otter, common dormouse and all bats.</p> <p>Section 43 provides protection for these EPS which are listed on Schedule 2. Like the Wildlife and Countryside Act, it has similarly worded defences for rehabilitation of any species protected under Section 44. These Regulations require all those who are keeping either a) a wild animal of an EPS species or b) part of, or anything derived of, a wild animal of an EPS species, to have a licence. Although rehabilitation is permitted under the Regulations, the various Special Nature Conservation Orders (SNCOs) are considering time limits for holding different species in care before a licence is required. For instance, you do not need a licence to rehabilitate a bat unless you intend to keep it for longer than six months.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure does not lead to any harm to these protected species.</p>
<a href="#">Convention on Biological Diversity</a>	2010	-	<p>Sets out a conservation plan to protect global biodiversity, and an international treaty to establish a fair and equitable system to enable nations to cooperate in accessing and sharing the benefits of genetic resources. The new global vision is <i>"By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential to all people"</i>.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this conservation plan.</p>
<a href="#">Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a</a>	1991	-	<p>The Convention was adopted in 1991 and entered into force in September 2007. The Convention and Protocol lie in an area of mixed competence (environment). The UK and the EU are parties to the Convention. The EU has implemented the EIA Directive that has been transposed into UK domestic law.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">Transboundary Context</a>			<p>The Convention sets out the obligations of Parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning. It also lays down the general obligations of Parties to consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have significant transboundary effects. A revision to the Convention in 2004 indicated that affected Parties should be allowed to participate in scoping as appropriate.</p> <p>The Protocol on SEA (Kiev, 2003) augments the Espoo Convention and requires Parties to assess the environmental effects of their plans and programmes. The protocol also proposes extensive public participation in Government decision making. The UK has signed but not ratified the Protocol. The EU has ratified, and implements through the SEA Directive, transposed in UK domestic law.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the environmental impact of new energy infrastructure is considered at an early stage of planning.</p>
<a href="#">Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)</a>	2023	-	<p>The Kunming-Montreal GBF builds on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, its achievements, gaps and lessons learned, and the experience and achievements of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements. It sets out an ambitious plan to implement broad-based action to bring about a transformation in societies' relationship with biodiversity by 2030, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. This is in addition to ensuring that, by 2050, the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is fulfilled.</p> <p>The vision of the Framework is a world of living in harmony with nature where <i>"by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people."</i></p> <p>The mission of the Framework for the period up to 2030, towards the 2050 vision is: to take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on a path to</p>



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			<p>recovery for the benefit of people and planet by conserving and sustainably using biodiversity and by ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources, whilst providing the necessary means of implementation.</p> <p>The Framework has four long-term goals for 2050 related to the 2050 vision for biodiversity. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>GOAL A:</b> The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050; human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, the extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels; and the genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species, is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.</li><li>• <b>GOAL B:</b> Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.</li><li>• <b>GOAL C:</b> The monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilisation of genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources, and of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, as applicable, are shared fairly and equitably, including, as appropriate with indigenous peoples and local.</li><li>• <b>GOAL D:</b> Adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are secured and equitably accessible to all Parties, especially developing</li></ul>



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			<p>country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, progressively closing the biodiversity finance gap of \$700 billion per year, and aligning financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.</p> <p>The Framework has <b>23 action-oriented global targets</b> for urgent action over the decade to 2030. The actions set out in each target need to be initiated immediately and completed by 2030. Together, the results will enable achievement towards the outcome-oriented goals for 2050. Actions to reach these targets should be implemented consistently and in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, and other relevant international obligations, considering national circumstances, priorities and socioeconomic conditions.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with the GBF.</p>
<a href="#">The OSPAR Convention</a>	1992	-	<p>The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, also referred to as the 'OSPAR Convention', is the current legislative instrument regulating international cooperation on environmental protection in the North-East Atlantic. This specifically addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention and elimination of pollution from land-based sources;</li> <li>• Prevention and elimination of pollution by dumping or incineration;</li> <li>• Prevention and elimination of pollution from offshore sources;</li> <li>• Assessment of the quality of the marine environment; and</li> <li>• The protection and conservation of the ecosystems and biological diversity of the maritime area.</li> </ul>



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			The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with the OSPAR convention.
<a href="#">The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</a>	1971	-	<p>The Convention covers all aspects of wetland conservation and wise use. The Convention has three main 'pillars' of activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The designation of wetlands of international importance as Ramsar sites;</li> <li>• The promotion of the wise use of all wetlands in the territory of each country; and</li> <li>• International cooperation with other countries to further the wise use of wetlands and their resources.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure does not lead to adverse impacts on Ramsar sites.</p>
<b>UK-wide</b>			
<a href="#">Countryside and Rights of Way Act</a>	2000	Policy	<p>This Act contains five Parts and 16 Schedules and provides for public access on foot to certain types of land, amends the law relating to public rights of way, increases measures for the management and protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and provides for better management of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) (now referred to as 'National Landscapes').</p> <p>The Act is compliant with the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights, requiring consultation where the rights of the individual may be affected by these measures.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>



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<a href="#">The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review</a>	2021	-	<p>The headline messages of this review are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are part of nature, not separate from it.</li> <li>• We have collectively failed to engage with nature sustainably, to the extent that our demands far exceed its capacity to supply us with the goods and services we all rely on.</li> <li>• Our unsustainable engagement with Nature is endangering the prosperity of current and future generations.</li> <li>• At the heart of the problem lies deep-rooted, widespread institutional failure.</li> <li>• The solution starts with understanding and accepting a simple truth: our economies are embedded within Nature, not external to it.</li> <li>• We need to change how we think, act and measure success.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this review.</p>
<a href="#">The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009</a>	2009	Policy	<p>These regulations afford powers to the Environment Agency to implement measures for the recovery of European eel stocks all freshwater and estuarine waters and have important implications for operators of abstractions and discharges.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Environment Act 2021</a>	2021	Policy	<p>The Environment Act sets out that the SoS may by regulations set long-term targets in respect of any matter which relates to a) the natural environment; or b) people's enjoyment of the natural environment. A long-term target must be in respect of at least one matter within each of the four priority areas: a) air quality; b) water; c) biodiversity; and d) resource efficiency and waste reduction.</p>



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			<p>The Act specifically requires the SoS to set by future regulation statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in two priority areas: air quality (PM2.5 air quality target) and biodiversity (species abundance target) and includes an important new target to reverse the decline in species abundance by the end of 2030. The SoS must also prepare an environmental improvement plan for significantly improving the natural environment for a period no shorter than 15 years.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004</a>	2004	Policy	<p>To comply with these regulations, if it is determined that a proposed plan or programme, or a modification to an existing plan or programme, is likely to have a significant environmental effect it will need a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA). The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Environmental Improvement Plan</a>	2023	Plan	<p>This plan sets out a series of ten goals for the environment, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife.</li><li>• Goal 2: Clean air.</li><li>• Goal 3: Clean and plentiful water.</li><li>• Goal 4: Managing exposure to chemicals and pesticides.</li><li>• Goal 5: Maximise our resources, minimise our waste.</li><li>• Goal 6: Using resources from nature sustainably.</li><li>• Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change.</li><li>• Goal 8: Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards.</li><li>• Goal 9: Enhancing biosecurity.</li></ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goal 10: Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment. The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure considers the ten goals set out within this plan.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">The Great Britain Invasive Non-native Species Strategy</a>	2023	Plan	<p>Invasive non-native species are one of the top five drivers of biodiversity loss globally. They threaten Great Britain's ability to meet wider environmental targets and respond to climate change. This strategy sets out aims to guide collaboration between government, voluntary organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), researchers, businesses and the public to 2030.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">Independent Assessment of UK Climate Change Risk</a>	2021	-	<p>This report provides the Adaptation Committee's statutory advice to Governments on priorities for the forthcoming national adaptation plans and wider action. It is informed by extensive new evidence gathered for the accompanying Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) Technical Report. More than 60 risks and opportunities have been identified, fundamental to every aspect of life in the UK covering the natural environment, health, homes, infrastructure, and the economy.</p> <p>This new evidence shows that the gap between the level of risk the UK face and the level of adaptation underway has widened. Adaptation action has failed to keep pace with the worsening reality of climate risk.</p> <p>The Committee identifies eight risk areas that require the most urgent attention in the next two years. They have been selected on the basis of the urgency of additional action; the gap in UK adaptation planning; the opportunity to integrate adaptation into forthcoming policy commitments; and the need to avoid locking in poor planning, especially as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>



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			<p>The eight areas of risk are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risks to the viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards;</li> <li>• Risks to soil health from increased flooding and drought;</li> <li>• Risks to natural carbon stores and sequestration from multiple hazards leading to increased emissions;</li> <li>• Risks to crops, livestock and commercial trees from multiple hazards;</li> <li>• Risks to supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate-related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks;</li> <li>• Risks to people and the economy from climate-related failure of the power system;</li> <li>• Risks to human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings; and</li> <li>• Multiple risks to the UK from climate change impacts overseas.</li> </ul> <p>Ten principles for good adaptation planning that should form the basis for the next round of national adaptation plans are also recommended. These are intended to bring adaptation into mainstream consideration by government and business.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure considers the eight areas of risk set out within this report.</p>
<a href="#">Levelling Up &amp; Regeneration Act</a>	2023	Policy	<p>The UK Government has identified 12 policy areas for improvement by 2030 Initiates Planning reforms in England, including changes to the role of Local Planning Authorities (LPAs); the introduction of national development management policies (NDMPs); reforms to the Local Plan-making process; and seeking to improve outcomes for the natural environment, including through the introduction of an Environmental Outcomes focus to environmental assessment.</p>



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			<p>It should be noted that in Scotland and Wales, the Act does not alter the executive competence of Ministers or the legislative competence of Parliament.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009</a>	2009	Policy	<p>The Act introduces a new system of marine management. This includes a new marine planning system, which makes provision for a statement of the Government's general policies, and the general policies of each of the devolved administrations, for the marine environment, and also for marine plans which will set out in more detail what is to happen in the different parts of the areas to which they relate.</p> <p>Key areas of the Act include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets up a new Marine Management Organisation under which many of the existing, diverse areas of marine regulation would be centralised;</li> <li>• Streamlines the existing marine licensing system and provides powers to create a joined-up marine planning policy;</li> <li>• Introduces new measures to reform fisheries management;</li> <li>• Provides a framework for establishing marine conservation zones; and</li> <li>• Enables the creation of a walkable route around the English and Welsh coast.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Marine strategy part one: UK updated assessment and Good Environmental Status</a>	2019	Plan	<p>This strategy provides an updated assessment of UK seas and sets objectives, targets and indicators for achieving Good Environmental Status (GES).</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>



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<a href="#">Marine strategy part two: UK updated marine monitoring programmes</a>	2022	Plan	<p>This updated strategy sets out the monitoring programmes that the Government propose to use to provide the evidence to support the 2024 assessment of progress towards achieving GES within the UK Marine Strategy area.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">Marine strategy part three: UK programme of measures</a>	2015	Plan	<p>This strategy outlines the measures that contribute towards GES in UK seas.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010</a>	2010	Policy	<p>These regulations establish a framework for measures to achieve or maintain GES in the marine environment. The Regulations transposed the requirements of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD, 2008/56/EC). Annex I of the MSFD contains eleven qualitative descriptors for determining GES.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">National Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006</a>	2006	Policy	<p>This Act establishes an independent body – Natural England – responsible for conserving, enhancing and managing England's natural environment for the benefit of current and future generations. Natural England will work in close partnership with other organisations and bodies that have a major role in relation to the natural environment, in particular the Environment Agency, the Forestry Commission, Historic England and local authorities. It established the Commission for Rural Communities and reconstitutes the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. Details of the Act include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nature Conservation in the UK.</li><li>• Wildlife.</li></ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).</li><li>• National Parks and the Broads.</li><li>• Rights of way.</li><li>• Inland Waterways.</li><li>• Flexible Administrative Arrangements.</li></ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949</a>	1949	Policy	<p>This was an act that made provision for National Parks and the establishment of a National Parks Commission. It was also to confer on the Nature Conservancy and local authorities' powers for the establishment and maintenance of nature reserves. It made further provision for the recording, creation, maintenance and improvement of public paths and for securing access to open country and to amend laws relating to rights of way.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">National Pollinator Strategy</a>	2014	Plan	<p>It is recognised that Pollinators face many pressures which have led to declines in numbers, and a reduction in the diversity of species to be found in many parts of the country.</p> <p>As a response, DEFRA developed the National Pollinator Strategy, which over the years 2014–2024 aims to build a solid foundation to bring about the best possible conditions for bees and other insects to flourish. This will fulfil the vision of the Strategy which is to see pollinators thrive so that they can carry out their essential service to people of pollinating flowers and crops, whilst providing other benefits for native plants, the wider environment, food production and people.</p>



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			The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.
<a href="#">Nationally Significant Infrastructure: Action plan for reforms to the planning process</a>	2023	Plan	<p>This Action Plan sets out the reforms to the NSIP regime that will be implemented to ensure the system can support future infrastructure needs.</p> <p>To meet the objectives of ensuring the NSIP consenting process is better at meeting statutory timescales, faster where environmental and community concerns can be addressed before examination, greener for the environment, fairer for communities and more resilient in resourcing, five reform areas have been developed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Setting a clear strategic direction</b>, where National Policy Statements and wider government policy reduce the policy ambiguity faced by individual projects.</li> <li>2. <b>Bringing forward operational reforms to support faster consenting</b> with an emphasis on delivering proportionate examinations for all projects, strengthening pre-application advice and introducing a fast-track consenting timeframe for projects that meet quality criteria.</li> <li>3. <b>Realising better outcomes for the environment</b> replacing the cumbersome environmental assessment processes with new Environmental Outcomes Reports; reviewing the protected sites and species policy framework (including Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)) and introducing biodiversity net gain and developing principles for marine net gain for NSIPs.</li> <li>4. <b>Recognising the role of local authorities and strengthening community engagement with NSIPs</b>, with greater support and measures to embed community input and benefits much earlier in the process.</li> <li>5. <b>Improving system-wide capacity and capability</b>, including through developing skills and training and extending proportionate cost recovery by the Planning</li> </ol>



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			<p>Inspectorate and key statutory consultees to support effective preparation and examination of NSIPs and build resilience into the system.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Planning Act 2008</a>	2008	Policy	<p>This legislation sets out how the planning system should deal with nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIP). The legislation created a regime of National Policy Statements (NPS). These NPS give reasons for the policy set out in the statement and must include an explanation of how the policy takes account of Government policy relating to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. They include the Government's objectives for the development of nationally significant infrastructure in a particular sector and state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How this will contribute to sustainable development.</li> <li>• How these objectives have been integrated with other Government policies.</li> <li>• How actual and projected capacity and demand have been considered.</li> <li>• Consider relevant issues in relation to safety or technology.</li> <li>• Circumstances where it would be particularly important to address the adverse impacts of development.</li> <li>• Specific locations, where appropriate, in order to provide a clear framework for investment and planning decisions.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Planning Practice Guidance – Natural Environment</a>	2016	-	Explains key issues in implementing policy to protect and enhance the natural environment.



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			The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this guidance.
<a href="#">River Basin Management Plans</a>	2022	Plan	<p>These plans set out how organisations, stakeholders and communities will work together to improve the water environment. Each plan covers an entire river system, including river, lake, groundwater, estuarine and coastal water bodies and are designed to protect and improve the quality of the water environment.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with these plans.</p>
<a href="#">Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975</a>	1975	Policy	<p>This Act was created to protect salmon and trout in particular from commercial poaching; to protect migration routes; to prevent wilful vandalism and neglect of fisheries; and to ensure correct licensing and water authority approval. Part II of the Act deals with obstructions to the passage of fish, including fishing weirs, screens and sluices; dictating when and where they can be used. Part III explains the proper times of fishing, selling and exporting fish.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">UK Biodiversity Action Plan</a>	2007	Plan	<p>This document represents the first UK biodiversity action plan. It contains three sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Section 1</b> – describes the UK's biological resources and their global importance as well as the range of biodiversity within the UK from a historical and geological importance;</li><li>• <b>Section 2</b> – describes the UK's strategy and programmes and examines threats, problems and opportunities of biodiversity; and</li></ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section 3</b> – draws the components of the action plan together and provides a forward work programme.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">UK Marine Strategy</a>	2019	Plan	<p>This Strategy provides the framework for delivering marine policy at the UK level and sets out how the Government will achieve the vision of clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas.</p> <p>The Strategy consists of a simple three-stage framework for achieving GES in the UK's seas. Achieving GES is about protecting the marine environment, preventing its deterioration and restoring it where practical, whilst allowing sustainable use of marine resources. The strategy covers 11 elements (known as descriptors), which are: biodiversity; non-indigenous species; commercial fish; food webs; eutrophication; sea-floor integrity; hydrographical conditions; contaminants; contaminants in seafood; marine litter; and underwater noise.</p> <p>Part 1 of the Marine Strategy was updated in 2019, marking the beginning of the second implementation cycle of the UK Marine Strategy.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</a>	1981	Policy	<p>The Act prohibits certain methods of killing or taking wild animals; amends the law relating to protection of certain mammals; restricts the introduction of certain animals and plants; amends the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act 1976; amends the law relating to nature conservation, the countryside and National Parks; and amends the law relating to public rights of way.</p>



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			The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.
<b>English</b>			
<a href="#">A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment</a>	2018	Plan	<p>The Government's 25-Year Environment Plan sets out their position on environmental improvements, focussed on delivering cleaner air and water across the country, protecting at-risk wildlife, and improving natural habitats in England. The Plan sets the following key actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using and managing land sustainably, including embedding an "environmental net gain" principle into development.</li> <li>• Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes.</li> <li>• Connecting people to the environment to improve health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• Increase resource efficiency and reducing pollution.</li> <li>• Securing clean, healthy and productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans.</li> <li>• Protecting and improving the global environment.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services</a>	2011	Plan	<p>This biodiversity strategy for England builds on the Natural Environment White Paper and provides a comprehensive picture of how the government are implementing international and EU commitments.</p> <p>It sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy for the next decade on land (including rivers and lakes) and at sea. It builds on the successful work that has gone before, but also seeks to deliver a real step change.</p>



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			<p>In December 2020, the Government stated that it was developing a new strategy for nature to replace Biodiversity 2020. It has previously said that the new strategy would include plans to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote clean, safe, healthy, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas;</li> <li>• Restore 75% of the UK's protected sites to favourable condition by 2042; and</li> <li>• Establish a 'nature recovery network' to expand and connect wildlife habitats, by developing partnerships to manage land in a way that supports the recovery of wildlife.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">DEFRA Policy Paper: Changes to the Habitat Regulations 2017</a>	2021	Policy	<p>This paper explains the changes made to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). The changes are made by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.</p> <p>The 2017 Regulations are one of the pieces of domestic law that transposed the land and marine aspects of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and certain elements of the Wild Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC) (known as the Nature Directives).</p> <p>The paper covers England and Wales including their inshore waters up to 12 nautical miles (nm) and explains how the amendments to the legislation work.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy paper.</p>
<a href="#">The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019</a>	2019	Policy	<p>This Act consolidates all the various amendments made to the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations 1994 in respect of England and Wales. The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites', the protection of 'European protected species', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites.</p>



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			<p>Under the Regulations, competent authorities, i.e. any Minister, government department, public body, or person holding public office, have a general duty, in the exercise of any of their functions, to have regard to the EC Habitats Directive.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Delivering 30 by 30 on land in England</a>	2020	Programme	<p>The Prime Minister has committed in September 2020 to protect 30% of the UK's land by 2030.</p> <p>Existing National Parks, National Landscapes and other protected areas already comprise approximately 26% of land in England. An additional 4% – over 400,000ha – will be protected to support the recovery of nature.</p> <p>The Government will work with the Devolved Administrations to agree an approach across the UK, and with landowners and civil society to explore how best to increase the size and value of our protected land.</p> <p>The government has committed significant new investment to support environmental enhancement and protection in England through the Nature for Climate Fund and the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this programme.</p>
<a href="#">England Trees Action Plan 2021 to 2024</a>	2021	Plan	<p>Building on ambitions outlined in the 25 Year Environment Plan, Government will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nature Recovery:</b> The government will continue to improve the condition and increase the extent of most precious woodland habitats, such as protected sites and irreplaceable ancient woodlands.</li> </ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Levelling up through a thriving forest economy:</b> The government will encourage demand for UK grown timber which can reduce the carbon footprint from imports and reduce emissions by replacing carbon-intensive materials and encourage innovative green finance for trees and woodlands.</li><li>• <b>Trees and woodlands for water and soil:</b> The right trees and woodland in the right places along and near rivers and within water catchments present opportunities for improving water quality, for flood alleviation and nature recovery. Soil is critical to supporting trees and woodland and the government will improve the understanding of appropriate soil management to sequester carbon and protect this precious resource from degradation and inappropriate tree establishment.</li><li>• <b>Trees and woodlands for people in town and country:</b> Trees and woodlands can cool the settlements, improve air quality and contribute to community cohesion and sense of place. The government will take steps to improve public access to trees and woodlands in a responsible way, encourage community-led tree planting and invest in partnerships with communities and local government.</li><li>• <b>Heritage and landscape:</b> Trees and woodlands are important features in the landscapes. The government will encourage greater landscape scale planning which will enhance and transform landscape character, while protecting and conserving heritage assets from inappropriate tree planting and during woodland management.</li><li>• <b>Trees outside woodlands:</b> Trees throughout the environment such as wood pastures, ancient and veteran trees, scrub, scattered and hedgerow trees contribute to England's natural beauty and are important spaces for nature. The government must continue to protect and enhance these features.</li></ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Healthy, resilient trees and woodlands:</b> The government will act now to help the trees and woodlands adapt, to enhance their resilience to stresses by reducing risks and encouraging greater diversity.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">England Tree Strategy Consultation</a>	2020	Policy	<p>A consultation aiming to inform the Government update on tree, woodland and forestry policy – looking to increase tree planting, connect people to nature and improve woodland management leading to supporting the economy and helping to address climate change. Trees are stated as <i>“a unique natural asset that play a crucial role in combating the biodiversity and climate crises”</i>. Subject to consultation, the government is looking to increase tree planting to 30,000 hectares per year spread out over the UK by 2025. This will contribute towards the Nature Recovery Network, aiming to either restore or create 500,000ha of habitat that is dense in wildlife. The strategy aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and improve our trees and woodlands by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sustainable management of invasive species;</li> <li>○ Stronger protection for ancient woodland;</li> <li>○ Greater proportion of woodland in active management; and</li> <li>○ Adapting treescapes for other uses such as natural flood management.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Engage people with trees and woodland by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improving green infrastructure quality, supporting better long-term health; and</li> <li>○ Using Community Forests to improve access to existing woodlands and create new ones.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Supporting the economy by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Expanding the market for wood products and upskilling farmers and land managers to add trees into their businesses.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support sustainable timber and further sustainable uses such as within energy.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">English National Parks and the Broads: UK Government Vision and Circular 2010</a>	2010	-	<p>This circular is relevant to those bodies with appropriate statutory functions and will be of interest to all those who have a key role in contributing to the success of the National Parks, including landowners and land managers, private companies and voluntary bodies. In relation to the National Parks, it sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A vision for the English National Parks and the Broads for 2030;</li> <li>The key outcomes the Government is seeking over the next five years to ensure early progress towards the vision and suggested actions for achieving those outcomes;</li> <li>The key statutory duties of the National Park authorities (NPAs) and the Broads Authority (together 'the Authorities') and how they should be taken forward;</li> <li>Policy on governance of the Authorities; and</li> <li>The contributions needed from others.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this circular.</p>
<a href="#">Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England) Regulations 2015 as amended by The Environmental</a>	2015	Policy	<p>These regulations impose obligations on operators of certain activities requiring them to prevent or remediate environmental damage. They apply to damage to protected species, natural habitats, SSSIs, water and land.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to these policies.</p>



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<a href="#">Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2019</a>			
<a href="#">The Environmental Targets (Biodiversity) (England) Regulations 2022</a>	2022	Policy	<p>These Regulations set long-term targets in respect of three matters within the priority area of biodiversity under section 1 of the Environment Act 2021. Regulations 4, 7 and 14 specify targets for the purposes of the SoS's duty in section 1 of the 2021 Act to set a long-term target in respect of biodiversity. Regulation 11 specifies a target for the purposes of the SoS's duty in Section 3 of the 2021 Act to set a target in respect of a matter relating to the abundance of species.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Environmental Targets (Marine Protected Areas) Regulations 2023</a>	2023	Policy	<p>The regulations create a legally binding target that requires at least 70% of protected features in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to be in a favourable condition by the end of 2042, with the remaining features to be in a recovering condition. This target will set, for the first time, a time-bound target for the recovery of protected features.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Environmental Targets (Woodland and Trees Outside Woodland) (England) Regulations 2023</a>	2023	Policy	<p><b>2050 Target</b></p> <p>These regulations specifies a long-term target in accordance with Section 1(1) of the 2021 Act in respect of the percentage of land in England covered by woodland and trees outside woodland. The target is that by the end of 2050, at least 16.5% of all land in England is covered by woodland and trees outside woodland.</p>



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			<p><b>Measurement</b></p> <p>To determine whether the target in Regulation 3 is met, the area of land covered by woodland and trees outside woodland is to be calculated by the Forestry Commission. The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement</a>	2013	Policy	<p>This policy statement is designed to enable the forestry sector to protect, improve and expand forestry assets so that these benefits can be maximised now and maintained for the future.</p> <p>The policy aims to ensure a forestry sector and woodland resource that keeps growing and providing benefits, despite threats such as pests and diseases and climate change, without requiring more government intervention.</p> <p>To achieve this the Policy Statement sites key objectives (in priority order):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting the nation's trees, woodlands and forests from increasing threats such as pests, diseases and climate change.</li> <li>• Improving their resilience to these threats and their contribution to economic growth, people's lives and nature.</li> <li>• Expanding them to further increase their value.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy statement.</p>
<a href="#">Green Infrastructure Standards</a>	2023	-	<p>The Green Infrastructure Standards are a key component of the Green Infrastructure Framework. The Standards aim to provide clarity on the quality and quantity of green infrastructure needed to deliver climate change adaptation, net zero and wellbeing benefits. They define what good green infrastructure "looks like". The five headline Standards are:</p>



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			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Green Infrastructure Strategy Standard</li> <li>2. Accessible Greenspace Standard</li> <li>3. Urban Nature Recovery Standard</li> <li>4. Urban Greening Factor Standard</li> <li>5. Urban Tree Canopy Cover Standard</li> </ol> <p>The headline Standards distinguish the recommended levels of achievement for major new developments and for area wide application.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to these standards.</p>
<a href="#">The Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019</a>	2019	Policy	<p>This Order ensures an enforcement regime is in place to enforce the Principal EU Regulation (1143/2014) in England and Wales, which is designed to prevent, minimise or mitigate the adverse impact of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</a>	2024	Policy	<p>The NPPF sets out the government's planning policies for England and was most recently revised in December 2024. The main amendments to this policy with regards to energy come under 'Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change'. The update to the NPPF should assist decision makers dealing with proposals to use and improve existing renewable energy sites giving weight to the advantages of doing so. The addition of a new paragraph under this header specifies that "<i>Wind Energy Development involving one or more turbines can also be permitted through Local Development Orders, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders</i>". The increase in accepted routes to achieve development of Wind</p>



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			<p>Turbine sites is intended to make the process more flexible and therefore quicker and easier to increase wind farms producing renewable or low carbon energy.</p> <p>The NNPF is accompanied by relevant Planning Practice Guidance as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Appropriate assessment</b> (2019): Guidance on the use of Habitats Regulations Assessment.</li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity net gain</b> (2024): Guidance on biodiversity net gain.</li> <li>• <b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> (2020): Explains requirements of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.</li> <li>• <b>Light pollution</b> (2019): Advises on how to consider light within the planning system.</li> <li>• <b>Natural environment</b> (2024): Explains key issues in implementing policy to protect and enhance the natural environment, including local requirements.</li> <li>• <b>Noise</b> (2019): Advises on how planning can manage potential noise impacts in new development.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to the NNPF.</p>
<a href="#">Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006</a>	2006	Policy	<p>Section 40 of the Act requires all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity conservation when carrying out their functions. This is commonly referred to as the 'biodiversity duty'.</p> <p>The aim of the biodiversity duty is to raise the profile of biodiversity in England and Wales, so that the conservation of biodiversity becomes properly embedded in all relevant policies and decisions made by public authorities.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>



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<a href="#">Nature for Climate Fund</a>	2023	-	<p>The Nature For Climate Peatland Grant Scheme (NCPGS), administered by Natural England, has awarded Restoration Grant funding to five successful applicants. Over the next four years they will each receive a share of £16 million from the Nature for Climate Fund, to restore peatland. This is Natural England's first round of NCPGS Restoration Grants, with more rounds planned for the next two years.</p> <p>Peatlands are Earth's largest terrestrial carbon store, holding more than twice the amount of carbon in all the world's forests. They cover 10.9% of England's land area. Unfortunately, 87% of our peatlands are degraded. In this state, they do not capture and store carbon but emit an estimated 10 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent every year.</p> <p>The NCPGS aims to capture this carbon by setting 35,000 ha of degraded peatland on a path to restoration by 2025. This will help deliver the UK's Net Zero target. It will contribute to the Nature Recovery Network with wider benefits to biodiversity, water quality and natural flood management.</p>
<a href="#">The Nature Recovery Network</a>	2020	Plan	<p>The Nature Recovery Network (NRN) is a major commitment in the government's 25 Year Environment Plan. By bringing together partners, legislation and funding, we can restore and enhance the natural environment.</p> <p>The NRN will help us deal with three of the biggest challenges we face: biodiversity loss, climate change and wellbeing.</p> <p>Establishing the NRN will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance sites designated for nature conservation and other wildlife-rich places – newly created and restored wildlife-rich habitats, corridors and stepping stones will help wildlife populations to grow and move;</li> </ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the landscape's resilience to climate change, providing natural solutions to reduce carbon and manage flood risk, and sustaining vital ecosystems such as improved soil, clean water and clean air;</li> <li>• Reinforce the natural and cultural diversity of our landscapes and protect our historic natural environment; and</li> <li>• Enable us to enjoy and connect with nature where we live, work and play - benefiting our health and wellbeing.</li> </ul> <p>Through work to create the NRN, by 2042 the Government will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restore 75% of protected sites on land (including freshwaters) to favourable condition so nature can thrive;</li> <li>• Create or restore 500,000ha of additional wildlife-rich habitat outside of protected sites;</li> <li>• Recover threatened and iconic animal and plant species by providing more, diverse and better connected habitats;</li> <li>• Support work to increase woodland cover; and</li> <li>• Achieve a range of environmental, economic and social benefits, such as carbon capture, flood management, clean water, pollination and recreation.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Planning for the Future</a>	2020	Policy	<p>This white paper sets out the Government's proposals for "<i>once in a generation</i>" reform of England's planning system, and separate proposals to reform the current system of calculating housing need proved controversial.</p> <p>The three pillars of the white paper are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning for development;</li> </ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning for beautiful and sustainable places; and</li> <li>• Planning for infrastructure and connected places.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this white paper.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning and Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2018</a>	2018	Policy	<p>These Regulations amend the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. These new regulations set out the procedures to be followed in relation to EIA linked to nationally significant infrastructure projects in England and Wales. The objective is to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to help integrate environmental considerations into the preparation of proposals for development to reduce their impact on the environment.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<b>Scottish</b>			
<a href="#">Control of Woodland Removal</a>	2012	Policy	<p>At a national scale, Scotland is continuing to expand its woodland resource to counteract historic deforestation. The Scottish Government has developed a policy on the control of woodland removal to provide direction for decisions on woodland removal in Scotland.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Habitats Directive and Habitats Regulations</a>	Various	Policy	<p>The <b>Habitats Directive</b> is the short name for European Union Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. The Directive led to the establishing of European sites and setting out how they should be protected, it also extends to other topics such as European protected species. It is a</p>



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			<p>major contribution by the European Community towards realising the Convention on Biological Diversity, agreed at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. In Scotland, the Habitats Directive is translated into specific legal obligations by the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations 1994. This piece of legislation is usually known as the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p>The <b>Habitats Regulations</b> cover the requirements for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Protecting sites that are internationally important for threatened habitats and species – i.e. European sites; and</li><li>• A legal framework for species requiring strict protection – i.e. European protected species.</li></ul> <p>The Habitats Regulations have been amended in Scotland, most recently in 2019, as a result of the UK leaving the EU. These amendments mean that Scotland must continue to apply the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives to how European sites are designated and protected.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)</a>	2023	Policy	<p>The NPF4 sets out Scotland's spatial principles, regional priorities, national developments and national planning policy.</p> <p>Part 1 – A National Spatial Strategy for Scotland 2045 sets out six overarching spatial principles which play a key role in delivering UN SDGs and Scottish national outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Just transition;</li><li>• Conserving and recycling assets;</li><li>• Local living;</li><li>• Compact urban growth;</li></ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebalanced development; and</li> <li>• Rural revitalisation.</li> </ul> <p>Part 2 – National Planning Policy sets out 33 policies on topics including tackling the climate and nature crises; climate mitigation and action; and biodiversity.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to the NPF4.</p>
<a href="#">Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004</a>	2004	Policy	<p>This Act describes the types of operations undertaken which affect a SSSI but which do not require the consent of Scottish Natural Heritage under Sections 13 (operations by public bodies etc.) and 16 (operations by owners or occupiers of sites of special scientific interest) of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004. It is of relevance to environmental planning projects as well as remediation projects. The Act's overall aim is to protect and conserve species in the UK.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">NatureScot Guidance</a>	Various	Policy	<p>A range of policy and guidance documents setting out NatureScot's position and advice on nature and landscapes topics. NatureScot participate in policy development by responding to consultations; delivering advice sought by Scottish Ministers; and working jointly with other parties with an interest in the topic through a combination of the above means.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to these policy and guidance documents.</p>
<a href="#">Planning advice notes (PANs)</a>	Various	Plan	Relevant PANs include:



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PAN 1/2011 Planning and Noise</b> – Provides advice on the role of the planning system in helping to prevent and limit the adverse effects of noise.</li> <li>• <b>PAN 51: Planning, Environmental Protection and Regulation</b> – Supports the existing policy role of the planning system in relation to the environmental protection regimes.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to these PANs.</p>
<a href="#">Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029</a>	2019	Plan	<p>This Strategy provides an overview of contemporary Scottish forestry, presents a 50-year vision for Scotland's forests and woodlands, and sets out a 10-year framework for action. Its objectives are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the contribution of forests and woodlands to Scotland's sustainable and inclusive economic growth;</li> <li>• Improve the resilience of Scotland's forests and woodlands and increase their contribution to a healthy and high-quality environment; and</li> <li>• Increase the use of Scotland's forest and woodland resources to enable more people to improve their health, well-being and life chances.</li> </ul> <p>Its priorities are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure forests and woodlands are sustainably managed;</li> <li>• Expand the area of forests and woodlands, recognising wider land-use objectives;</li> <li>• Improve efficiency and productivity and developing markets;</li> <li>• Increase the adaptability and resilience of forests and woodlands;</li> <li>• Enhance the environmental benefits provided by forests and woodlands; and</li> <li>• Engage more people, communities and businesses in the creation, management and use of forests and woodlands.</li> </ul>



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			The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.
<a href="#">Scotland's National Peatland Plan: Working for our future</a>	2015	Plan	Scotland's first national peatland plan sets out the many benefits of healthy peatlands and how Scotland can improve peatland that is in poor condition. The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.
<a href="#">Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045</a>	2022	Plan	This Strategy sets out the framework for addressing the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change. The Strategy identifies the vision of a future where Scotland's natural environment is restored and supports thriving communities and wildlife. It proposes outcomes and key actions that will enable this vision to be achieved. The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.
<a href="#">State of Nature Scotland Report</a>	2023	-	This Report is the most precise review of how nature in Scotland is faring. It provides compelling evidence of the twin biodiversity and climate crises. Working with professionals from more than 50 nature and conservation organisations, the recent report – which updates and supersedes previous editions in 2013, 2016 and 2019 – uses the latest and best data from monitoring schemes and biological recording centres, collected by thousands of skilled volunteers and professional naturalists, to provide a benchmark for the status of wildlife. The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this report.
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning</a>	2013	Policy	This Order provides for procedures connected with pre-application consultation; applications for planning permission; the planning authority; consultations; local



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<a href="#">(Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013</a>			development orders; certificates of lawful use or development; and the maintenance of registers of planning applications. The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017</a>	2017	Policy	EIA is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects arising from a proposed development. The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.
<a href="#">Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011</a>	2011	Policy	This Act affected game-shooting, species protection, and introduced new wildlife offences into Scotland such as vicarious liability. Amongst other things it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abolished the designation of areas of special protection for wild birds;</li> <li>• Increased regulation of snaring practices;</li> <li>• Introduced a closed season for the killing of mountain hares;</li> <li>• Introduced a new regime for controlling invasive non-native species;</li> <li>• Changed arrangements for deer management and deer stalking;</li> <li>• Strengthened badger protection;</li> <li>• Required Scottish Ministers to present an annual report to Parliament of offences relating to wildlife crime;</li> <li>• Changed the legislation relating to the burning of moorland (muirburn), previously prescribed in the Hill Farming Act 1946;</li> </ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Made operational changes to how Sites of Special Scientific Interest are managed; and</li> <li>• Required three-yearly reports to be published by public bodies on compliance with the Biodiversity Duty.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<b>Welsh</b>			
<a href="#">DEFRA Policy Paper: Changes to the Habitat Regulations 2017</a>	2021	Policy	<p>This paper explains the changes made to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). The changes are made by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.</p> <p>The 2017 Regulations are one of the pieces of domestic law that transposed the land and marine aspects of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and certain elements of the Wild Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC) (known as the Nature Directives).</p> <p>The paper covers England and Wales including their inshore waters up to 12 nautical miles (nm) and explains how the amendments to the legislation work.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy paper.</p>
<a href="#">The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019</a>	2019	Policy	<p>This Act consolidates all the various amendments made to the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations 1994 in respect of England and Wales. The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites', the protection of 'European protected species', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites. Under the Regulations, competent authorities, i.e. any Minister, government department, public body, or person holding public office, have a</p>



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			<p>general duty, in the exercise of any of their functions, to have regard to the EC Habitats Directive.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (Wales) Regulations 2009 as amended by The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2015</a>	2015	Policy	<p>These regulations impose obligations on operators of certain activities requiring them to prevent or remediate environmental damage. They apply to damage to protected species, natural habitats, SSSIs, water and land.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to these policies.</p>
<a href="#">Future Wales: The National Plan 2040</a>	2021	Plan	<p>This Plan is a 20-year development plan for the whole of Wales. Planning decisions must be made in accordance with Future Wales unless material considerations indicate otherwise. It sets out Welsh Government land use priorities and provides a national land use framework for regional Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) and LDPs. It concentrates on development and land use issues of national significance, indicating areas of major opportunities and change, and also highlighting areas that need protecting and enhancing.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>



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<a href="#">The Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019</a>	2019	Policy	<p>This Order ensures an enforcement regime is in place to enforce the Principal EU Regulation (1143/2014) in England and Wales, which is designed to prevent, minimise or mitigate the adverse impact of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species. The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006</a>	2006	Policy	<p>Section 40 of the Act requires all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity conservation when carrying out their functions. This is commonly referred to as the 'biodiversity duty'.</p> <p>The aim of the biodiversity duty is to raise the profile of biodiversity in England and Wales, so that the conservation of biodiversity becomes properly embedded in all relevant policies and decisions made by public authorities.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Natural Resources Wales – Guidance and advice</a>	Various	-	<p>Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has recently produced technical guidance which is relevant to energy technologies. These provide information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine aggregate extraction;</li> <li>• Offshore wind developments;</li> <li>• Marine renewable energy developments;</li> <li>• Using adaptive management for marine developments;</li> <li>• Scoping an Environmental Impact Assessment for marine developments;</li> <li>• Marine ecology datasets for marine developments – guidance for developers on the datasets NRW holds that is useful in scoping assessments;</li> <li>• Marine vertebrate conservation legislation in Wales;</li> </ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benthic habitat assessments for marine developments;</li> <li>• Marine physical processes and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</li> </ul> <p>NRW has further relevant guidance under development which will be added to their website as soon as it is available.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with NRW's technical guidance.</p>
<a href="#">Planning Policy Wales</a>	2021	Policy	<p>Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (11<sup>th</sup> Edition) was published alongside Future Wales. It sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), Welsh Government Circulars, and policy clarification letters, which together with PPW provide the national planning policy framework for Wales. PPW, the TANs, Mineral TANs (MTANs), and policy clarification letters comprise national planning policy.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to PPW.</p>
<a href="#">Planning (Wales) Act 2015</a>	2015	Policy	<p>This Act sets out a series of legislative changes to deliver reform of the planning system in Wales, to ensure that it is fair, resilient and enables development. The act addresses five key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modernised framework for the delivery of planning services;</li> <li>• Strengthening the plan led approach – the act introduces a legal basis for the preparation of a National Development Framework and Strategic Development Plans;</li> <li>• Improved resilience – the act allows the Welsh Ministers to direct local planning authorities to work together and for local planning authorities to be merged;</li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frontloading and improving the development management system – the act will introduce a statutory pre- application procedure for defined categories of planning application; and</li> <li>• Enabling effective enforcement and appeals – the act enables changes to enforcement procedures to secure prompt, meaningful action against breaches of planning control and increase the transparency and efficiency of the appeal system.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Technical Advice Notes</a>	2017	Plan	<p>Technical advice notes (TANs) provide detailed planning advice. Local planning authorities take them into account when they are preparing development plans. There are 24 TANs. Relevant TANs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TAN 5: Nature Conservation and Planning</b> – How the land use planning system should contribute to biodiversity and geological conservation.</li> <li>• <b>TAN 11: Noise</b> – How to use the planning system to reduce the adverse impact of noise.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to these TANs.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning and Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2018</a>	2018	Policy	<p>These Regulations amend the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. These new regulations set out the procedures to be followed in relation to EIA linked to nationally significant infrastructure projects in England and Wales. The objective is to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to help integrate environmental considerations into the preparation of proposals for development to reduce their impact on the environment.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 as amended by The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2017</a>	2017	Policy	<p>The central aim of these Regulations is to protect the environment, including species and habitats, from developments. They consolidate with modification the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995.</p> <p>They provide for procedures connected with planning applications, consultations in relation to planning applications, the determination of planning applications, appeals, local development orders, certificates of lawful use or development, the maintenance of registers of planning applications and related matters.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to these policies.</p>
<a href="#">Welsh National Marine Plan</a>	2019	Plan	<p>This Plan sets out Welsh Government policy for the sustainable use of the Welsh seas (i.e. for the inshore region (from the mean high water spring tides out to 12 nautical miles from the shore)). It includes a wide range of general policies, including, but not limited to, nature conservation, water quality, energy, tourism and recreation.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Woodlands for Wales: Strategy</a>	2011	Plan	This document details Welsh Government's 50-year strategy for woodlands and trees in Wales. It recognises Wales's trees as an important asset in delivering the Government's



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			<p>key priorities of driving green growth, resilience and safety and tackling poverty. The vision of the strategy is as follows:</p> <p><i>“Wales will be known for its high-quality woodlands that enhance the landscape, are appropriate to local conditions and have a diverse mixture of species and habitats”.</i></p> <p>It is envisaged that real local and national social and community benefits, thriving woodland-based industries and a better-quality environment throughout Wales can be achieved through delivery of the Strategy.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>

## Land and soil resources

Table A.6 Plans, policies and programmes and their key objectives as relevant to the land and soil resources SEA topic

Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<b>International</b>			
<a href="#">Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context</a>	1991	–	<p>The Convention was adopted in 1991 and entered into force in September 2007. The Convention and Protocol lie in an area of mixed competence (environment). The UK and the EU are parties to the Convention. The EU has implemented the EIA Directive that has been transposed into UK domestic law.</p> <p>The Convention sets out the obligations of Parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning. It also lays down the general</p>



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			<p>obligations of Parties to consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have significant transboundary effects. A revision to the Convention in 2004 indicated that affected Parties should be allowed to participate in scoping as appropriate.</p> <p>The Protocol on SEA (Kiev, 2003) augments the Espoo Convention and requires Parties to assess the environmental effects of their plans and programmes. The protocol also proposes extensive public participation in Government decision making. The UK has signed but not ratified the Protocol. The EU has ratified, and implements through the SEA Directive, transposed in UK domestic law.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the environmental impact of new energy infrastructure is considered at an early stage of planning.</p>
<a href="#">The OSPAR Convention</a>	1992	-	<p>The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, also referred to as the 'OSPAR Convention', is the current legislative instrument regulating international cooperation on environmental protection in the North-East Atlantic. This specifically addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention and elimination of pollution from land-based sources;</li> <li>• Prevention and elimination of pollution by dumping or incineration;</li> <li>• Prevention and elimination of pollution from offshore sources;</li> <li>• Assessment of the quality of the marine environment; and</li> <li>• The protection and conservation of the ecosystems and biological diversity of the maritime area.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with the OSPAR convention.</p>
<b>UK-wide</b>			



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">Agriculture Act 2020</a>	2020	Policy	<p>This Act underpins a new agricultural system based on the principle of public money for public goods. It includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Powers to give financial assistance; payments may encompass (but are not limited to) environmental protection, public access to the countryside and measures to safeguard livestock and plants; and</li><li>• Provisions requiring the Secretary of State (SoS) to report to Parliament on whether, or to what extent, provisions in free trade agreements (FTAs) that relate to agricultural products are consistent with the maintenance of UK statutory levels of protection in relation to human, animal and plant life or health, animal welfare and the environment.</li></ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Design Principles for National Infrastructure</a>	2020	Plan	<p>This plan identifies four principles to guide the planning and delivery of major infrastructure projects. These principles, developed by the Commission's Design Group in consultation with all infrastructure sectors, were created to guide the future projects which will upgrade and renew the UK's infrastructure system. They should be applied to all economic infrastructure: digital communications, energy, transport, flood management, water and waste.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Environment Act 2021</a>	2021	Policy	<p>The Environment Act sets out that the SoS may by regulations set long-term targets in respect of any matter which relates to a) the natural environment; or b) people's enjoyment of the natural environment. A long-term target must be in respect of at least</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>one matter within each of the four priority areas: a) air quality; b) water; c) biodiversity; and d) resource efficiency and waste reduction.</p> <p>The Act specifically requires the SoS to set by future regulation statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in two priority areas: air quality (PM2.5 air quality target) and biodiversity (species abundance target) and includes an important new target to reverse the decline in species abundance by the end of 2030. The SoS must also prepare an environmental improvement plan for significantly improving the natural environment for a period no shorter than 15 years.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004</a>	2004	Policy	<p>To comply with these regulations, if it is determined that a proposed plan or programme, or a modification to an existing plan or programme, is likely to have a significant environmental effect it will need a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA).</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Environmental Improvement Plan</a>	2023	Plan	<p>This plan sets out a series of ten goals for the environment, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife.</li><li>• Goal 2: Clean air.</li><li>• Goal 3: Clean and plentiful water.</li><li>• Goal 4: Managing exposure to chemicals and pesticides.</li><li>• Goal 5: Maximise our resources, minimise our waste.</li><li>• Goal 6: Using resources from nature sustainably.</li><li>• Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change.</li></ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal 8: Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards.</li> <li>• Goal 9: Enhancing biosecurity.</li> <li>• Goal 10: Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Environmental Protection Act 1990</a>	1990	Policy	<p>This act brings in a system of integrated pollution control for the disposal of wastes to land, water and air. There are three parts of the Act. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part I – establishes integrated pollution control and gives Local Authorities new powers to control air pollution from a range of prescribed processes;</li> <li>• Part II – improves the rules on waste disposal; and</li> <li>• Part III – covers statutory nuisances and clean air.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Independent Assessment of UK Climate Change Risk</a>	2021	-	<p>This report provides the Adaptation Committee's statutory advice to Governments on priorities for the forthcoming national adaptation plans and wider action. It is informed by extensive new evidence gathered for the accompanying Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) Technical Report. More than 60 risks and opportunities have been identified, fundamental to every aspect of life in the UK covering the natural environment, health, homes, infrastructure, and the economy.</p> <p>This new evidence shows that the gap between the level of risk the UK face and the level of adaptation underway has widened. Adaptation action has failed to keep pace with the worsening reality of climate risk.</p> <p>The Committee identifies eight risk areas that require the most urgent attention in the next two years. They have been selected on the basis of the urgency of additional</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>action; the gap in UK adaptation planning; the opportunity to integrate adaptation into forthcoming policy commitments; and the need to avoid locking in poor planning, especially as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The eight areas of risk are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Risks to the viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards;</li><li>• Risks to soil health from increased flooding and drought;</li><li>• Risks to natural carbon stores and sequestration from multiple hazards leading to increased emissions;</li><li>• Risks to crops, livestock and commercial trees from multiple hazards;</li><li>• Risks to supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate-related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks;</li><li>• Risks to people and the economy from climate-related failure of the power system;</li><li>• Risks to human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings; and</li><li>• Multiple risks to the UK from climate change impacts overseas.</li><li>• Ten principles for good adaptation planning that should form the basis for the next round of national adaptation plans are also recommended. These are intended to bring adaptation into mainstream consideration by government and business.</li></ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this report.</p>
<a href="#">Levelling Up &amp; Regeneration Act</a>	2023	Policy	<p>The UK Government has identified 12 policy areas for improvement by 2030 Initiates Planning reforms in England, including changes to the role of Local Planning Authorities (LPAs); the introduction of national development management policies (NDMPs);</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>reforms to the Local Plan-making process; and seeking to improve outcomes for the natural environment, including through the introduction of an Environmental Outcomes focus to environmental assessment.</p> <p>It should be noted that in Scotland and Wales, the Act does not alter the executive competence of Ministers or the legislative competence of Parliament.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Multifunctional Land Use Framework: The key to better land use decisions</a>	2023	-	<p>A Multifunctional Land Use Framework (MLUF) is a practical process that supports better, more sustainable decisions about land, by all those who need to make them. This briefing explains in more detail what a MLUF is and sets out the key principles and practices for an effective MLUF.</p> <p>The briefing also identifies the different stakeholders who will benefit from a Multifunctional Land Use Framework, and why, and shows how FFCC's on-the-ground pilot programmes have informed this land use decision process.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with the MLUF.</p>
<a href="#">Nationally Significant Infrastructure: Action plan for reforms to the planning process</a>	2023	Plan	<p>This Action Plan sets out the reforms to the NSIP regime that will be implemented to ensure the system can support future infrastructure needs.</p> <p>To meet the objectives of ensuring the NSIP consenting process is better at meeting statutory timescales, faster where environmental and community concerns can be addressed before examination, greener for the environment, fairer for communities and more resilient in resourcing, five reform areas have been developed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Setting a clear strategic direction</b>, where National Policy Statements and wider government policy reduce the policy ambiguity faced by individual projects.</li> </ol>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>2. <b>Bringing forward operational reforms to support faster consenting</b> with an emphasis on delivering proportionate examinations for all projects, strengthening pre-application advice and introducing a fast-track consenting timeframe for projects that meet quality criteria.</p> <p>3. <b>Realising better outcomes for the environment</b> replacing the cumbersome environmental assessment processes with new Environmental Outcomes Reports; reviewing the protected sites and species policy framework (including Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)) and introducing biodiversity net gain and developing principles for marine net gain for NSIPs.</p> <p>4. <b>Recognising the role of local authorities and strengthening community engagement with NSIPs</b>, with greater support and measures to embed community input and benefits much earlier in the process.</p> <p>5. <b>Improving system-wide capacity and capability</b>, including through developing skills and training and extending proportionate cost recovery by the Planning Inspectorate and key statutory consultees to support effective preparation and examination of NSIPs and build resilience into the system.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Planning Act 2008</a>	2008	Policy	<p>This legislation sets out how the planning system should deal with nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIP). The legislation created a regime of National Policy Statements (NPS). These NPS give reasons for the policy set out in the statement and must include an explanation of how the policy takes account of Government policy relating to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. They include the Government's objectives for the development of nationally significant infrastructure in a particular sector and state:</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How this will contribute to sustainable development.</li> <li>• How these objectives have been integrated with other Government policies.</li> <li>• How actual and projected capacity and demand have been considered.</li> <li>• Consider relevant issues in relation to safety or technology.</li> <li>• Circumstances where it would be particularly important to address the adverse impacts of development.</li> <li>• Specific locations, where appropriate, in order to provide a clear framework for investment and planning decisions.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<b>English</b>			
<a href="#">A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment</a>	2018	Plan	<p>The Government's 25-Year Environment Plan sets out their position on environmental improvements, focussed on delivering cleaner air and water across the country, protecting at-risk wildlife, and improving natural habitats in England. The Plan sets the following key actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using and managing land sustainably, including embedding an "environmental net gain" principle into development.</li> <li>• Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes.</li> <li>• Connecting people to the environment to improve health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• Increase resource efficiency and reducing pollution.</li> <li>• Securing clean, healthy and productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans.</li> <li>• Protecting and improving the global environment.</li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.
<a href="#">The Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006 as amended by The Contaminated Land (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012</a>	2012	Policy	<p>These regulations outline the regulations on contaminated land in order to prevent new land becoming contaminated by polluting substances, whilst also tackling historic contamination of sites as it poses risks to human health and the environment.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">England Trees Action Plan 2021 to 2024</a>	2021	Plan	<p>Building on ambitions outlined in the 25 Year Environment Plan, Government will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nature Recovery:</b> The government will continue to improve the condition and increase the extent of most precious woodland habitats, such as protected sites and irreplaceable ancient woodlands.</li> <li>• <b>Levelling up through a thriving forest economy:</b> The government will encourage demand for UK grown timber which can reduce the carbon footprint from imports and reduce emissions by replacing carbon-intensive materials and encourage innovative green finance for trees and woodlands.</li> <li>• <b>Trees and woodlands for water and soil:</b> The right trees and woodland in the right places along and near rivers and within water catchments present opportunities for improving water quality, for flood alleviation and nature recovery. Soil is critical to supporting trees and woodland and the government will improve the understanding</li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>of appropriate soil management to sequester carbon and protect this precious resource from degradation and inappropriate tree establishment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trees and woodlands for people in town and country:</b> Trees and woodlands can cool the settlements, improve air quality and contribute to community cohesion and sense of place. The government will take steps to improve public access to trees and woodlands in a responsible way, encourage community-led tree planting and invest in partnerships with communities and local government.</li> <li>• <b>Heritage and landscape:</b> Trees and woodlands are important features in the landscapes. The government will encourage greater landscape scale planning which will enhance and transform landscape character, while protecting and conserving heritage assets from inappropriate tree planting and during woodland management.</li> <li>• <b>Trees outside woodlands:</b> Trees throughout the environment such as wood pastures, ancient and veteran trees, scrub, scattered and hedgerow trees contribute to England's natural beauty and are important spaces for nature. The government must continue to protect and enhance these features.</li> <li>• <b>Healthy, resilient trees and woodlands:</b> The government will act now to help the trees and woodlands adapt, to enhance their resilience to stresses by reducing risks and encouraging greater diversity.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation)</a>	2015	Policy	These regulations impose obligations on operators of certain activities requiring them to prevent or remediate environmental damage. They apply to damage to protected species, natural habitats, SSSIs, water and land.



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<a href="#"><u>(England) Regulations 2015 as amended by The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2019</u></a>			The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to these policies.
<a href="#"><u>The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016</u></a>	2016	Policy	<p>The legislation provides regulatory framework for those operating, regulating or interested in facilities that are covered by the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016. This covers facilities previously regulated under the Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) Regulations 2007; Waste Management Licensing and exemptions scheme (as superseded by the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007); some parts of the Water Resources Act 1991; the Radioactive Substances Act 1993; and the Groundwater Regulations 2009.</p> <p>Activities previously regulated under the PPC Regime will remain as Part A1, Part A2 or Part B, and will continue to be regulated by the Environment Agency (for Part A1 activities) or the local authority (for Part A2 and Part B activities).</p> <p>The aim of the regime is to protect the environment so that statutory and Government policy environmental targets and outcomes are achieved.</p> <p>Deliver permitting and compliance with permits and certain environmental targets.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>



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<a href="#">The Environmental Targets (Residual Waste) (England) Regulations 2023</a>	2023	Policy	<p>The Regulations specify the standard to be achieved in respect of the target and the date by which it must be achieved. Regulation 2 makes provision in respect of a long-term target to ensure that the total mass of residual waste per head of population in England does not exceed 287kg by the end of 2042.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Government Review of Waste Policy in England 2011</a>	2011	Policy	<p>This document is a review of waste policy in England and is guided by a waste hierarchy which is a guide to sustainable waste management and a legal requirement. Key objectives include the use of more sustainable approaches to the use of materials and to improve the service to householders and businesses in order to deliver environmental benefits and support economic growth. This review covers a range of topics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainable use of materials and waste prevention;</li><li>• Regulations and enforcement;</li><li>• Food waste;</li><li>• Energy recovery;</li><li>• Infrastructure and planning; and</li><li>• Next steps in waste policy.</li></ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy review.</p>
<a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</a>	2024	Policy	<p>The NPPF sets out the government's planning policies for England and was most recently revised in December 2024. The main amendments to this policy with regards to energy come under 'Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change'. The update to the NPPF should assist decision makers dealing with proposals</p>



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			<p>to use and improve existing renewable energy sites giving weight to the advantages of doing so. The addition of a new paragraph under this header specifies that “<i>Wind Energy Development involving one or more turbines can also be permitted through Local Development Orders, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders</i>”. The increase in accepted routes to achieve development of Wind Turbine sites is intended to make the process more flexible and therefore quicker and easier to increase wind farms producing renewable or low carbon energy.</p> <p>The NNPF is accompanied by relevant Planning Practice Guidance as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> (2020): Explains requirements of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.</li> <li>• <b>Water supply, wastewater and water quality</b> (2019): Advises on how planning can ensure water quality and the delivery of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to the NNPF.</p>
<a href="#">National Planning Policy for Waste</a>	2014	Policy	<p>This document sets out detailed waste planning policies. It should be read in conjunction with the NNPF and National Policy Statements for Waste Water and Hazardous Waste. The policy provides guidance to local planning authorities in planning for future facilities and determining planning applications.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Planning for the Future</a>	2020	Policy	<p>This white paper sets out the Government's proposals for “<i>once in a generation</i>” reform of England's planning system, and separate proposals to reform the current system of calculating housing need proved controversial.</p>



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			<p>The three pillars of the white paper are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planning for development;</li><li>• Planning for beautiful and sustainable places; and</li><li>• Planning for infrastructure and connected places.</li></ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this white paper.</p>
<a href="#">Resource and Waste Strategy for England</a>	2018	Plan	<p>This strategy sets out how material resources will be preserved by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy in England. It combines actions the Government will take now with firm commitments for the coming years and gives a clear longer-term policy direction in line with our 25-Year Environment Plan. It sets out to double resource productivity and eliminate avoidable waste of all kinds (including plastic waste) by 2050, minimise the damage caused to our natural environment by reducing and managing waste safely and carefully and deal with waste crime A more circular economy (re-use, remanufacture, repair, recycle) will keep resources in use for as long as possible. It will allow the Government to extract maximum value from them, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of their lifespan.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England</a>	2009	Plan	<p>The purpose of this strategy is to highlight the areas in which soil will be prioritised and to focus attention on tackling degradation threats. The vision of this paper is to try and ensure that by 2030, all England's soils will be managed sustainably and depredation threats tackled successfully and that this will improve the quality of England's soils and</p>



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			<p>safeguard their ability to provide essential services for future generations. Key topics include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better protection for agricultural soils;</li> <li>• Protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon;</li> <li>• Building the resilience of soils to a changing climate;</li> <li>• Preventing soil pollution; and</li> <li>• Future research and monitoring.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning and Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2018</a>	2018	Policy	<p>These Regulations amend the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. These new regulations set out the procedures to be followed in relation to EIA linked to nationally significant infrastructure projects in England and Wales. The objective is to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to help integrate environmental considerations into the preparation of proposals for development to reduce their impact on the environment.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Waste Management Plan for England 2021</a>	2021	Plan	<p>This Plan is an analysis of the current waste management situation in England. The plan does not introduce new policies or change how waste is managed in England. Instead it aim is to bring current waste management policies together under one national plan.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">Waste Prevention Programme for England</a>	2013	Programme	<p>This Programme sets out the government's view of the key roles and actions which should be taken to move towards a more resource efficient economy. As well as describing the actions the government is taking to support this move, it also highlights actions businesses, the wider public sector, the civil society and consumers can take to benefit from preventing waste.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this programme.</p>
<a href="#">Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 as amended by The Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014</a>	2014	Policy	<p>These regulations implement the revised EU Waste Framework Directive 2008/98 which sets requirements for the collection, transport, recovery and disposal of waste. It outlines that it is a requirement for businesses to confirm that they have applied the waste management hierarchy when transferring waste and include a declaration to this effect on their waste transfer note or consignment note. The regulations apply to businesses that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce waste;</li> <li>• Import or export waste;</li> <li>• Carry or transport waste;</li> <li>• Keep or store waste;</li> <li>• Treat waste;</li> <li>• Dispose of waste; and</li> <li>• Operate as waste brokers or dealers.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>

## Scottish



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">The Contaminated Land (Scotland) Regulations 2000 and 2005</a>	2005	Policy	<p>These Regulations were made to ensure the proper management and remediation of contaminated land, which is causing or has the potential to cause significant harm or significant pollution of the water environment.</p> <p>These have been produced by Scottish Ministers in exercise of powers under the Environmental Protection Act (1990). Topics covered include pollution of controlled waters, remediation notices and appeals to Scottish Ministers.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to these policies.</p>
<a href="#">Delivering Our Vision for Scottish Agriculture</a>	2022	-	<p>The new Agriculture Bill will aim to provide Scotland with a framework to support and work with farmers and crofters to meet more of their food needs sustainably and to farm and croft with nature. To ensure that Scotland's people are able to live and work sustainably on Scottish land, this framework will deliver high quality food production, climate mitigation and adaptation, nature protection and restoration, and wider rural development. This consultation also includes proposals to modernise agricultural holdings and Scottish agricultural wages whilst seeking to compliment the forthcoming Bills relating to land and the environment. The new Agriculture Bill must therefore provide the legal framework to deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Scottish Government's Vision for Agriculture;</li><li>• The National Performance Framework outcomes;</li><li>• Programme for Government and Bute House draft shared policy programme priorities;</li><li>• Emissions and nature restoration targets;</li><li>• Building on minimum regulatory standards;</li></ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just Transition which supports agriculture, land integration and land use change in a way that follows the Just Transition principles;</li> <li>• Value for money; and</li> <li>• Broad alignment to EU CAP objectives.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this framework.</p>
<a href="#">Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016</a>	2016	Policy	<p>This Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes provision for a land rights and responsibilities statement;</li> <li>• Establish the Scottish Land Commission, provide for its functions and the functions of the Land Commissioners and the Tenant Farming Commissioner;</li> <li>• Makes provision about access to, and provision of, information about owners and controllers of land;</li> <li>• Makes provision about engaging communities in decisions relating to land;</li> <li>• Enables certain persons to buy land to further sustainable development;</li> <li>• Makes provision for non-domestic rates to be levied on shootings and deer forests; to make provision about the change of use of common good land;</li> <li>• Makes provision about the management of deer on land;</li> <li>• Makes provision about access rights to land; and</li> <li>• Amends the law on agricultural holdings to provide for new forms of agricultural tenancy; to remove the requirement to register before tenants of certain holdings can exercise a right to buy; to provide a new power of sale where a landlord is in breach of certain obligations; to provide about rent reviews; to expand the list of the persons to whom holdings can be assigned or bequeathed and to whom holdings can be transferred on intestacy and to make provision about landlords' objections to</li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>such successor tenants; to provide for certain holdings to be relinquished where landlords agree or assigned to persons new to or progressing in farming; to provide for a 3 year amnesty period in relation to certain improvements carried out by tenants and to provide for notice of certain improvements proposed by landlords; and for connected purposes.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)</a>	2023	Policy	<p>The NPF4 sets out Scotland's spatial principles, regional priorities, national developments and national planning policy.</p> <p>Part 1 – A National Spatial Strategy for Scotland 2045 sets out six overarching spatial principles which play a key role in delivering UN SDGs and Scottish national outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just transition;</li> <li>• Conserving and recycling assets;</li> <li>• Local living;</li> <li>• Compact urban growth;</li> <li>• Rebalanced development; and</li> <li>• Rural revitalisation.</li> </ul> <p>Part 2 – National Planning Policy sets out 33 policies on topics including tackling the climate and nature crises; climate mitigation and action; and biodiversity.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to the NPF4.</p>
<a href="#">Planning advice notes (PANs)</a>	Various	Plan	Relevant PANs include:



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PAN 33: Development of Contaminated Land</b> – Sets out the role of the planning system in addressing historical contamination.</li> <li>• <b>PAN 61: Waste Management Planning</b> – Provides advice on a sustainable approach and change of emphasis from waste disposal to integrated waste management; assists planning authorities in ensuring that development plans reflect the land use requirements for the delivery of an integrated network of waste management facilities; provides a basis for more informed consideration of development proposals for waste management facilities; enables planning authorities to implement the emerging and future Area Waste Plans; and provides developers seeking planning permission for waste management facilities with advice on the issues taken into consideration when determining applications.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this PAN.</p>
<a href="#">Planning (Scotland) Act 2019</a>	2019	Policy	<p>This Act makes provision about how land is developed and used.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Scotland's Third Land Use Strategy 2021-2026</a>	2021	Plan	<p>This Strategy sets out Scotland's vision, objectives and policies to achieve sustainable land use. The strategy covers the next five years and aims to provide a more holistic understanding of Scotland's land, the demands Scotland place upon it, and the benefits Scotland get from their land.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">The Scottish Soil Framework</a>	2009	–	<p>This Framework is aimed at government policy leads, delivery partners, environmental and business NGOs, research organisations, and other key stakeholders with an interest.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>The objective of the Framework is to instigate a process by which key stakeholders will work together to achieve better soil protection. The multi-functionality of soil requires partnership and coordination with key delivery partners. To bring about joint working, the Scottish Government will facilitate liaison amongst relevant organisations.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this framework.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013</a>	2013	Policy	<p>This Order provides for procedures connected with pre-application consultation; applications for planning permission; the planning authority; consultations; local development orders; certificates of lawful use or development; and the maintenance of registers of planning applications.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017</a>	2017	Policy	<p>EIA is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects arising from a proposed development.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012</a>	2012	Policy	<p>These Regulations outline and expand on the duty of care responsibilities of businesses with respect to waste they produce. The main compliance actions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Segregate, store and transport your waste appropriately and securely;</li> <li>• Check that your waste is transported and handled by people or businesses that are authorised to do so;</li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete waste transfer notes to document all waste you transfer, and keep them as a record for at least two years; and</li> <li>• Take all reasonable steps to apply the waste management hierarchy before disposing of waste.</li> </ul> <p>From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014, ensure glass, metal, plastic, paper and card is separated for collection. Take steps to avoid cross contamination of these materials.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<b>Welsh</b>			
<a href="#"><u>The Contaminated Land (Wales) Regulations 2006 as amended by The Contaminated Land (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012</u></a>	2012	Policy	<p>These regulations make provision, in relation to Wales, for the identification and remediation of contaminated land under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. It sets out the regime to deal with contaminated land and provides a system to identify and remediate sites where contamination is causing unacceptable risk to human health and/or the wider environment.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#"><u>The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (Wales) Regulations 2009 as amended by The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation)</u></a>	2015	Policy	<p>These regulations impose obligations on operators of certain activities requiring them to prevent or remediate environmental damage. They apply to damage to protected species, natural habitats, SSSIs, water and land.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to these policies.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">(Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2015</a>			
<a href="#">The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016</a>	2016	Policy	<p>These Regulations provide a regulatory framework for those operating, regulating or interested in facilities that are covered by the Regulations. This covers facilities previously regulated under the Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) Regulations 2007; Waste Management Licensing and exemptions scheme (as superseded by the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007); some parts of the Water Resources Act 1991; the Radioactive Substances Act 1993; and the Groundwater Regulations 2009.</p> <p>Activities previously regulated under the PPC Regime will remain as Part A1, Part A2 or Part B, and will continue to be regulated by the Environment Agency (for Part A1 activities) or the local authority (for Part A2 and Part B activities).</p> <p>The aim of the regime is to protect the environment so that statutory and Government policy environmental targets and outcomes are achieved and deliver permitting and compliance with permits and certain environmental targets.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Environment (Wales) Act 2016</a>	2016	Policy	<p>Legislation introduced by the National Assembly for Wales enabling the planning and management of the natural resources of Wales in a more sustainable, proactive and joined-up way than was previously possible. The Act has seven main parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable management of natural resources;</li> <li>• Climate change;</li> <li>• Charges for carrier bags;</li> <li>• Collection and disposal of waste;</li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fisheries for shellfish;</li> <li>• Marine licensing; and</li> <li>• Flood and coastal erosion committee.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Future Wales: The National Plan 2040</a>	2021	Plan	<p>This Plan is a 20-year development plan for the whole of Wales. Planning decisions must be made in accordance with Future Wales unless material considerations indicate otherwise. It sets out Welsh Government land use priorities and provides a national land use framework for regional Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) and LDPs. It concentrates on development and land use issues of national significance, indicating areas of major opportunities and change, and also highlighting areas that need protecting and enhancing.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Green Growth Wales: Investing in the Future</a>	2014	-	<p>This prospectus sets out how the sustainable use of our natural resources can create a new economic model that will deliver wealth creation and economic growth both today and in to the future. It sets out our key offers around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our wealth of natural resources;</li> <li>• A flexible and committed Government; and</li> <li>• Practical and customised support for business.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">Natural resources policy</a>	2018	Policy	<p>The focus of this policy is the sustainable management of Wales natural resources, to maximise their contribution to achieving goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The policy sets out three National Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivering nature-based solutions;</li> <li>• Increasing renewable energy and resource efficiency; and</li> <li>• Taking a place-based approach.</li> </ul> <p>The Policy sets the context for Area Statements, ensuring that the national priorities for delivering sustainable management of natural resources inform the approach to local delivery.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Natural Resources Wales – Guidance and advice</a>	Various	-	<p>Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has recently produced technical guidance which is relevant to energy technologies. These provide information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine aggregate extraction;</li> <li>• Offshore wind developments;</li> <li>• Marine renewable energy developments;</li> <li>• Using adaptive management for marine developments;</li> <li>• Scoping an Environmental Impact Assessment for marine developments;</li> <li>• Marine ecology datasets for marine developments – guidance for developers on the datasets NRW holds that is useful in scoping assessments;</li> <li>• Marine vertebrate conservation legislation in Wales;</li> <li>• Benthic habitat assessments for marine developments;</li> <li>• Marine physical processes and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>NRW has further relevant guidance under development which will be added to their website as soon as it is available.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with NRW's technical guidance.</p>
<a href="#">Planning Policy Wales</a>	2021	Policy	<p>Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (11<sup>th</sup> Edition) was published alongside Future Wales. It sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), Welsh Government Circulars, and policy clarification letters, which together with PPW provide the national planning policy framework for Wales. PPW, the TANs, Mineral TANs (MTANs), and policy clarification letters comprise national planning policy.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to PPW.</p>
<a href="#">Planning (Wales) Act 2015</a>	2015	Policy	<p>This Act sets out a series of legislative changes to deliver reform of the planning system in Wales, to ensure that it is fair, resilient and enables development. The act addresses five key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modernised framework for the delivery of planning services;</li> <li>• Strengthening the plan led approach – the act introduces a legal basis for the preparation of a National Development Framework and Strategic Development Plans;</li> <li>• Improved resilience – the act allows the Welsh Ministers to direct local planning authorities to work together and for local planning authorities to be merged;</li> <li>• Frontloading and improving the development management system – the act will introduce a statutory pre- application procedure for defined categories of planning application; and</li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enabling effective enforcement and appeals – the act enables changes to enforcement procedures to secure prompt, meaningful action against breaches of planning control and increase the transparency and efficiency of the appeal system.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) for Wales 2020</a>	2020	-	<p>This is Wales's second assessment of sustainable management of natural resources, including Wales's impact globally. It assesses the extent to which natural resources in Wales are being sustainably managed and recommends a proactive approach to building resilience. The report links the resilience of Welsh natural resources to the well-being of the people of Wales.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure considers this report.</p>
<a href="#">Technical Advice Notes</a>	2017	Plan	<p>Technical advice notes (TANs) provide detailed planning advice. Local planning authorities take them into account when they are preparing development plans. There are 24 TANs. Relevant TANs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>TAN 21: Waste</b> – Guidance on the role of land use planning in the sustainable management and control of waste.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this TAN.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning and Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment)</a>	2018	Policy	<p>These Regulations amend the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. These new regulations set out the procedures to be followed in relation to EIA linked to nationally significant infrastructure projects in England and Wales. The objective is to provide a high level of protection of the</p>



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<a href="#">(Amendment) Regulations 2018</a>			<p>environment and to help integrate environmental considerations into the preparation of proposals for development to reduce their impact on the environment.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>

## Landscape and seascape

Table A.7 Plans, policies and programmes and their key objectives as relevant to the landscape and seascape SEA topic

Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<b>International</b>			
<a href="#">Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context</a>	1991	-	<p>The Convention was adopted in 1991 and entered into force in September 2007. The Convention and Protocol lie in an area of mixed competence (environment). The UK and the EU are parties to the Convention. The EU has implemented the EIA Directive that has been transposed into UK domestic law.</p> <p>The Convention sets out the obligations of Parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning. It also lays down the general obligations of Parties to consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have significant transboundary effects. A revision to the Convention in 2004 indicated that affected Parties should be allowed to participate in scoping as appropriate.</p> <p>The Protocol on SEA (Kiev, 2003) augments the Espoo Convention and requires Parties to assess the environmental effects of their plans and programmes. The protocol also</p>



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			<p>proposes extensive public participation in Government decision making. The UK has signed but not ratified the Protocol. The EU has ratified, and implements through the SEA Directive, transposed in UK domestic law.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the environmental impact of new energy infrastructure is considered at an early stage of planning.</p>
<a href="#">The European Landscape Convention (The Florence Convention)</a>	2000	-	<p>The European Landscape Convention is part of the Council of Europe's work on natural and cultural heritage, spatial planning and the environment. The convention states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landscape contributes to the formation of local cultures and that it is a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage, contributing to human wellbeing and consolidation of the European identity; and</li> <li>• That developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques and in regional planning, town planning, transport, infrastructure, tourism and recreation and, at a more general level, changes in the world economy are in many cases accelerating the transformation of landscapes.</li> </ul> <p>The aims of this Convention are to promote landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European cooperation on landscape issues.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this convention.</p>
<b>UK-wide</b>			
<a href="#">Countryside and Rights of Way Act</a>	2000	Policy	<p>This Act contains five Parts and 16 Schedules and provides for public access on foot to certain types of land, amends the law relating to public rights of way, increases measures for the management and protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and provides for better</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>management of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) (now referred to as 'National Landscapes').</p> <p>The Act is compliant with the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights, requiring consultation where the rights of the individual may be affected by these measures.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004</a>	2004	Policy	<p>To comply with these regulations, if it is determined that a proposed plan or programme, or a modification to an existing plan or programme, is likely to have a significant environmental effect it will need a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA).</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Environmental Improvement Plan</a>	2023	Plan	<p>This plan sets out a series of ten goals for the environment, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife.</li><li>• Goal 2: Clean air.</li><li>• Goal 3: Clean and plentiful water.</li><li>• Goal 4: Managing exposure to chemicals and pesticides.</li><li>• Goal 5: Maximise our resources, minimise our waste.</li><li>• Goal 6: Using resources from nature sustainably.</li><li>• Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change.</li><li>• Goal 8: Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards.</li><li>• Goal 9: Enhancing biosecurity.</li><li>• Goal 10: Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment.</li></ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with the ten goals set out within this plan.
<a href="#">Levelling Up &amp; Regeneration Act</a>	2023	Policy	<p>The UK Government has identified 12 policy areas for improvement by 2030 Initiates Planning reforms in England, including changes to the role of Local Planning Authorities (LPAs); the introduction of national development management policies (NDMPs); reforms to the Local Plan-making process; and seeking to improve outcomes for the natural environment, including through the introduction of an Environmental Outcomes focus to environmental assessment.</p> <p>It should be noted that in Scotland and Wales, the Act does not alter the executive competence of Ministers or the legislative competence of Parliament.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949</a>	1949	Policy	<p>This was an act that made provision for National Parks and the establishment of a National Parks Commission. It was also to confer on the Nature Conservancy and local authorities' powers for the establishment and maintenance of nature reserves. It made further provision for the recording, creation, maintenance and improvement of public paths and for securing access to open country and to amend laws relating to rights of way.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Nationally Significant Infrastructure: Action plan for reforms to the planning process</a>	2023	Plan	<p>This Action Plan sets out the reforms to the NSIP regime that will be implemented to ensure the system can support future infrastructure needs.</p> <p>To meet the objectives of ensuring the NSIP consenting process is better at meeting statutory timescales, faster where environmental and community concerns can be</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>addressed before examination, greener for the environment, fairer for communities and more resilient in resourcing, five reform areas have been developed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Setting a clear strategic direction</b>, where National Policy Statements and wider government policy reduce the policy ambiguity faced by individual projects.</li> <li>2. <b>Bringing forward operational reforms to support faster consenting</b> with an emphasis on delivering proportionate examinations for all projects, strengthening pre-application advice and introducing a fast-track consenting timeframe for projects that meet quality criteria.</li> <li>3. <b>Realising better outcomes for the environment</b> replacing the cumbersome environmental assessment processes with new Environmental Outcomes Reports; reviewing the protected sites and species policy framework (including Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)) and introducing biodiversity net gain and developing principles for marine net gain for NSIPs.</li> <li>4. <b>Recognising the role of local authorities and strengthening community engagement with NSIPs</b>, with greater support and measures to embed community input and benefits much earlier in the process.</li> <li>5. <b>Improving system-wide capacity and capability</b>, including through developing skills and training and extending proportionate cost recovery by the Planning Inspectorate and key statutory consultees to support effective preparation and examination of NSIPs and build resilience into the system.</li> </ol> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Planning Act 2008</a>	2008	Policy	<p>This legislation sets out how the planning system should deal with nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIP). The legislation created a regime of National Policy</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>Statements (NPS). These NPS give reasons for the policy set out in the statement and must include an explanation of how the policy takes account of Government policy relating to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. They include the Government's objectives for the development of nationally significant infrastructure in a particular sector and state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How this will contribute to sustainable development.</li> <li>• How these objectives have been integrated with other Government policies.</li> <li>• How actual and projected capacity and demand have been considered.</li> <li>• Consider relevant issues in relation to safety or technology.</li> <li>• Circumstances where it would be particularly important to address the adverse impacts of development.</li> <li>• Specific locations, where appropriate, in order to provide a clear framework for investment and planning decisions.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<b>English</b>			
<a href="#">A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment</a>	2018	Plan	<p>The Government's 25-Year Environment Plan sets out their position on environmental improvements, focussed on delivering cleaner air and water across the country, protecting at-risk wildlife, and improving natural habitats in England. The Plan sets the following key actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using and managing land sustainably, including embedding an "environmental net gain" principle into development.</li> <li>• Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes.</li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connecting people to the environment to improve health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• Increase resource efficiency and reducing pollution.</li> <li>• Securing clean, healthy and productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans.</li> <li>• Protecting and improving the global environment.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Delivering 30 by 30 on land in England</a>	2020	Programme	<p>The Prime Minister has committed in September 2020 to protect 30% of the UK's land by 2030.</p> <p>Existing National Parks, National Landscapes and other protected areas already comprise approximately 26% of land in England. An additional 4% – over 400,000ha – will be protected to support the recovery of nature.</p> <p>The Government will work with the Devolved Administrations to agree an approach across the UK, and with landowners and civil society to explore how best to increase the size and value of our protected land.</p> <p>The government has committed significant new investment to support environmental enhancement and protection in England through the Nature for Climate Fund and the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this programme.</p>
<a href="#">England Trees Action Plan 2021 to 2024</a>	2021	Plan	<p>Building on ambitions outlined in the 25 Year Environment Plan, Government will focus on:</p>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Nature Recovery:</b> The government will continue to improve the condition and increase the extent of most precious woodland habitats, such as protected sites and irreplaceable ancient woodlands.</li><li>• <b>Levelling up through a thriving forest economy:</b> The government will encourage demand for UK grown timber which can reduce the carbon footprint from imports and reduce emissions by replacing carbon-intensive materials and encourage innovative green finance for trees and woodlands.</li><li>• <b>Trees and woodlands for water and soil:</b> The right trees and woodland in the right places along and near rivers and within water catchments present opportunities for improving water quality, for flood alleviation and nature recovery. Soil is critical to supporting trees and woodland and the government will improve the understanding of appropriate soil management to sequester carbon and protect this precious resource from degradation and inappropriate tree establishment.</li><li>• <b>Trees and woodlands for people in town and country:</b> Trees and woodlands can cool the settlements, improve air quality and contribute to community cohesion and sense of place. The government will take steps to improve public access to trees and woodlands in a responsible way, encourage community-led tree planting and invest in partnerships with communities and local government.</li><li>• <b>Heritage and landscape:</b> Trees and woodlands are important features in the landscapes. The government will encourage greater landscape scale planning which will enhance and transform landscape character, while protecting and conserving heritage assets from inappropriate tree planting and during woodland management.</li><li>• <b>Trees outside woodlands:</b> Trees throughout the environment such as wood pastures, ancient and veteran trees, scrub, scattered and hedgerow trees contribute to</li></ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>England's natural beauty and are important spaces for nature. The government must continue to protect and enhance these features.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Healthy, resilient trees and woodlands:</b> The government will act now to help the trees and woodlands adapt, to enhance their resilience to stresses by reducing risks and encouraging greater diversity.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">England Tree Strategy Consultation</a>	2020	Plan	<p>A consultation aiming to inform the Government update on tree, woodland and forestry policy – looking to increase tree planting, connect people to nature and improve woodland management leading to supporting the economy and helping to address climate change. Trees are stated as <i>“a unique natural asset that play a crucial role in combating the biodiversity and climate crises”</i>. Subject to consultation, the government is looking to increase tree planting to 30,000 hectares per year spread out over the UK by 2025. This will contribute towards the Nature Recovery Network, aiming to either restore or create 500,000ha of habitat that is dense in wildlife. The strategy aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and improve our trees and woodlands by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Sustainable management of invasive species;</li> <li>– Stronger protection for ancient woodland;</li> <li>– Greater proportion of woodland in active management; and</li> <li>– Adapting treescapes for other uses such as natural flood management.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Engage people with trees and woodland by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improving green infrastructure quality, supporting better long-term health; and</li> <li>○ Using Community Forests to improve access to existing woodlands and create new ones.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting the economy by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanding the market for wood products and upskilling farmers and land managers to add trees into their businesses.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Support sustainable timber and further sustainable uses such as within energy.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">English National Parks and the Broads: UK Government Vision and Circular 2010</a>	2010	-	<p>This circular is relevant to those bodies with appropriate statutory functions and will be of interest to all those who have a key role in contributing to the success of the National Parks, including landowners and land managers, private companies and voluntary bodies. In relation to the National Parks, it sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A vision for the English National Parks and the Broads for 2030;</li> <li>The key outcomes the Government is seeking over the next five years to ensure early progress towards the vision and suggested actions for achieving those outcomes;</li> <li>The key statutory duties of the National Park authorities (NPAs) and the Broads Authority (together 'the Authorities') and how they should be taken forward;</li> <li>Policy on governance of the Authorities; and</li> <li>The contributions needed from others.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this circular.</p>
<a href="#">The Environmental Targets (Woodland and Trees Outside</a>	2023	Policy	<p><b>2050 Target</b></p> <p>These regulations specifies a long-term target in accordance with Section 1(1) of the 2021 Act in respect of the percentage of land in England covered by woodland and trees</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">Woodland) (England) Regulations 2023</a>			<p>outside woodland. The target is that by the end of 2050, at least 16.5% of all land in England is covered by woodland and trees outside woodland.</p> <p><b>Measurement</b></p> <p>To determine whether the target in Regulation 3 is met, the area of land covered by woodland and trees outside woodland is to be calculated by the Forestry Commission. The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement</a>	2013	Policy	<p>This Policy Statement is designed to enable the forestry sector to protect, improve and expand forestry assets so that these benefits can be maximised now and maintained for the future.</p> <p>The policy aims to ensure a forestry sector and woodland resource that keeps growing and providing benefits, despite threats such as pests and diseases and climate change, without requiring more government intervention.</p> <p>To achieve this the Policy Statement sites key objectives (in priority order):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting the nation's trees, woodlands and forests from increasing threats such as pests, diseases and climate change.</li> <li>• Improving their resilience to these threats and their contribution to economic growth, people's lives and nature.</li> <li>• Expanding them to further increase their value.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Green Infrastructure Standards</a>	2023	-	<p>The Green Infrastructure Standards are a key component of the Green Infrastructure Framework. The Standards aim to provide clarity on the quality and quantity of green infrastructure needed to deliver climate change adaptation, net zero and wellbeing</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>benefits. They define what good green infrastructure “looks like”. The five headline Standards are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Green Infrastructure Strategy Standard</li><li>2. Accessible Greenspace Standard</li><li>3. Urban Nature Recovery Standard</li><li>4. Urban Greening Factor Standard</li><li>5. Urban Tree Canopy Cover Standard</li></ol> <p>The headline Standards distinguish the recommended levels of achievement for major new developments and for area wide application.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres is in line with these standards.</p>
<a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</a>	2024	Policy	<p>The NPPF sets out the government’s planning policies for England and was most recently revised in December 2024. The main amendments to this policy with regards to energy come under 'Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change'. The update to the NPPF should assist decision makers dealing with proposals to use and improve existing renewable energy sites giving weight to the advantages of doing so. The addition of a new paragraph under this header specifies that “<i>Wind Energy Development involving one or more turbines can also be permitted through Local Development Orders, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders</i>”. The increase in accepted routes to achieve development of Wind Turbine sites is intended to make the process more flexible and therefore quicker and easier to increase wind farms producing renewable or low carbon energy.</p> <p>The NNPF is accompanied by relevant Planning Practice Guidance as follows:</p>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> (2020): Explains requirements of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.</li> <li>• <b>Green Belt</b> (2023): Advice on the role of the Green Belt in the planning system.</li> <li>• <b>Light pollution</b> (2019): Advises on how to consider light within the planning system.</li> <li>• <b>Natural environment</b> (2024): Explains key issues in implementing policy to protect and enhance the natural environment, including local requirements.</li> <li>• <b>Noise</b> (2019): Advises on how planning can manage potential noise impacts in new development.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to the NPPF.</p>
<a href="#">Planning for the Future</a>	2020	Policy	<p>This white paper sets out the Government's proposals for "<i>once in a generation</i>" reform of England's planning system, and separate proposals to reform the current system of calculating housing need proved controversial.</p> <p>The three pillars of the white paper are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning for development;</li> <li>• Planning for beautiful and sustainable places; and</li> <li>• Planning for infrastructure and connected places.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning and Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact</a>	2018	Policy	<p>These Regulations amend the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. These new regulations set out the procedures to be followed in relation to EIA linked to nationally significant infrastructure projects in England and Wales. The objective is to provide a high level of protection of the</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2018</a>			<p>environment and to help integrate environmental considerations into the preparation of proposals for development to reduce their impact on the environment.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning (Trees Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012</a>	2012	Policy	<p>The Regulations are made under the powers conferred on the SoS by sections 202A to 202G, 206(1)(b), 212, 213(1)(b), 316(1), 323 and 333(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The Regulations require an application to be made for cutting down, topping, lopping or uprooting of any tree with a tree preservation order (TPO). This application must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be made in writing to the authority;</li> <li>• Include all of the information specified on the form; and</li> <li>• Be accompanied by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A plan which identifies the tree or trees to which the application relates;</li> <li>– Information specifying the work to be undertaken;</li> <li>– A statement of the applicant's reasons for making the application; and</li> <li>– Appropriate evidence describing any structural damage to property or in relation to tree health or safety, as applicable.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<b>Scottish</b>			
<a href="#">Control of Woodland Removal</a>	2012	Policy	<p>At a national scale, Scotland is continuing to expand its woodland resource to counteract historic deforestation. The Scottish Government has developed a policy on</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>the control of woodland removal to provide direction for decisions on woodland removal in Scotland.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018</a>	2018	Policy	<p>This Act makes new provisions regarding Scottish Ministers' functions in relation to forestry. It sets out the following (amongst other things):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A duty to prepare a forestry strategy;</li> <li>• A duty to promote sustainable forest management; and</li> <li>• Permissions and rules regarding felling.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">National Parks Advice to Ministers</a>	2023	-	<p>This report fulfils the request by Scottish Government for NatureScot to provide advice on National Parks. Specifically, on changes to the role and approach to National Parks, and how nominations for new National Parks could be evaluated.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this report.</p>
<a href="#">National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000</a>	2000	Policy	<p>An Act of the Scottish Parliament to make provision for National Parks.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)</a>	2023	Policy	<p>The NPF4 sets out Scotland's spatial principles, regional priorities, national developments and national planning policy.</p> <p>Part 1 – A National Spatial Strategy for Scotland 2045 sets out six overarching spatial principles which play a key role in delivering UN SDGs and Scottish national outcomes:</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just transition;</li> <li>• Conserving and recycling assets;</li> <li>• Local living;</li> <li>• Compact urban growth;</li> <li>• Rebalanced development; and</li> <li>• Rural revitalisation.</li> </ul> <p>Part 2 – National Planning Policy sets out 33 policies on topics including tackling the climate and nature crises; climate mitigation and action; and biodiversity.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to the NPF4.</p>
<a href="#">NatureScot Guidance</a>	Various	–	<p>A range of policy and guidance documents setting out NatureScot’s position and advice on nature and landscapes topics. NatureScot participate in policy development by responding to consultations; delivering advice sought by Scottish Ministers; and working jointly with other parties with an interest in the topic through a combination of the above means.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with these policy and guidance documents.</p>
<a href="#">Planning advice notes (PANs)</a>	Various	Plan	<p>Relevant PANs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PAN 1/2011 Planning and Noise</b> – Provides advice on the role of the planning system in helping to prevent and limit the adverse effects of noise.</li> <li>• <b>PAN 60: Planning for Natural Heritage</b> – Provides advice on how development and the planning system can contribute to the conservation, enhancement, enjoyment and understanding of Scotland's natural environment and encourages developers</li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>and planning authorities to be positive and creative in addressing natural heritage issues.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with these PANs.</p>
<a href="#">Planning (Scotland) Act 2019</a>	2019	Policy	<p>This Act makes provision about how land is developed and used.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029</a>	2019	Plan	<p>This Strategy provides an overview of contemporary Scottish forestry, presents a 50-year vision for Scotland's forests and woodlands, and sets out a 10-year framework for action. Its objectives are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the contribution of forests and woodlands to Scotland's sustainable and inclusive economic growth;</li> <li>• Improve the resilience of Scotland's forests and woodlands and increase their contribution to a healthy and high-quality environment; and</li> <li>• Increase the use of Scotland's forest and woodland resources to enable more people to improve their health, well-being and life chances.</li> </ul> <p>Its priorities are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure forests and woodlands are sustainably managed;</li> <li>• Expand the area of forests and woodlands, recognising wider land-use objectives;</li> <li>• Improve efficiency and productivity and developing markets;</li> <li>• Increase the adaptability and resilience of forests and woodlands;</li> <li>• Enhance the environmental benefits provided by forests and woodlands; and</li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage more people, communities and businesses in the creation, management and use of forests and woodlands.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">Scotland's Third Land Use Strategy 2021-2026</a>	2021	Plan	<p>This Strategy sets out Scotland's vision, objectives and policies to achieve sustainable land use. The strategy covers the next five years and aims to provide a more holistic understanding of Scotland's land, the demands Scotland place upon it, and the benefits Scotland get from their land.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013</a>	2013	Policy	<p>This Order provides for procedures connected with pre-application consultation; applications for planning permission; the planning authority; consultations; local development orders; certificates of lawful use or development; and the maintenance of registers of planning applications.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017</a>	2017	Policy	<p>EIA is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects arising from a proposed development.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order and Trees in Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Regulations 2010</a>	2010	Policy	<p>These Regulations are made under the powers conferred on the SoS by sections 160(8), 161(3) and (4), 173 and 275 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act. They require an application to be made for cutting down, topping, lopping or uprooting of any tree with a TPO or within a Conservation Area. This application must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specify the operations for which consent is sought;</li> <li>• Give reasons for carrying out such operations;</li> <li>• Identify the protected tree or trees which would be affected by such operations; and</li> <li>• The protected tree or trees must be identified by means of a map or plan of a size and scale sufficient for the purpose.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<b>Welsh</b>			
<a href="#">Future Wales: The National Plan 2040</a>	2021	Plan	<p>This Plan is a 20-year development plan for the whole of Wales. Planning decisions must be made in accordance with Future Wales unless material considerations indicate otherwise. It sets out Welsh Government land use priorities and provides a national land use framework for regional Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) and LDPs. It concentrates on development and land use issues of national significance, indicating areas of major opportunities and change, and also highlighting areas that need protecting and enhancing.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Planning Policy Wales</a>	2021	Policy	<p>Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (11<sup>th</sup> Edition) was published alongside Future Wales. It sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. It is supplemented by a</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), Welsh Government Circulars, and policy clarification letters, which together with PPW provide the national planning policy framework for Wales. PPW, the TANs, Mineral TANs (MTANs), and policy clarification letters comprise national planning policy.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to PPW.</p>
<a href="#">Planning (Wales) Act 2015</a>	2015	Policy	<p>This Act sets out a series of legislative changes to deliver reform of the planning system in Wales, to ensure that it is fair, resilient and enables development. The act addresses five key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modernised framework for the delivery of planning services;</li> <li>• Strengthening the plan led approach – the act introduces a legal basis for the preparation of a National Development Framework and Strategic Development Plans;</li> <li>• Improved resilience – the act allows the Welsh Ministers to direct local planning authorities to work together and for local planning authorities to be merged;</li> <li>• Frontloading and improving the development management system – the act will introduce a statutory pre- application procedure for defined categories of planning application; and</li> <li>• Enabling effective enforcement and appeals – the act enables changes to enforcement procedures to secure prompt, meaningful action against breaches of planning control and increase the transparency and efficiency of the appeal system.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Technical Advice Notes</a>	2017	Plan	<p>Technical advice notes (TANs) provide detailed planning advice. Local planning authorities take them into account when they are preparing development plans.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>There are 24 TANs. Relevant TANs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TAN 5: Nature Conservation and Planning</b> – How the land use planning system should contribute to biodiversity and geological conservation.</li> <li>• <b>TAN 10: Tree Preservation Orders</b> – Guidance for local planning authorities on tree preservation when granting planning permission.</li> <li>• <b>TAN 11: Noise</b> – How to use the planning system to reduce the adverse impact of noise.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to the TANs.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning (Trees) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2017</a>	2017	Policy	<p>These Regulations are made under the powers conferred on the SoS by sections 198(8) and 333(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. They aim to ensure the protection of trees. The Regulations require an application to be made for cutting down, topping, lopping or uprooting of any tree with a TPO. This application must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be made in writing to the authority;</li> <li>• Include all of the information specified on the form; and</li> <li>• Be accompanied by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A plan which identifies the tree or trees to which the application relates;</li> <li>– Information specifying the work to be undertaken;</li> <li>– A statement of the applicant's reasons for making the application; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Appropriate evidence describing any structural damage to property or in relation to tree health or safety, as applicable.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government's Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks</a>	2018	-	<p>This paper outlines key priority areas following consideration of the outcomes from the Review of Designated Landscapes, Future Landscapes Wales Programme, and responses to the Taking forward Wales's sustainable management of natural resources consultation. It provides clarity of purpose for the National Parks and National Landscapes in the context of the UK's exit from the EU and at the close of a period of review.</p> <p>It calls on the designated landscapes managing bodies to deliver on a number of Welsh Government priorities, including the Nature Recovery Plan, a refreshed woodland strategy, the decarbonisation agenda, and Cymraeg 2050. Its 10 crosscutting themes aim to improve resilience and realise the full value of Wales's landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscapes for everyone;</li> <li>• Exemplars of the sustainable management of natural resources;</li> <li>• Halting the loss of biodiversity;</li> <li>• Green energy and decarbonisation;</li> <li>• Realising the economic potential of landscape;</li> <li>• Growing tourism and outdoor recreation;</li> <li>• Thriving Welsh language;</li> <li>• All landscapes matter;</li> <li>• Delivering through collaboration; and</li> <li>• Innovation in resourcing.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this paper.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning and Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2018</a>	2018	Policy	<p>These Regulations amend the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. These new regulations set out the procedures to be followed in relation to EIA linked to nationally significant infrastructure projects in England and Wales. The objective is to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to help integrate environmental considerations into the preparation of proposals for development to reduce their impact on the environment.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Woodlands for Wales: Strategy</a>	2011	Plan	<p>This document details Welsh Government's 50-year strategy for woodlands and trees in Wales. It recognises Wales's trees as an important asset in delivering the Government's key priorities of driving green growth, resilience and safety and tackling poverty. The vision of the strategy is as follows:</p> <p><i>"Wales will be known for its high-quality woodlands that enhance the landscape, are appropriate to local conditions and have a diverse mixture of species and habitats".</i></p> <p>It is envisaged that real local and national social and community benefits, thriving woodland-based industries and a better-quality environment throughout Wales can be achieved through delivery of the Strategy.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>

## Water

Table A.8 Plans, policies and programmes and their key objectives as relevant to the water SEA topic



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<b>International</b>			
<a href="#">Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context</a>	1991	-	<p>The Convention was adopted in 1991 and entered into force in September 2007. The Convention and Protocol lie in an area of mixed competence (environment). The UK and the EU are parties to the Convention. The EU has implemented the EIA Directive that has been transposed into UK domestic law.</p> <p>The Convention sets out the obligations of Parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning. It also lays down the general obligations of Parties to consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have significant transboundary effects. A revision to the Convention in 2004 indicated that affected Parties should be allowed to participate in scoping as appropriate.</p> <p>The Protocol on SEA (Kiev, 2003) augments the Espoo Convention and requires Parties to assess the environmental effects of their plans and programmes. The protocol also proposes extensive public participation in Government decision making. The UK has signed but not ratified the Protocol. The EU has ratified, and implements through the SEA Directive, transposed in UK domestic law.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the environmental impact of new energy infrastructure is considered at an early stage of planning.</p>
<a href="#">The OSPAR Convention</a>	1992	-	<p>The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, also referred to as the 'OSPAR Convention', is the current legislative instrument regulating international cooperation on environmental protection in the North-East Atlantic. This specifically addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention and elimination of pollution from land-based sources;</li> <li>• Prevention and elimination of pollution by dumping or incineration;</li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention and elimination of pollution from offshore sources;</li> <li>• Assessment of the quality of the marine environment; and</li> <li>• The protection and conservation of the ecosystems and biological diversity of the maritime area.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with the OSPAR convention.</p>
<b>UK-wide</b>			
<a href="#">Design Principles for National Infrastructure</a>	2020	Plan	<p>This plan identifies four principles to guide the planning and delivery of major infrastructure projects. These principles, developed by the Commission's Design Group in consultation with all infrastructure sectors, were created to guide the future projects which will upgrade and renew the UK's infrastructure system. They should be applied to all economic infrastructure: digital communications, energy, transport, flood management, water and waste.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Environment Act 2021</a>	2021	Policy	<p>The Environment Act sets out that the SoS may by regulations set long-term targets in respect of any matter which relates to a) the natural environment; or b) people's enjoyment of the natural environment. A long-term target must be in respect of at least one matter within each of the four priority areas: a) air quality; b) water; c) biodiversity; and d) resource efficiency and waste reduction.</p> <p>The Act specifically requires the SoS to set by future regulation statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in two priority areas: air quality (PM2.5 air quality target) and biodiversity (species abundance target) and includes an important new target to reverse the decline in species abundance by the end of 2030. The SoS must also</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<p>prepare an environmental improvement plan for significantly improving the natural environment for a period no shorter than 15 years.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004</a>	2004	Policy	<p>To comply with these regulations, if it is determined that a proposed plan or programme, or a modification to an existing plan or programme, is likely to have a significant environmental effect it will need a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA).</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Environmental Improvement Plan</a>	2023	Plan	<p>This plan sets out a series of ten goals for the environment, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Goal 1: Thriving plants and wildlife.</li><li>• Goal 2: Clean air.</li><li>• Goal 3: Clean and plentiful water.</li><li>• Goal 4: Managing exposure to chemicals and pesticides.</li><li>• Goal 5: Maximise our resources, minimise our waste.</li><li>• Goal 6: Using resources from nature sustainably.</li><li>• Goal 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change.</li><li>• Goal 8: Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards.</li><li>• Goal 9: Enhancing biosecurity.</li><li>• Goal 10: Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment.</li></ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>



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<a href="#">Environmental Protection Act 1990</a>	1990	Policy	<p>This act brings in a system of integrated pollution control for the disposal of wastes to land, water and air. There are three parts of the Act. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part I – establishes integrated pollution control and gives Local Authorities new powers to control air pollution from a range of prescribed processes;</li> <li>• Part II – improves the rules on waste disposal; and</li> <li>• Part III – covers statutory nuisances and clean air.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Independent Assessment of UK Climate Change Risk</a>	2021	-	<p>This report provides the Adaptation Committee’s statutory advice to Governments on priorities for the forthcoming national adaptation plans and wider action. It is informed by extensive new evidence gathered for the accompanying Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) Technical Report. More than 60 risks and opportunities have been identified, fundamental to every aspect of life in the UK covering the natural environment, health, homes, infrastructure, and the economy.</p> <p>This new evidence shows that the gap between the level of risk the UK face and the level of adaptation underway has widened. Adaptation action has failed to keep pace with the worsening reality of climate risk.</p> <p>The Committee identifies eight risk areas that require the most urgent attention in the next two years. They have been selected on the basis of the urgency of additional action; the gap in UK adaptation planning; the opportunity to integrate adaptation into forthcoming policy commitments; and the need to avoid locking in poor planning, especially as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The eight areas of risk are:</p>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risks to the viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards;</li> <li>• Risks to soil health from increased flooding and drought;</li> <li>• Risks to natural carbon stores and sequestration from multiple hazards leading to increased emissions;</li> <li>• Risks to crops, livestock and commercial trees from multiple hazards;</li> <li>• Risks to supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate-related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks;</li> <li>• Risks to people and the economy from climate-related failure of the power system;</li> <li>• Risks to human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings; and</li> <li>• Multiple risks to the UK from climate change impacts overseas.</li> <li>• Ten principles for good adaptation planning that should form the basis for the next round of national adaptation plans are also recommended. These are intended to bring adaptation into mainstream consideration by government and business.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this report.</p>
<a href="#">Levelling Up &amp; Regeneration Act</a>	2023	Policy	<p>The UK Government has identified 12 policy areas for improvement by 2030 Initiates Planning reforms in England, including changes to the role of Local Planning Authorities (LPAs); the introduction of national development management policies (NDMPs); reforms to the Local Plan-making process; and seeking to improve outcomes for the natural environment, including through the introduction of an Environmental Outcomes focus to environmental assessment.</p>



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			<p>It should be noted that in Scotland and Wales, the Act does not alter the executive competence of Ministers or the legislative competence of Parliament.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Nationally Significant Infrastructure: Action plan for reforms to the planning process</a>	2023	Plan	<p>This Action Plan sets out the reforms to the NSIP regime that will be implemented to ensure the system can support future infrastructure needs.</p> <p>To meet the objectives of ensuring the NSIP consenting process is better at meeting statutory timescales, faster where environmental and community concerns can be addressed before examination, greener for the environment, fairer for communities and more resilient in resourcing, five reform areas have been developed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. <b>Setting a clear strategic direction</b>, where National Policy Statements and wider government policy reduce the policy ambiguity faced by individual projects.</li> <li>7. <b>Bringing forward operational reforms to support faster consenting</b> with an emphasis on delivering proportionate examinations for all projects, strengthening pre-application advice and introducing a fast-track consenting timeframe for projects that meet quality criteria.</li> <li>8. <b>Realising better outcomes for the environment</b> replacing the cumbersome environmental assessment processes with new Environmental Outcomes Reports; reviewing the protected sites and species policy framework (including Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)) and introducing biodiversity net gain and developing principles for marine net gain for NSIPs.</li> <li>9. <b>Recognising the role of local authorities and strengthening community engagement with NSIPs</b>, with greater support and measures to embed community input and benefits much earlier in the process.</li> </ol>



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			<p>10. <b>Improving system-wide capacity and capability</b>, including through developing skills and training and extending proportionate cost recovery by the Planning Inspectorate and key statutory consultees to support effective preparation and examination of NSIPs and build resilience into the system.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Planning Act 2008</a>	2008	Policy	<p>This legislation sets out how the planning system should deal with nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIP). The legislation created a regime of National Policy Statements (NPS). These NPS give reasons for the policy set out in the statement and must include an explanation of how the policy takes account of Government policy relating to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. They include the Government's objectives for the development of nationally significant infrastructure in a particular sector and state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How this will contribute to sustainable development.</li><li>• How these objectives have been integrated with other Government policies.</li><li>• How actual and projected capacity and demand have been considered.</li><li>• Consider relevant issues in relation to safety or technology.</li><li>• Circumstances where it would be particularly important to address the adverse impacts of development.</li><li>• Specific locations, where appropriate, in order to provide a clear framework for investment and planning decisions.</li></ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>



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<a href="#">River Basin Management Plans</a>	2022	Plan	<p>These plans set out how organisations, stakeholders and communities will work together to improve the water environment. Each plan covers an entire river system, including river, lake, groundwater, estuarine and coastal water bodies and are designed to protect and improve the quality of the water environment.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">UK Marine Policy Statement</a>	2011	Policy	<p>The Marine Policy Statement (MPS) is the framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment. The MPS will facilitate and support the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high-level marine objectives and thereby:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote sustainable economic development;</li><li>• Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects;</li><li>• Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and heritage assets; and</li><li>• Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues.</li></ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy statement.</p>
<a href="#">UK Marine Strategy</a>	2019	Plan	<p>This Strategy provides the framework for delivering marine policy at the UK level and sets out how the Government will achieve the vision of clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas.</p> <p>The Strategy consists of a simple three-stage framework for achieving GES in the UK's seas. Achieving GES is about protecting the marine environment, preventing its</p>



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			<p>deterioration and restoring it where practical, whilst allowing sustainable use of marine resources. The strategy covers 11 elements (known as descriptors), which are: biodiversity; non-indigenous species; commercial fish; food webs; eutrophication; sea-floor integrity; hydrographical conditions; contaminants; contaminants in seafood; marine litter; and underwater noise.</p> <p>Part 1 of the Marine Strategy was updated in 2019, marking the beginning of the second implementation cycle of the UK Marine Strategy.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">Water Act 2014</a>	2014	Policy	<p>The aim of this Act is to reform the water industry to make it more innovative and responsive to customers and to increase the resilience of water supplies to natural hazards such as droughts and floods.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017</a>	2017	Policy	<p>These regulations look at the ecological health of surface water bodies as well as traditional chemical standards. In particular, they will help deal with, amongst others diffuse pollution, habitat, ecology, hydro-morphology, barriers to fish movement, water quality, flow and sediment. Successful implementation will help to protect all elements of the water cycle and enhance the quality of the UK's groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuaries and seas.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Water Resources Act 1991</a>	1991	Policy	<p>This Act aims to prevent and minimise pollution of water. The policing of this Act is the responsibility of the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales. Under the act it</p>



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<hr/>			<p>is an offence to cause or knowingly permit any poisonous, noxious or polluting material, or any solid waste to enter any controlled water.</p> <p>Silt and soil from eroded areas are included in the definition of polluting material. If eroded soil is found to be polluting a water body or watercourse, the Environment Agency may prevent or clear up the pollution and recover the damages from the landowner or responsible person.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<hr/>			<b>English</b>
<hr/>			<p>The Government's 25-Year Environment Plan sets out their position on environmental improvements, focussed on delivering cleaner air and water across the country, protecting at-risk wildlife, and improving natural habitats in England. The Plan sets the following key actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using and managing land sustainably, including embedding an "environmental net gain" principle into development.</li> <li>• Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes.</li> <li>• Connecting people to the environment to improve health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• Increase resource efficiency and reducing pollution.</li> <li>• Securing clean, healthy and productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans.</li> <li>• Protecting and improving the global environment.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>

[A Green Future: Our 25  
Year Plan to Improve  
the Environment](#)

2018

Plan



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<a href="#">England Trees Action Plan 2021 to 2024</a>	2021	Plan	<p>Building on ambitions outlined in the 25 Year Environment Plan, Government will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Nature Recovery:</b> The government will continue to improve the condition and increase the extent of most precious woodland habitats, such as protected sites and irreplaceable ancient woodlands.</li><li>• <b>Levelling up through a thriving forest economy:</b> The government will encourage demand for UK grown timber which can reduce the carbon footprint from imports and reduce emissions by replacing carbon-intensive materials and encourage innovative green finance for trees and woodlands.</li><li>• <b>Trees and woodlands for water and soil:</b> The right trees and woodland in the right places along and near rivers and within water catchments present opportunities for improving water quality, for flood alleviation and nature recovery. Soil is critical to supporting trees and woodland and the government will improve the understanding of appropriate soil management to sequester carbon and protect this precious resource from degradation and inappropriate tree establishment.</li><li>• <b>Trees and woodlands for people in town and country:</b> Trees and woodlands can cool the settlements, improve air quality and contribute to community cohesion and sense of place. The government will take steps to improve public access to trees and woodlands in a responsible way, encourage community-led tree planting and invest in partnerships with communities and local government.</li><li>• <b>Heritage and landscape:</b> Trees and woodlands are important features in the landscapes. The government will encourage greater landscape scale planning which will enhance and transform landscape character, while protecting and conserving heritage assets from inappropriate tree planting and during woodland management.</li></ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trees outside woodlands:</b> Trees throughout the environment such as wood pastures, ancient and veteran trees, scrub, scattered and hedgerow trees contribute to England's natural beauty and are important spaces for nature. The government must continue to protect and enhance these features.</li> <li>• <b>Healthy, resilient trees and woodlands:</b> The government will act now to help the trees and woodlands adapt, to enhance their resilience to stresses by reducing risks and encouraging greater diversity.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England) Regulations 2015</a> as amended by <a href="#">The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2019</a>	2015	Policy	<p>These regulations impose obligations on operators of certain activities requiring them to prevent or remediate environmental damage. They apply to damage to protected species, natural habitats, SSSIs, water and land.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to these policies.</p>
<a href="#">Plan for Water: Our integrated plan for</a>	2008	Plan	<p>This Plan aims to deliver clean and plentiful water – a healthy water environment, and a sustainable supply of water for people, businesses, and nature.</p>



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<a href="#">delivering clean and plentiful water</a>			<p>The Plan sets out measures to transform and integrate our water system, address sources of pollution and boost our water supplies through more investment, tighter regulation, and more effective enforcement.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Marine planning in England</a>	2014	Plan	<p>There are 11 marine plans in England. A marine plan will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage local communities to be involved in planning;</li><li>• Make the most of growth and job opportunities;</li><li>• Consider the environment from the start;</li><li>• Enable sustainable development in the marine area;</li><li>• Integrate with planning on land;</li><li>• Save time and money for investors and developers by giving clear guidance on things to consider or avoid;</li><li>• Encourage shared use of busy areas to benefit as many industries as possible; and</li><li>• Encourage developments that consider wildlife and the natural environment.</li></ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with these plans.</p>
<a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</a>	2024	Policy	<p>The NPPF sets out the government's planning policies for England and was most recently revised in December 2024. The main amendments to this policy with regards to energy come under 'Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change'. The update to the NPPF should assist decision makers dealing with proposals to use and improve existing renewable energy sites giving weight to the advantages of doing so. The addition of a new paragraph under this header specifies that "Wind</p>



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			<p><i>Energy Development involving one or more turbines can also be permitted through Local Development Orders, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders</i>". The increase in accepted routes to achieve development of Wind Turbine sites is intended to make the process more flexible and therefore quicker and easier to increase wind farms producing renewable or low carbon energy.</p> <p>The NNPF is accompanied by relevant Planning Practice Guidance as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> (2020): Explains requirements of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.</li> <li>• <b>Water supply, wastewater and water quality</b> (2019): Advises on how planning can ensure water quality and the delivery of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to the NNPF.</p>
<a href="#">Planning for the Future</a>	2020	Policy	<p>This white paper sets out the Government's proposals for "<i>once in a generation</i>" reform of England's planning system, and separate proposals to reform the current system of calculating housing need proved controversial.</p> <p>The three pillars of the white paper are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning for development;</li> <li>• Planning for beautiful and sustainable places; and</li> <li>• Planning for infrastructure and connected places.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this white paper.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning and</a>	2018	Policy	<p>These Regulations amend the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. These new regulations set out the procedures to be</p>



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<a href="#">Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2018</a>			<p>followed in relation to EIA linked to nationally significant infrastructure projects in England and Wales. The objective is to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to help integrate environmental considerations into the preparation of proposals for development to reduce their impact on the environment.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<b>Scottish</b>			
<a href="#">The Contaminated Land (Scotland) Regulations 2000 and 2005</a>	2005	Policy	<p>These Regulations were made to ensure the proper management and remediation of contaminated land, which is causing or has the potential to cause significant harm or significant pollution of the water environment.</p> <p>These have been produced by Scottish Ministers in exercise of powers under the Environmental Protection Act (1990). Topics covered include pollution of controlled waters, remediation notices and appeals to Scottish Ministers.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to these policies.</p>
<a href="#">Marine (Scotland) Act 2010</a>	2010	Policy	<p>This Act makes provision in relation to functions and activities in the Scottish marine area, including provision about marine plans; licensing of marine activities; the protection of the area and its wildlife including seals; and regulation of sea fisheries; and for connected purposes.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)</a>	2023	Policy	<p>The NPF4 sets out Scotland's spatial principles, regional priorities, national developments and national planning policy.</p>



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			<p>Part 1 – A National Spatial Strategy for Scotland 2045 sets out six overarching spatial principles which play a key role in delivering UN SDGs and Scottish national outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just transition;</li> <li>• Conserving and recycling assets;</li> <li>• Local living;</li> <li>• Compact urban growth;</li> <li>• Rebalanced development; and</li> <li>• Rural revitalisation.</li> </ul> <p>Part 2 – National Planning Policy sets out 33 policies on topics including tackling the climate and nature crises; climate mitigation and action; and biodiversity.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to the NPF4.</p>
<a href="#">Planning (Scotland) Act 2019</a>	2019	Policy	<p>This Act makes provision about how land is developed and used.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">River Basin Management Plan for Scotland 2021-2027</a>	2021	Plan	<p>The River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) for Scotland set out a range of actions to address these impacts. They are produced by SEPA on behalf of Scottish Government. They cover actions for public bodies, industry and land managers in Scotland. They summarise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The state of the water environment;</li> <li>• Pressures affecting the quality of the water environment where it is in less than good condition;</li> <li>• Actions to protect and improve the water environment; and</li> </ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A summary of outcomes following implementation.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Scotland's National Marine Plan</a>	2015	Plan	<p>This plan covers the management of both Scottish inshore waters (out to 12 nautical miles) and offshore waters (12 to 200 nautical miles). It provides a comprehensive overarching framework for all marine activity in Scottish waters. It will enable sustainable development and use of Scotland's marine area in a way which will protect and enhance the marine environment whilst promoting both existing and emerging industries.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013</a>	2013	Policy	<p>This Order provides for procedures connected with pre-application consultation; applications for planning permission; the planning authority; consultations; local development orders; certificates of lawful use or development; and the maintenance of registers of planning applications.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017</a>	2017	Policy	<p>EIA is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects arising from a proposed development.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>



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<a href="#"><u>Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003</u></a>	2003	Policy	<p>This Act makes provision for the protection of the water environment, including provision for implementing European Parliament and Council Directive 2000/60/EC; to amend the Sewerage (Scotland) Act 1968 and the Water (Scotland) Act 1980 in relation to the provision of water and sewerage services; and for connected purposes.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#"><u>The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011</u></a>	2011	Policy	<p>These Regulations – more commonly known as the Controlled Activity Regulations (CAR) – and their further amendments apply regulatory controls over activities which may affect Scotland’s water environment. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groundwater;</li> <li>• Wetlands (directly associated with surface and groundwater bodies);</li> <li>• Rivers;</li> <li>• Lochs;</li> <li>• Transitional waters (estuaries and saline lagoons); and</li> <li>• Coastal waters (3nm from territorial baseline).</li> </ul> <p>The controlled activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abstractions from surface and groundwater;</li> <li>• Impoundments of rivers, lochs, wetlands and transitional waters;</li> <li>• Groundwater recharge;</li> <li>• Engineering in rivers, lochs and wetlands;</li> <li>• Engineering activities in the vicinity of rivers, lochs and wetland which are likely to have a significant adverse impact upon the water environment;</li> <li>• Activities liable to cause pollution;</li> </ul>



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<a href="#">The Water Environment (Miscellaneous) (Scotland) Regulations 2017</a>	2017	Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct or indirect discharge of List I substances to groundwater;</li> <li>• Any other activities which directly or indirectly is liable to cause a significant; and</li> <li>• Adverse impact upon the water environment.</li> </ul> <p>In order to ensure proportionate controls over activities, the Regulations provide for three levels of control: General Binding Rules (GBR), Registrations and Water Use Licences. SEPA can move activities between registration and licences and from GBR to registration or licences as it considers necessary in order to protect the water environment.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
			<p>This replaces the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) in Scotland.</p> <p>These Regulations introduce new and amended binding rules into the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011. They revise the 2011 Regulations to amend existing general binding rules and insert new ones. Activities covered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The construction, extension and the on-going operation of a well, borehole or other works by which water may be abstracted;</li> <li>• The maintenance of existing man-made structures in or near any surface water or wetland;</li> <li>• All water run-off from specified construction sites;</li> <li>• The placement of trees or parts of trees in a river, burn or ditch to protect eroding banks;</li> <li>• The abstraction and subsequent return of groundwater as part of a cooling system; and</li> </ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The storage and application of fertiliser.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Water Industry Act 1991</a>	1991	Policy	<p>This replaces the Water Act 1989.</p> <p>The Act sets out the main powers and duties of the water and sewerage companies in England and Wales.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<b>Welsh</b>			
<a href="#">The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (Wales) Regulations 2009 as amended by The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2015</a>	2015	Policy	<p>These regulations impose obligations on operators of certain activities requiring them to prevent or remediate environmental damage. They apply to damage to protected species, natural habitats, SSSIs, water and land.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to these policies.</p>
<a href="#">Environment (Wales) Act 2016</a>	2016	Policy	<p>Legislation introduced by the National Assembly for Wales enabling the planning and management of the natural resources of Wales in a more sustainable, proactive and joined-up way than was previously possible. The Act has seven main parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable management of natural resources;</li> </ul>



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change;</li> <li>• Charges for carrier bags;</li> <li>• Collection and disposal of waste;</li> <li>• Fisheries for shellfish;</li> <li>• Marine licensing; and</li> <li>• Flood and coastal erosion committee.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Future Wales: The National Plan 2040</a>	2021	Plan	<p>This Plan is a 20-year development plan for the whole of Wales. Planning decisions must be made in accordance with Future Wales unless material considerations indicate otherwise. It sets out Welsh Government land use priorities and provides a national land use framework for regional Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) and LDPs. It concentrates on development and land use issues of national significance, indicating areas of major opportunities and change, and also highlighting areas that need protecting and enhancing.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Planning Policy Wales</a>	2021	Policy	<p>Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (11<sup>th</sup> Edition) was published alongside Future Wales. It sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), Welsh Government Circulars, and policy clarification letters, which together with PPW provide the national planning policy framework for Wales. PPW, the TANs, Mineral TANs (MTANs), and policy clarification letters comprise national planning policy.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to PPW.</p>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
<a href="#">Planning (Wales) Act 2015</a>	2015	Policy	<p>This Act sets out a series of legislative changes to deliver reform of the planning system in Wales, to ensure that it is fair, resilient and enables development. The act addresses five key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modernised framework for the delivery of planning services;</li> <li>• Strengthening the plan led approach – the act introduces a legal basis for the preparation of a National Development Framework and Strategic Development Plans;</li> <li>• Improved resilience – the act allows the Welsh Ministers to direct local planning authorities to work together and for local planning authorities to be merged;</li> <li>• Frontloading and improving the development management system – the act will introduce a statutory pre- application procedure for defined categories of planning application; and</li> <li>• Enabling effective enforcement and appeals – the act enables changes to enforcement procedures to secure prompt, meaningful action against breaches of planning control and increase the transparency and efficiency of the appeal system.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Shoreline Management Plans</a>	2024	Plan	<p>A Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal processes and helps to reduce these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment. SMPs are developed by Coastal Groups with members mainly from local councils and the Environment Agency. There are 22 SMP's covering England and Wales. They identify the most sustainable approach to managing the flood and coastal erosion risks to the coastline in the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short-term (0 to 20 years);</li> </ul>



Document title	Date	Plan, policy or programme	Summary of key objectives as relevant to the SEA for the SSEP
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium term (20 to 50 years); and</li> <li>• Long term (50 to 100 years).</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>
<a href="#">Technical Advice Notes</a>	2017	Plan	<p>Technical advice notes (TANs) provide detailed planning advice. Local planning authorities take them into account when they are preparing development plans. There are 24 TANs. Relevant TANs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TAN 14: Coastal Planning</b> – Guidance for local planning authorities on the coastal zone. The coastal zone is an area of land and adjacent sea.</li> </ul> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this TAN.</p>
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning and Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2018</a>	2018	Policy	<p>These Regulations amend the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. These new regulations set out the procedures to be followed in relation to EIA linked to nationally significant infrastructure projects in England and Wales. The objective is to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to help integrate environmental considerations into the preparation of proposals for development to reduce their impact on the environment.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.</p>
<a href="#">Water Industry Act 1991</a>	1991	Policy	<p>This replaces the Water Act 1989.</p> <p>The Act sets out the main powers and duties of the water and sewerage companies in England and Wales.</p>



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			The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure adheres to this policy.
<a href="#">Water Strategy for Wales</a>	2015	Plan	<p>This Strategy sets out the strategic direction for water policy in Wales over the next 20 years and beyond. The vision for the strategy is to:</p> <p><i>“ensure that Wales continues to have thriving water environment which is sustainably managed to support healthy communities, flourishing businesses and the environment. We want the people of Wales to receive first class, value for money water services with water used efficiently, safely and respectfully by all”.</i></p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this strategy.</p>
<a href="#">Welsh National Marine Plan</a>	2019	Plan	<p>This Plan sets out Welsh Government policy for the sustainable use of the Welsh seas (i.e. for the inshore region (from the mean high water spring tides out to 12 nautical miles from the shore)). It includes a wide range of general policies, including, but not limited to, nature conservation, water quality, energy, tourism and recreation.</p> <p>The SSEP should ensure that the delivery of new energy infrastructure is in line with this plan.</p>

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