

Set for approval?

Future National Developments for Scotland, 2008 to 2020

Advance information for communities



An illustration of national developments to be considered in the Scottish Executive's next National Planning Framework

1.0 What is the National Planning Framework?

This map is an indicative preview, produced by Scottish Environment LINK, showing the possible contents of the Scottish Executive's next National Planning Framework (NPF). The NPF is a powerful new statutory framework-plan for Scotland, to be consulted on in 2008, and will determine how the nation's infrastructure will be developed over the next 10-20 years (see map opposite). The Scottish Executive could use new legal powers (as proposed in the Planning etc. (Scotland) Bill) to decide that any of the types of developments shown are of sufficient national importance (designated 'National Developments') to go ahead in principle, as part of a fast-tracked system of approval.

2.0 Key to map

Shortlisted radioactive waste dump sites:

- 1 Altnabreac, Highland
- 2 Dounreay
- 3 Hunterston offshore
- 4 Fuday, Western Isles
- 5 Sandray, Western Isles



Nuclear power stations:

- 20 Hunterston
- 21 Chapelcross
- 22 Torness



Superquarries:

- 23 Morvern Peninsula



Landfill, additional capacity:

- 24 Inverness
- 25 Shetland



Airport expansion:

- 26 Edinburgh
- 27 Aberdeen



Electricity transmission lines:

- 28 Beaulay-Keith upgrade
- 29 Beaulay-Denny line
- 30 Sloy scheme
- 31 Kendoon line
- 32 Western inter-connector



Railways:

- 33 East coast mainline
- 34 Waverley line
- 35 Bathgate to Airdrie



Ports:

- 36 Scapa
- 37 Hunterston



Power stations:

- 38 Peterhead hydrogen power station



Hospitals:

- 39 Glasgow Southern General
- 40 Larbert



Prisons:

- 41 Addiewell
- 42 Low Moss



Super-casino:

- 43 Glasgow



Possible incinerator sites:

- 6 Lanarkshire
- 7 Lochaber
- 8 Moray
- 9 Perth & Kinross or Tayside
- 10 West Lothian
- 11 Fife
- 12 Glasgow
- 13 Ayrshire



Roads:

- 14 Aberdeen western peripheral
- 15 M74
- 16 A9 (dualling north of Perth)
- 17 A96 (Inverness to Aberdeen)
- 18 A82 (Loch Lomond)
- 19 Second Forth road bridge

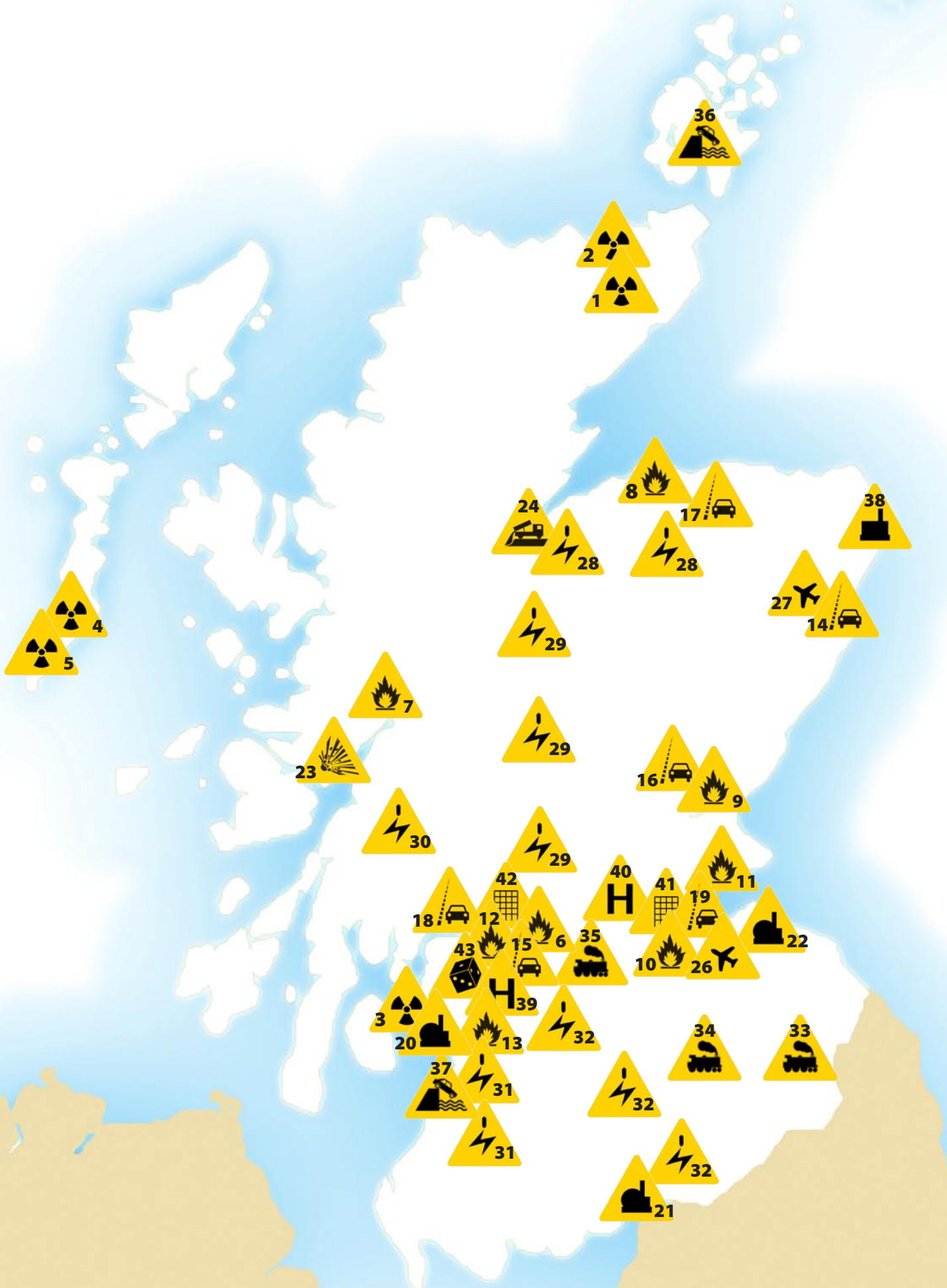


3.0 How can communities influence the finalised map?

- 3.1. The NPF is not like existing development plans; at no stage in the process will individuals or organisations be able to lodge formal representations or objections.
- 3.2. There will be no Public Inquiry to allow an independent reporter to consider objections and evidence before making recommendations to advise Ministers and the Scottish Parliament.
- 3.3. The content of the NPF will reflect the future priorities and manifesto commitments of the political party (or parties) that are in power at the time. Decisions as to whether a proposal is the most effective use of public money, or sound in principle, will be made without any form of independent public scrutiny.
- 3.4. Local Authorities will be legally required to find suitable sites in their development plans for any of the 'national developments' illustrated, so they are line with the NPF.
- 3.5. Once a 'national development' is designated any subsequent inquiry will not be allowed to consider the justification or need for the proposal.
- 3.6. Any local level consultation, inquiry or decision will be required to confine itself to design matters such as the colour of chimneys and the height of security fences.
- 3.7. There will be 40 or 60 days of unspecified scrutiny by MSPs in the Scottish Parliament, and it has not yet been decided how this will involve the public. The views of MSPs will be purely advisory and can be ignored by Scottish Ministers.

The proposed consultation arrangements are accurate at the time of printing but could change should MSPs decide to amend the Planning etc. (Scotland) Bill, as discussed on page four.

NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK FOR SCOTLAND 2008



4.0 How accurate is the map at this stage?

All the developments on the map have been subject to some announcement, report or inclusion in previous strategies (references below). Any type of significant development could be proposed for approval in the next draft NPF. All types of development might be classified as 'national' and not all could be illustrated, including major housing developments and areas of urban expansion, renewable energy developments, and water infrastructure projects.

5.0 Key questions about public involvement in major planning decisions

Planning at this scale and in this manner has not been attempted in Scotland in recent times and existing regional structure plans will be superseded at the top of Scotland's planning hierarchy. Once approved, the Planning etc. (Scotland) Bill will decide how future proposals, similar to those illustrated, will be finalised and whether the public will be involved. The key questions are:

- 5.1. Should communities, local authorities, business organisations, non-governmental organisations, elected politicians and any interested members of the public have the right to lodge representations or objections to proposals in the NPF?
- 5.2. In line with existing protocol, should an independent expert chair an inquiry or examination in public to consider any outstanding representations and objections?
- 5.3. Could the power to approve major developments in principle, without scope for public objections or any form of public inquiry, be misused by future governments to promote unwanted, unnecessary and unsustainable developments?
- 5.4. **Should MSPs amend the Planning Bill to ensure their constituents have the right to make representations and see the justification for major developments considered by an inquiry?**

6.0 References

- 1-5 http://www.nirex.co.uk/index/iold_list.htm
- 6-13 <http://www.sundayherald.com/55576>
- 14 <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/05/02103928>
- 15 <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/03/24181414>
- 16 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/4922724.stm>
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- 19 <http://www.forthbridges.org.uk/news.htm>
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- 23 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/4358808.stm>
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- 37 http://www.clydesite.co.uk/articles/hunterston_terminal.asp
- 38 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/4638409.stm>
- 39 <http://news.scotsman.com/glasgow.cfm?id=387082006>
- 40 <http://www.serco.com/media/pressreleases/2006/nhsforthvalley.asp>
- 41, 42 <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2004/01/4970>
- 43 <http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/62666.html>

7.0 Further information about the map

This map was produced by Scottish Environment LINK, to inform the debate concerning the implications of planning reforms proposed by the Scottish Executive. For further information please contact: Jane Herbstritt, LINK Parliamentary Officer, jane@scotlink.org, 0131 225 4345