

**Evidence sources by NPF4 policy topics**

# Version 3

**March 2025**

## Introduction

The table below sets out evidence sources available from SEPA, as well as a number of external sources, which may be of use in consideration of the various policy areas through the development plan process. The table is supported by a glossary document to provide explanatory detail with regards SEPA, and key external, data sources.

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| **NPF4 Policy**  | **NPF4 LDP Instruction**  | **SEPA Evidence**  | **External Evidence**  |
| 2. Climate mitigation and adaptation  | The LDP spatial strategy should be designed to reduce, minimise or avoid greenhouse gas emissions. The six spatial principles should form the basis of the spatial strategy, helping to guide development to, and create, sustainable locations. The strategy should be informed by an understanding of the impacts of the  | SEPA Flood Hazard Maps The latest data (v3.0 dated March 2025) is publicly available on the SEPA website. The data can be viewed on the [SEPA website](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/flooding/flood-maps/) or downloaded directly from the [SEPA Data Publication webpage.](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)  [SEPA guidance on climate change allowances for land use planning](https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/594168/climate-change-guidance.pdf)  SEPA [Flood Risk Management Plans](https://www2.sepa.org.uk/frmplans/)    | Local Flood Risk Management Plans – these are available on local authorities’ websites.  Section 16 Assessment of risk from the sewer network maps (LA) - **This data should not be published externally, due to the data sharing agreements in place, and should not feature in any published SFRA dataset**.  Surface Water Management Plans (LA)  [Scottish Flood Defence Asset Database](https://www.scottishflooddefences.gov.uk/)   |

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| **NPF4 Policy**  | **NPF4 LDP Instruction**  | **SEPA Evidence**  | **External Evidence**  |
|  | proposals on greenhouse gas emissions. LDPs should support adaptation to the current and future impacts of climate change by taking into account climate risks, guiding development away from vulnerable areas, and enabling places to adapt to those risks.  | SEPA [Natural Flood Management](https://map.sepa.org.uk/floodmap/map.htm) [Maps](https://map.sepa.org.uk/floodmap/map.htm)   Information on past flooding events – this data can be obtained from [SEPA on request](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) SEPA [Controlled Reservoirs Register](https://map.sepa.org.uk/reservoirsfloodmap/Map.htm) including inundation mapping.  [Water scarcity | Scottish Environment](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-scarcity/) [Protection Agency (SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-scarcity/)  [SEPA River Flow data, water level data and rain gauge data](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)  [RBMP3 (sepa.org.uk)](https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/RBMP3/)   Geomorphic risk layer  | Local Authority Flood Studies (LA)  Information on past flooding events held by Local Authority (LA)/ Scottish Water (SW)  Adaptation Plans and Coastal Adaptation (Shoreline Management) Plans (LA)  [Dynamic Coast](https://www.dynamiccoast.com/)  [Carbon and peatland 2016 map](https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-and-development-advice/soils/carbon-and-peatland-2016-map)   [Scottish bare peat viewer (arcgis.com)](https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=961b594d4ea3413aa171036f0ebe47f8&extent=-1993913.4584%2C7354813.1225%2C1528304.805%2C8756362.4731%2C102100)  [A review of the risks to water resources in Scotland in response to climate change | CREW | Scotland's Centre of Expertise for Waters](https://www.crew.ac.uk/publication/review-risks-water-resources-scotland-response-climate-change)   |

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|  |  | Riparian vegetation planting opportunities Scottish Wetland Inventory Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI) data  Above layers from: [Environmental data](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [| Scottish Environment Protection](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [Agency (SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)   | [Assessing climate change impacts on the water quality of Scottish standing waters | CREW | Scotland's Centre of Expertise for Waters](https://www.crew.ac.uk/publication/assessing-climate-change-impacts-water-quality-scottish-standing-waters)  [Moderating extremes in water availability: a review of the role of functioning wetlands | CREW | Scotland's Centre of Expertise for Waters](https://www.crew.ac.uk/publication/moderating-extremes-water-availability-review-role-functioning-wetlands)  [UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions - data.gov.uk](https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/723c243d-2f1a-4d27-8b61-cdb93e5b10ff/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions)  A spotfire tool which can pull data down to individual LA areas and by sector making the spreadsheet more interactive is due to be published shortly on [Home | Scotland's environment web](https://www.environment.gov.scot/)  [UK Emissions Interactive Map (beis.gov.uk)](https://naei.beis.gov.uk/emissionsapp/) this is from the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory.  CO2 Emissions tool – please see sustainable transport policy for further details  |

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| 3. Biodiversity  | LDPs should protect, conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity in line with the mitigation hierarchy. They should also promote nature recovery and nature restoration across the development plan area, including by: facilitating the creation of nature networks and strengthening connections between them to support improved ecological connectivity; restoring degraded habitats or creating new habitats; and incorporating measures to increase biodiversity, including populations of priority species.  | SEPA Flood Hazard Maps The latest data (v.3.0 dated March 2025) is publicly available on the SEPA website. The data can be viewed on the [SEPA website](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/flooding/flood-maps/) or downloaded directly from the [SEPA Data Publication webpage.](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)  [SEPA guidance on climate change allowances for land use planning](https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/594168/climate-change-guidance.pdf)  [Flood Risk Management Maps](http://map.sepa.org.uk/floodmap/map.htm) – Natural Flood Management maps  Information on past flooding events – this data can be obtained from [SEPA on request](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)  [Water scarcity | Scottish Environment](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-scarcity/) [Protection Agency (SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-scarcity/)  | [APIS app | Air Pollution Information System](https://www.apis.ac.uk/app) – the interactive site relevant critical loads tool can show 1km resolution air pollutant data and SSSIs etc.  [Carbon and peatland 2016 map](https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-and-development-advice/soils/carbon-and-peatland-2016-map)   [Scottish bare peat viewer (arcgis.com)](https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=961b594d4ea3413aa171036f0ebe47f8&extent=-1993913.4584%2C7354813.1225%2C1528304.805%2C8756362.4731%2C102100)  [Habitat Map of Scotland | Scotland's environment web](https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/habitats-and-species/habitat-map-of-scotland/) collection of 8 map layers to view and link to download  Information on past flooding events held by LA  [Moderating extremes in water availability: a review of the role of functioning wetlands | CREW | Scotland's Centre of Expertise for Waters](https://www.crew.ac.uk/publication/moderating-extremes-water-availability-review-role-functioning-wetlands)    |

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|  |  |  [Water Classification Hub (sepa.org.uk)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-classification-hub/)  [RBMP3 (sepa.org.uk)](https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/RBMP3/)   Scottish Wetland Inventory, River and Coastal catchments, Water Environment classification data, Obstacles to fish migration Geomorphic risk layer Riparian vegetation planting opportunities WEF existing, completed and potential locations  River Anthropogenic Modification Index (available by end 2023) Riparian vegetation condition layer  |  |

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|  |  | (available by end 2023)  Above layers from: [Environmental data | Scottish](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [Environment Protection Agency](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [(SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)   |  |
| 4. Natural places  | LDPs will identify and protect locally, regionally, nationally and internationally important natural assets, on land and along coasts. The spatial strategy should safeguard them and take into account the objectives and level of their protected status in allocating land for development. Spatial strategies should also  | SEPA Flood Hazard Maps The latest data (v.3.0 dated March 2025) is publicly available on the SEPA website. The data can be viewed on the [SEPA website](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/flooding/flood-maps/) or downloaded directly from the [SEPA Data Publication webpage.](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)  [SEPA guidance on climate change allowances for land use planning](https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/594168/climate-change-guidance.pdf)  [Flood Risk Management Maps](http://map.sepa.org.uk/floodmap/map.htm) – Natural Flood Management maps  | <https://www.dynamiccoast.com/> [Carbon and peatland 2016 map](https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-and-development-advice/soils/carbon-and-peatland-2016-map)   [Scottish bare peat viewer (arcgis.com)](https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=961b594d4ea3413aa171036f0ebe47f8&extent=-1993913.4584%2C7354813.1225%2C1528304.805%2C8756362.4731%2C102100)  Adaptation Plans and Coastal adaptation (Shoreline management) plans (LA)  Information on past flooding events held by LA   |

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|  | better connect nature rich areas by establishing and growing nature networks to help protect and restore the biodiversity, ecosystems and natural processes in their area.  |  Information on past flooding events – this data can be obtained from [SEPA on request](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)  [Water scarcity | Scottish Environment](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-scarcity/) [Protection Agency (SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-scarcity/)  [Water Classification Hub (sepa.org.uk)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-classification-hub/)  [RBMP3 (sepa.org.uk)](https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/RBMP3/)   Scottish Wetland Inventory, River and Coastal catchments, Water Environment classification data, Obstacles to fish migration Geomorphic risk layer Riparian vegetation planting opportunities  |  |

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|  |  | WEF existing, completed and potential locations  River Anthropogenic Modification Index (available by end 2023) Riparian vegetation condition layer (available by end 2023)  Above layers from: [Environmental data | Scottish](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [Environment Protection Agency](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [(SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)  |  |
| 5. Soils  | LDPs should protect locally, regionally, nationally and internationally valued soils, including land of lesser quality that is culturally or locally important for primary use.  |   | [Carbon and peatland 2016 map](https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-and-development-advice/soils/carbon-and-peatland-2016-map)      |

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| 6. Forestry, woodland and trees  | LDPs should identify and protect existing woodland and the potential for its enhancement or expansion to avoid habitat fragmentation and improve ecological connectivity, helping to support and expand nature networks. The spatial strategy should identify and set out proposals for forestry, woodlands and trees in the area, including their development, protection and enhancement, resilience to climate change, and the expansion of a range of types to provide multiple benefits. This  | Riparian vegetation planting opportunities [Environmental data | Scottish](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [Environment Protection Agency](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [(SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)     | [Carbon and peatland 2016 map](https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-and-development-advice/soils/carbon-and-peatland-2016-map)      |

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|  | will be supported and informed by an up to date Forestry and Woodland Strategy.  |  |  |
| 9. Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings  | LDPs should set out opportunities for the sustainable reuse of brownfield land including vacant and derelict land and empty buildings.  | [Special sites in Scotland | Scottish](https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/land/contaminated-land/special-sites-in-scotland/) [Environment Protection Agency](https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/land/contaminated-land/special-sites-in-scotland/) [(SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/land/contaminated-land/special-sites-in-scotland/)   | Local Authority Inspection Strategies (for contaminated land) and their accompanying map data sets of potentially contaminative current or historic land uses  |
| 10. Coastal development  | LDP spatial strategies should consider how to adapt coastlines to the impacts of climate change. This should recognise that rising sea levels and more extreme weather events resulting from climate change will potentially have a significant impact on  | SEPA Flood Hazard Maps The latest data (v.3.0 dated March 2025) is publicly available on the SEPA website. The data can be viewed on the [SEPA website](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/flooding/flood-maps/) or downloaded directly from the [SEPA Data Publication webpage.](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)  [SEPA guidance on climate change allowances for land use planning](https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/594168/climate-change-guidance.pdf)  | <https://www.dynamiccoast.com/> Adaptation Plans and Coastal Adaptation (Shoreline Management) Plans (LA)  Records of observed flooding (LA)  [Scottish Flood Defence Asset Database](https://www.scottishflooddefences.gov.uk/)   |

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|  | coastal and islands areas, and take a precautionary approach to flood risk including by inundation. Spatial strategies should reflect the diversity of coastal areas and opportunities to use naturebased solutions to improve the resilience of coastal communities and assets. LDP spatial strategies should identify areas of developed and undeveloped coast and should align with national, sectoral and regional marine plans.  |  [Flood Risk Management Plans | SEPA](https://www2.sepa.org.uk/frmplans/)   [Flood Risk Management Maps](http://map.sepa.org.uk/floodmap/map.htm)  Information on past flooding events – this data can be obtained from [SEPA on request](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)  [RBMP3 (sepa.org.uk)](https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/RBMP3/)  [Water Classification Hub (sepa.org.uk)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-classification-hub/)  [Bathing Waters : Summary of last season (sepa.org.uk)](https://www2.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters/Classifications.aspx)  Coastal catchments, Water Environment classification data  | Local Authority Flood Studies (LA)  Local Flood Risk Management Plans – these are available on local authorities’ websites.  [Scotland's Aquaculture | Map](http://aquaculture.scotland.gov.uk/map/map.aspx)  |

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|  |  | Bathing water areas and catchments layers available from: [Environmental data | Scottish](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [Environment Protection Agency](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [(SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)   |  |
| 11. Energy  | LDPs should seek to realise their area’s full potential for electricity and heat from renewable, low carbon and zero emission sources by identifying a range of opportunities for energy development  | [Water scarcity | Scottish Environment](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-scarcity/) [Protection Agency (SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-scarcity/)  Waste Sites and Capacity - [https://www.sepa.org.uk/datavisualisation/waste-sites-and-capacitytool/](https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/waste-sites-and-capacity-tool/)    | [Carbon and peatland 2016 map | Scotland's soils](https://soils.environment.gov.scot/maps/thematic-maps/carbon-and-peatland-2016-map/) [(environment.gov.scot)](https://soils.environment.gov.scot/maps/thematic-maps/carbon-and-peatland-2016-map/)    |
| 12. Zero waste  | LDPs should identify appropriate locations for new waste management infrastructure to support the circular  | Overarching waste data statistics [Waste data reporting | Scottish](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/waste/waste-data/waste-data-reporting/) [Environment Protection Agency](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/waste/waste-data/waste-data-reporting/) [(SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/waste/waste-data/waste-data-reporting/)    |   |

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|  | economy and meet identified needs in a way that moves waste as high up the waste hierarchy as possible.  | Waste Sites and Capacity - [https://www.sepa.org.uk/datavisualisation/waste-sites-and-capacitytool/](https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/waste-sites-and-capacity-tool/)   Capacity 'need' calculations to meet ZW targets [spp-waste-capacityinfrastructure.xlsx (live.com)](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sepa.org.uk%2Fmedia%2F538969%2Fspp-waste-capacity-infrastructure.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)  |  |
| 13. Sustainable transport  | LDPs should prioritise locations for future development that can be accessed by sustainable modes. The spatial strategy should reflect the sustainable travel hierarchy and sustainable investment hierarchy by making best use of existing infrastructure and services. LDPs should promote a place-based  |    | CO2 Emissions tool – SEPA have pulled together national COPERT CO2 emission factors and Transport Scotland and UK Gov stats on distance travelled and fleet stats that allow CO2 emissions to be drilled-down to specific individual local authorities across Scotland – currently available direct from SEPA (see accompanying glossary document for details) will be hosted on [Home | Scotland's environment web](https://www.environment.gov.scot/) shortly  [UK Emissions Interactive Map (beis.gov.uk)](https://naei.beis.gov.uk/emissionsapp/) this is from the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory.   |

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|  | approach to consider how to reduce cardominance. This could include low traffic schemes, shared transport options, designing–in speed controls, bus/cycle priority, pedestrianisation and minimising space dedicated to car parking. Consideration should be given to the type, mix and use of development; local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods; car ownership levels; the accessibility of proposals and allocations by sustainable modes; and the accessibility for users of all abilities.  |  |  |

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|  | LDPs should be informed by an appropriate and effective transport appraisal undertaken in line with relevant transport appraisal guidance. Plans should be informed by evidence of the area’s transport infrastructure capacity, and an appraisal of the spatial strategy on the transport network. This should identify any potential cumulative transport impacts and deliverable mitigation proposed to inform the plan’s infrastructure first approach. Where there is likely to be an impact on the trunk road or rail network,  |  |  |

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| **NPF4 Policy**  | **NPF4 LDP Instruction**  | **SEPA Evidence**  | **External Evidence**  |
|  | early engagement with Transport Scotland is required.  |  |  |
| 16. Quality homes  |   | Licensed sites Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI) data [Environmental data | Scottish](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [Environment Protection Agency](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [(SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)  The latest data (v.3.0 dated March 2025) is publicly available on the SEPA website. The data can be viewed on the [SEPA website](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/flooding/flood-maps/) or downloaded directly from the [SEPA Data Publication webpage.](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)  [SEPA guidance on climate change allowances for land use planning](https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/594168/climate-change-guidance.pdf)  | Noise map [Scotland's noise (environment.gov.scot)](https://noise.environment.gov.scot/)  [Carbon and peatland 2016 map | Scotland's soils](https://soils.environment.gov.scot/maps/thematic-maps/carbon-and-peatland-2016-map/) [(environment.gov.scot)](https://soils.environment.gov.scot/maps/thematic-maps/carbon-and-peatland-2016-map/)  Information on past flooding events held by LA/ SW   |

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|  |  |  SEPA [Controlled Reservoirs Register](https://map.sepa.org.uk/reservoirsfloodmap/Map.htm) including inundation mapping  Information on past flooding events – this data can be obtained from [SEPA on request](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)   |  |
| 18. Infrastructure first  | LDPs and delivery programmes should be based on an integrated infrastructure first approach. Plans should: • be informed by evidence on infrastructure capacity, condition, needs and deliverability within the plan area, including cross boundary infrastructure; • set out the infrastructure  | SEPA Flood Hazard Maps The latest data (v.3.0 dated March 2025) is publicly available on the SEPA website. The data can be viewed on the [SEPA website](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/flooding/flood-maps/) or downloaded directly from the [SEPA Data Publication webpage.](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)  [SEPA guidance on climate change allowances for land use planning](https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/594168/climate-change-guidance.pdf)  [Flood Risk Management Plans | SEPA](https://www2.sepa.org.uk/frmplans/)  |  Strategic capacity asset data for water and waste water (SW)  Section 16 Assessment of risk from the sewer network maps (LA) - **This data should not be published externally, due to the data sharing agreements in place, and should not feature in any published SFRA dataset.**  [Carbon and peatland 2016 map | Scotland's soils (environment.gov.scot)](https://soils.environment.gov.scot/maps/thematic-maps/carbon-and-peatland-2016-map/)  |

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|  | requirements to deliver the spatial strategy, informed by the evidence base, identifying the infrastructure priorities, and where, how, when and by whom they will be delivered; and • indicate the type, level (or method of calculation) and location of the financial or in-kind contributions, and the types of development from which they will be required. Plans should align with relevant national, regional and local infrastructure plans and policies and take account of the Scottish Government infrastructure  |  [Flood Risk Management Maps](http://map.sepa.org.uk/floodmap/map.htm) – Natural Flood Management maps  Information on past flooding events – this data can be obtained from [SEPA on request](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)  [Water scarcity | Scottish Environment](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-scarcity/) [Protection Agency (SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-scarcity/)  [RBMP3 (sepa.org.uk)](https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/RBMP3/)   [Water Classification Hub (sepa.org.uk)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-classification-hub/) [Bathing Waters : Summary of last season (sepa.org.uk)](https://www2.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters/Classifications.aspx)  Scottish Wetland Inventory, River and Coastal catchments,  |  Digital River Network OS layer  [Scottish Flood Defence Asset Database](https://www.scottishflooddefences.gov.uk/)  Information on past flooding (LA/ SW)  Local Authority Flood Studies (LA)  Surface Water Management Plans (LA)  Adaptation Plans and Coastal adaptation (Shoreline management) plans (LA) Local Flood Risk Management Plans – these are available on local authorities’ websites.   |

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|  | investment hierarchy and sustainable travel and investment hierarchies in developing the spatial strategy. Consistent early engagement and collaboration between relevant stakeholders will better inform decisions on land use and investment.  | Water environment classification data, Obstacles to fish migration, Bathing water areas and catchments, Geomorphic risk layer Riparian vegetation planting opportunities WEF existing, completed and potential locations Licensed sites  River Anthropogenic Modification Index (available by end 2023) Riparian vegetation condition layer (available by end 2023) Layers listed above available from: [Environmental data | Scottish](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [Environment Protection Agency](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [(SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)   | [Moderating extremes in water availability: a review of the role of functioning wetlands | CREW | Scotland's Centre of Expertise for Waters](https://www.crew.ac.uk/publication/moderating-extremes-water-availability-review-role-functioning-wetlands)   |

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| **NPF4 Policy**  | **NPF4 LDP Instruction**  | **SEPA Evidence**  | **External Evidence**  |
| 19. Heat and cooling  | LDPs should take into account the area’s Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES). The spatial strategy should take into account areas of heat network potential and any designated Heat Network Zones (HNZ).  | Waste Sites and Capacity - [https://www.sepa.org.uk/datavisualisation/waste-sites-and-capacitytool/](https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/waste-sites-and-capacity-tool/)   Licensed sites layer available from [Environmental data | Scottish](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [Environment Protection Agency](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [(SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)   | The Coal Authority map is found here, on the Mine Water Heat dropdown tab, top right: [Interactive Map Viewer | Coal Authority (bgs.ac.uk)](https://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/coalauthority/home.html)  The Mine Water Geothermal Resource Atlas Scotland is found here: [Mine Water Geothermal Resource Atlas - Scotland -](https://data.spatialhub.scot/dataset/mine_water_geothermal_resource_atlas-is) [Dataset - Spatial Hub Scotland](https://data.spatialhub.scot/dataset/mine_water_geothermal_resource_atlas-is)   |
| 20. Blue and green infrastructure  | LDPs should be informed by relevant, up-todate audits and/or strategies, covering the multiple functions and benefits of blue and green infrastructure. The spatial strategy should identify and protect blue and green  | SEPA Flood Hazard Maps The latest data (v.3.0 dated March 2025) is publicly available on the SEPA website. The data can be viewed on the [SEPA website](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/flooding/flood-maps/) or downloaded directly from the [SEPA Data Publication webpage.](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)   | Strategic capacity asset data for water and waste water (SW)  Section 16 Assessment of risk from the sewer network maps (LA) - **This data should not be published externally, due to the data sharing agreements in place, and should not feature in any published SFRA dataset**. Integrated Catchment Study outputs  |

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| **NPF4 Policy**  | **NPF4 LDP Instruction**  | **SEPA Evidence**  | **External Evidence**  |
|  | infrastructure assets and networks; enhance and expand existing provision including new blue and/or green infrastructure. This may include retrofitting. Priorities for connectivity to other blue and/or green infrastructure assets, including to address cross-boundary needs and opportunities, should also be identified. LDPs should encourage the permanent or temporary use of unused or under-used land as green infrastructure. Where this is temporary, this should not prevent future development  | [SEPA guidance on climate change allowances for land use planning](https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/594168/climate-change-guidance.pdf)  [Flood Risk Management Maps](http://map.sepa.org.uk/floodmap/map.htm) – Natural Flood Management maps  [Flood Risk Management Plans | SEPA](https://www2.sepa.org.uk/frmplans/)  Information on past flooding events – this data can be obtained from [SEPA on request](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)  [Water scarcity | Scottish Environment](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-scarcity/) [Protection Agency (SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-scarcity/)  [RBMP3 (sepa.org.uk)](https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/RBMP3/)   [Water Classification Hub (sepa.org.uk)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-classification-hub/)  |  [Habitat Map of Scotland | Scotland's environment web](https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/habitats-and-species/habitat-map-of-scotland/) collection of 8 map layers to view and link to download  Digital River Network OS layer  Information on past flood events (LA/ SW)  <https://www.dynamiccoast.com/> [Carbon and peatland 2016 map | Scotland's soils](https://soils.environment.gov.scot/maps/thematic-maps/carbon-and-peatland-2016-map/) [(environment.gov.scot)](https://soils.environment.gov.scot/maps/thematic-maps/carbon-and-peatland-2016-map/)  [Scotland's Aquaculture | Map](http://aquaculture.scotland.gov.uk/map/map.aspx)  Local Authority Flood Studies (LA)  Surface Water Management Plans (LA)  |

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| **NPF4 Policy**  | **NPF4 LDP Instruction**  | **SEPA Evidence**  | **External Evidence**  |
|  | potential from being realised. LDPs should safeguard access rights and core paths, including active travel routes, and encourage new and enhanced opportunities for access linked to wider networks  | [Bathing Waters: Summary of last season (sepa.org.uk)](https://www2.sepa.org.uk/bathingwaters/Classifications.aspx)  Scottish Wetland Inventory, River and Coastal catchments, Water environment classification data, Obstacles to fish migration, Bathing water areas and catchments, Licensed sites, Geomorphic risk layer, Riparian vegetation planting opportunities, WEF existing, completed and potential locations, River Anthropogenic Modification Index (available by end 2023) Riparian vegetation condition layer (available by end 2023)   |  Adaptation Plans and Coastal adaptation (Shoreline management) plans (LA)  Local Flood Risk Management Plans – these are available on local authorities’ websites.  [Moderating extremes in water availability: a review of the role of functioning wetlands | CREW | Scotland's Centre of Expertise for Waters](https://www.crew.ac.uk/publication/moderating-extremes-water-availability-review-role-functioning-wetlands)   |

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| **NPF4 Policy**  | **NPF4 LDP Instruction**  | **SEPA Evidence**  | **External Evidence**  |
|  |  | Above layers available from: [Environmental data | Scottish](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [Environment Protection Agency](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [(SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)   |  |
| 22. Flood risk and water management  | LDPs should strengthen community resilience to the current and future impacts of climate change, by avoiding development in areas at flood risk as a first principle. Resilience should also be supported by managing the need to bring previously used sites in built up areas into positive use; planning for adaptation measures; and identifying  | SEPA Flood Hazard Maps The latest data (v.3.0 dated March 2025) is publicly available on the SEPA website. The data can be viewed on the [SEPA website](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/flooding/flood-maps/) or downloaded directly from the [SEPA Data Publication webpage.](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)  [SEPA guidance on climate change allowances for land use planning](https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/594168/climate-change-guidance.pdf)  [Flood Risk Management Plans | SEPA](https://www2.sepa.org.uk/frmplans/)  [Flood Risk Management Maps](http://map.sepa.org.uk/floodmap/map.htm) – Natural Flood Management maps  | Local Flood Risk Management Plans – these are available on local authorities’ websites.  Section 16 Assessment of risk from the sewer network maps (LA) - **This data should not be published externally, due to the data sharing agreements in place, and should not feature in any published SFRA dataset.**  Surface Water Management Plans (LA)  [Scottish Flood Defence Asset Database](https://www.scottishflooddefences.gov.uk/)  Local Authority Flood Studies (LA)  |

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| **NPF4 Policy**  | **NPF4 LDP Instruction**  | **SEPA Evidence**  | **External Evidence**  |
|  | opportunities to implement improvements to the water environment through natural flood risk management and blue green infrastructure. Plans should take into account the probability of flooding from all sources and make use of relevant flood risk and river basin management plans for the area. A precautionary approach should be taken, regarding the calculated probability of flooding as a best estimate, not a precise forecast. For areas where climate change is likely to result in  |  Information on past flooding events – this data can be obtained from [SEPA on request](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)  SEPA [Controlled Reservoirs Register](https://map.sepa.org.uk/reservoirsfloodmap/Map.htm) including inundation mapping.  [Water scarcity | Scottish Environment](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-scarcity/) [Protection Agency (SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-scarcity/)  [RBMP3 (sepa.org.uk)](https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/RBMP3/)   [Water Classification Hub (sepa.org.uk)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-classification-hub/)  Scottish Wetland Inventory, River and Coastal catchments, Water environment classification data,  |  Adaptation Plans and Coastal Adaptation (Shoreline Management) Plans (LA)  [Dynamic Coast](https://www.dynamiccoast.com/)  Information on past flooding (LA/SW)  Strategic capacity asset data for water and waste water (SW)  [Carbon and peatland 2016 map | Scotland's soils](https://soils.environment.gov.scot/maps/thematic-maps/carbon-and-peatland-2016-map/) [(environment.gov.scot)](https://soils.environment.gov.scot/maps/thematic-maps/carbon-and-peatland-2016-map/)  [Scotland's Aquaculture | Map](http://aquaculture.scotland.gov.uk/map/map.aspx)  |

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| **NPF4 Policy**  | **NPF4 LDP Instruction**  | **SEPA Evidence**  | **External Evidence**  |
|  | increased flood exposure that becomes unmanageable, consideration should be given to alternative sustainable land use  | Obstacles to fish migration, Bathing water areas and catchments, Licensed sites, Geomorphic risk layer, Riparian vegetation planting opportunities, WEF existing, completed and potential locations  River Anthropogenic Modification Index (available by end 2023) Riparian vegetation condition layer (available by end 2023)  All above layers from: [Environmental data | Scottish](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [Environment Protection Agency](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [(SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)   |  |

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| **NPF4 Policy**  | **NPF4 LDP Instruction**  | **SEPA Evidence**  | **External Evidence**  |
| 23. Health and safety  | LDP spatial strategies should seek to tackle health inequalities particularly in places which are experiencing the most disadvantage. They should identify the health and social care services and infrastructure needed in the area, including potential for co-location of complementary services, in partnership with Health Boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships. LDPs should create healthier places for example through opportunities for exercise, healthier lifestyles, land for community food growing and  | Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI) data [Environmental data |](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [Scottish Environment Protection](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [Agency (SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)  Licensed sites [Environmental data | Scottish](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [Environment Protection Agency](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/) [(SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/)  [Special sites in Scotland | Scottish](https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/land/contaminated-land/special-sites-in-scotland/) [Environment Protection Agency](https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/land/contaminated-land/special-sites-in-scotland/) [(SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/land/contaminated-land/special-sites-in-scotland/)   | Low Emission Zone evidence models for the 4 cities (Edinburgh Aberdeen, Glasgow and Dundee)  [LAQM reports (scottishairquality.scot)](https://www.scottishairquality.scot/news/reports/laqm)  [Home page | Scottish Air Quality](https://www.scottishairquality.scot/) – provides AQ monitoring data, including Diffusion Tube and automatic monitoring sites.  LAs should contact HSE for further information which supports the [COMAH 2015: Search (hse.gov.uk)](https://notifications.hse.gov.uk/COMAH2015/Search.aspx)  Local Authority Inspection Strategies (for contaminated land) and their accompanying map data sets of potentially contaminative current or historic land uses.  [UK Emissions Interactive Map (beis.gov.uk)](https://naei.beis.gov.uk/emissionsapp/) this is from the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory.   |

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| **NPF4 Policy**  | **NPF4 LDP Instruction**  | **SEPA Evidence**  | **External Evidence**  |
|  | allotments, and awareness of locations of concern for suicide. Spatial strategies should maintain appropriate distances between sites with hazardous substances and areas where the public are likely to be present and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest  |  | CO2 Emissions tool – SEPA have pulled together national COPERT CO2 emission factors and Transport Scotland and UK Gov stats on distance travelled and fleet stats that allow CO2 emissions to be drilled-down to specific individual local authorities across Scotland – currently available direct from SEPA (see accompanying glossary document for details) will be hosted on [Home | Scotland's environment web](https://www.environment.gov.scot/) shortly  [APIS app | Air Pollution Information System](https://www.apis.ac.uk/app) – the interactive site relevant critical loads tool can show 1km resolution air pollutant data and SSSIs etc.  *Future resource* The development of the [APAS tool](https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/air-pollution-assessment-service/) is ongoing and an initial testing phase has recently completed. Features to facilitate air quality/human health assessments are being incorporated. At present JNCC are looking to launch and go live at the end of 2023 or early in 2024.  |
| **NPF4 Policy**  | **NPF4 LDP Instruction**  | **SEPA Evidence**  | **External Evidence**  |
| 32. Aquaculture  | LDPs should guide new aquaculture development in line with National and Regional Marine Planning, and will minimise adverse environmental impacts, including cumulative impacts, that arise from other existing and planned aquaculture developments in the area while also reflecting industry needs.  |   | [https://www.gov.scot/publications/authorisation-ofmarine-fish-farms-in-scottish-waters-locationalguidelines/](https://www.gov.scot/publications/authorisation-of-marine-fish-farms-in-scottish-waters-locational-guidelines/)  [Scotland's Aquaculture | Map](http://aquaculture.scotland.gov.uk/map/map.aspx)  [Marine Scotland - National Marine Plan Interactive](https://marinescotland.atkinsgeospatial.com/nmpi/) [(atkinsgeospatial.com)](https://marinescotland.atkinsgeospatial.com/nmpi/)   |

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