Landscape at the heart of decision-making

Rebecca Hughes *FLI*

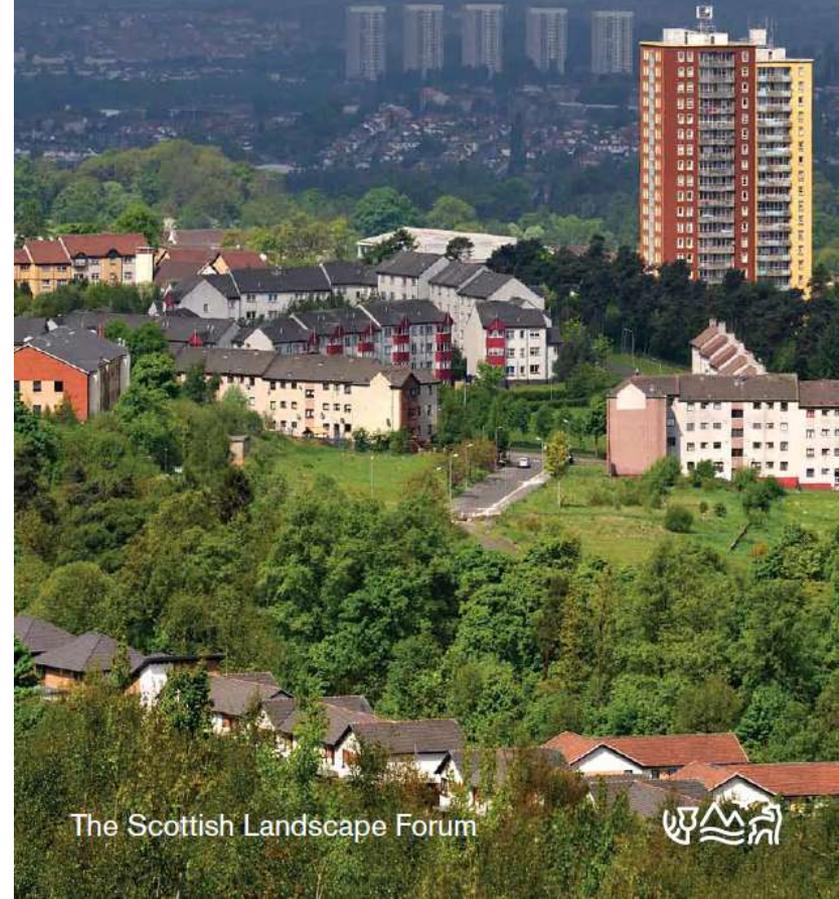*Landscape Institute, Policy and Development Officer Scotland*

Scotland's Landscape Charter

Our vision for Scotland's landscapes is that, within a generation …

…we can be proud of all our landscapes. Landscapes are cared for as a vital national resource, fundamental to our prosperity and wellbeing. We all play an active part in decisions affecting our surroundings, and everyone in a position to help shape them – public bodies, commercial businesses, land managers and individuals alike – is committed to maintaining their quality and distinctiveness. Individuals, communities and non-government organisations

- Land managers
- Developers
- Local authorities, public agencies and government departments
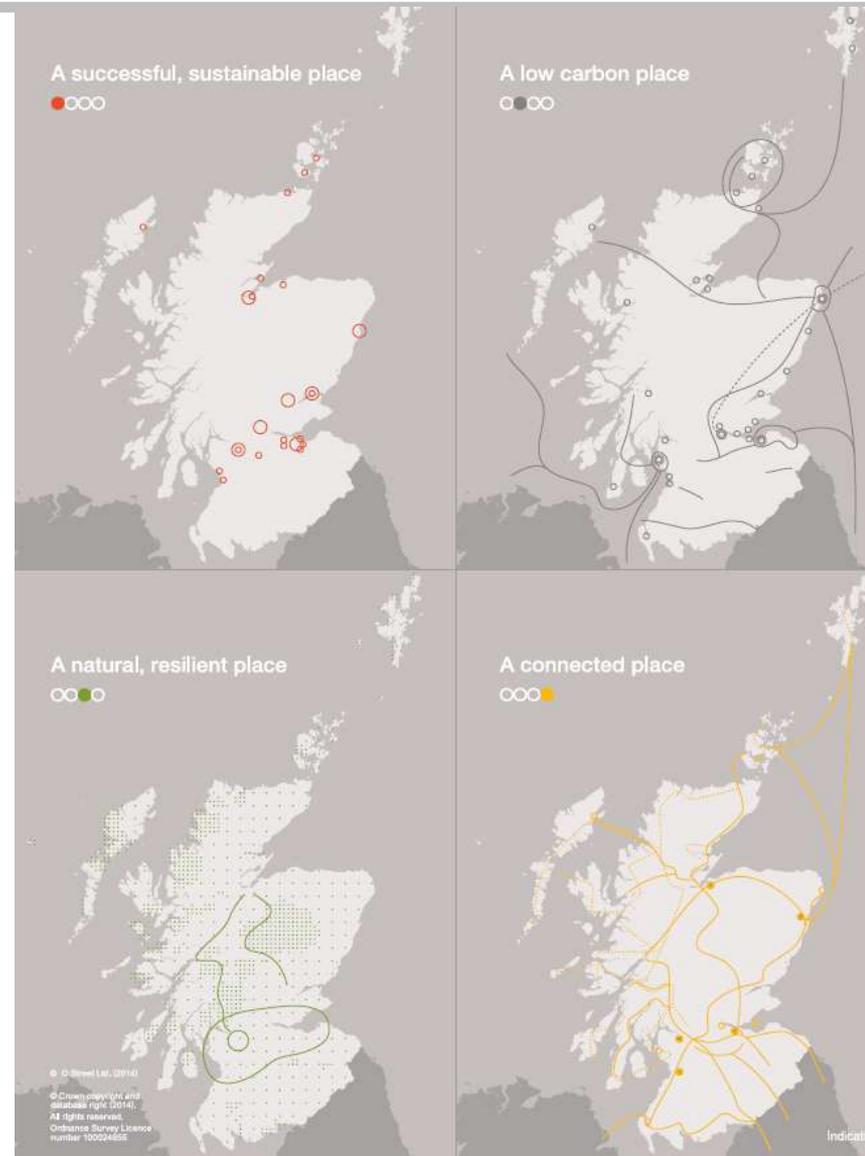
National Planning Framework 3

Outcome 1: A successful, sustainable place
supporting sustainable economic
growth and regeneration, and the
creation of well-designed places

Outcome 2: A low carbon place
reducing our carbon emissions and
adapting to climate change

Outcome 3: A natural, resilient place
helping to protect and enhance our
natural and cultural assets, and
facilitating their sustainable use

Outcome 4: A connected place
supporting better transport and
digital connectivity

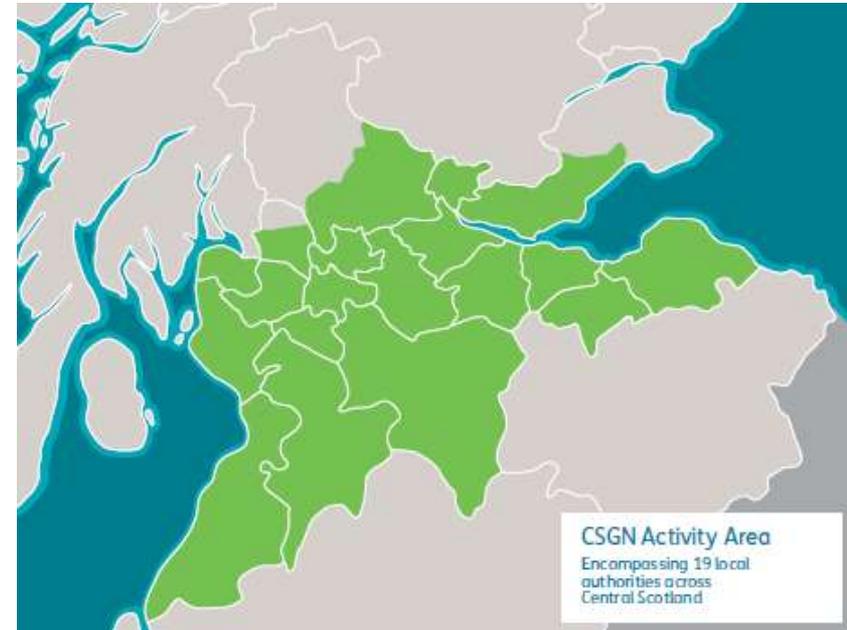**Cities and Towns | Rural Areas | Coast and Islands |
National Developments**

A successful, sustainable place

A low carbon place

A natural, resilient place

A connected place

Central Scotland Green Network

'By 2050, Central Scotland has been transformed into a place where the environment adds value to the economy and where people's lives are enriched by its quality.'

- A place for growth

- A place in balance

- A place to feel good

- A place to belong

- A place for nature

Remediation of derelict land, action in
disadvantaged communities and active travel should be priorities
during NPF3.

CSGN Declarations

CSGN Activity Area
Encompassing 19 local
authorities across
Central Scotland

Central Scotland Green Network

www.centralscotlandgreennetwork.org

Scottish Planning Policy

Planning Outcomes 1-4

Policy Principles

- SPP introduces a presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development
- Planning should take every opportunity to create high quality places by taking a design-led approach
- Planning should direct the right development to the right place
- Planning should support development that is designed to a high-quality, which demonstrates the six qualities of successful place

Subject Policies

- Promoting Town Centres
- Valuing the Natural Environment
- Maximising the Benefits of Green Infrastructure

Scale	Tool
STRATEGIC	**Design Frameworks** For larger areas of significant change, so must include some flexibility. To address major issues in a co-ordinated and viable way. May include general principles as well as maps and diagrams to show the importance of connections around and within a place.
	Development Briefs For a place or site, to form the basis of dialogue between the local authority and developers. To advise how policies should be implemented. May include detail on function, layout, plot sizes, building heights and lines, and materials.
	Master Plans For a specific site that may be phased so able to adapt over time. To describe and illustrate how a proposal will meet the vision and how it will work on the ground. May include images showing the relationship of people and place. See Planning Advice Note 83: Masterplanning[31]
	Design Guides For a particular subject, e.g. shop fronts. To show how development can be put into practice in line with policy. Includes detail, e.g. images of examples.
SITE SPECIFIC	**Design Statements** Required to accompany some planning applications. To explain how the application meets policy and guidance, for example by close reference to key considerations of street design with Designing Streets. See Planning Advice Note 68: Design Statements[32]

Landscape Institute Scotland

Inspiring great places

CURRENT PLANNING POLICY AND ADVICE ON GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

SG Policy and PANs

SPP states that decisions on the layout and design of new development should:
- Encourage the use of active travel networks and public transport;
- Encourage energy efficiency through the orientation and design of buildings, choice of materials and the use of low carbon generating technologies;
- Encourage the use of sustainable and recycled materials in construction, and support habitat connectivity; and
- Support sustainable water resource management and waste management.

National Planning Framework 2 identifies the Central Scotland Green Network as a national development, signalling it as a form of green infrastructure of strategic importance. The CSGN promotes environmental quality and good connectivity, a strategic network of woodlands and other habitats, more sustainable and healthy patterns of travel, transport and land use, and expanding opportunities for communities and businesses across the whole of central Scotland.

Designing Places promotes six qualities of successful places; Identity, safe and pleasant, ease of movement, a sense of welcome, adaptability and good use of resources. These principles can be applied specifically to the design of green infrastructure including open spaces and green networks. It also highlights that "Places that are distinctive and designed with a real understanding of the natural world are likely to be enjoyed, cared for and valued".

Designing Streets advocates street design that encourages place before traffic movement and promotes 'permeability' of urban form through the design of street patterns and the connectivity of streets with surrounding networks. It highlights that "Connected and permeable networks encourage walking and cycling, and make navigation through places easier".

PAN 65 Planning and Open Space advises: "Some of the best open spaces are part of networks. These can help define the landscape or townscape structure, provide links with the countryside and allow movement of people and wildlife". It goes on to suggest that "Local authorities should aim to maintain or form networks of green and civic spaces which maintain and enhance environmental qualities; provide a range of opportunities for recreation and leisure; link and create wildlife habitats; and encourage walking and cycling and reduce car use".

PAN 83 Masterplanning aims to promote the use of masterplanning to create better places. It explains how to achieve more effective masterplanning, how to achieve more consistency in the presentation of masterplans, and it encourages good practice through a range of exemplary case studies. The document covers the masterplanning process from beginning to end.

PRACTICAL PROJECTS

The Scottish Government's Architecture and Place Division within the Built Environment Directorate is developing a series of Practical Projects. These documents provide practical guidance and recommendations on the creation of better quality places.

The first document in the series looked at a residential streets project in Polnoon.

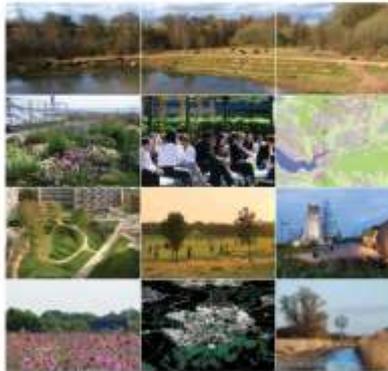The second provided a summary of the Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative (SSCI).

This third document in the series provides ideas on how to place green infrastructure at the core of masterplanning.

This document does not seek to reinvent nor reiterate the established masterplanning process. It complements existing advice in PAN 65 and PAN 83.

LI Policy Position Statements, Publications and Technical Notes

Policy and Development Officer Scotland 2014

Consultations
- Wild Land
- National Roads Guide Consultation
- Historic Environment Bill
- Visual Representation for Wind Farms
- Public Consultation on Wind Farm Development
- Scottish Natural Heritage Corporate Plan
- Land Use Strategy Review
- Climate Ready Clyde Consultation
- Land Reform Bill Consultation on Land Rights and Responsibilities
- Landscape Character Assessment Guide

Liaison
- SNH, Scottish Tree Health Advisory Group , Association Protection of Rural Scotland, RIAS, ESALA, Scottish Government Planning and Architecture Division, Scottish Environment Link, A+DS, Landscape 2020 Initiative

Events
- Water Blues, Green Solutions, ESALA
- Landscape Futures : Creating Resilient Landscapes of the Future, Dynamic Earth