

Draft Marine and Coastal Restoration Plan

October 2025

	Theme 1 - Restoration Opportunities and Priorities
1.	<p>On a scale from 1 to 5, how would you prioritise each of the objectives in this theme?</p> <p>1 = This objective is not at all important 2 = This objective is not very important 3 = Neutral 4 = This objective is quite important 5 = This objective is very important 0 = I am unsure</p>
Scottish Water has no comment to make.	
2.	<p>Please choose for each action set out in this theme whether it should be: Included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included.</p>
Scottish Water has no comment to make.	
3.	<p>Is there any further information you would like to share with us on the objectives or actions in this theme?</p> <p>This could include your reasons for selecting the answers to the previous two questions, or any further reflections on the overall content of the theme.</p>
<p>Scottish Water broadly welcomes the actions set out in this theme. Exploring the opportunities within the marine environment for active restoration, through opportunity mapping and developing prioritisation criteria, would contribute to creating a more detailed picture of the marine environment. This could act to inform all marine users of areas that may be of interest and help to inform decision-making in marine planning and licensing. Scottish Water would also like to highlight that reference should be made to existing users of the marine area.</p> <p>Scottish Water would welcome more details on how a 'source to sea' approach could be taken for active restoration. Scottish Water operations in the marine environment are relatively limited in their scale with our marine infrastructure located within the inshore area only (outfalls, sub-sea pipelines and coastal defences) and so the opportunity we have for participating in 'active restoration' may be less significant than that of other large-scale marine users or developers. We would expect our participation in restoration more likely to be reflected in the form of 'pressure management' (passive restoration). Where we can participate in active restoration, clear guidance should be given.</p>	
	Theme 2 - Regulatory Environment
4.	<p>On a scale from 1 to 5, how would you prioritise each of the objectives in this theme?</p> <p>1 = This objective is not at all important 2 = This objective is not very important</p>

	3 = Neutral 4 = This objective is quite important 5 = This objective is very important 0 = I am unsure
Scottish Water has no comment to make.	
5.	Please choose for each action set out in this theme whether it should be: Included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included.
Scottish Water has no comment to make.	
6.	Is there any further information you would like to share with us on the objectives or actions in this theme? This could include your reasons for selecting the answers to the previous two questions, or any further reflections on the overall content of the theme.
<p>Scottish Water broadly welcomes the actions set out in the regulatory environment theme and would expect any future legislative protective measures and their potential impacts to be consulted on, as mentioned within the plan.</p> <p>Scottish Water would also welcome supporting policies within the updated NMP2 which will clearly outline any requirements for biodiversity enhancements, including potential restoration activities.</p>	
	Theme 3 - Funding and Finance
7.	On a scale from 1 to 5, how would you prioritise each of the objectives in this theme? 1 = This objective is not at all important 2 = This objective is not very important 3 = Neutral 4 = This objective is quite important 5 = This objective is very important 0 = I am unsure
Scottish Water has no comment to make.	
8.	Please choose for each action set out in this theme whether it should be: Included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included.
Scottish Water has no comment to make.	
9.	Is there any further information you would like to share with us on the objectives or actions in this theme? This could include your reasons for selecting the answers to the previous two questions, or any further reflections on the overall content of the theme.
Scottish Water would welcome further details on the work that is underway to develop and understand what a nature positive approach would look like for the marine environment. Appropriate guidance for all marine sectors and developers, considering scale and proportionality of developments, would be expected.	
	Theme 4 - Supply Chains and Communities
10.	On a scale from 1 to 5, how would you prioritise each of the objectives in this theme? 1 = This objective is not at all important

	2 = This objective is not very important 3 = Neutral 4 = This objective is quite important 5 = This objective is very important 0 = I am unsure
Scottish Water has no comment to make.	
11.	Please choose for each action set out in this theme whether it should be: Included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included.
Scottish Water has no comment to make.	
12.	Is there any further information you would like to share with us on the objectives or actions in this theme? This could include your reasons for selecting the answers to the previous two questions, or any further reflections on the overall content of the theme.
Scottish Water has no comment to make.	
	Theme 5 - Evidence and Monitoring
13.	On a scale from 1 to 5, how would you prioritise each of the objectives in this theme? 1 = This objective is not at all important 2 = This objective is not very important 3 = Neutral 4 = This objective is quite important 5 = This objective is very important 0 = I am unsure
Scottish Water has no comment to make.	
14.	Please choose for each action set out in this theme whether it should be: Included in this plan, reserved for the future, or not included.
Scottish Water has no comment to make.	
15.	Is there any further information you would like to share with us on the objectives or actions in this theme? This could include your reasons for selecting the answers to the previous two questions, or any further reflections on the overall content of the theme.
Scottish Water has no comment to make.	
	Questions on Overall Approach and Plan Content
16.	Overall, do you think this plan will support acceleration of restoration in Scottish coasts and waters?
Scottish Water has no comment to make.	
17.	Do you agree with the content of the plan?
Scottish Water broadly supports the content of the plan.	
18.	Are there any actions or objectives that you feel are missing and should be included and prioritised for the first Marine and Coastal Restoration Plan? Please provide detail in below
Scottish Water would like to highlight that there is limited reference to climate change, particularly sea level rise, and the role of nature in supporting the resilience of coastal margins and systems. There is also an absence of links to associated policy and	

planning regimes that need to be engaged to deliver restored and resilient coastal ecosystems.

Whilst Scottish Water supports the overall themes in the document (particularly the need for landscape scale change), it seems incomplete to not fully engage with climate change risk and sea level rise. There is one reference to the role of restoration and ecosystem resilience in the document (page 1). Sea levels will rise and the work of Dynamic Coast (<https://www.dynamiccoast.com/>) is informative around the future risks from coastal erosion, which should be a key driver for action to invest in nature-based engineering and habitat restoration to support ecosystem resilience and adaptation in coastal communities.

Investing in coastal habitats and ecosystems, particularly in areas vulnerable to coastal flooding or erosion, and where public assets may be impacted should be a key driver for investment in restoration. The document would benefit from building links to Scotland's National Adaptation Plan and the need for Local Authority led shoreline management planning to support resilience, identifying the role of nature restoration in supporting these long-term resilience outcomes.

Bringing climate change into projections of future risks would enable the identification of key areas and habitats that should be prioritised for the landscape scale changes suggested in the document.

Within this it would be useful to identify examples of good practice to support resilience, for example, dune system restoration at St Andrews as part of options for resilience to 2050 (https://www.dynamiccoast.com/files/dc2/ DC2_WS4_StAndrews_FINAL.pdf), and Seagrass Restoration (e.g. SMEEF work <https://smeef.scot/projects/seagrass-solway-firth/>).

19.	Noting that we will develop a monitoring and evaluation approach for implementation and review of the plan, do you have any comments you wish us to consider at this stage?
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Scottish Water has no comment to make.

Questions for Impact Assessments	
20.	<p>Do you think that the SEA Environmental Report is an accurate representation of the potential impacts (positive or negative) on the environment resulting from the objectives and actions proposed in this plan?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unsure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>

Scottish Water has no comment to make.

21.	<p>Do you think that the partial BRIA is an accurate representation of the potential costs, benefits and risks on the public, private or third sector, and regulators, associated with the objectives and actions proposed in this draft plan?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unsure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>
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Scottish Water has no comment to make.

22.	<p>Do you think that objectives and actions proposed in this draft plan will have an impact that is significantly different (positive or negative) for some or all island communities than for other communities (including other island communities)?</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> Other </p>
Scottish Water has no comment to make.	
23.	<p>Do you think that the objectives and actions proposed in this draft plan will have an impact (positive or negative) on protected characteristics, with particular regard to eliminating unlawful discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and promoting good relations?</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> Other </p>
Scottish Water has no comment to make.	
24.	<p>Do you think that the objective and actions proposed in this draft plan will have an impact (positive or negative) on children's rights and wellbeing?</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> Other </p>
Scottish Water has no comment to make.	

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