



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

# AoS and HRA of the Fusion National Policy Statement

AoS Scoping Report – Appendix A



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# Introduction

The following tables sets out a review of Policies, Plans and Programmes (PPP) which are considered relevant to the sustainability context of the proposed Fusion Energy National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-8) and its associated AoS. This review helps ensure compliance with the SEA Regulations<sup>1</sup> which require the AoS Report to contain ‘*an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes*’. (Schedule 2, Paragraph 1); ‘*The environmental protection objectives, established at international, [European Union] or [national] level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation*’. (Schedule 2, Paragraph 5). The review has been generally organised in alignment with SEA themes such as biodiversity, climate change, air quality etc.

The review also considers relevant Government, regulator, planning and thematic guidance across sustainability topics.

As such, this review exercise is a valuable element of the AoS process as it assists with the following:

- The identification of environmental, social and economic objectives of other relevant PPP that will guide:
  - the identification of sustainability issues and opportunities pertinent to the Fusion Energy NPS EN-8;
  - the development of the AoS framework to be used in the assessments of the Fusion Energy NPS which will comprise Sustainability Objectives and associated Decision Aid Questions.
  - the identification of planning and thematic guidance across sustainability topics which may shape NPS EN-8 policy approaches as advocated by the AoS.
- The identification of any clear early potential conflicts or challenges between the PPP and planning and thematic guidance with the emerging NPS EN-8 policy which is the subject of the AoS process.

Note that while the following focuses on Policies, Plans and Programmes, consideration is also made of guidance documents that are of relevance and these are denoted in italics.

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<sup>1</sup> [The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

# Key Policies, Plans and Programmes

**Table 1 – Description of the key policies, plans and programmes relevant to the AoS for EN-8 (international)**

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
<b>BIODIVERSITY</b>		
Convention on Biological Diversity 2010	Sets out a conservation plan to protect global biodiversity, and an international treaty to establish a fair and equitable system to enable nations to co-operate in accessing and sharing the benefits of genetic resources. The new global vision is “By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential to all people”.	Ensure protection of biodiversity within AoS framework.
Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	Builds on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 to set out the Convention on Biological Diversity’s vision of “living in harmony with nature by 2050”. Provides a framework for the development of national and regional biodiversity goals and targets, and the strategies and action plans to achieve these.	Ensure protection of biodiversity within AoS framework.
Berne Convention 1989	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 3. To this end the Convention imposes legal obligations on contracting parties, protecting over 500 wild plant species and more than 1000 wild animal species.	Ensure protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitat within AoS framework.
Ramsar Convention 1971	The Convention covers all aspects of wetland conservation and wise use. The Convention has three main 'pillars' of activity: the designation of wetlands of international importance as Ramsar sites; the promotion of the wise-use of all wetlands	Ensure protection of Ramsar sites within AoS framework.

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<p>in the territory of each country; and international co-operation with other countries to further the wise-use of wetlands and their resources.</p>	
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>		
<p>UN Framework Convention on Climate Change 1992, Kyoto Protocol 1997, Paris Agreement 2015 etc.</p>	<p>A series of international agreements setting targets and legally binding agreements for industrialised countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions. The Paris Agreement is the latest international agreement, and its overarching goal is to hold “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and pursue efforts “to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.”</p> <p>Note is also made of the UK Nationally Determined Contribution that commits to reducing greenhouse gases by 68% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.</p>	<p>Ensure reduction of greenhouse gas emissions within the AoS framework.</p>
<p>UK-EU TAC Agreement 2021</p>	<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 ambitions relating to energy, notably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UK and EU should recognise the mutual benefit in cooperation in areas of shared interest such as fusion research.</li> <li>• In recognition of the importance of a secure, affordable and sustainable energy system in relation to climate change, subsidies in relation to energy shall be aimed at by the UK and EU.</li> <li>• The UK and EU shall facilitate removal of obstacles to trade and investment relating to energy efficient products and services and renewable energy.</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure an objective considering alternative / renewable technologies for energy production is included within the AoS framework.</p> <p>Ensure an objective relating to the prudent use of natural resources (including energy) is included within the AoS framework.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
<b>HERITAGE</b>		
World Heritage Convention 1972	<p>This convention noted that the 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 and 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>	Ensure protection of cultural heritage and natural heritage within AoS framework.
Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage 2001	<p>The UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage is intended to enable States to better protect their submerged cultural heritage.</p> <p>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 recognized practical rules for the treatment and research of underwater cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	Ensure protection of underwater cultural heritage within AoS framework.
Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1992) – the ‘Valetta Convention’.	<p>The European Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised) replaced and updated the original London Convention of 1969. It reflected the change in the nature of threats to the archaeological heritage. It established a body of new basic legal standards for Europe, to be met by national policies for the protection of archaeological assets as sources of scientific and documentary evidence, in line with the principles of integrated conservation. It makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. It is concerned in particular with arrangements to be made for co-operation among archaeologists and town and regional planners in order to ensure optimum conservation of archaeological heritage.</p>	Ensure protection of archaeological heritage within AoS framework.

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<b>LANDSCAPE</b>		
European Landscape Convention 2000 – the ‘Florence Convention’	<p>The European Landscape Convention is part of the Council of Europe's work on natural and cultural heritage, spatial planning and the environment.</p> <p>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 well-being and consolidation of the European identity.</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> <li>• The aims of this Convention are to promote landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues.</li> </ul>	Ensure protection of landscapes within AoS framework.
<b>MARINE ENVIRONMENT</b>		
The OSPAR Convention 1992	<p>The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic 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;</li> </ul>	The AoS should consider protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic.

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	On the protection and conservation of the ecosystems and biological diversity of the maritime area.	
<b>NOISE</b>		
WHO Guidelines for Community Noise 1999	The World Health Organisation (WHO) publication entitled ‘Guidelines for Community Noise’ (1999), 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.	Ensure potential health impacts associated with noise are considered in the AoS framework.
WHO Night Noise Guidelines for Europe 2009	The World Health Organisation (WHO) Night Noise Guidelines for Europe (NNG) 2009 are health-based guidelines and are to be considered an extension and update to the WHO Guidelines for Community Noise 1999.  WHO NNG provides evidence based policy advice to member states in the development of future legislation and policy action in the area of control and surveillance of night noise exposure.	Ensure that night noise is addressed through the AoS framework.
WHO Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region 2018	The World Health Organisation (WHO) Noise Guidelines for Europe (NG) 2009 are health-based guidelines and are to be considered an extension and update to the WHO Guidelines for Community Noise 2009.	Ensure that the health and well-being of people is addressed through an objective in the AoS framework and that noise issues are considered.



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<b>HUMAN HEALTH</b>		
WHO Closing the Gap: Social Determinants of Health 2008	<p>The report prepared by the Commission on Social Determinants of Health aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve daily living conditions.</li> <li>• Tackle inequitable distribution of power, money and resources.</li> <li>• Measure and understand the problem and assess the impact on action.</li> <li>• Recommendations are made to tackle inequalities</li> </ul>	The AoS should consider the improvement of health and equitable distribution of resources equity.
<b>PUBLIC CONSULTATION</b>		
Aarhus Convention 2001	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.	The NPS and AoS will be consulted upon and open to scrutiny as per the requirement of the relevant regulations.

**Table 2 - Key Policies, Plans and Programmes– National (United Kingdom)**

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
<b>CROSS - THEMATIC</b>		
Environmental Protection Act 1990	<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>	Ensure that prevention and minimisation of pollution to air and water is considered in the AoS framework.
Environment Act 2021	<p>The Environment Act sets out that the Secretary of State may 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 in respect of at least one matter within each of the four priority areas: (a)air quality; (b)water; (c)biodiversity; (d)resource efficiency and waste reduction.</p> <p>The Act specifically requires the Secretary of State 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 Secretary of State must also prepare an environmental improvement plan for significantly improving the natural environment for a period no shorter than 15 years.</p> <p>Key relevant provisions:</p> <p><b>Biodiversity Net Gain</b></p> <p>The Act provides for a biodiversity net gain requirement for NSIPs that once commenced, will apply to NSIPs in England unless excluded development.</p>	The AoS needs to consider this far-reaching piece of legislation in terms of four priority areas: air quality, water, biodiversity and resource efficiency and waste.

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<p>The Act outlines that the biodiversity gain objective for NSIPs is to be set out and defined in a policy statement called a 'biodiversity gain statement'. The biodiversity gain objective will require that development increases its pre-development biodiversity value of the on-site habitat by the value specified in the biodiversity gain statement (which must be at least 10%). The biodiversity gain statements will also prescribe the processes through which biodiversity gains may be calculated, demonstrated, and verified.</p> <p>The Act sets out that following commencement of the schedule, the Secretary of State must amend the national policy statements when they are next reviewed so as to include a biodiversity gain statement. In the time between the schedule being commenced and a review of a national policy statement, a separate 'biodiversity gain statement' may be issued which would have the same effect as a statement integrated within a national policy statement.</p> <p>Once these provisions are commenced, the Secretary of State must be satisfied that the biodiversity gain objective set out in the relevant biodiversity gain statement is met, in order for consent to be granted.</p> <p><b>Waste and resource efficiency</b></p> <p>The Act gives wide ranging powers to make regulations about who producer obligations should apply to and which products or materials should be covered. These powers are intended to prevent waste/reduce the amount of a product that becomes waste and increase re-use, redistribution, recovery and recycling. Producers can get ahead of these regulations, and minimise any eventual requirements to pay disposal costs, by designing products with these objectives in mind.</p>	
Clean Growth Strategy 2017	<p>The Clean Growth Strategy deals specifically with the challenge of trying to grow the UKs 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>AoS needs to address the importance of reducing GHG emissions, as well as the full range of air pollutants whilst maximising the</p>

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	<p>The guiding principles of the Clean Growth Strategy are to, through nurturing low carbon technologies, processes, and systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meeting the UK’s domestic commitments at the lowest possible net cost to UK taxpayers, consumers, and businesses; and</li> <li>• maximising 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>social and economic benefit of the transition.</p>
<p>UK Sustainable Development Strategy 2005</p>	<p>This strategy has four broad objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable consumption and production – working towards achieving more with less.</li> <li>• Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement</li> <li>• From local to global, building sustainable communities</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure the AoS considers the full range of sustainability issues.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change and energy</li> </ul> <p>Our landscapes and seascapes are inseparable from our culture, bearing the imprints of generations of land use. Our physical and mental health is reliant on the quality of the environment. There must also be access to a variety of well-managed and maintained green spaces for leisure, sport, recreation and general public benefit to help people choose healthy lifestyles, in urban as well as rural areas.</p>	
<p>UK Shared Framework for Sustainable Development; One Future – Different Paths 2005</p>	<p>This framework document sets out the common goals and challenges of the UK Government and devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Each devolved administration will have its own strategy document but the framework demonstrates the commitment to work together on shared goals and challenges This framework document sets out what those are, and is an affirmation that the whole of the UK will work to common goals without compromising the strengths which our diversity of approach offers.</p>	<p>Ensure the AoS considers the full range of sustainability issues.</p>
<p>The Planning Act 2008</p>	<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 taken into account.</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> </ul>	<p>The AoS should be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific locations, where appropriate, in order to provide a clear framework for investment and planning decisions.</li> </ul> <p>Each NPS sets out Government policy for the infrastructure it covers and the reasons for that policy. This includes the need for new infrastructure; the relative weight to be given to specified criteria such as the benefits of new infrastructure and the adverse impacts that it might have; and, when action should be taken to mitigate adverse impacts. NPSs can set out criteria to be used in deciding whether a location is suitable for a type of infrastructure. They can also identify specific locations that are or might be suitable or unsuitable for a type of infrastructure.</p> <p>Setting out a clear Government policy in this way establishes clear Ministerial accountability for the policy choices that underlie planning decisions on nationally significant infrastructure schemes. It also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provides the primary basis for decisions by the Infrastructure Planning Commission on the applications it receives;</li> <li>• reduces the need for discussion at public inquiries about what is or should be Government policy – avoiding a situation in which an attempt is made to determine what the national need is on a case by case basis; and</li> <li>• gives prospective infrastructure providers clarity as to what proposals are or are not in line with Government policy.</li> </ul> <p>The Act sets out the scale of development which should be considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, and therefore have to be determined through the Development Consent Order process.</p> <p>This legislation introduced the independent Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC), to take decisions on major infrastructure projects (transport, energy, water and waste).</p>	
Environmental Permitting	The legislation provides regulatory framework for those operating, regulating or interested in facilities that are covered by the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations	The AoS should consider the protection of the

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<p>(England and Wales) Regulations 2016</p>	<p>2016. This covers facilities previously regulated under the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations 2007, and 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect the environment so that statutory and Government policy environmental targets and outcomes are achieved.</li> <li>• Deliver permitting and compliance with permits and certain environmental targets.</li> <li>• Effectively and efficiently in a way that provides increased clarity and minimises the administrative burden on both the regulator and the operators.</li> <li>• Encourage regulators to promote best practice in the operation of facilities.</li> <li>• Continue to fully implement European legislation.</li> </ul>	<p>environment from water extraction and waste and pollution discharges to the environment and include appropriate objectives if necessary.</p>
<p>The Town and Country Planning and Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2018</p>	<p>These Regulations amend the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.</p> <p>These new regulations set out the procedures to be followed in relation to environmental impact assessment 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 AoS framework should consider including objectives to promote environmental impact reduction.</p>

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Localism Act 2011	<p>The Act aims to shift power from central government to the hands of individuals, communities and councils.</p> <p>Moreover, the Act aims to push power downwards and outwards to the lowest possible level, including individuals, neighbourhoods, professionals and communities as well as local councils and other local institutions.</p> <p>The Localism Act includes five key measures that underpin the Government's approach to decentralisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community rights: which ensure that community organisations have a fair chance to bid to take over land and buildings that are important to them.</li> <li>• Neighbourhood planning: new rights will allow local communities to shape new development by coming together to prepare neighbourhood plans.</li> <li>• Housing: councils will get a higher flexibility to manage their housing stock for meeting local demand.</li> <li>• General power of competence: local authorities will have the legal capacity to do anything an individual could do that isn't specifically prohibited.</li> </ul> <p>Empowering cities and other local areas: public functions will be transferred to local authorities in order to improve local accountability or to promote economic growth.</p>	<p>The AoS should seek to align with the aims of the Act to shift power to individuals, communities and councils.</p>
Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004	<p>To comply with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, 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>SEA is an integral part of the NPS AoS and the AoS will ensure compliance with the SEA Regulations.</p>
Planning Practice Guidance – Natural	<p>Explains key issues in implementing policy to protect and enhance the natural environment, including local requirements covering:</p>	<p>To consider as part of identification of issues</p>



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<p>Environment 2019</p>	<p><b>Agricultural land, soil and brownfield land of environmental value</b></p> <p>A local planning authority must consult Natural England before granting planning permission for large-scale non-agricultural development on best and most versatile land that is not in accord with the development plan. Natural England has published guidance on development on agricultural land.</p> <p><b>Green infrastructure</b></p> <p>Green infrastructure opportunities and requirements need to be considered at the earliest stages of development proposals, as an integral part of development and infrastructure provision, and taking into account existing natural assets and the most suitable locations and types of new provision.</p> <p><b>Biodiversity, geodiversity and ecosystems</b></p> <p>Development plans and planning decisions have the potential to affect biodiversity or geodiversity outside as well as inside relevant designated areas.</p> <p>Planning authorities and neighbourhood planning bodies can work collaboratively with other partners, including Local Nature Partnerships, to develop and deliver a strategic approach to protecting and improving the natural environment based on local priorities and evidence. Equally, they need to consider the opportunities that individual development proposals may provide to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, and contribute to habitat connectivity in the wider area (including as part of the Nature Recovery Network).</p> <p>As set out in the Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan, the Nature Recovery Network is an expanding and increasingly-connected network of wildlife-rich habitat across England. It comprises a core network of designated sites of importance for biodiversity and adjoining areas that function as stepping stones or wildlife corridors, areas identified for new habitat creation and up to 25 nature recovery areas for targeted action. Defra, Natural England and other government bodies are working with national and local partnerships to deliver the</p>	<p>and opportunities for the NPS</p>

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	<p>Network, which includes support for developing maps and advice to show where actions to improve and restore habitats would be most effective.</p> <p>Local ecological networks can make a significant contribution to developing the Nature Recovery Network.</p> <p>Guidance on ecosystems services (the benefits people obtain from ecosystems, such as food, water, flood and disease control and recreation) and using an ecosystems approach is available. This guidance can, where appropriate, inform plan-making and decision-making on planning applications.</p> <p>Information on biodiversity and geodiversity impacts and opportunities needs to inform all stages of development (including site selection and design, pre-application consultation and the application itself). An ecological survey will be necessary in advance of a planning application if the type and location of development could have a significant impact on biodiversity and existing information is lacking or inadequate. Pre-application discussions can help to scope whether this is the case and, if so, the survey work required.</p> <p>Plans, and particularly those containing strategic policies, can be used to set out a suitable approach to both biodiversity and wider environmental net gain, how it will be achieved, and which areas present the best opportunities to deliver gains. Such areas could include those identified in: natural capital plans; local biodiversity opportunity or ecological network maps; local green infrastructure strategies; strategic flood risk assessments; water cycle studies; air quality management plans; river basin management plans; and strategic protected species licensing areas. Consideration may also be given to local sites including where communities could benefit from improved access to nature.</p> <p><b>Landscape</b></p> <p>The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that plans should recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and that strategic policies should provide for the conservation and enhancement of landscapes. This can include nationally and locally-designated landscapes but also the wider countryside.</p>	

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	<p>Where landscapes have a particular local value, it is important for policies to identify their special characteristics and be supported by proportionate evidence. Policies may set out criteria against which proposals for development affecting these areas will be assessed. Plans can also include policies to avoid adverse impacts on landscapes and to set out necessary mitigation measures, such as appropriate design principles and visual screening, where necessary. The cumulative impacts of development on the landscape need to be considered carefully.</p>	
<p><b>BIODIVERSITY</b></p>		
<p>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</p>	<p>An Act prohibiting and limiting actions involving wild animals, and the primary piece of legislation for wildlife protection in the UK. Prohibitions include taking, injuring, killing and disturbing. It is also an offence to disturb places used for shelter and protection.</p> <p>The Act [inter alia] 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>	<p>Ensure that wildlife protection covered within AoS framework.</p>
<p>Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act)</p>	<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) and strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and provides for better management of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).</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>Ensure that public access to the countryside and protection of AONB is considered as part of the AoS framework.</p>

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<p>Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019</p>	<p>The regulations consolidate all the various amendments made to the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &amp;c.) 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> <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>Ensure protection of European sites in AoS Framework.</p>
<p>National Pollinator Strategy 2014-2024</p>	<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, while providing other benefits for native plants, the wider environment, food production and all of us.</p>	<p>Ensure the protection of bees and other insects within the AoS.</p>
<p>The Great Britain Invasive Non-native Species Strategy 2023</p>	<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.</p> <p>Strategy sets out aims to guide collaboration between government, voluntary organisations, NGOs, researchers, businesses and the public to 2030.</p>	<p>Ensure the AoS considers the potential for the spread of INNS.</p>
<p>Natural Environment and Rural</p>	<p>The Act established powers to declare National Nature Reserves (NNRs); to notify sites of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) and for local authorities to establish Local Nature Reserves (LNRs).</p>	<p>Ensure protection of sites designated for nature conservation at the</p>

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Communities Act 2006	<p>These provisions were strengthened by the Wildlife &amp; Countryside Act 1981. An NNR is an area which is among the best examples of a particular habitat. NNRs are of national importance. They are in many cases owned and managed by the statutory authority, (for example English Nature), but not always. An NNR, unlike an SSSI, has to be managed appropriately to retain its special status.</p>	national and local level in the AoS framework
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006	<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>	Ensure biodiversity conservation within AoS framework.
The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review, 2021	<p>Headline messages:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Our unsustainable engagement with Nature is endangering the prosperity of current and future generations. Biodiversity is declining faster than at any time in human history. Current extinction rates, for example, are around 100 to 1,000 times higher than the baseline rate, and they are increasing. Such declines are undermining Nature’s productivity, resilience and adaptability, and are in turn fuelling extreme risk and uncertainty for our economies and well-being.</p> <p>At the heart of the problem lies deep-rooted, widespread institutional failure. Nature’s worth to society – the true value of the various goods and services it provides – is not reflected in market prices because much of it is open to all at no monetary charge. These pricing distortions have led us to invest relatively more in other assets, such as produced capital, and underinvest in our natural assets. Moreover, aspects of Nature are mobile; some are invisible, such as in the soils; and many are silent. Governments almost everywhere</p>	The AoS should reflect the fact that current demands on Nature far exceed its capacity to supply us with the goods and services we all rely on.

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	<p>exacerbate the problem by paying people more to exploit Nature than to protect it, and to prioritise unsustainable economic activities.</p> <p>The solution starts with understanding and accepting a simple truth: our economies are embedded within Nature, not external to it.</p> <p>We need to change how we think, act and measure success. The change required should be geared towards three broad transitions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that our demands on Nature do not exceed its supply, and that we increase Nature’s supply relative to its current level.</li> <li>• Change our measures of economic success to guide us on a more sustainable path.</li> <li>• Transform our institutions and systems – in particular our finance and education systems – to enable these changes and sustain them for future generations.</li> </ul>	
National Forest Inventory	This programme monitors woodland and trees within Great Britain. It includes the most in depth survey carried out on Britain’s woodland and trees to date. The NFI provides an extensive and unique record of key information about our forests and woodlands. Woodland surveys and compiled forest inventories have been carried out at 10-15 year intervals since 1924.	The AoS should consider this inventory.
<b>AIR QUALITY</b>		
Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 as amended by The Air Quality (Amendment of Domestic Regulations) (EU	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 nitrogen dioxide (NO2). 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 4th air quality daughter directive that sets targets for levels in outdoor air of certain toxic heavy metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.	Ensure the inclusion of major air pollutants that impact human health within the AoS framework.

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Exit) Regulations 2019		
National Emissions Ceilings Regulations 2018	These regulations set UK emission ceilings for five air pollutants (NO <sub>x</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> , SO <sub>2</sub> , NH <sub>3</sub> and NMVOC) for 2020 and 2030.	Ensure the inclusion of international air pollutant emissions commitments within the AoS framework.
Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007  Air Quality Strategy 2023: framework for local authority delivery (England only)	This Air Quality 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 our environment.  This strategy sets out the actions Defra expects local authorities to take in support of our long-term air quality goals, including our ambitious new PM <sub>2.5</sub> targets. It provides a framework to enable local authorities to make the best use of their powers and make improvements for their communities.	Ensure the inclusion of an air quality objective within the AoS framework.
Clean Air Strategy 2019	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.  The strategy includes numerous aims and goals, many drawn from other policy documents, which are collated in brief in the executive summary. These are framed in the following topics:	Ensure the inclusion of an air quality objective dealing with the topics of cleaner energy sources, protection of health, protection of the environment, reduce emissions from transport, homes and industry

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• shifting to “cleaner” energy sources (e.g. phasing out coal-fired power stations)</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 by the Clean Air Strategy, is the adoption of challenging and enforceable local Air Quality Strategies.</p>	<p>within the AoS framework.</p>
<p>Air Quality Plan for Nitrogen Dioxide in the UK, 2017</p>	<p>Jointly produced by the DfT and DEFRA, this national plan determines an approach for areas with the worst levels of traffic-related air pollution to mitigate the effects. It sets out the framework for Clean Air Zones, allowing for targeted action to improve air quality in the “shortest possible time” as required by legal obligations to meet NO2 concentration thresholds.</p> <p>The document also sets out plans for ending the sale of new, conventional petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2040. The plan argues that NO2 accumulation is a local issue, as the pollutants do not disperse widely like greenhouse gasses. In line with this local approach, the plan sets out support to local authorities, including:</p>	<p>Ensure the inclusion of meeting NO2 concentration thresholds within the AoS framework.</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• setting up a £255 million Implementation Fund;</li> <li>• establishing a Clean Air Fund; and</li> <li>• providing £100m for retrofitting and new low emission buses.</li> </ul> <p>The plan outlines the introduction of several new funding streams that local authorities can utilise to finance measures to reduce NO2 emissions.</p>	
CLIMATE CHANGE		
Climate Change Act 2008 and its 2050 Target Amendment Order, 2019	<p>The Act aims to improve carbon management, helping the transition towards a low-carbon economy in the UK and to demonstrate UK leadership internationally. 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;</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>The Act also introduces powers for Government to require public bodies and statutory undertakers to carry out their own risk assessment and make plans to address those risks</p>	Ensure that reduction of greenhouse emissions is addressed within the AoS framework through the inclusion of an appropriate objective.
UK Net Zero Strategy 2021	The UK's new Net Zero Strategy sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet the net zero target by 2050. It sets out, how the UK Government plans to deliver its emissions targets of Net Zero in 2050 and a 78% reduction	The AoS must be guided by this important overarching strategy to

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	<p>from 1990 to 2035 (-63% relative to 2019). It puts forward an achievable and affordable vision that will bring net benefits to the UK.</p> <p>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 CO2 from energy, 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> <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>meet the net zero target by 2050.</p>
<p>The Road to Zero 2018</p>	<p>The Road to Zero strategy is a broad governmental “next steps” policy that outlines an ambition to decarbonise transport, and to strengthen the UK’s offering in design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles, and the role of zero emission road vehicles in the government’s Industrial Strategy. The strategy is aligned to other national policies mentioned in this section.</p> <p>The policy sets targets for 50-70% of new car sales, and up to 40% of new van sales to be ultra-low emission by 2030. To support this, emphasis is given to several key policies:</p>	<p>AoS needs to recognise the importance of decarbonising transport.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reducing emissions from the vehicles already on our roads;</li> <li>• driving the uptake of the cleanest vehicles;</li> <li>• reducing emissions from heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and road freight;</li> <li>• putting the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles; and</li> <li>• supporting the development of one of the best electric vehicle infrastructure networks in the world</li> <li>• supporting local actions.</li> </ul> <p>The strategy sets out in detail the challenges brought about by the emissions of road transport, and the specifics of how different types of road transport produce these emissions. The strategy also acknowledges the difficulty in maintaining a required level of road use for vital travel, commerce, and services, whilst restricting vehicle choice. Given the significant consequences of failing to act to reduce emissions, the report strikes a balance to prioritise reductions in emissions and maintain economic growth.</p> <p>Although the strategy refers to changes in travel modes for certain types of journeys, the emphasis of the report lies with maintaining a required level of road travel, with reductions in emissions achieved through encouraging a high proportion of low-emission vehicles on the roads.</p>	
UKCP18	<p>The UK Climate Projections (UKCP) provides the most up-to-date assessment of how the UK climate may change in the future. UKCP18 provides a new set of climate projections and tools to access climate data. The major innovations in UKCP18 include the use of new observations of weather and climate, inclusion of a more recent generation of climate models from around the world and the results from latest Met Office global and regional climate models.</p>	<p>The AoS framework should promote an improved resilience to climate change.</p>

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	<p>The projections can then be used to inform guidance such as the Environment Agency’s guidance on flood risk assessment.</p>	
<p>Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy 2021</p>	<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</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 strategy identifies that beyond electricity generation, fusion energy may also play a role in the provision of process heat to industry.</p>	<p>The AoS should consider including objectives that address the reduction of carbon emissions, as well as objectives that promote the transformation to a low carbon industrial sector.</p>
<p>National Infrastructure Strategy 2020</p>	<p>The National Infrastructure 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>	<p>The AoS should consider including objectives that address GHG emissions reduction, as well as promote the transformation to an energy-efficient low carbon economy.</p>

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National Infrastructure Assessment 2018	The 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.	Ensure that adaptation of infrastructure to climate change is addressed within the AoS framework.
Planning Practice Guidance – Climate Change 2019	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 change. The role of planning in supporting the delivery of appropriately sited renewable or low-carbon energy is specifically addressed.	Ensure that climate change resilience is addressed within the AoS framework through the inclusion of an appropriate objective.
Climate, people, places and value Design principles for national infrastructure, National Infrastructure Commission, 2021	<p>The design principles for national infrastructure are:</p> <p><b>Mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change:</b> The design of our infrastructure must help set the trajectory for the UK to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner.</p> <p>Good infrastructure is designed for the benefit of people and will plan for future changes in demographics and population.</p> <p><b>Provide a sense of identity and improve our environment:</b> Well-designed infrastructure supports the natural and built environment. Projects should seek to deliver a net biodiversity gain, contributing to the restoration of wildlife on a large scale while protecting irreplaceable natural assets and habitats.</p> <p><b>Achieve multiple benefits and solve problems well:</b></p> <p>Good design finds opportunities to add value beyond the main purpose of the infrastructure.</p>	Design principles for national infrastructure are important considerations for the AoS framework

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<p>Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk, Committee on Climate Change 2021</p>	<p>Provides the advice to Government 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 natural environment, health, homes, infrastructure, and the economy.</p> <p>The Committee identifies eight risk areas that require the most urgent attention in the next two years:</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</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 AoS needs to consider relevant areas of climate change risk as set out in the independent assessment.</p>
<p>HERITAGE</p>		

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Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953	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.	The AoS should consider risks to historic buildings and ancient monuments
Heritage Protection for the 21st Century 2007	<p>The paper sets out a vision of a unified and simpler heritage protection system, which will have more opportunities for public involvement and community engagement. The proposed system will be more open, accountable and transparent. It will offer all those with an interest in the historic environment a clearer record of what is protected and why; it will enable people who own or manage historic buildings and sites to have a better understanding of what features are important; it will streamline the consent procedures and create a more consultative and collaborative protection system.</p> <p>It is predominantly aimed for England and Wales with some UK wide elements.</p>	Ensure historic environment protection within AoS framework.
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	<p>Under the 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 Secretary of State will try to ensure any works on protected sites are beneficial to the site or are essential for its long-term sustainability.</p>	Ensure protection of ancient monuments and archaeological areas within AoS framework.
Protection of Military Remains Act 1986	The Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 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 around wrecks in UK water or protected places for those in international water. The legislation is administered by the Ministry of Defence.	Ensure protection of wrecked military vessels or aircraft within AoS framework.
National Heritage Act 1983 (as amended 2002)	<p>The 1983 Act established the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission and delegated the functions of scheduling of ancient monuments and listing of historic buildings.</p> <p>The National Heritage Act 2002 broadened the powers of Historic England in two ways. It allowed Historic England to become involved in underwater archaeology in English territorial</p>	Ensure protection of ancient monuments and historic buildings and

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	water and to trade in overseas countries. These powers have now been transferred to Historic England.	underwater archaeology within AoS framework.
The Protection of Wrecks Act 1973	The Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 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.	Ensure protection of designated wrecks within AoS framework.
Government Heritage Statement 2017	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.	Ensure protection of heritage and historic environment within AoS framework.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	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.	Ensure protection of listed buildings within AoS framework.
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949	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.	Ensure protection of national parks and improvements of public paths included within the AoS framework.
<b>WATER ENVIRONMENT</b>		
Water Resources Act 1991	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 is an offence to cause or knowingly permit any poisonous, noxious or polluting material, or any solid waste to enter any controlled water.	Ensure that water quality protection and enhancement is included within the AoS framework.



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	<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 Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017</p>	<p>Looks at the ecological health of surface water bodies as well as traditional chemical standards. In particular, it will help deal with, amongst others diffuse pollution, habitat, ecology, hydromorphology, barriers to fish movement, water quality, flow and sediment. The core aim of the Water Framework Directive is to protect the UK's water environments by preventing their deterioration and improving their quality. It does this by setting ecological targets and environmental objectives. Successful implementation will help to protect all elements of the water cycle and enhance the quality of our groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuaries and seas.</p>	<p>The AoS should consider objectives of preventing and improvement of the quality of the water environment.</p>
<p>Flood and Water Management Act 2010</p>	<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;</li> <li>• The establishment of regional flood and coastal communities.</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure that management of flood risk for the benefit of people, homes and businesses within the AoS framework.</p>
<p>River Basin Management Plans</p>	<p>These plans set out how organizations, stakeholders and communities will work together to improve the water environment. A river basin district (RBD) 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>Ensure that water quality protection and enhancement is included within the AoS framework.</p>

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Shoreline Management Plans	<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. Shoreline management plans 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> <li>• medium term (20 to 50 years);</li> <li>• long term (50 to 100 years).</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure that flood and coastal erosion risks to the coastline are included as an objective within the AoS framework.</p>
Flood Risk Management Plans	<p>Flood risk management plans 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 between 2021-2027. 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.</p> <p>FRMPs also meet the aims of the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Strategy for England.</p>	<p>Ensure that risk of flooding from sea, surface water, groundwater and reservoirs is included within the AoS framework.</p>
Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975	<p>Created to protect particularly salmon and trout from commercial poaching, to protect migration routes, to prevent wilful vandalism and neglect of fishery's 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 AoS should consider protection of salmon and freshwater fish.</p>
Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009	<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 AoS should consider protection and enhancement of freshwater and estuarine</p>

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		waters as a habitat for eels.
Fisheries Act 2020	<p>The Fisheries Act will enable the UK to control who fishes in their waters through a new foreign vessel licencing regime and ends the current automatic rights for EU vessels to fish in UK waters.</p> <p>Underpinning the Act is a commitment to sustainability, ensuring that fish and aquaculture activities are environmentally sustainable in the long term. The UK Government and Devolved Administrations are required to develop new fisheries management plans for managing fisheries to benefit the fishing industry and the marine environment.</p>	The AoS should give particular regard to sustainable management of fisheries.
Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	<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;</li> <li>• enables the creation of a walkable route around the English and Welsh coast.</li> </ul>	The AoS should seek to align with the aims of the Act and protect the marine and coastal environment.

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UK Marine Policy Statement 2011	<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 our 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>	The AoS framework should consider sustainable use of the marine environment, in particular relating to water quality and use of the coastal zone.
Marine strategy part one: UK updated assessment and Good Environmental Status, 2019	This strategy provides an updated assessment of our seas and sets objectives, targets and indicators for achieving Good Environmental Status.	The AoS should consider objectives, targets and indicators for achieving Good Environmental Status in the marine environment.
Marine Strategy Part 2, 2021	This updated UK Marine Strategy Part Two sets out the monitoring programmes that we propose to use to provide the evidence to support the 2024 assessment of progress towards achieving GES within the UK Marine Strategy area.	The AoS should consider marine monitoring indicators set out on the Marine Strategy.
Marine strategy part three: UK	This strategy outlines the measures that contribute towards Good Environmental Status (GES) in UK seas.	The AoS should consider the measures that contribute towards Good

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
programme of measures		Environmental Status in the UK seas.
<b>NOISE</b>		
Environmental Noise Regulations 2006	Environmental Noise is regulated in England by The Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006. As noise is a devolved matter the equivalent Regulations in Wales are the Environmental Noise (Wales) Regulations 2006 and in Scotland are the Environmental Noise (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The regulations seek to manage the impact of environmental noise through the preparation and adoption of strategic noise mapping in relation to agglomerations, major roads, major railways and major airports and the preparation and implementation of Noise Action Plans to manage noise issues in relation to those areas and noise sources. Under these regulations, the third round of strategic noise mapping has been undertaken and updated Noise Action Plans have been prepared and published in 2019.	Ensure the impact of environmental noise is addressed through the AoS framework.
<b>AIR QUALITY</b>		
Air Pollution: Action in a Changing Climate (Defra, 2010)	<p>The key messages from this document are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a link between air pollution and climate change as these originate from similar activities, for example;</li> <li>• transport and electricity generation. These links should be considered when managing policy;</li> <li>• The UK's commitment to build a low carbon economy by 2050 will reduce air pollution but choices made to achieve;</li> <li>• this will impact upon the extent of air quality improvements;</li> <li>• Air quality/climate change co-benefits could be achieved by promoting actions such as low-carbon vehicles;</li> </ul>	The AoS framework should consider including objectives which seek to limit air pollution and reduce the impacts of air pollution on climate change.

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• However, benefits for climate change may have negative impacts on air pollution and vice versa which need to be taken into consideration.</li> </ul> <p>Action will be required at international, national, regional and local levels to ensure that policies regarding air pollution and climate change are aligned to maximise co-benefits.</p>	
TRANSPORT		
Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain 2021	<p>Sets out the vision that “clean transport is better transport”. Provides a detailed plan of commitments, actions and timings for decarbonisation of the UK transport network, which are framed around the strategic priorities of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accelerating modal shift to public and active transport;</li> <li>• Decarbonising road transport;</li> <li>• Decarbonising goods freight;</li> <li>• UK as a hub for green transport technology and innovation;</li> <li>• Place-based solutions to emissions reduction;</li> <li>• Reducing carbon in a global economy.</li> </ul>	Ensure that decarbonisation of the transport sector, with a particular emphasis on road and goods freight transport is included within the AoS framework.
ENERGY		
The Energy White Paper 2020	<p>The White Paper builds on the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution to outline the Government’s 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 in the Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production project;</li> <li>• Maintaining the affordability of energy for consumers;</li> </ul>	The AoS should consider including objectives that address the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, as well as objectives that promote the transformation to an

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing energy efficiency of households, buildings and the energy system as a whole; and</li> <li>• Creating up to 250,000 ‘green’ jobs by 2030 in a ‘Green Industrial Revolution’.</li> </ul>	energy-efficient low carbon economy.
The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution 2020	<p>Lays the foundation for the UK’s “Green Industrial Revolution” and how this relates to reaching Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The cumulative effect of the Plan will be to reduce UK emissions by 180 Mt CO<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;</li> <li>• Demand reduction through shifts in transport and improving the efficiency of buildings;</li> <li>• Protecting our natural environment; and</li> <li>• Accelerating green finance and innovation.</li> </ul>	The AoS should consider including objectives that address the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, as well as objectives that promote the transformation to an energy-efficient low carbon economy.
British Energy Security Strategy 2022	<p>Builds on the ‘Ten point plan for a green industrial revolution’, and the ‘Net zero strategy’.</p> <p>This plan 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 we are unable to control and boosting our diverse sources of homegrown energy for greater energy security in the long-term.</p>	The AoS must be guided by this important overarching strategy.

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
<p>Energy Innovation Programme (EIP) (2015-2021)</p>	<p>Aimed to accelerate the commercialisation of innovative “clean” energy technologies and processes into the 2020s and 2030s. The Programme budget of £505M consisted of 6 themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £70M in smart systems</li> <li>• £90M in the built environment (energy efficiency and heating)</li> <li>• £100M in industrial decarbonisation and CCUS</li> <li>• £180M in nuclear innovation</li> <li>• £15M in renewables innovation</li> <li>• £50M in support for energy entrepreneurs and green financing</li> </ul> <p>The Programme was replaced by the Net Zero Innovation Portfolio.</p>	<p>The AoS must acknowledge the Government’s efforts to accelerate nuclear/fusion innovation.</p>
<p>Net Zero Innovation Portfolio and Advanced Nuclear Fund (2021-2025)</p>	<p>Net Zero Innovation Portfolio is a £1B 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. The 10 priority areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future offshore wind</li> <li>• Nuclear advanced modular reactors (supported through the aligned £385M Advanced Nuclear Fund)</li> <li>• Energy storage and flexibility</li> <li>• Bioenergy</li> <li>• Hydrogen</li> <li>• Homes</li> </ul>	<p>The AoS must acknowledge the Government’s efforts to accelerate fusion innovation.</p>



Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct air capture and greenhouse gas removal</li> <li>• Advanced CCUS</li> <li>• Industrial fuel switching</li> <li>• Disruptive technologies</li> </ul>	
<p>Towards Fusion Energy – the next stage of the UK’s Fusion Strategy</p>	<p>This strategy sets out the progress and commitments the UK has made towards delivering fusion energy in the UK. This has been set out as leadership across 3 pillars: international, technical and scientific, and commercial as well as skills and regulation.</p> <p>Areas highlighted within this strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STEP – the UK’s plan to build a prototype fusion power plant by 2040</li> <li>• JET – the world’s most powerful experimental fusion device started the decommissioning process in 2024</li> <li>• Skills – Plans to train 2200 people over 5 years to start creating the future fusion work force</li> <li>• Fusion Cluster – The UK’s development of the Fusion Cluster to facilitate collaboration</li> <li>• Fusion Futures – Investing up to £650m to develop the entire fusion sector</li> <li>• International Collaborations – The UK’s aim to accelerate the progress of fusion through international collaboration with industry and other nations</li> <li>• UK R&amp;D facilities – The UK’s world-class R&amp;D facilities that are solving the technical challenges of fusion</li> </ul>	<p>The AoS must acknowledge the Government’s commitment to deliver fusion energy.</p>
<p>RADIOACTIVE WASTE</p>		

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
<p>Implementing Geological Disposal – Working with communities 2018</p>	<p>The Government has decided geological disposal is the most appropriate solution for managing higher activity radioactive waste and a suitable location for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) will be identified through a consent-based process with Government and its agencies working in partnership with communities.</p> <p>The UK Government’s policy position is that before development consents for new fusion power stations are granted, the Government will need to be satisfied that effective arrangements exist or will exist to manage and dispose of the waste they will produce. In 2011, the Government set out in the National Policy Statement for Fusion Energy, the reasons why it was satisfied that such arrangements will exist.</p> <p>Radioactive waste management is devolved. Therefore, the Welsh Government, Northern Ireland Executive and Scottish Government each have responsibility for this issue in respect of their countries.</p>	<p>The AoS must acknowledge the UK Government’s position that before development consents for new fusion power stations are granted, the Government will need to be satisfied that effective arrangements exist or will exist to manage and dispose of the waste they will produce.</p>
<p>Closed Consultation: Managing Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning</p>	<p>The current strategy in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is for all Intermediate and High Level radioactive wastes (and a small amount of low level waste not suitable for disposal in other facilities) to be ultimately disposed of at a geological disposal facility. These wastes are collectively referred to as Higher Activity Wastes. Low Level Wastes are disposed of to the LLWR or LLWF.</p> <p>A key proposal covered in the consultation is to adopt a risk informed approach to the management of solid Higher Activity Wastes. This approach would require all the properties of waste (radiological, chemical, physical) and the risk it poses to people and the environment to be taken into consideration. This in combination with a new policy framework could allow for near surface disposal of less hazardous intermediate level waste in England and Wales. This would be more akin to the Scottish approach.</p> <p>Another key proposal would involve amendment of policy around management of Low Level Waste, to promote on-site disposal on fusion energy and former fusion energy sites where it is safe to do so.</p>	<p>The AoS must acknowledge the current strategy for radioactive waste disposal and the proposal for a risk informed approach to the management of solid Higher Activity Wastes in England and Wales.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<p>The other key proposal would involve extending the application of the waste management hierarchy from Low Level Wastes to all solid radioactive wastes. This is currently in place in Scotland but would be extended to the whole of the UK.</p>	

**Table 3 - Key Policies, Plans and Programmes– Regional (England, Wales, Northern Ireland & Scotland)**

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
England		
CROSS - THEMATIC		
Environmental Improvement Plan 2023	<p>This document represents the first revision of the 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) published in 2018. Where the 25YEP set out the framework and vision, this document sets out the plan to deliver across 10 goal areas in support of improving nature and halting the decline in biodiversity:</p> <p>EIP23 sets out the government’s legally binding long-term targets for England under the Environment Act 2021, covering the areas of: air quality, water, biodiversity, resource efficiency and waste reduction, tree and woodland cover, and Marine Protected Areas.</p> <p>The Secretary of State must consider duties under the Environment Act 2021 in relation to environmental targets and the framework for delivering those targets set out in the government’s Environmental Improvement Plan for improving the natural environment.</p>	<p>The AoS must recognise that the apex goal is improving nature and halting decline in biodiversity. It will need to consider implications of key actions and key targets for delivering clean air and water, protecting at-risk wildlife and improving natural habitats set out in EIP23.</p>
25 Year Environment Plan 2018	<p>The Government’s 25-Year Environment Plan sets out the Government’s position on environmental improvements, focussed on delivering cleaner air and water across the country, protecting at-risk wildlife, and improving natural habitats. Following the coming into force of the Environment Act 2021, the 25YEP is the first Environmental Improvement Plan, EIP18. The first revision of the Environmental Improvement Plan, EIP23, was published on 31 January 2023.</p> <p>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> </ul>	<p>The AoS will need to consider implications of key actions and key targets for delivering clean air and water, protecting at-risk wildlife and improving natural habitats set out in the EIP23 (above).</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>National Planning Policy Framework 2023</p>	<p>Sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and was revised in December 2023. The most relevant changes in the context of the Energy NPS are as follows:</p> <p>Chapter 2: Achieving Sustainable Development now acknowledges that members of the UN have agreed to pursue the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development in the period to 2030. Minor edits have been made to phrasing, setting out clearly that the environmental objective is now to protect and enhance, and to improve biodiversity, where before the requirement was simply to contribute to these matters.</p> <p>The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. At a similarly high level, members of the United Nations – including the United Kingdom – have agreed to pursue the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development in the period to 2030. These address social progress, economic well-being and environmental protection.</p> <p>Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):</p> <p>a) an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;</p>	<p>The AoS will need to consider full range of sustainability issues set out in the NPPF. This is a core document and area of consideration.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<p>b) a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being; and</p> <p>c) an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.</p> <p>These objectives should be delivered through the preparation and implementation of plans and the application of the policies in this Framework; they are not criteria against which every decision can or should be judged. Planning policies and decisions should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions, but in doing so should take local circumstances into account, to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area.</p>	
<p>Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England) Regulations 2015 as amended by The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England)</p>	<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, sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs), water and land.</p>	<p>Ensure that the issue of protection and enhancement of biodiversity and designated sites is addressed through an Objective in the AoS framework.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
(Amendment) Regulations 2019		
Planning for the Future White Paper 2020	<p>The Planning for the Future white paper sets out the Government's proposals for "once in a generation" reform of England's planning system. It proposes significant change to the current planning system in England to increase housing delivery, speed up and streamline both the plan-making and decision-making processes and better promote 'beautiful' design are supported.</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>	Noted – the NPS forms part of the wider planning system.
<b>BIODIVERSITY AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE</b>		
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services	<p>This is a biodiversity strategy for England which 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>	Ensure the protection and enhancement of biodiversity is included as an objective within the AoS.
The Town and Country Planning (Trees Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012	<p>The regulations are made under the powers conferred on the Secretary of State 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.</p> <p>The Regulations require an application to be made for cutting down, topping, lopping or uprooting of any tree with a tree preservation order. This application must:</p>	The AoS will need to consider potential impacts on important trees.

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<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</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>England Trees Action Plan 2021-2024</p>	<p>Building on ambitions outlined in the 25 Year Environment Plan, Government will focus on:</p> <p>Nature Recovery: 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.</p> <p>Levelling up through a thriving forest economy: 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.</p> <p>Trees and woodlands for water and soil: 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.</p>	<p>The AoS must recognise the multi benefits trees and woodlands can provide.</p>



Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<p>Trees and woodlands for people in town and country: 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.</p> <p>Heritage and Landscape: 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.</p> <p>Trees outside woodlands: 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.</p> <p>Healthy, resilient trees and woodlands: 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.</p>	
<p>Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement 2013</p>	<p>The 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> </ul>	<p>It is important for the AoS to consider the protection of important trees, woods and forests.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>30x30 Government Commitment 2020</p>	<p>The Prime Minister has committed in September 2020 to protect 30% of the UK’s land by 2030.</p> <p>Existing National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and other protected areas already comprise approximately 26% of land in England. An additional 4% – over 400,000 hectares, the size of the Lake District and South Downs national parks combined – 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 AoS must consider the 30% land protection target to support the recovery of nature.</p>
<p>Nature Recovery Network, Defra and Natural England 2020</p>	<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 3 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>	<p>The AoS should advocate the establishment of the NRN.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<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</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 our work to create the NRN, by 2042 we 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 500,000 hectares 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</li> <li>• achieve a range of environmental, economic and social benefits, such as carbon capture, flood management, clean water, pollination and recreation.</li> </ul>	
Nature for Climate Fund	<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</p>	The AoS must consider the restoration of peatland to support the recovery of nature.

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	<p>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>	
<p>The Green Book, Central government guidance on appraisal and evaluation 2022</p>	<p>The Green Book is guidance issued by HM Treasury on how to appraise policies, programmes and projects. It also provides guidance on the design and use of monitoring and evaluation before, during and after implementation.</p> <p>The key specialisms involved in public policy creation and delivery, from policy at a strategic level to analysis, commercial strategy, procurement, finance, and implementation must work together from the outset to deliver best public value. The Treasury's five case model is the means of developing proposals in a holistic way that optimises the social / public value produced by the use of public resources.</p> <p>Aspects of particular interests to the AoS:</p> <p>Greenhouse gas emissions and energy efficiency values - the creation of GHGs has a social cost based on its contribution to climate change. To estimate the social cost of an intervention it is necessary to include the costs of emitting GHGs. Energy efficiency has a direct social value, in addition to the value of a reduction in GHGs, as the energy saved itself has a direct benefit to society (similarly, activities that create extra demand for energy have a direct energy cost).</p> <p>Assessing and valuing effects on the natural environment - Understanding natural capital provides a framework for improved appraisal of a range of environmental effects alongside potentially harmful externalities such as air pollution, noise, waste and GHGs. Natural capital stock levels should be systematically measured and monitored for the social costs and benefits of their use to be understood and controlled (see report to the Natural Capital Committee). A focus solely on the marginal valuation of a loss in</p>	<p>The AoS should advocate accounting for social cost of GHG and effects on natural environment and use of Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA to consider current and potential future climate risks and vulnerability to risks of energy projects.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<p>services may overlook the potential for large reductions in stocks. This could then lead to dramatic reductions in present or future services. Similarly, the cumulative effects of multiple decisions on natural capital stocks need to be considered. Where appropriate therefore, and particularly for major impacts, assessments should consider whether affected natural assets are being used sustainably.</p> <p>Vulnerability to climate change - The Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) should be used to consider current and potential future climate risks and vulnerability to risks of an intervention. The CCRA provides a framework that quantifies interactions with climate risk. It enables a consideration of the role of climate in altering the scale and distribution of costs and benefits over the lifetime of the proposal. Supplementary guidance, Accounting for the effects of Climate Change provides steps to determine whether climate risks are relevant in relation to the appraisal of an intervention.</p>	
<p>Introduction to the Green Infrastructure Framework - Principles and Standards for England, Natural England 2021</p>	<p>Good quality Green Infrastructure (GI) has an important role to play in our urban and rural environments for improving health and wellbeing, air quality, nature recovery and resilience to and mitigation of climate change, along with addressing issues of social inequality and environmental decline.</p> <p>The Green Infrastructure Framework is a commitment in the Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan. It supports the greening of our towns and cities and connections with the surrounding landscape. Networks of green and blue spaces and other natural features can bring big benefits for nature and climate, health and prosperity. At present access to green and blue spaces varies considerably across the country, and there are opportunities for these important assets to be better managed for the environment and to deliver a wider range of multifunctional benefits.</p> <p>The GI Framework will help local planning authorities and developers meet requirements in the National Planning Policy Framework to consider GI in local plans and in new development. It can support better planning for good quality GI and help to target the creation or improvement of GI, particularly where existing provision is poorest.</p>	<p>AoS should promote the important role of good quality Green Infrastructure.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
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<p>Natural England's Green Infrastructure Standards for England 2023</p>	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Infrastructure Strategy Standard</li> <li>• Accessible Greenspace Standard</li> <li>• Urban Nature Recovery Standard</li> <li>• Urban Greening Factor Standard</li> <li>• Urban Tree Canopy Cover Standard</li> </ul> <p>The Headline Green Infrastructure Standards distinguish the recommended levels of achievement for major new developments and for area wide application.</p>	<p>AoS should promote the important role of good quality Green Infrastructure.</p>
<p>Natural England's climate change risk assessment and adaptation plan 2021</p> <p>Climate change adaptation</p>	<p>The report 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> </ul>	<p>AoS should consider risks and opportunities to biodiversity of climate change adaptation.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
reporting: third round	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>Key overarching risks and opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risks to the viability of the Nature Recovery Network and the recovery of threatened species and habitats</li> <li>• Risks to the status of protected sites for biodiversity and geodiversity</li> <li>• Risks to the ability of the SSSI network, Marine Protected Area (MPAs), NNRs and protected landscapes to adapt to climate change.</li> <li>• Risks to natural capital and its contribution to agriculture, fisheries and sustainable development including farm advice and net gain.</li> <li>• Risks to the viability of natural areas for people to access and connect with nature.</li> </ul>	

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risks and Opportunities for different species and habitats under changing climatic conditions.</li> <li>• Opportunities for landscape scale measures to tackle climate change that enhance the natural environment.</li> <li>• Opportunities for nature recovery and nature-based solutions to help nature and society adapt to climate change.</li> <li>• Opportunities for nature-based solutions to provide additional space for people to connect with nature and cope with climate change.</li> </ul>	
<p>Nature Networks Evidence Handbook (NERR081) Natural England 2020</p>	<p>The handbook aims to help the designers of nature networks by identifying the principles of network design and describing the evidence that underpins the desirable features of nature networks. It builds on the Making Space for Nature report of Lawton et al. 2010), outlining some of the practical aspects of implementing a nature network plan, as well as describing the tools that are available to help in decision making.</p> <p>To make a nature network, in contrast to an ecological network, we need to involve people from the earliest stages in planning and design, to create an overarching vision for the network, taking into account their needs and the services that a landscape provides to society.</p> <p>When developing a more detailed plan for a nature network, it is important to consider the constraints and opportunities provided by the landscape, geology and ecosystems within the landscape, and the need to build resilience to climate change.</p> <p>A suite of ecological rules of thumb to aid practitioners are provided, including a hierarchy of priority actions: (a) improve core wildlife sites; (b) increase the size of core sites; (c) increase the number of core sites; (d) improve the ‘permeability’ of the surrounding landscape for the movement of wildlife; and (e) create corridors of connecting habitat. In addition, there is a need to develop a number of Large Nature</p>	<p>The AoS will need to consider the implementation of nature networks.</p>



Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<p>Areas (c. 5-12,000 ha) within a country that will provide centres from which wildlife will brim over into the countryside.</p>	
<p>The Environmental Benefits from Nature Tool - Beta Test Version, Natural England 2021</p>	<p>The Environmental Benefits from Nature tool is designed to work alongside Biodiversity metric 3.0 and provide developers, planners and other interested parties with a means of enabling wider benefits for people and nature from biodiversity net gain. The tool uses a habitat-based approach to provide a common and consistent means of considering the direct impact of land use change across 18 ecosystem service services.</p> <p>It has been developed by Natural England and the University of Oxford in partnership with Defra, the Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency to support Government's 25 Year Environment Plan commitment to expand net gain approaches to include wider Natural Capital benefits such as flood protection, recreation and improved water and air quality.</p>	<p>The AoS should advocate the use of this tool.</p>
<p>The Biodiversity Metric 4.0, Natural England 2022</p>	<p>Biodiversity Metric 4.0 can be used or specified by any development project, consenting body or landowner that needs to calculate biodiversity losses and gains for terrestrial and/or intertidal habitats. It will be this metric that underpins the Environment Act's provisions for mandatory biodiversity net gain in England, subject to any necessary adjustments for application to major infrastructure projects.</p>	<p>The AoS should advocate the use of the latest version of the biodiversity metric.</p>
<p>Carbon Storage and Sequestration by Habitat, Natural England 2021</p>	<p>Achieving 'net zero' greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 is a statutory requirement for the UK and England. It will require major changes in the way we manage the land, coast, and sea, alongside decarbonisation of the energy, transport and other sectors. The natural environment can play a vital role in tackling the climate crisis as healthy ecosystems take up and store a significant amount of carbon in soils, sediments and vegetation. Alongside many other negative impacts, the destruction and degradation of natural habitats has resulted in the direct loss of carbon stored within them. Restoring natural systems can start to reverse this damage at the same time as supporting and enhancing biodiversity, alongside delivering co-benefits for climate change adaptation, soil health, water management and society.</p>	<p>The AoS should advocate the protection and restoration of natural habitats as they deliver carbon storage benefits alongside many other benefits.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
<p>Climate Change Adaptation Manual: Evidence to support nature conservation in a changing climate, RSPB, Natural England, 2020</p>	<p>The need for climate change adaptation has become widely recognised in the last 20 years. The environmental sector was one of the first to identify the need and to start developing approaches to adaptation. Initially much of the focus was on identifying general principles. This was an essential first step, but adaptation needs to be embedded into decision-making in specific places and circumstances. There can be a big gap between general principles and specific applications. Effective adaptation requires local knowledge and experience, combined with relevant scientific information and an understanding of practical options. It will be assisted by sharing good practice and evidence of what techniques have worked in particular places and situations.</p> <p>Utilise the concept of sustainable adaptation to look at the prerequisites for a long-term, integrated approach to adaptation, including the synergies and trade-offs associated with cross-sectoral adaptation. 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> <p>Adaptation often needs to be developed with less knowledge and more uncertainty than is usual when making management decisions. Accepting uncertainty and adopting approaches such as adaptive management to deal with it is widely advocated.</p>	<p>The AoS should embed sustainable climate change adaptation on energy infrastructure decision-making processes</p>
<p>LANDSCAPE</p>		

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
National Character Areas (England), Natural England 2023	<p>A National Character Area (NCA) is a natural subdivision of England based on a combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and economic activity. There are 159 Character Areas, each of which is distinctive with a unique 'sense of place'. These broad divisions of landscape form the basic units of cohesive countryside character, on which strategies for both ecological and landscape issues can be based. The Character Area framework is used to describe and shape objectives for the countryside, its planning and management.</p>	<p>The AoS needs to consider national character areas.</p>
English National Parks and Broads UK Government Vision and Circular 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 Parks, including landowners and land managers, private companies and voluntary bodies. In relation to the 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</li> <li>• The contributions needed from others.</li> </ul>	<p>The AoS should include objectives specific to the protection of landscape features and designated areas including National Parks and Broads UK.</p>
WATER ENVIRONMENT		
National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management	<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.</p> <p>The Strategy has three core ambitions concerning future risk and investment needs:</p>	<p>Ensure that flood and coastal erosion risk is considered within the AoS framework.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
Strategy for England 2020	<p>1. Climate resilient places: working with partners to bolster resilience to flooding and coastal change across the nation, both now and in the face of climate change.</p> <p>2. Today's growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow's climate: Making the right investment and planning decisions to secure sustainable growth and environmental improvements, as well as resilient infrastructure.</p> <p>3. A nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change: Ensuring local people understand their risk to flooding and coastal change and know their responsibilities and how to take action.</p>	
Government Policy Statement on Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy 2020	<p>This policy statement sets out the government's long-term ambition to create a nation more resilient to flood and coastal erosion risk. This Policy Statement 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>	Ensure that flood and coastal erosion risk is included as an objective within the AoS framework.
The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (FCERM) 2021	<p>The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 places a statutory duty on the Environment Agency to develop a National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England. This strategy describes what needs to be done by all risk management authorities (RMAs) involved in flood and coastal erosion risk management for the benefit of people and places.</p> <p>RMAs must exercise their flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM) activities, including plans and strategies, consistently with the strategy. Through its</p>	The AoS must consider flood and coastal erosion risk management for the benefit of people and places.

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<p>'strategic overview' role the Environment Agency exercises its strategic leadership for all sources of flooding and coastal change. This strategy seeks to better manage the risks and consequences of flooding from rivers, the sea, groundwater, reservoirs, ordinary watercourses, surface water, sewers and coastal erosion.</p> <p>The strategy provides a framework for guiding the operational activities and decision making of practitioners. It supports the direction set by government policy which includes its FCERM policy statement (Defra, 2020e). The strategy sets out the long-term delivery objectives the nation should take over the next 10 to 30 years. It also includes shorter term, practical measures RMA should take working with partners and communities.</p>	
<p>Future Water, the Government's Water Strategy for England 2008</p>	<p>This strategy sets out the Government's plans for water in the future and the practical steps that we will take to ensure that good clean water is available for people, businesses and nature.</p> <p>The document also sets out various goals for 2030 which combines high environmental standards and protection of consumer interests, with a proportionate and effective approach to regulation. Main goals will be to manage surface water more sustainably, by allowing for the increased capture and reuse of water, slow absorption through the ground, and more above-ground storage and routing of surface water separate from the foul sewer, where appropriate. Water will be increasingly managed on the surface, rather than relying on wholesale upgrade of the sewer system to higher design standards, which will be costly and a lengthy process.</p>	<p>The AoS framework should consider protection and enhancement of the water environment and management of surface water sustainably</p>
<p><b>HUMAN HEALTH</b></p>		
<p>Public Health England – Strategy (2020-2025)</p>	<p>This strategy outlines the focus of Public Health England to help protect people and help people to live longer in good health. It notes that the most important contributors to a life in good health, including mental health, are to have a job that provides a sufficient income, a decent and safe home and a support network. Among a range of issues the strategy also sets out the need for cleaner air</p>	<p>AoS needs to consider the need for improving air quality, as well as the need to consider effects on</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
		vulnerable groups as well as the wider population.
Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006 as amended by the Contaminated Land (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012	Outlines 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.	Ensure that the issue of contamination is addressed through an Objective in the AoS framework.
SOILS		
Safeguarding our Soils: a strategy for England 2009	<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 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</li> <li>• Future research and monitoring.</li> </ul>	Ensure that protection of soil resources is included as an objective within the AoS framework.
WASTE		

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
<p>Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 as amended by The Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014</p>	<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</li> <li>• Operate as waste brokers or dealers</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure that waste minimisation and resource efficiency are included as an Objective within the AoS.</p>
<p>National Review of Waste Policy in England 2011</p>	<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 are 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> </ul>	<p>Ensure that waste minimisation and resource efficiency are included as an Objective within the AoS.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy recovery</li> <li>• Infrastructure and planning</li> <li>• Next steps in waste policy.</li> </ul>	
Waste Management Plan for England 2021	<p>The Waste Management Plan for England 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. Its aim is to bring current waste management policies together under one national plan.</p> <p>The Plan does not apply to certain wastes covered by other legislation (e.g. radioactive waste).</p>	No implications. Informative only.
Waste Prevention Programme for England 2013	<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>Note: a consultation for updating the Waste Prevention Programme was run in 2021.</p>	Ensure that waste minimisation and resource efficiency are included as an Objective within the AoS.
Resources and Waste Strategy for England, Defra and Environment Agency 2018	<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 we 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.</p> <p>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.</p>	The AoS should embed waste minimisation, resource efficiency and circular economy in energy infrastructure decision making processes



Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<p>A more circular economy (re-use, remanufacture, repair, recycle) will keep resources in use for as long as possible. It will allow us to extract maximum value from them, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of their lifespan.</p>	
<p>National Planning Policy for Waste 2014</p>	<p>This document sets out detailed waste planning policies. It should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework and National Policy Statements for Waste Water and Hazardous Waste.</p> <p>The policy provides guidance to local planning authorities in planning for future facilities and determining planning applications.</p>	<p>The AoS should consider including objectives to recommend that waste generated following new energy development is dealt with in a sustainable manner, consistent with the waste hierarchy.</p>
<p>AIR QUALITY</p>		
<p>The Environmental Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations 2023</p>	<p>Set two new targets for fine particulate matter: a maximum annual mean concentration of 10 ug/m<sup>3</sup> by 2040 and a population exposure reduction target of 35% by 2040 compared to 2018.</p>	<p>Ensure the consideration of these targets within the AoS framework.</p>
<p>NOISE</p>		
<p>Noise Policy Statement for England 2010</p>	<p>The objectives of the Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) sets out three noise levels to be defined by the noise assessor: These are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NOEL – No Observed Effect Level. 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>• LOAEL – Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level. This is the level above which adverse effects on health and quality of life can be detected.</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure that the health and well-being of people is addressed through an objective in the AoS framework and that noise issues are considered.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SOAEL – Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level – 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>“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”.</p> <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>	
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>		
<p>Climate Change: Third national adaptation programme (2023-2028)</p>	<p>The Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) sets out government’s response to the Third Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA), showing the actions government is, and will be, taking to address the risks and opportunities posed by a changing climate.</p> <p>It sets out the key actions needed in relation to the following six priority areas of climate change risks for the UK;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural environment;</li> <li>Reducing pressures from spreading diseases and non-native invasive species;</li> </ul>	<p>The AoS should consider objectives which promote resilience to the impacts of climate change.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure;</li> <li>• People and the built environment;</li> <li>• Business and industry; and</li> <li>• Local government.</li> </ul>	
Wales		
CROSS-THEMATIC		
Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (Wales) Regulations 2009	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, sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs), water and land.	Ensure that the issue of protection and enhancement of biodiversity and designated sites is addressed through the AoS framework.
Future Wales – The National Plan 2040	<p>The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 (the 2015 Act) requires the Welsh Government to develop a National Development Framework (NDF). Wales’s first NDF, Future Wales: the National Plan 2040 (Future Wales), was published in February 2021.</p> <p>Future Wales sets out the direction for development in Wales to 2040. It is a development plan with a strategy for addressing key national priorities through the planning system, including sustaining and developing a vibrant economy, achieving decarbonisation and climate-resilience, developing strong ecosystems and improving the health and well-being of our communities.</p> <p>Future Wales sets out a 20-year land use framework and must be reviewed at least every five years. It is a material consideration in planning decisions and all Strategic Development Plans (SDPs), and Local Development Plans (LDPs) must be in conformity with it.</p>	The AoS should consider objectives which promote resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<p>The purpose of Future Wales is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• set out where nationally important growth and infrastructure is needed and how the planning system can deliver it;</li> <li>• provide direction for SDPs and LDPs;</li> <li>• support the determination of applications under the Developments of National Significance (DNS) regime;</li> <li>• sit alongside the Planning Policy Wales (PPW), which provides the context for land use planning; and</li> <li>• support national economic, transport, environmental, housing, energy and cultural strategies and ensure they can be delivered through the planning system.</li> </ul>	
<p>Environment (Wales) Act 2016</p>	<p>Legislation introduced by the National Assembly for Wales enabling the planning and management of the natural resources of Wales in a more sustainable, pro-active 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</li> <li>• Flood and coastal erosion committee</li> </ul>	<p>The AoS should give particular regard to sustainable management of natural resources, climate change, fisheries and marine licencing and flood and coastal erosion.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	<p>The 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 wellbeing in that area and set local objectives accordingly.</p>	The AoS should include objectives that measure sustainability and be considerate of well-being objectives/goals.
State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) for Wales 2020	This is Wales’ second assessment of sustainable management of natural resources, including Wales’ 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.	The AoS should include objectives reflective of natural resource uptake, sustainable management and reliance.
Environment (Wales) Act 2016	<p>Legislation introduced by the National Assembly for Wales enabling the planning and management of the natural resources of Wales in a more sustainable, pro-active 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</li> <li>• Flood and coastal erosion committee</li> </ul>	The AoS should give particular regard to sustainable management of natural resources, climate change, fisheries and marine licencing and flood and coastal erosion.

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
<p>Natural Resources Policy (Welsh Government) 2017</p>	<p>The focus of the Natural Resources 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,</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>Key policy areas were identified as being important to deliver Natural Resources Policy. One such policy area is energy, including fusion energy – which can drive sustainable growth.</p>	<p>The AoS should consider the uptake of natural resources during construction and ensure resource efficiency is integrated in development design through objectives specific to sustainable and efficient resource use.</p>
<p>State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) for Wales 2020</p>	<p>This is Wales' second assessment of sustainable management of natural resources, including Wales' 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 AoS should include objectives reflective of natural resource uptake, sustainable management and reliance.</p>
<p>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11, 2021)</p>	<p>Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs, stated below).</p> <p>There are a number of goals and objectives in relation to the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People and Places: Achieving Well-being Through Placemaking</li> <li>• Strategic and Spatial Choices</li> </ul>	<p>The AoS objectives should address environmental protection including protecting biodiversity, conserving landscapes, preserving the historic environment, protecting water resources and the coastal environment, protecting land quality and air</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active and Social Places</li> <li>• Productive and Enterprising Places</li> <li>• Distinctive and Natural Places</li> </ul> <p>The document offers advice and guidance, for example, how local planning authorities should plan, manage and write Local Development Plans.</p> <p>PPW and Future Wales are supported by a range of other policy and guidance documents, including Technical Advice Notes (TANs) which contain detailed guidance in specific areas.</p> <p>Technical Advice Notes (TANs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAN 2: Planning and Affordable Housing (2006)</li> <li>• TAN 3: Simplified Planning Zones (1996)</li> <li>• TAN 4: Retail and Commercial Development (2016)</li> <li>• TAN 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (2009)</li> <li>• TAN 6: Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities (2010)</li> <li>• TAN 7: Outdoor Advertisement Control (1996)</li> <li>• TAN 10: Tree Preservation Orders (1997)</li> <li>• TAN 11: Noise (1997)</li> <li>• TAN 12: Design (2016)</li> <li>• TAN 13: Tourism (1997)</li> </ul>	<p>quality. It should also include objectives which support economic development, adapting to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAN 15: Development, Flood Risk and Coastal Erosion</li> <li>• TAN 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space (2009)</li> <li>• TAN 18: Transport (2007)</li> <li>• TAN 20: Planning and the Welsh Language (2017)</li> <li>• TAN 21: Waste (2017)</li> <li>• TAN 23: Economic Development (2014)</li> <li>• TAN 24: The Historic Environment (2017)</li> </ul>	
<p>One Wales: One Planet – the Sustainable Development Scheme for Wales (2009)</p>	<p>The document sets out the steps and actions necessary to achieve sustainable development in Wales, for example, an indicative route map of the journey Wales will need to take to use only its fair share of the earth’s resources.</p> <p>The vision for a Sustainable Wales is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lives within its environmental limits, using only its fair share of the earth’s resources so that our ecological footprint is reduced to the global average availability of resources, and we are resilient to the impacts of climate change.</li> <li>• Healthy, biologically diverse and productive ecosystems that are managed sustainably.</li> <li>• A resilient and sustainable economy that is able to develop whilst stabilising, then reducing, its use of natural resources and reducing its contribution to climate change.</li> <li>• Communities which are safe, sustainable and attractive places for people to live and work, where people have access to services, and enjoy good health.</li> </ul>	<p>The AoS should consider objectives which support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions alongside other economic, social and environmental effects of new energy development.</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A fair, just and bilingual nation in which citizens of all ages and backgrounds are empowered to determine their own lives, shape their communities and achieve their full potential.</li> </ul>	
<p>Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme (2014-2020)</p>	<p>This Rural Development Programme is a 7-year investment programme supporting a wide range of activities to achieve its three main objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fostering the competitiveness of agriculture.</li> <li>• Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources, and climate action.</li> <li>• Achieving a balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities including the creation and maintenance of employment.</li> </ul> <p>All projects funded by the Programme must align with one or more of the six European Rural Development Priorities.</p> <p>Note the RDP was extended to 2023.</p>	<p>The AoS framework should consider including objectives which encourage sustainable management of agriculture and the environment.</p>
<p>TAN 5: Nature Conservation and Planning 2009</p>	<p>This Technical Advice Note provides advice about how the land use planning system should contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation.</p> <p>Some key principles which the town and country planning system in Wales should seek to achieve include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development which provides a net benefit for biodiversity conservation with no significant loss of habitats or populations of species, locally or nationally.</li> <li>• Helping to ensure that development does not damage, or restrict access to, or the study of, geological sites and features or impede the evolution of natural processes and systems especially on rivers and the coast.</li> </ul>	<p>The AoS should contain objectives relating to the protection of biodiversity and geological resources.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning to accommodate and reduce the effects of climate change by encouraging development that will reduce damaging emissions and energy consumption and that help habitats and species to respond to climate change.</li> </ul> <p>Local authorities have an important role in delivering biodiversity objectives at a local level. Local Biodiversity Action Plans and Local Agenda 21 Plans can inform development plan preparation and development plan policies may help to maintain or enhance biodiversity.</p>	
<p>TAN 6: Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities 2010</p>	<p>This Technical Advice Note provides guidance on how the planning system can contribute to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable rural economies.</li> <li>• Sustainable rural housing.</li> <li>• Sustainable rural services.</li> <li>• Sustainable agriculture.</li> </ul> <p>It advises planning authorities to produce development plans which set out the spatial vision for rural communities. This should be based on a sound understanding of the functional linkages within the area and the potential for improving the sustainability of the existing settlement pattern.</p> <p>Development plans should also clearly define local need by taking into account the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the area.</p>	<p>The AoS should consider objectives relating to the protection and sustainable development of rural areas.</p>
<p>TAN 11: Noise 1997</p>	<p>This note provides advice on how the planning system can be used to minimise the adverse impact of noise without placing unreasonable restrictions on development or adding unduly to the costs and administrative burdens of business. It outlines some of the main considerations which local planning authorities should take into account when</p>	<p>The AoS framework should consider an objective that will enable the assessment of such effects on human health.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	drawing-up development plans, policies and when determining planning applications for development which will either generate noise or be exposed to existing noise sources.	Noise and vibration should also be considered when assessing effects on other environmental receptors.
TAN 13: Tourism 1997	<p>The Wales Tourist Board has responsibility for promoting and developing tourism in Wales. It has a duty to advise the Government and other public bodies, including local authorities, on matters affecting tourism. While ‘tourism’ cannot be regarded as a single or distinct category of land use, the issues it raises should be addressed in preparing or revising development plans and may feature in development control decisions. Development plans may provide guidance on opportunities for larger scale or innovative projects, appropriate facilities for the countryside or designated areas and the provision of facilities in historic towns and seaside resorts.</p>	The AoS framework should consider a number of objectives addressing environmental protection which indirectly positively impact on tourism.
TAN 15: Development, Flooding and Coastal Erosion 2021	This TAN provides technical guidance that supplements Planning Policy Wales (PPW) in relation to flooding and coastal erosion. It provides a framework within which the flood risks arising from rivers, the sea and surface water, and the risk of coastal erosion can be assessed. It also provides advice on the consequences of the risks and adapting to and living with flood risk.	<p>The AoS needs to include objectives relating to flood risk and the need to manage runoff effectively.</p> <p>As the siting of energy infrastructure in a flood risk area could generate significant adverse consequences, appropriate criteria in relation to flood risk need to be considered as part of the process of developing the new NPS.</p>

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<p>TAN 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space (2009)</p>	<p>This Technical Advice Note advises on the role of the planning system in making provision for sport and recreational facilities and informal open spaces, as well as protecting existing facilities and open spaces in urban and rural areas in Wales.</p> <p>Topics discussed include preparation of Open Space Assessments, keeping of existing facilities, provision of new facilities and planning for allotments and spaces for children's and young people's play. It also considers how planning agreements can help to ensure the provision and maintenance of facilities.</p>	<p>The AoS should consider objectives which seek to protect areas of open space and areas used for sport and recreation.</p>
<p>TAN 18: Transport 2007</p>	<p>At the heart of this TAN is the need for an efficient and safe transport system. It acknowledges the significant impact that transport can have upon human health and the environment.</p> <p>Planning Policy Wales and the Wales Transport Strategy aim to secure the provision of transport infrastructure that improves access, builds a stronger economy, improves road safety and fosters more sustainable communities.</p>	<p>The AoS should consider objectives that do not adversely affect the efficiency of the transport system and seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation sources.</p> <p>The preparation of the new NPS should consider the principles of sustainable transport. There will be a need for safe, efficient transport connections to enable the delivery of raw materials and the siting of new energy infrastructure should not adversely affect the strategic transport infrastructure.</p>

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TAN 21: Waste 2014	<p>This Technical Advice Note, in conjunction with Planning Policy Wales, sets a framework for facilitating the delivery of sustainable waste management infrastructure throughout the planning process.</p> <p>The TAN encourages local planning authorities to create a partnership approach with Natural Resources Wales, others in local and central government, the waste management industry, the voluntary sector and the general public is encouraged. This is because the developing legal environmental and technological circumstances influencing waste resource management will require changes of priorities and solutions that the land use planning system is unable to deliver on its own.</p>	<p>The development and operation of the facilities would generate waste throughout the project lifecycle.</p> <p>The AoS should consider the management of wastes associated with the development, operation and decommissioning of new energy infrastructure.</p>
CLIMATE CHANGE		
The Climate Change Strategy for Wales (2010)	<p>The strategy confirms the Assembly Government’s commitment to climate change and the areas where it will act and work with relevant partners, to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enable effective climate change adaptation in Wales.</p> <p>The strategy supports the vision for 2050 as set out in the One Wales: One Planet – the Sustainable Development Scheme for Wales (2009).</p> <p>Climate change adaptation is discussed with respect to the transport, business, residential, agriculture and land use, public and waste sectors.</p>	<p>The AoS should consider objectives which support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions where possible.</p> <p>The AoS should consider objectives which improve the resilience of energy infrastructure to changing climatic conditions throughout the project’s lifecycle. Note that the emissions targets contained in the Climate Change Strategy for Wales will be superseded by those set under this Act for successive</p>

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		five-year carbon budgets, starting from 2016-2040.
Net Zero Wales: Carbon Budget 2 (2021 – 2025)	<p>This Plan sets out how Wales aims to meet the second carbon budget (2021-2025) and associated target. The Plan sets out 123 policies and proposals, alongside commitments and actions across Wales.</p> <p>The sector pathway chapters in the Plan are: electricity and heat generation, transport, residential buildings, industry and business, agriculture, land use, waste management and public sector.</p> <p>The Plan includes the vision for a decarbonised energy system which provides wider economic and social benefits for Wales than the system currently in place.</p>	The AoS should consider including objectives that address the reduction of carbon emissions and decarbonisation of the energy system
Policy Statement on Local ownership of energy generation in Wales – benefitting Wales today and for future generations	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.	The AoS must consider the implications of this local ownership policy statement in the context of fusion energy NSIPs.
Prosperity for All: A Climate Conscious Wales (2019)	<p>Prosperity for All: A Climate Conscious Wales is our climate change adaptation plan for Wales. The Plan shows how Wales are taking action, 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,</li> </ul>	Ensure Climate Change adaptation is considered as an objective within the AoS

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>managing risks to ecosystems and agricultural businesses.</li> </ul>	
Adapting to Climate Change: Guidance for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Authorities in Wales 2022	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.	Ensure climate change adaptation is considered as an objective within the AoS
WASTE		
The Waste (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2012	<p>The regulations are designated for the purposes of section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 in relation to the prevention, reduction and management of waste.</p> <p>They amend the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 by replacing regulation 13. They state that from 1 January 2015, waste collection authorities must collect wastepaper, metal, plastic and glass separately. They also impose a duty on waste collection authorities, from that date, when making arrangements for the collection of such waste, to ensure that those arrangements are by way of separate collection. The duties apply to waste classified as waste from households and waste that is classified as commercial or industrial waste.</p>	The AoS should consider including objectives that promote the reduction of waste sent for disposal and encourage re-use, recycling and recovery of waste.
Management and Disposal of Higher Activity Waste	<p>The Welsh Government participated in the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) programme from 2001 and their current policy on implementing geological disposal is set out in two documents: Management and Disposal of Higher Activity Waste<sup>7</sup> and Geological Disposal of Higher Activity Radioactive Waste: Community Engagement and Siting Processes.</p> <p>The Welsh Government consulted on ‘Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste: Working with Communities’ between 25 January and 20 April 2018. There will be a</p>	The AoS must acknowledge the Welsh Government’s position that before development consents for new fusion power stations are granted, the Government will need to be satisfied that effective arrangements exist

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	<p>separate Welsh Government policy on the arrangements for community engagement in Wales that will reflect specific Welsh circumstances whilst being compatible with the key elements of the UK Government’s geological disposal programme.</p>	<p>or will exist to manage and dispose of the waste they will produce.</p>
<p><b>BIODIVERSITY</b></p>		
<p>The Town and Country Planning (Trees) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2017</p>	<p>The regulations are made under the powers conferred on the Secretary of State by sections 198(8) and 333(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. They aim to ensure the protection of trees.</p> <p>The Regulations require an application to be made for cutting down, topping, lopping or uprooting of any tree with a tree preservation order. 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 be accompanied by:</li> <li>• include a plan which identifies the tree or trees to which the application relates;</li> <li>• include information specifying the work to be undertaken;</li> <li>• include a statement of the applicant’s reasons for making the application; and appropriate evidence describing any structural damage to property or in relation to tree health or safety, as applicable.</li> </ul>	<p>The AoS will need to consider potential impacts on important trees.</p>
<p>The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 as amended by The Town and Country Planning</p>	<p>The central aim of the Regulation 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>This Order provides 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 AoS must consider objectives which seek to protect the environment from the harmful impacts of development.</p>



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(Development Management Procedure) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2017		
Woodlands for Wales 2018	<p>This document details Welsh Government’s fifty-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.</p> <p>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>	The AoS framework should include objectives which address the protection of woodland.
<b>CONTAMINATED LAND</b>		
The Contaminated Land (Wales) Regulations 2006 as amended by the Contaminated Land (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012	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.	The AoS framework should address the potential of land contamination and appropriate consideration should be given to potential impacts and how they can be addressed.

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<b>HERITAGE</b>		
Historic Environment Act (Wales) 2016	<p>The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and its associated measures are intended to provide a robust structure for protecting and managing the historic environment. Part 2 makes amendments to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 primarily in relation to ancient monuments in Wales. It also makes provision for the Welsh Ministers to compile and maintain a register of historic parks and gardens. Part 3 makes amendments to the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 in relation to buildings in Wales that are of special architectural or historic interest (“listed buildings”). Part 4 makes other provision about the historic environment in Wales, including provision;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for the compilation of a list of historic place names in Wales;</li> <li>• for the compilation of a historic environment record for each local authority area in Wales; and</li> <li>• for the establishment, constitution and functions of the Advisory Panel for the Welsh Historic Environment.</li> </ul> <p>Note 2023 update to the Act is due to be published.</p>	Ensure historic environment objective within AoS framework.
The Welsh Historic Environment Strategic Statement: Action Plan 2010	The Action Plan clearly lists objectives with respect to heritage assets and the historic environment and the associated practical action required to achieve these objectives. A timeframe of 2009-2011 and beyond how put allocated to each objective. The lead and supporting bodies for each objective are also stated.	The AoS should consider including objectives which aim to protect heritage assets and the historic environment.
<b>WATER ENVIRONMENT</b>		
Water Strategy for Wales 2015	The strategy sets out the strategic direction for water policy in Wales over the next 20 years and beyond.	The AoS should consider objectives which contribute to

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	<p>The vision for the strategy is to “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”.</p>	<p>the sustainable use of water resources.</p>
<p>Flood and Water Management Act 2010</p>	<p>An Act to make provision about water, including provision about the management of risks in connection with flooding and coastal erosion.</p>	<p>The AoS should consider objectives concerning the management of risks in connection with flooding and coastal erosion.</p>
<p>National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales 2020</p>	<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>• Reducing the consequences for individuals, communities, businesses and the environment from flooding and coastal erosion</li> <li>• Raising awareness of and engaging people on flood and coastal erosion risk</li> <li>• Providing an effective and sustained response to flood and coastal erosion events</li> <li>• Prioritising investment in the most at risk communities.</li> </ul>	<p>The AoS should include objectives specific to coastal erosion risk management. Development near the coast has the potential to lead to coastal erosion through changing-coastal processes.</p>
<p>Welsh National Marine Plan (Welsh Government 2019)</p>	<p>The Welsh National Marine Plan is the first marine plan for Wales and represents the start of a process of shaping seas to support economic, social, cultural and environmental objectives. Marine planning will guide the sustainable development of our marine area by setting out how proposals will be considered by decision makers.</p> <p>It sets out the vision for the Welsh inshore and offshore marine plan regions as:</p>	<p>The AoS should establish objectives which align with the aims of the Plan and protect the marine and coastal environment.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh seas are clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Through an ecosystem approach, natural resources are sustainably managed, and our seas are healthy and resilient, supporting a sustainable and thriving economy;</li> <li>○ Through access to, understanding of and enjoyment of the marine environment and maritime cultural heritage, health and well-being are improving;</li> <li>○ Through Blue Growth more jobs and wealth are being created and are helping coastal communities become more resilient, prosperous and equitable with a vibrant culture; and</li> <li>○ Through the responsible deployment of low carbon technologies, the Welsh marine area is making a strong contribution to energy security and climate change emissions targets.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p>Flood Consequence Assessments: climate Change Allowances 2021</p>	<p>When considering new development proposals, Technical Advice Note 15: Development and Flood Risk (TAN15, now superseded) 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 AoS must take into account this guidance document.</p>
<p>Shoreline Management Plans applicable in Wales</p>	<p>A Shoreline Management Plan policy describes how a stretch of shoreline is most likely to be managed to address flood and/or erosion – although this is subject to conditions. Stretches of coast are divided into ‘management units’, and for each of these one of four different management policies are agreed, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No active intervention – there is no planned investment in defending against flooding or erosion, whether or not an artificial defence has existed previously</li> </ul>	<p>The AoS should establish objectives which align with the aims of the Plan and protect the shoreline environment and prevent flooding and/or erosion.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold the (existing defence) line – an aspiration to build or maintain artificial defences so that the position of the shoreline remains.</li> <li>• Sometimes, the type or method of defence may change to achieve this result</li> </ul> <p>Managed realignment – allowing the shoreline to move naturally, but managing the process to direct it in certain areas. This is usually done in low-lying areas, but may occasionally apply to cliffs.</p>	
LANDSCAPE		
<p>Valued and Resilient: The Welsh Government's Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks (July 2018)</p>	<p>Designated Landscapes: Valued and Resilient 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' sustainable management of natural resources consultation. It provides clarity of purpose for the National Parks and AONBs in the context of the UK's exit from the European Union 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 cross-cutting themes aim to improve resilience and realise the full value of Wales' 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> </ul>	<p>Ensure that the need to improve resilience of National Parks and AONBs designated landscapes is considered in the AoS.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thriving Welsh language</li> <li>• All landscapes matter</li> <li>• Delivering through collaboration</li> <li>• Innovation in resourcing</li> </ul>	
ENERGY		
Natural Wales Resources Technical Guidance	<p>NRW has produced technical guidance which is relevant to the energy technologies covered by the AoS. 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>	The AoS should consider guidance provided by NRW Technical Notes.

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	NRW has further relevant guidance under development which will be added to their website as soon as it is available.	
TRANSPORT		
Llwybr Newydd: the Wales Transport Strategy 2021	<p>The Wales Transport 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> <p>Priority 1: Bring services to people in order to reduce the need to travel</p> <p>Priority 2: Allow people and goods to move easily from door to door by accessible, sustainable and efficient transport services and infrastructure</p> <p>Priority 3: Encourage people to make the change to more sustainable transport</p>	The AoS should consider objectives which support the use of sustainable transport.
Scotland		
CROSS-THEMATIC		
Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects arising from a proposed development.	Energy infrastructure has the potential to fall under Schedule 1 and 2 developments in the EIA 2011 regulations and therefore would be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment.
The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)	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.	AoS Objectives which seek to protect the environment as a result of development should be considered.

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(Scotland) Regulations 2013		
National Planning Framework 4 (2023)	<p>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</p> <p>Sets out 6 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</li> <li>• Rural revitalisation</li> </ul> <p>Part 2 – National Planning Policy</p> <p>Sets out 33 policies on topics including: tackling the climate and nature crises, climate mitigation and action, and biodiversity.</p>	The AoS needs to include a comprehensive set of objectives that promote environmental protection.
Planning Advice Note (PAN) 3/2010	Sets out effective community engagement in the planning process.	The AoS process should consider objectives which include effective community



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Community Engagement		engagement in the planning process.
PAN 33 Development of Contaminated Land (Revised December 2017)	<p>Sets out the role of the planning system in addressing historical contamination. It considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the implications of the new contaminated land regime for the planning system;</li> <li>• the development of contaminated land;</li> <li>• the approach to contaminated land in development plans;</li> <li>• the determination of planning applications when the site is or may be contaminated, and;</li> </ul> <p>where further information and advice can be found.</p>	<p>The AoS should consider objectives which address the assessment and use of contaminated land sites.</p> <p>Contaminated land sites may be suitable for the development of energy infrastructure if appropriate management measures are implemented.</p>
PAN 51 Planning, Environmental Protection and Regulation (Revised 2006)	Supports the existing policy role of the planning system in relation to the environmental protection regimes.	The AoS should consider a comprehensive set of objectives that promote environmental protection such that they complement environmental targets and positively work towards their achievement.
PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology	This PAN is 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.	The AoS should consider archaeology through the inclusion of an objective relating to the historic environment.
PAN 71 Conservation	This PAN complements existing national policy and provides further advice on the management of conservation areas. It identifies good practice for managing change,	The AoS should take into account the potential impact

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Area Management	sets out a checklist for appraising conservation areas and provides advice on funding and implementation.	of development in Conservation Areas.
PAN 60 Planning for Natural Heritage	This PAN 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.	Natural heritage should be considered in the AoS and the framework should include objectives to conserve and safeguard native species, wildlife habitats, ecosystems, geology and natural beauty and amenity of the countryside.
PAN 1/2011 Planning and Noise	This PAN provides advice on the role of the planning system in helping to prevent and limit the adverse effects of noise.	The AoS should consider objectives which address noise impacts during construction, operation and decommissioning.
PAN 63 Waste Management Planning (2001)	<p>The purpose of this PAN is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide advice on a sustainable approach and change of emphasis from waste disposal to integrated waste management;</li> <li>• Assist planning authorities in ensuring that development plans reflect the land use requirements for the delivery of an integrated network of waste management facilities;</li> <li>• Provide a basis for more informed consideration of development proposals for waste management facilities;</li> </ul>	The AoS must address development and operation of energy facilities would generate waste and potentially increase the amount of waste needing long-term disposal.

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable planning authorities to implement the emerging and future Area Waste Plans; and</li> <li>• Provide developers seeking planning permission for waste management facilities with advice on the issues taken into consideration when determining applications.</li> </ul>	
<b>BIODIVERSITY</b>		
<p>The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 (Authorised Operations) Order 2011</p>	<p>This Order describes the types of operations undertaken which affect a site of special scientific interest (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.</p> <p>The Regulations are of relevance to environmental planning projects as well as remediation projects. Their overall aim is to protect and conserve species in the UK.</p>	<p>The AoS should take into account impacts upon habitats and species, and should consider provision for the preservation and protection of biodiversity and the environment.</p>
<p>Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045 (2022)</p>	<p>Sets out the framework for addressing the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change.</p> <p>The strategy identifies the vision of a future where Scotland’s natural environment is restored and supports thriving communities and wildlife. The strategy proposes outcomes and key actions that will enable this vision to be achieved.</p>	<p>Ensure the protection and enhancement of biodiversity is included as an objective within the AoS.</p>
<p>Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 (as amended)</p>	<p>The Act affected game-shooting, species protection, and introduced new wildlife offences into Scotland such as vicarious liability. Amongst other things it:</p> <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> </ul>	<p>Ensure the protection and enhancement of biodiversity is included as an objective within the AoS.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <li>• made operational changes to how Sites of Special Scientific Interest are managed;</li> <li>• required three-yearly reports to be published by public bodies on compliance with the Biodiversity Duty.</li> </ul>	
<p>Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029</p>	<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.</p> <p>Objectives</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</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>Priorities</p>	<p>The AoS framework should consider objectives which focus upon environmental protection and the avoidance of loss of forests.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring forests and woodlands are sustainably managed</li> <li>• Expanding the area of forests and woodlands, recognising wider land-use objectives</li> <li>• Improving efficiency and productivity, and developing markets</li> <li>• Increasing the adaptability and resilience of forests and woodlands</li> <li>• Enhancing the environmental benefits provided by forests and woodlands</li> <li>• Engaging more people, communities and businesses in the creation, management and use of forests and woodlands</li> </ul>	
Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018	<p>The Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018 makes new provisions regarding Scottish Ministers' functions in relation to forestry.</p> <p>The Act sets out the following, among 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 permissions and rules regarding felling.</li> </ul>	The AoS framework should consider objectives which focus upon avoidance of loss of forests.
Forestry (Felling) (Scotland) Regulations 2019	The Regulations set out the process for applications for felling permission, directions for restocking, directions for felling and rules surrounding appeals and compensation.	The AoS should consider the potential impacts of tree felling.
Control of Woodland Removal 2012	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.	The AoS will need to consider control of woodland removal.

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
<p>The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order and Trees in Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Regulations 2010</p>	<p>The regulations are made under the powers conferred on the Secretary of State by sections 160(8), 161(3) and (4), 173 and 275 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act.</p> <p>The Regulations require an application to be made for cutting down, topping, lopping or uprooting of any tree with a tree preservation order 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>AIR QUALITY</p>		
<p>The Air Quality Standards (Scotland) Regulations (2010)</p>	<p>Regulations made under powers conferred by section 2(2) of the European Communities Act.</p> <p>It details the limit or target values for several pollutants considered of concern for human health for the purpose of Air Quality Management.</p>	<p>The AoS should seek objectives to avoid air quality impacts. New power stations have the potential to result in emissions to air throughout the project lifecycle.</p>
<p>The Air Quality (Scotland) Amendments Regulations 2016</p>	<p>The regulations set out the objectives adopted in Scotland for the purpose of Local Air Quality Management.</p> <p>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>	<p>The AoS should seek objectives to avoid air quality impacts. New power stations have the potential to result in emissions to air throughout the project lifecycle.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<p>which are situated outside of buildings or other natural or man-made structures; and where members of the public are regularly present.</p>	
<p>Cleaner Air for Scotland – the Road to a healthier future (the Scottish Government 2015)</p>	<p>The purpose of Cleaner Air for Scotland – The Road to a Healthier Future (CAFS) is to provide a national framework which sets out how the Scottish Government and its partner organisations propose to achieve further reductions in air pollution and fulfil legal responsibilities as soon as possible.</p>	<p>The AoS should seek objectives to avoid air quality impacts. New power stations have the potential to result in emissions to air throughout the project lifecycle.</p>
<p>CONTAMINATED LAND</p>		
<p>Contaminated Land (Scotland) Regulations (2000 and 2005)</p>	<p>Regulations 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>Land contamination and potential impacts and how they can be addressed should be considered in the AoS.</p>
<p>NOISE</p>		
<p>Environmental Noise (Scotland) Regulations (2006) as amended by The Environmental Noise (Scotland)</p>	<p>The Environmental Noise (Scotland) Regulations 2006 introduced strategic noise mapping and noise action planning for areas such as large urban areas and major transport corridors.</p> <p>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>Noise and vibration impacts to local population should be considered in the AoS.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
Amendment Regulations 2018		
CLIMATE CHANGE		
Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009	An Act of the Scottish Parliament to 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; to provide about the giving of advice to the Scottish Ministers relating to climate change; to confer power on Ministers to impose climate change duties on public bodies; to make further provision about mitigation of and adaptation to climate change; to make provision about energy efficiency, including provision enabling council tax discounts; to make provision about the reduction and recycling of waste; and for connected purposes.	<p>AoS objectives should seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions during other stages of energy infrastructure development, for example, the transportation of raw materials and waste.</p> <p>The AoS should consider objectives which improve the resilience of energy infrastructure to changing climatic conditions throughout the project's lifecycle.</p>
Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019	<p>The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019, which amends the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, 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.</p> <p>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>	The AoS should consider objectives to reduce GHG emissions throughout the project's lifecycle.
Securing a Green Recovery on a	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	AoS objectives should seek to ensure that development is



Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
<p>Path to Net Zero: climate change plan 2018–2032 - update</p>	<p>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 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.</p>	<p>resilient and adaptable to the impacts of climate change, throughout the project lifecycle.</p>
<p>Climate Ready Scotland Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (2019-2024)</p>	<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.</p> <p>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> <p>Outcome 1: Our communities are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe in response to the changing climate</p> <p>Outcome 2: 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</p> <p>Outcome 3: Our inclusive and sustainable economy is flexible, adaptable and responsive to the changing climate.</p> <p>Outcome 4: Our society’s supporting systems are resilient to climate change</p>	<p>AoS objectives should seek to ensure that development is resilient and adaptable to the impacts of climate change, throughout the project lifecycle.</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<p>Outcome 5: Our natural environment is valued, enjoyed, protected and enhanced and has increased resilience to climate change</p> <p>Outcome 6: Our coastal and marine environment is valued, enjoyed, protected and enhanced and has increased resilience to climate change</p> <p>Outcome 7: Our international networks are adaptable to climate change.</p>	
WATER ENVIRONMENT		
<p>The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011</p>	<p>The 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> </ul>	<p>The AoS should consider objectives which focus on the protection of all aspects of the water environment.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <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 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>	
Flood Risk Management Act (Scotland) 2009	The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 introduced a more sustainable and modern approach to flood risk management. It designated all local authorities, 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 co-operation among authorities to help achieve the goal of reducing flood risk.	Ensure that flood risk management is included as an objective within the AoS framework.
WASTE		
Scotland's Zero Waste Plan (2010)	The plan sets the strategic direction for waste policy for Scotland, informed by improved understanding of the environmental consequences of how we use and dispose of resources, and by the requirements of European legislation. The Zero Waste Plan is underpinned by a determination to achieve the best overall outcomes for Scotland's	The AoS should consider waste recycling from the construction and operation of energy infrastructure.

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	<p>environment, by making best practical use of the approach in the waste management hierarchy: waste prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery.</p> <p>This Zero Waste Plan is deliberately concise and strategic in its approach. It looks to set the goals Scotland needs to achieve in the future and focuses on the key areas of activity with the potential to make the greatest contribution to deliver those goals. At the heart of the Zero Waste Plan is a change of mindset, a need for every one of us to start viewing waste as a potential resource and to think about how to use that resource most efficiently.</p>	
<p>The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012</p>	<p>These regulations outline and expand on the duty of care responsibilities of businesses with respect to waste they produce.</p> <p>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> <li>• Complete waste transfer notes to document all waste you transfer and keep them as a record for at least two years.</li> <li>• Take all reasonable steps to apply the waste management hierarchy before disposing of waste</li> </ul> <p>From 1 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 AoS should promote the reduction of waste sent for disposal and encourage re-use, recycling and recovery of waste should be considered.</p> <p>The AoS should also take account of the fact that radioactive waste will be created which will have to be managed.</p>
<p>Management and Disposal of Higher Activity Waste</p>	<p>The Scottish Government is not a sponsor of the geological disposal programme, but does remain committed to dealing responsibly with radioactive waste arising in Scotland. In January 2011, the Scottish Government published its Higher Activity Waste Policy<sup>10</sup>. Scottish Government policy is that the long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste should be in near-surface facilities. Facilities should be</p>	<p>The AoS must acknowledge the Scottish Government's position that before development consents for new fusion power stations</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<p>located as near to the sites where the waste is produced as possible. While the Scottish Government does not support deep geological disposal for Scotland, it continues, along with the UK Government and other devolved administrations, to support a robust programme of interim storage and an ongoing programme of research and development. In December 2016, the Scottish Government published an implementation strategy, which includes dates of key phases of work, milestones and key actions, for the effective implementation of the 2011 policy.</p>	<p>are granted, the Government will need to be satisfied that effective arrangements exist or will exist to manage and dispose of the waste they will produce.</p>
ENERGY		
<p>Scottish Energy Strategy: The Future of Energy in Scotland 2017</p>	<p>The 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>For information – particular note made of Scotland’s opposition to building new nuclear plants using current technologies although also recognising that fusion is a different technology.</p>
Northern Ireland		
CROSS-THEMATIC		
<p>Environment Strategy for</p>	<p>The Environment Strategy sets out Northern Ireland’s environmental priorities for the coming decades and forms part of the Executive’s Green Growth agenda. As such it includes a mix of both existing and new environmental targets / objectives for the</p>	<p>The AoS should acknowledge that Northern</p>

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
Northern Ireland 2023	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and all Northern Ireland Departments with a role in improving the environment.	Ireland has this new Environment Strategy.
<b>MARINE ENVIRONMENT</b>		
Marine Plan for Northern Ireland 2022	<p>The Marine Plan provides a framework of policies to be considered by public authorities taking decisions which affect or might affect the marine area through decision making processes. It is a material consideration in this regard. The Marine Plan (when adopted) will be used by Public Authorities in taking decisions which affect or might affect the marine area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorisation or enforcement decisions</li> <li>• Decisions that relate to the exercise of any function capable of affecting the marine area.</li> </ul> <p>It is a single document made up of two plans, one for the inshore region and one for the offshore region. The inshore region extends from the Mean High Water Spring Tide mark out to, at most, 12 nautical miles (nm) and includes tidal rivers and sea loughs. The offshore region is the area that extends south-eastwardly from the 12nm territorial limit to the outer boundary of the Northern Ireland marine area (31nm at the farthest point).</p>	Development of certain new energy infrastructure may result in transboundary effects in Northern Ireland's marine environment which will need to be considered by the AoS.
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>		
The Path to Net Zero Energy: Secure, Affordable, Clean 2021	<p>The aim of the strategy is to ensure that energy in Northern Ireland is secure, affordable and clean now and in future. The strategy sets the following three targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver energy efficiency savings of 25% from buildings and industry by 2030.</li> <li>• Meet at least 70% of electricity consumption from a diverse mix of renewable sources by 2030.</li> </ul>	The AoS should note that Northern Ireland is on a path to clean energy now and in the future which excludes generation of nuclear power within its boundaries but does not exclude fusion energy.

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double the size of Northern Ireland’s low carbon and renewable energy economy to a turnover of more than £2B by 2030.</li> </ul> <p>The strategy centres around five key principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placing people at the heart of energy future</li> <li>• Grow the green economy</li> <li>• Do more with less</li> <li>• Replace fossil fuels with renewable energy</li> <li>• Create a flexible, resilient and integrated energy system</li> </ul>	
Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022	Sets targets for the years 2030, 2040 and 2050 for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Provides a system for carbon budgeting and reporting against targets and budgets.	AoS objectives should seek to ensure that development is resilient and adaptable to the impacts of climate change, throughout the project lifecycle.
WASTE		
Management and Disposal of Higher Activity Waste	The 2014 White Paper Implementing Geological Disposal was issued jointly by the UK Government and the Northern Ireland Executive. The recent ‘Working with Communities’ consultation was published jointly by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland. Future policy decisions in relation to geological disposal in Northern Ireland would be a matter for the Northern Ireland Executive, which is currently suspended. Accordingly, in the continued absence of the Executive, no further policy commitments can be given at this time.	The AoS must acknowledge the Northern Ireland Government’s position that before development consents for new fusion power stations are granted, the Government will need to be satisfied that effective arrangements exist or will exist to manage and

Policy, Plan or Programme	Key Objectives / Targets / Guidance	Implications for the AoS
		dispose of the waste they will produce.



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This consultation is available from: [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/fusion-energy-facilities-new-national-policy-statement-and-proposals-on-siting](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/fusion-energy-facilities-new-national-policy-statement-and-proposals-on-siting)

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