

**ABERDEEN
CITY AND
SHIRE**

*Strategic Development
Planning Authority*

Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan

Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record

The background of the page features abstract, flowing lines in shades of pink and white against a dark grey background. The lines are organic and fluid, creating a sense of movement and depth. Some lines are thicker and more prominent, while others are thinner and more delicate. The overall effect is modern and artistic.

Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan

Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record



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1 Background to Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA)

Natura 2000 sites are a network of protected sites of international importance which include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) (including candidate), Special Protection Areas (SPA's) (including proposed). Ramsar Sites sites are wetland areas of international importance for birds designated under the Ramsar Convention. All Ramsar sites are also Special Protection Areas and so are afforded the same level of protection. Under Article 6 (3 & 4) of the European Habitats' Directive, any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall undergo an Appropriate Assessment to determine its implications for the site. The competent authority can only agree to the plan or project after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned (Article 6.3). In exceptional circumstances, a plan or project may still be allowed to go ahead, in spite of a negative assessment, provided there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project is considered to be of overriding public interest. In such cases the Member State must take appropriate compensatory measures to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 Network is protected (Article 6.4).

This screening is to ensure that the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan (SDP) does not have any significant effects on Natura 2000 sites.

2 Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan

This Habitats Regulations Appraisal is being undertaken for the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan (SDP). The SDP covers the whole of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire except that part of Aberdeenshire within the Cairngorms National Park. It is a strategy for the future development of the area up to 2035 and is an evolution of the current Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan which was approved by Scottish Ministers in 2009.

A Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) had been undertaken on the Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan (2009) and that plan formed the base from which the new SDP has evolved.

A Main Issues Report (MIR) was published in October 2011 as a means of engagement and consultation on the issues and options to inform the preparation of the SDP. An HRA was undertaken of the identified issues and options at the time the MIR was prepared and the results published in parallel with the MIR for consultation. Scottish Natural Heritage responded to that consultation and their response has been used to inform this draft appraisal record for the SDP itself.

The contents of the SDP are summarised in Table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1 Contents of Strategic Development Plan

SDP Vision, Strategy and Policies		Options
1. Vision	1.1	<p>Aberdeen City and Shire will be an even more attractive, prosperous and sustainable European city region and an excellent place to live, visit and to do business. We will be recognised for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • our enterprise and inventiveness, particularly in the knowledge economy and in high-value markets; • The unique qualities of our environment; and • Our high quality of life. <p>We will have acted confidently and taken the courageous decisions necessary to further develop a robust and resilient economy and lead the way towards development being sustainable, including dealing with climate change and creating a more inclusive society.</p>
2. Aims	2.1	<p>The main aims of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a strong framework for investment decisions which help to grow and diversify the regional economy, supported by promoting the need to use resources more efficiently and effectively ; and • take on the urgent challenges of sustainable development and climate change.

		<p>To support these main aims, the plan also aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make sure the area has enough people, homes and jobs to support the level of services and facilities needed to maintain and improve the quality of life; • protect and improve our valued assets and resources, including the built and natural environment and our cultural heritage; • help create sustainable mixed communities, and the associated infrastructure, which meet the highest standards of urban and rural design and cater for the needs of the whole population; and • make the most efficient use of the transport network, reducing the need for people to travel and making sure that walking, cycling and public transport are attractive choices.
3. Policy	3.1	In assessing development proposals, we will balance the importance given to each aim in coming to a decision, taking into account the spatial strategy, objectives and targets of the plan.
4. Spatial Strategy	4.1	This retains the same locations and scales of growth identified in the Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan (2009). Most new developments will be in (i) the Strategic Growth Areas, with further developments in (ii) the Regeneration Priority Areas and (iii) Local Growth and Diversification Areas. Around half of the development will be in Aberdeen City.
5. Focus of Allowances	5.1	Most of the allowances are within Aberdeen and corridors to Ellon, Inverurie and Stonehaven.
6. Economic Growth	6.1	Employment land allocation, high-speed communication, innovation, retail and tourism, viability of town centres, regional shopping facilities, Energetica corridor, infrastructure needs protected and improved, supporting freight by rail and sea.
7. Sustainable Development and Climate Change	7.1	Reducing carbon dioxide emissions, adapting to climate change effects and limiting the use of non-renewable resources. Design and use of new development to be resource efficient having minimal environmental impacts, supply and demand management of energy, renewable energy use, upgrading grid, carbon capture and storage, tackling flooding, managing waste according to waste hierarchy and proximity principles with significant increase in waste management facilities, managing water use.
8. Population Growth	8.1	Target of increasing the city region population to 500,000 by 2035 (an increase of 35,000 on 2011). An increase in the rate of house building to 2,500 and eventually to 3,000 per year.
9. Quality of the Environment	9.1	Maintaining and improving the region's important built, natural and cultural assets as a valuable resource for the future. Continue to use the green belt around Aberdeen to protect its character and landscape setting. Importance of accessible green networks in and around Aberdeen.
10. Sustainable Mixed Communities	10.1	New development must be sustainable, mixed and focused on meeting the needs of the community, with high standards of urban and rural design and efficient use of land. Provision of affordable housing and meeting the housing needs of Gypsies / Travellers and the aging population. Sequential approach to retail proposals.

11. Accessibility	11.1	Reducing the need to travel and encouraging walking, cycling and public transport. Improving access to the area and opportunities at harbours and the airport.
12. Proposals	12.1	The Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route and other associated measures to provide better access and connections to other places and to allow environmentally friendly methods of transport to be provided.
	12.2	Dualling between Balmedie and Tippetty and further improvements to the A90 (north) to provide better access and connections.
	12.3	Replace the Inveramsay Bridge and longer-term dualling of the A96 between Inverurie and the border with Moray.
	12.4	Improvements to the Haudagain roundabout, a third crossing of the River Don and other associated measures to deal with congestion and allow growth in and to the north of the city.
	12.5	A ring of new park-and-ride services around Aberdeen linking to the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route to improve accessibility, air quality and provide wider transport benefits.
	12.6	Road and rail improvements, including a new station at Kintore and enhanced local rail services, to make environmentally friendly methods of transport more attractive – including reducing journey times to Inverness and Edinburgh / Glasgow and beyond.
	12.7	Putting the Aberdeen airport masterplan into practice.
	12.8	Better links between Aberdeen and the communities on the north coast of Aberdeenshire.
	12.9	Initiatives by the universities, colleges and research organisations to strengthen our knowledge economy.
	12.10	The 'Energetica' initiative being promoted by Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Future for the Aberdeen to Peterhead strategic growth area.
	12.11	Improving the port and associated facilities at Aberdeen and Peterhead to make the most of their opportunities and potential, particularly for the energy (including offshore wind) and fishing sectors.
	12.12	Proposals to regenerate Aberdeen city centre and some of the city region's most disadvantaged areas.
	12.13	A new community stadium – a regionally important facility which will bring economic, social and cultural benefits (two possible locations are shown on the key diagram).
	12.14	The city centre masterplan, which includes proposals to make part of Union Street an area for pedestrians only.
	12.15	Upgrades to the onshore electricity grid and the development of offshore transmission from Peterhead.
	12.16	Upgrading of Peterhead power station and the deployment of carbon capture and storage technology and infrastructure.
	12.17	A range of transport proposals to deal with the cumulative impact of new development on the transport network including bus service, priority and frequency measures; junction improvements on the A96, A944, A956, A90, Kingswells North and Parkhill; safety improvements on the access road to the A93; Parkway and Persley Bridge improvements; and a River Dee link.

3 Background Information on Sites

3.1 List of European sites

In Table 3.1 below, we have provided a list of European sites with the potential to be significantly affected by any future development in the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan area. The Strategic Development Plan is essentially a spatial strategy of how the region will develop in the next 20 to 25 years. Some of them are listed for the likely impacts of the Strategic Development Plan on them. Others are included for their in-combination effects. The criteria used for the selection of sites are the effect on the aquatic environment, effect on mobile species, their vulnerability to recreational pressure, their potential to be affected by increased development and the effects on the coast. Table 3.1 to be read in conjunction with table 4.2 below.

Table 3.1: List of European sites

	European sites	Effect on aquatic environment	Effect on mobile species	Vulnerable to recreational pressure	Increase amount of development	Could affect the coast
1	Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SAC			√	√	√
2	Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA	√	√	√	√	√
3	Garron Point SAC			√		√
4	Hill of Towanreef SAC				√	
5	Red Moss of Netherley SAC	√			√	
7	Mortlach Moss SAC	√	√		√	
8	Reidside Moss SAC	√			√	
9	River Dee SAC	√	√	√	√	
10	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle loch SPA	√	√	√		√
11	Sands of Forvie SAC			√		√
12	Turclossie Moss SAC	√			√	
13	Fowlsheugh SPA	√	√		√	√
14	Loch of Skene SPA/RAMSAR	√	√			
15	Loch of Strathbeg SPA/RAMSAR	√	√		√	√
16	Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor SPA		√			
17	Troup, Pennan and Lions Head SPA	√	√	√	√	√
20	Moray Firth SAC	√	√			

The following European sites are outwith the SDP area:

18	Morven and Mullachdubh SAC					
19	Muir of Dinnet SAC			√		
6	Dinnet Oakwood SAC			√		
21	Glen Tanar SAC			√		
22	Cairngorms Massif SPA	√			√	

Table 3.2: Information about Sites Selected

Site & Conservation Objectives	Conservation Objectives	Qualifying Interest	Condition of Site	Factors influencing Site	Vulnerability to changes or potential effects of PPS
<p>1. Buchan Ness to Collieston SAC (208.62 ha) on 17/03/05</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (i.e. vegetated sea cliffs) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within site • Structure and function of the habitat • Processes supporting the habitat • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat <p>No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat.</p>	<p>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts.</p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (30/09/2000)</p> <p>General site characteristics include the following features: Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets (30%); Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (0.5%) Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana (5%) Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (64.5%)</p>	<p>Applications have been considered for developments, electricity (exc. renewable energy cases) development and water use.</p> <p>The way parts of the site are managed for grazing Management regime of cliff-top grasslands. Recreation, use by walkers, naturalists, climbers.</p>	<p>The varied vegetation would be vulnerable to changes in the management of these cliff-top grasslands. A coastal path runs along the cliff-top and is in part well used by walkers and naturalists. Parts of the site are also used by climbers. Current levels of recreational activity are compatible with maintenance of the cliff vegetation.</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Disturbance
<p>2. Buchan Ness to Collieston SPA (5,400.94 ha)</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or</p>	<p>Seabird assemblage, breeding.</p>	<p>Unfavourable, No change (04/07/2007).</p>	<p>Applications have been considered for marine dredging,</p>	<p>The management of part of the site by the Scottish Wildlife Trust Longhaven</p>

designated on 30/03/1998 with marine extension on	<p>significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species 	Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>), breeding.	Unfavourable, No change (04/07/2007).	<p>onshore wind farm, offshore wind farm, renewable energy projects and other developments</p> <p>There is a recreational use of the cliffs and rock-climbing.</p>	<p>Reserve ensures that there is no significant threats</p> <p>to the interest at present</p> <p>SNH is engaged in a programme of monitoring seabird populations, and is working with the local authority, and owners and occupiers, to agree a programme of path improvements and site interpretation.</p> <p>The potential risk of onshore wind energy development on species foraging inland.</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Disturbance • Recreational impact • Unfavourable and declining qualifying features.
		Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>), breeding.	Unfavourable, No change (04/07/2007).		
		Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>), breeding.	Unfavourable, declining (04/07/2007).		
		Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>), breeding.	Favourable Declining (04/07/2007).		
		Seabird assemblage, breeding.	Unfavourable No change (04/07/2007) The low, broken cliffs show many erosion features such as stacks, arches, caves and blowholes. The varied coastal vegetation on the ledges and cliff tops includes maritime heath, grassland and brackish flushes.		
3. Garron Point SAC (15.58 ha) designated on 16/9/2008	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (Narrow-mouthed whorl snail) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable	Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>)	<p>Favourable Maintained (20.09.3011)</p> <p>General site characteristics include the following features: Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair</p>	<p>Recreation use and geological interest in site, particularly at Skatie Shore. Introduction of livestock to the site.</p>	<p>Vulnerability of snail colonies recreational, wood burning and grazing activities. Potential site erosion from livestock activity. Vulnerability to site to marine oil pollution and long term rising sea level.</p>

	<p>conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species 		<p>(4.5%) Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets (11%)</p> <p>Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (5.8%) Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana (18.7%) Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (60%).</p>	<p>Disturbance from burning of driftwood and disposable barbecues away from the snail colonies.</p>	<p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Disturbance • Risk from fire • Coastal squeeze • Oil pollution • Erosion • Recreational impact.
<p>4. Hill of Towanreef SAC (1885.92 ha) designated on 17/03/2005</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within site 	<p>Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals.</p>	<p>Favourable, Maintained (29/07/2002).</p>	<p>Past peat cutting. Extension of Muirburn onto blanket bog, resulting in loss of Sphagnum cover Land privately owned. Recreational use by walkers and use for grouse moor and rough grazing.</p>	<p>Loss of Sphagnum cover; One part of the site is frequently visited by walkers but this is not damaging to the site's interests</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • (blanket bog and dry heaths) • Disturbance • Potential depletion of carbon sink • Recreational impact
		<p>Blanket bog.</p>	<p>Unfavourable, Declining (29/07/2002).</p>		
		<p>Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands.</p>	<p>Favourable, Maintained (01/08/2001).</p>		
		<p>Marsh saxifrage (Saxifraga hirculus).</p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (28/08/2000).</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure and function of the habitat • Processes supporting the habitat • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat 	Dry heaths.	Unfavourable, Declining (17/09/2000).		
<p>5. Red Moss of Netherley (92.52 ha) designated on 17/03/2005.</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat(s) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within site • Structure and function of the habitat • Processes supporting the habitat • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat 	Degraded raised bog.	Unfavourable, No change (22/10/2008).	<p>Extensive drainage and cutting over of the bog lowered water table. Local loss of bog vegetation and encroachment of open mire by scrub. Damage from muirburn, grazing and prospecting for mineral (diatomite).</p>	<p>Abandonment of past activities are no longer a threat. A few major drains remain along the site's margins and in a more central part of it, and although these are no longer maintained, they are still active. An ongoing problem on parts of the site is scrub encroachment.</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on hydrology • Low water table • Erosion • Habitat loss (bog).
	Active raised bog.	Unfavourable, No change (29/10/2008).			
	Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (80%) Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana (10%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (10%).				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat 				
<p>6. Dinnet Oakwood SAC (19.73 ha) designated on 17/03/2005</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of the habitat on site Distribution of the habitat within site Structure and function of the habitat Processes supporting the habitat Distribution of typical species of the habitat Viability of typical species as components of the habitat No significant disturbance of typical 	<p>Western acidic oak woodland.</p>	<p>Favourable, Maintained (12/07/2002).</p> <p>Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (100%).</p>	<p>Non-native plantings and invasive shrubs (Rhododendron) have been successfully cleared since creating the reserve in 1996.</p>	<p>Vulnerable to colonisation by non-native species There is general public access to the site but the current low levels of use are not thought to be damaging to the woodland.</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance Habitat loss Spreading or introduction of non-native species.

	species of the habitat.				
<p>7. Mortlach Moss SAC (12.02 ha) designated on 17/03/2005</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (Base-rich fens) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within site • Structure and function of the habitat • Processes supporting the habitat • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat. 	<p>Base-rich fens.</p>	<p>Favourable, Maintained (01/09/2005).</p> <p>Site has Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (100%)</p> <p>For Alkaline fens, this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.</p>	<p>Site contains self-sown pine and other conifers. No damage to the habitat.</p>	<p>Forest Enterprise (FE) work to an agreed management plan when undertaking forestry operations in the catchment. Felling Licence has been granted.</p> <p>Changes in drainage and local hydrology.</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues now
<p>8. Reidside Moss SAC (87.17 ha) designated on</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat(s) thus</p>	<p>Active raised bog.</p>	<p>Unfavourable, Recovering (3/8/2010).</p>	<p>Factors that influence the site</p>	<p>Existing management agreement covering part</p>

17/03/2005	<p>ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within site • Structure and function of the habitat • Processes supporting the habitat • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat 	Degraded raised bog.	<p>Unfavourable, Recovering (3/8/2010).</p> <p>Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (65%) Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana (25%) Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (10%).</p>	include existing drains, woodland encroachment, grazing, cultivation and afforestation.	<p>of the site that controls afforestation, grazing and cultivation will address key issues</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on hydrology • Disturbance
9. River Dee SAC (2446.82 ha) designated on 17/03/2005	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained	Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) (10/09/2004)	Favourable, Maintained (10/09/2004)	Site is affected by housing developments, water abstraction and river engineering. The site is subject to recreational use.	<p>River Dee Integrated Catchment Management Plan is in place; There is guidance on best practice for river engineering works.</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss
Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) (10/09/2004)	Favourable, Maintained (30/09/2004)				

	<p>and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species • Distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel host species 	<p>Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) (07/08/2003)</p>	<p>Unfavourable, No change (07/08/2003)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance • Potential Recreational impact • Coastal squeeze • Water Quality and abstraction
<p>10. Ythan Estuary, Sands</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species</p>	<p>Little tern (Sternula albifrons), breeding</p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (29/06/2008)</p>	<p>Factors that influence the site</p>	<p>Burning will damage sensitive habitats and</p>

<p>of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA (1016.24 ha) designated on 30/03/1998</p>	<p>or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species 	Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>), breeding	Favourable Maintained (31/07/2008)	<p>include tourism / leisure Developments, Onshore Wind, Microrenewables, Other developments</p>	<p>species. Tern colonies are vulnerable to out damaging activities and disturbance. Tern breeding is vulnerable to predation and the periodic overtopping of the favoured shingle beds by sand. Shooting of geese is not though as an issue. Effects of eutrophication on the estuary and its flora and fauna. Invertebrates, which are the prey of waterfowl, are vulnerable to build up of algal mats</p> <p>Fox control measures and bye laws are though to be helping</p> <p>The potential risk of onshore wind energy development on species foraging inland.</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance • Predation • recreational impacts • eutrophication
		Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>), non-breeding	Favourable Maintained (02/09/07)		
		Eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>), non-breeding	Favourable Maintained (31/01/2002)		
		Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>), non-breeding	Favourable Maintained (31/01/2002)		
		Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>), breeding	Unfavourable Declining (30/06/2002)		
		Pink-footed goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>), non-breeding	Favourable Maintained (31/10/2002)		
		Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding	Favourable Maintained (31/01/1999)		

<p>11. Sands of Forvie SAC (734.02 ha) designated on 17/03/2005</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within site • Structure and function of the habitat • Processes supporting the habitat • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat <p>No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat</p>	Shifting dunes	Favourable Maintained (28/09/2000)	<p>Factors that influence the site include trunk roads and other developments. Recreational use and erosion caused by mountain bikes, off road vehicles and excessive trampling</p>	<p>This is highly active and mobile along the fringe but the older dunes have stabilised and largely support heathland and grassland. Very little active management is required to maintain the habitats of interest. Increased recreational impacts and erosion by off-road vehicles and bikes.</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No serious issue
		Lime-deficient dune heathland with crowberry	Favourable Maintained (28/09/2000)		
		Shifting dunes with marram	Favourable Maintained (28/09/2000)		
		Humid dune slacks	Favourable Maintained (28/09/2000)		
<p>12. Turclossie Moss SAC (62.77 ha)</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring</p>	Degraded raised bog	Favourable Maintained (30/06/2001)	<p>Factors that influence the site include past cut-</p>	<p>At present there are no damaging activities being carried out on the site. A</p>

<p>designated on 17/03/2005</p>	<p>that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and to ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within site • Structure and function of the habitat • Processes supporting the habitat • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat <p>No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat</p>	<p>Active raised bog</p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (30/06/2001)</p> <p>Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (92%) Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana (5%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (3%)</p>	<p>over bog resulting in lowered water table. Turclossie Moss is a remnant of a much larger peatland. Soil and geology is acidic, nutrient- poor, peat</p>	<p>hydrological study will inform the restoration management of this site.</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydrological effects (lowered water table) • Potential diminishing carbon sink from loss of peatland
<p>13. Fowlsheugh SPA (1303.54 ha) designated on 31/08/1992</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p>	<p>Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>), breeding</p> <p>Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>), breeding</p> <p>Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>), breeding</p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (11/06/1999)</p> <p>Favourable Maintained (11/06/1999)</p> <p>Favourable Maintained (11/06/1999)</p>	<p>Applications have been considered for off-shore Wind, and tourism / leisure Developments</p>	<p>There are no significant threats to the interest at present. The site is managed as a nature reserve by the present owners, the RSPB, who have upgraded the public footpath which runs</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species 	Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>), breeding	Favourable Maintained (18/06/1999)		along the clifftop for the benefit of visitors to the colony, and provided information boards. Potential risk of onshore wind energy developments on species foraging inland.
		Herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>), breeding	Unfavourable Declining (18/16/1999)		
		Seabird assemblage, breeding	Favourable Maintained (18/06/1999) 99.6% (Marine) 0.04% (Coastal North-east Scotland)		
<p>14. Loch of Skene SPA/RAMSAR (120.89 ha) designated on 01/10/1986</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of 	Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>), non-breeding	Unfavourable Declining (01/11/2008)	The site has been subject of onshore wind and housing development applications. Lock subject to sailing activities, sports fishing and wildfowling. Hypertrophication from sewerage and agriculture	<p>SPA is vulnerable as hypertrophication increase algal bloom which in turn affects aquatic flora and fauna and reduces food availability to the SPA interest.</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypertrophical & pollution • Potential disturbance from site activities

	the species				
<p>15. Loch of Strathbeg SPA/RAMSAR (615.94 ha) designated on 27/11/1995</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and to ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species 	Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>), breeding	Unfavourable Declining (31/07/2004)	<p>Conflict between the geese which roost on the loch and the surrounding farms where they feed. Shooting from adjacent land of birds leaves the roost in disturbance.</p>	<p>Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is managing to reduce conflicts and vulnerabilities. For example disturbance is being regulated by RSPB's purchase of some of the shooting rights and by licensing. SNH have piloted a loch. Potential risk of onshore wind energy developments on species foraging inland.</p> <p>Strathbeg Goose Management Scheme to alleviate the conflict between the geese and farming.</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance • Conflict between roosting activities and farming
		Pink-footed goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>), non-breeding	Favourable Maintained (31/08/2001)		
		Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding	Favourable Maintained (31/08/2001)		
		Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>), non-breeding	Favourable Maintained (31/08/2001)		
		Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), non-breeding	Favourable Maintained (31/08/2001)		
		Svalbard Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>), non-breeding	Favourable Maintained (31/08/2001)		
		Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>), non-breeding	Unfavourable Declining (31/08/2001)		
<p>16. Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor SPA (83.71 ha) designated on 15/12/2000</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of the species as a viable component of the site 	Common gull (<i>Larus canus</i>), breeding	Unfavourable No Change (22/05/2008)	<p>Applications have been considered for off-shore Wind, and housing developments. The site is managed as a grouse moor and as rough grazing for sheep.</p>	<p>Common gulls are vulnerable to predation from crows and foxes as well as from rotational muirburn. Potential risk of onshore wind energy developments on the qualifying species (common gull).</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predation • Disturbance

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species 				
17. Troup, Pennan and Lion's Heads SPA (3367.21 ha) designated on 14/03/1997	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species 	Herring gull (Larus argentatus), breeding	Unfavourable No change (03/07/2007)	Applications have been considered off-shore Wind on-shore wind, marine activities, electricity (exc. renewable energy cases) and other developments and water abstraction.	There are no significant threats to the interest at present. SNH is engaged in a programme of monitoring seabird populations, and is working with the local authority, and owners and occupiers, to agree an access policy for the site. <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential disturbance from access and recreation; • Potential risk of onshore wind energy
		Razorbill (Alca torda), breeding	Unfavourable Declining (03/07/2007)		
		Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla), breeding	Unfavourable No change (03/07/2007)		
		Seabird assemblage, breeding	Unfavourable Declining (03/07/2007)		
		Guillemot (Uria aalge), breeding	Unfavourable Declining (03/07/2007)		
		Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis), breeding	Unfavourable Declining (03/07/2007)		
18. Morven and	To avoid deterioration of the	Juniper on heaths	Favourable	Morven, an	No known vulnerability

<p>Mullachdubh SAC (916.76 ha) designated on 17/03/2005</p>	<p>qualifying habitat thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within site • Structure and function of the habitat • Processes supporting the habitat • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat 	<p>or calcareous grasslands</p>	<p>Maintained (25/01/2005)</p> <p>Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed</p> <p>Vegetation. Fens (1%) Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana (62%) Dry grassland. Steppes (28%) Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (7%) Coniferous woodland (2%)</p>	<p>outlying summit of the eastern Highlands, has extensive juniper scrub on the middle and lower slopes. The use of the land for summer grazing by sheep and cattle and by a large number of mountain hares is compatible with the site interest, as demonstrated by gradual expansion of the juniper scrub.</p>	<p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issue
<p>19. Muir of Dinnet SAC/RAMSAR (415.81 ha)</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes</p>	<p>Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)</p>	<p>Favourable Declining (13/07/2010)</p>	<p>Applications had been received for electricity (exc. renewable energy)</p>	<p>The moorland is vulnerable to colonisation from adjacent woodland. Peat growth can be impeded by</p>

designated on 17/03/2005	<p>an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within site • Structure and function of the habitat • Processes supporting the habitat • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat <p>No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat</p>	Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface	Unfavourable Declining (30/08/2008)	cases) and other developments.	<p>open ditch and drains. Loch Davan is vulnerable to eutrophication.</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential recreational impacts • Eutrophication • Colonisation by other plants
		Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels	Favourable Maintained (25/06/2004)		
		Dry heaths	Favourable Declining (16/02/2001)		
		Degraded raised bog	Favourable Maintained (30/06/2000)		
20. Muir of Dinnet SPA/ Ramsar (157.6 ha) designated on 10/05/1999)	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within site • Structure and function of the habitat • Processes supporting the 	Greylag goose and Waterfowl	<p>Unfavourable Declining</p> <p>General site: woodlands and mire; sizeable lochs and vegetation; successions and transitions developing between the major habitat types; soils derived from glacial material overlaying granite open water fens; habitats including Black Moss and Purple Moor-grass; swamps; carr woodland and wetland</p>	Applications have been considered for developments for electricity.	There are no threats to the interest at present. The site falls within a national nature Reserve managed for its nature conservation interest by SNH. Byelaws are in force to prevent visitors to the reserve from carrying out damaging activities.

	<p>habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat <p>No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat</p>		<p>vegetation. The lochs support important numbers of roosting passage.</p>		
<p>21. Moray Firth SAC (151347.17 ha) designated on 17/03/2005</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within site • Structure and function of the habitat • Processes supporting the habitat • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant 	<p>Subtidal sandbanks</p> <p>Bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>)</p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (12/08/2004)</p> <p>Unfavourable Recovering (31/03/2005)</p>	<p>Dolphin Watching</p> <p>Need to restore bottlenose dolphin population at a viable level</p>	<p>The species are vulnerable to disturbance, harassment, contamination, reduction of food availability, traumatic death and injury. The impact of boat numbers and the impact of underwater noise and vibration could leave them vulnerable. Accreditation scheme is used for dolphin- watching cruise boats. There are codes of conduct for recreational pleasure craft. A strategy for dumping and dredging activities is also being developed to address these very localised activities adjacent to the coastline.</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance • Harassment, • Contamination • Injury • Potential poaching • Recreational Impact

	disturbance of the species				
<p>22. Glen Tanar SAC/RAMSAR (4180.09 ha) Designated on 17/03/2005</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within site • Structure and function of the habitat • Processes supporting the habitat • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of habitat 	Caledonian forest	Favourable Maintained (08/04/2010)	<p>Site has been subject to felling activities. Positively strict management without intervention and low-intensity silvicultural methods and education has affected the favourability of the site.</p>	<p>The main issues controlled include grazing, strikes by woodland grouse and risk of accidental fire.</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance • Injury • Accidental fire
		Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath	Favourable Maintained (21/11/2009)		
		Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	Favourable Maintained (30/09/2004)		
		Dry heaths	Favourable Maintained (23/10/2003)		
		Blanket bog	Favourable Maintained (31/10/2003)		
<p>23. Glen Tanar SPA (4180.09 ha) Designated 19/09/1994</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable</p>	Cappercaillie	Cappercaillie – Unfavourable declining (18/04/11).	<p>Applications have been lodged for felling licence and telecommunications.</p>	<p>In order to reduce fence strikes by woodland grouse, areas of redundant fence have been removed. Parts of the deer fence have also been marked. Some open</p>

	<p>conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within site • Structure and function of the habitat • Processes supporting the habitat • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat 	<p>Hen harrier</p>	<p>Hen harrier - Favourable maintained (19/07/10)</p>		<p>moorland will be retained for moorland birds and for sporting interests and also as a fire control/protection mechanism for the woodland.</p> <p>Disturbance to osprey breeding sites is reduced through the ranger service. Long-term monitoring of the woodland grouse populations has been undertaken by the landowner and this informs decisions on the sustainability of shooting.</p> <p>This site is managed as a National Nature Reserve under agreement with the owners.</p>
		<p>Osprey</p>	<p>Osprey – Favourable maintained (13/10/10)</p>		
		<p>Scottish Crossbill</p>			
<p>24. Cairngorms Massif SPA (187504.06 ha) Designated 28/10/2010</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (i.e. vegetated sea cliffs) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within site • Structure and function of the habitat 	<p>Golden Eagle</p>	<p>No data on SNHi</p>	<p>Pre applications and applications have been considered.</p>	<p>Potential threats include inappropriate afforestation of more open hill areas, creation of new hill tracks and wind farm construction. Such threats would be addressed through planning processes and liaison with the relevant parties to ensure that the requirements of the EC Birds and Habitats Directives continue to be met.</p> <p>This is a popular area for a number of outdoor pursuits including hill walking, skiing, mountain biking and bird watching, which can cause unintentional disturbance to</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processes supporting the habitat • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat <p>No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat</p>				<p>golden eagles. Visitors can cause damage to the more vulnerable areas and a combination of strategies for visitor management and ongoing repair and maintenance to footpaths is being used to address this issue.</p>
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4. Screening

The purpose of this screening is to determine whether any part of the SDP, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites listed in Table 3.2 above. In doing so, we have identified all aspects of the plan which would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European sites, either alone or in combination with other aspects of the same plan or other plans or projects, so that they can be eliminated from further consideration. In Table 4.1, we have screened out parts of the plan on the basis of the criteria listed in Section 4.1 below. Next in Table 4.2 and Table 4.3, we have screened the aspects of the plan we could not screen out to determine the nature of their effects on the European sites. We have then considered in-combination effects in Sections 4.4-4.7. Where likely significant effects have not been ruled out by the screening exercise, we have considered some straightforward mitigation measures to eliminate risks of likely significant effects (See Section 4.5).

4.1 Screening as parts of the SDP

We have screened out aspects of the plan on the basis of the following considerations:

- general policy statements;
- inability to identify effects on any particular European site because the proposal is too general;
- projects referred to in, but not proposed by the SDP;
- parts of the SDP that are intended to protect the natural environment,
- parts of the SDP which will not in themselves lead to development or other change;
- parts of the SDP which make provision for change but which could have no conceivable effect because of the absence of a link or pathway between the plan and European sites;
- parts of the SDP which make provision for change but could have no significant effect as their effects are likely to minimal;
- parts of a plan that could have no likely significant effect on a site alone: and
- parts of the plan which in combination with other aspects of the same plan, or with other plans or projects have no likely significant effects

Table 4.1 below shows those policies and proposals within the SDP which have either been screened in or out of the assessment and the criteria used.

Table 4.1: Screening in / Screening out of Contents of PPS

	Policies, objectives, actions and projects	PPS likely to have significant effects	General policy statements	Projects not generated by this PPS	Protective, enhancement and conservation policies	Does not generate development and change	Provision of change with no link or pathway to qualifying features	Provision of changed with no or minimal effects	Too general nature of PPS with no information on where, how, or when of implementation	Screen in / Screen out
1	Vision to make Aberdeen City & Shire attractive, prosperous and sustainable		X						X	OUT
2.	Aims									
	2.1 Provide a strong framework for investment decisions which help to grow and Diversify the regional economy, supported by promoting the need to use resources more efficiently and effectively;		X							OUT
	2.2 Take on the urgent challenges of sustainable development and climate change		X							OUT
	2.3 Make sure the area has enough people, homes and jobs to support the level of services and facilities needed to maintain and improve the quality of life.							X		OUT
	2.4 Protect and improve our valued assets and resources, including the built natural and cultural heritage;				X					OUT
	2.5 Help create sustainable mixed communities, and the associated infrastructure, which meet the highest standard of urban and rural design and cater for the needs of the whole population							X		OUT
	2.6 Make the most efficient use of the transport network, reducing the need for people to travel and making sure that walking, cycling and public transport are attractive choices.							X		OUT
3	Policy:		X							OUT
4	Spatial Strategy									
	4.1. Strategic Growth Areas	X								
	4.2. Local Growth and Diversity Areas							X		OUT
	4.3. Regeneration Priority Areas						X	X		OUT
5	Focus of allowances	X								
6	Economic Growth	X								

7	Sustainable Development and Climate Change				X					OUT
	7.1 Renewable energy generation and energy efficiency								X	OUT
	7.2 Renewable energy transmission infrastructure			X						OUT
	7.3 Carbon Capture and Storage			X						OUT
	7.4 Waste Management Facilities	X								
8	Population Growth	X								
9	Quality of the Environment				X					OUT
10	Sustainable Mixed Communities					X				OUT
11	Accessibility			X		X				OUT
12	Proposals									
	12.1 The Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route and other associated measures to provide better access and connections to other places and to allow environmentally friendly methods of transport to be provided. Responsible Authority for the HRA will be Transport Scotland through the STPR.			X						OUT
	12.2 Dualling between Balmedie and Tipperty and further improvements to the A90 (north) to provide better access and connections. Responsible Authority for the HRA will be Transport Scotland through the STPR.			X						OUT
	12.3 Replace the Inveramsay Bridge and longer-term dualling of the A96 between Inverurie and the border with Moray. Responsible Authority for the HRA will be Transport Scotland through the STPR.			X						OUT
	12.4 Improvements to the Haudagain roundabout, a third crossing of the River Don and other associated measures to deal with congestion and allow growth in and to the north of the city. Responsible Authority for the HRA will be Transport Scotland through the STPR.			X						OUT

12.5	A ring of new park-and-ride services around Aberdeen linking to the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route to improve accessibility, air quality and provide wider transport benefits. Responsible Authorities for the HRA will be Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council through a number of PPSs.			X						OUT
12.6	Road and rail improvements, including a new station at Kintore and enhanced local rail services, to make environmentally friendly methods of transport more attractive – including reducing journey times to Inverness and Edinburgh / Glasgow and beyond. Responsible Authority for the HRA will be Transport Scotland through the STPR.			X						OUT
12.7	Putting the Aberdeen airport masterplan into practice. The Responsible Authority for the HRA will be Aberdeen Airport.			X						OUT
12.8	Better links between Aberdeen and the communities on the north coast of Aberdeenshire. Responsible Authority for the HRA will be Aberdeenshire Council through a number of PPSs.			X						OUT
12.9	Initiatives by the universities, colleges and research organisations to strengthen our knowledge economy.		X	X						OUT
12.10	The ‘Energetica’ initiative being promoted by Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Future for the Aberdeen to Peterhead strategic growth area. Responsible Authority for the HRA will be Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City councils through a number of PPSs.			X						OUT
12.11	Improving the port and associated facilities at Aberdeen and Peterhead to make the most of their opportunities and potential, particularly for the energy (including offshore wind) and fishing sectors. Responsible Authority for the HRA will be Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City councils through a number of PPSs.			X						OUT
12.12	Proposals to regenerate Aberdeen city centre and some of the city region's most disadvantaged areas. Responsible Authority for the HRA will be Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City councils through a number of PPSs.		X	X						OUT
12.13	A new community stadium – a regionally important facility which will bring economic, social and cultural benefits (two possible locations are shown on the key diagram). Responsible Authority for the HRA will be Aberdeen City Council through a number of PPSs.			X						OUT
12.14	The city centre masterplan, which includes proposals to make part of Union Street an area for pedestrians only. Responsible Authority for the HRA will be Aberdeen City Council through a number of PPSs.			X						OUT
12.15	Upgrades to the onshore electricity grid and the development of offshore transmission from Peterhead. Responsible Authority for the HRA will be the developer and Aberdeenshire Council through a number of PPSs.			X						OUT

	12.16 Upgrading of Peterhead power station and the deployment of carbon capture and storage technology and infrastructure. Responsible Authority for the HRA will be the developer and Aberdeenshire Council through a number of PPSs.			X								OUT
	12.17 A range of transport proposals to deal with the cumulative impact of new development on the transport network including bus service, priority and frequency measures; junction improvements on the A96, A944, A956, A90, Kingswells North and Parkhill; safety improvements on the access road to the A93; Parkway and Persley Bridge improvements; and a River Dee link	X										

4.2 Screening for likely significant effects of parts of the SDP on European Sites

In this section, aspects of the SDP screened in from Section 4.1 are screened to determine the nature of their effects on the European sites. Key to the abbreviations used in the screening is explained in the Table 4.2 below.

Table 4.2: Screening for likely significant effects: Aspects of the PPS Screened in from 4.1 above

Plan	Buchan Ness to Collieston SAC	Buchan Ness to Collieston SPA	Garron Point SAC	Hill of Tawanrieef SAC	Red Moss of Netherley SAC	Troup Pennan Lion's Head SPA	Fowlheugh SPA	River Dee SAC	Yhan Estuary Sands of Fovie & Meikle Loch SPA	Mortloch Moss SAC	Lock of Skene SPA	Loch of Strathbeg SPA	Sands of Fovie SAC
Spatial Strategy (Strategic Growth Areas)	HL, RI	HL, RI	HL RI		EoP, EoH		RI	WA, HL, D,RI, CC,EoH EoMS	D,RI, WQ,EoH, EoMS				HL,RI
Economic Development Policy	HL	HL	HL		EoP, EoH			WA, HL, D,RI, CC,EoH EoMS	D,RI, WQ,EoH				
Population Growth	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D			RI,D	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D		RI,D	RI,D	RI,D, HL,RI
Sustainable Mixed Communities	HL, RI	HL, RI	HL RI		EoP, EoH			WA, HL, D, RI, CC,EoH	D,RI, WQ,EoH				
Accessibility (including River Dee link)	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D			RI,D	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D		RI,D	RI,D	RI,D
Sustainable Development (Waste Management)	HL	HL	HL		EoP EoH			WA, HL, D,RI, CC,EoH EoMS					HL
Key	HL – Habitat Loss RI – Recreational Impact CC – Coastal Squeeze WA – Water Abstraction						EoH – Effects on Hydrology EoP – Effects on Pollution D – Disturbance WQ – Water Quality EoMS – Effects on Mobile Species						

Table 4.2(cont): Screening for likely significant effects: Aspects of the PPS Screened in from 4.1 above

	Turclossie Moss SAC	Dinnet Oakwood SAC	Mortlach Moss SAC	Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor SPA	Morven and Mullachdubh SAC	Muir of Dinnet SAC	Glen Tanar SAC	Reidside Moss SAC	Moray Firth SAC	Muir of Dinnet SPA/ Ramsar	Glen tanar SPA	Cairngorms Massif SPA
Policies, Strategies and Sites												
Spatial Strategy (Strategic Growth Areas)	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	EoMS	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Economic Development Policy	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	EoMS	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Population Growth	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Sustainable Mixed Communities	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Accessibility (including River Dee link)	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Sustainable Development (Waste Management)	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	EoMS	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE

4.3 In Combination effects – combination between different parts of the SDP

This section considers the combination between elements of the plan including some aspects of the plan screened out on the basis that they were protective policies or that those aspects could have no likely significant effects. These aspects of the plan include:

1. **Spatial Strategy(Strategic Growth Areas) (SGA);**
2. Regeneration Priority Areas) (RPA)
3. Local Growth and Diversity Areas (LG&DA)
4. **Economic Growth**
5. **Population Growth**
6. **Sustainable Mixed Communities (SMC)**
7. **Accessibility**
8. Sustainable Development and Climate Change (SD& CC)
9. Quality of the Environment (QoE)

The numbers listed against parts of the plan are paired in different permutations in the table below.

Table 4.3: Possible Combination of parts of the plan

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1									
2	2,1								
3	3,1	3,2							
4	4,1	4,2	4,3						
5	5,1	5,2	5,3	5,4					
6	6,1	6,2	6,3	6,4	6,5				
7	7,1	7,2	7,3	7,4	7,5	7,6			
8	8,1	8,2	8,3	8,4	8,5	8,6	8,7		
9	9,1	9,2	9,3	9,4	9,5	9,6	9,7	9,8	

From the table above there are 36 possible combinations between parts of the plan shown below. These 36 combinations have been used in screening the effects of the plan on the European sites considered and the result is indicated in Table 4.4 below.

Table 4.4: Screening for in-Combination Effects (Internal)

In-combination between parts of the plan	Buchan Ness to Collieston SAC	Buchan Ness to Collieston SPA	Garron Point SAC	Hill of Tawanrieef SAC	Red Moss of Netherley SAC	Troup Pennan Lion's Head SPA	Fowlheugh SPA	River Dee SAC	Yhan Estuary Sands of Fovie & Meikle Loch SPA	Mortloch Moss SAC	Lock of Skene SPA	Loch of Strathbeg SPA	Sands of Fovie SAC
Spatial Strategy (SGA) + RPA	HL RI	HL RI	HL RI		EoP, EoH			WA, HL D, RI CC, EoH	D,RI, WQ EoH				No added effect from the RPA
Spatial Strategy (SGA) + LG&DA	HL RI	HL RI	HL RI		EoP, EoH			WA, HL D, RI CC EoH	D,RI, WQ EoH				No added effect from the LG&DA
Spatial Strategy (SGA) + Econ Growth	HL RI	HL RI	HL RI		EoP EoH			WA, HL D, RI CC EoH	D,RI, WQ EoH				
Spatial Strategy (SGA) + Pop. Growth	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D		EoP, EoH	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D		RI,D	RI,D	RI,D
Spatial Strategy (SGA) + SMC	HL RI	HL RI	HL RI		EoP, EoH			WA, HL D, RI CC, EoH	D,RI, WQ EoH				
Spatial Strategy (SGA) + Accessibility	HL RI D	HL RI D	HL RI D		EoP, EoH	RI D	RI D	RI D	RI D		RI,D	RI,D	RI,D
Spatial Strategy (SGA) + SD&CC	HL RI	HL RI	HL RI		EoP, EoH			WA, HL D, RI CC, EoH	D,RI, WQ EoH				
Spatial Strategy (SGA) + QoE	HL RI	HL RI	HL RI		EoP, EoH			WA, HL D, RI CC, EoH	D,RI, WQ EoH				
RPA + LG&DA	No LSE												

RPA + Econ Growth	HL RI	HL RI	HL RI		EoP, EoH			WA, HL D, RI CC, EoH	D,RI, WQ, EoH				
RPA + Pop. Growth	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D		EoP, EoH	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D		RI,D	RI,D	RI,D
RPA + SMC	HL RI	HL RI	HL RI		EoP, EoH			WA, HL D, RI CC, EoH	D,RI, WQ EoH				
RPA + Accessibility	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D			RI,D	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D		RI,D	RI,D	RI,D
RPA + SD&CC	No LSE												
RPA + QoE	No LSE												
LG&DA + Econ Growth	HL RI	HL RI	HL RI		EoP, EoH			WA, HL D, RI CC, EoH	D,RI, WQ EoH				
LG&DA + Pop Growth	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D			RI,D	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D		RI,D	RI,D	RI,D
LG&DA + SMC	HL RI	HL RI	HL RI		EoP, EoH			WA, HL D, RI CC, EoH	D,RI, WQ, EoH				
LG&DA + Accessibility	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D			RI,D	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D		RI,D	RI,D	RI,D
LG&DA + SD&CC	No LSE												
LG&DA + QoE	No LSE												
Economic Development + Pop Growth	HL RI	HL RI	HL RI		EoP, EoH			WA, HL D, RI CC EoH	D,RI, WQ EoH				
Economic Development + SMC	HL RI	HL RI	HL RI		EoP, EoH			WA, HL D, RI CC, EoH	D,RI, WQ EoH				
Economic Development + Accessibility	HL,RI, D	HL,RI, D	HL,RI, D		EoP, EoH	RI,D	RI,D	WA, HL, D, RI, CC,EoH RI,D	D,RI, WQ, EoH, RI,D		RI,D	RI,D	RI,D
Economic Development + SD&CC	HL RI	HL RI	HL RI		EoP, EoH			WA, HL D, RI CC EoH	D,RI, WQ EoH				

Economic Development + QoE	HL RI	HL RI	HL RI		EoP, EoH			WA, HL D, RI CC EoH	D,RI, WQ EoH					
Pop Growth + SMC	HL,RI, D	HL,RI, D	HL,RI, D		EoP, EoH	RI,D	RI,D	WA, HL D, RI CC, EoH D, RI	D,RI, WQ EoH D		RI,D	RI,D	RI,D	
Pop Growth + Accessibility - including River Dee link	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D			RI,D	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D		RI,D	RI,D	RI,D	
Pop Growth + SD&CC	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D			RI,D	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D		RI,D	RI,D	RI,D	
Pop Growth + QoE	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D			RI,D	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D		RI,D	RI,D	RI,D	
SMC + Accessibility - including River Dee link	HL,RI, D	HL,RI, D	HL,RI, D		EoP, EoH	RI,D	RI,D	WA, HL D, RI CC EoH D, RI	D,RI, WQ,EoH		RI,D	RI,D	RI,D	
SMC + SD&CC	HL, RI	HL, RI	HL, RI		EoP, EoH			WA, HL D, RI CC EoH	D,RI, WQ EoH					
SMC + QoE	HL,RI	HL,RI	HL,RI		EoP, EoH			WA, HL, D, RI, CC, EoH	D,RI, WQ,EoH					
Accessibility - including River Dee link + SD&CC	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D			RI,D	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D		RI,D	RI,D	RI,D	
Accessibility - including River Dee link + QoE	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D			RI,D	RI,D	RI,D	RI,D		RI,D	RI,D	RI,D	
SD&CC + QoE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	
Key	HL – Habitat Loss RI – Recreational Impact CC – Coastal Squeeze WA – Water Abstraction							EoH – Effects on Hydrology EoP – Effects on Pollution D - Disturbance WQ – Water Quality						

Table 4.4(cont): Screening for in-Combination Effects (Internal)

In-combination between parts of the plan	Turclossie Moss SAC	Dinnet Oakwood SAC	Mortlach Moss SAC	Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor SPA	Morven and Mullachdubh SAC	Muir of Dinnet SAC	Glen Tanar SAC	Reidside Moss SAC
Spatial Strategy (SGA) + RPA	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Spatial Strategy (SGA) + LG&DA	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Spatial Strategy (SGA) + Econ Growth	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Spatial Strategy (SGA) + Pop. Growth	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Spatial Strategy (SGA) + SMC	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Spatial Strategy (SGA) + Accessibility - including R Dee link	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Spatial Strategy (SGA) + SD&CC	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Spatial Strategy (SGA) + QoE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
RPA + LG&DA	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
RPA + Econ Growth	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
RPA + Pop. Growth	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
RPA + SMC	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
RPA + Accessibility - including River Dee link	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
RPA + SD&CC	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
RPA + QoE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
LG&DA + Econ Growth	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
LG&DA + Pop Growth	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE

LG&DA + SMC	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
LG&DA + Accessibility - including River Dee link	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
LG&DA + SD&CC	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
LG&DA + QoE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Economic Development + Pop Growth	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Economic Development + SMC	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Economic Development + Accessibility - including River Dee link	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Economic Development + SD&CC	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Economic Development + QoE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Pop Growth + SMC	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Pop Growth + Accessibility - including River Dee link	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Pop Growth + SD&CC	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Pop Growth + QoE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
SMC + Accessibility - including River Dee link	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
SMC + SD&CC	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
SMC + QoE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Accessibility - including River Dee link + SD&CC	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Accessibility - including River Dee link + QoE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
SD&CC + QoE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Key	HL – Habitat Loss RI – Recreational Impact CC – Coastal Squeeze WA – Water Abstraction			EoH – Effects on Hydrology EoP – Effects on Pollution D - Disturbance WQ – Water Quality				

4.4 In Combination effects – combination between parts of the SDP

This section considers the combination between elements of the plan and other plans approved in the region and in neighbouring authorities. The other plans considered include the regional transport strategy, the Cairngorms LDP and Moray LDP. The elements of the plan combined with neighbouring plans are the Spatial Strategy, Regeneration Priority Areas, Local Growth and Diversity Areas, Economic Growth, Population Growth, Sustainable Mixed Communities and Accessibility. In table 4.5 below, we show how we have carried out the in-combination effects.

Table 4.5: Screening for in-combination effects (external)

Policies, Strategies and Sites	European sites affected	Likely Significant Effect	In- combination effects	Risk of LSE persisting? (Yes/No)
Spatial Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Growth Areas • Local Growth and Diversity Areas • Regeneration Priority Areas 	Buchan Ness to Collieston SAC/SPA, Garron Point, Red Moss of Netherley, Dee and Moray Firth, Ythan	Yes Water abstraction, Habitat loss, recreational impacts, chemical change, effect on hydrology, disturbance, vibration effects on dolphins	Some minimal effects on the Regional Transport Strategy, as well as sites in the Cairngorms/Cairngorms LDP and Moray LDP as well as Angus LDP	Yes Disturbance and pollution on Dolphins
Economic Growth	Buchan Ness to Collieston SAC/SPA, Garron Point, Red Moss of Netherley, Dee and Moray Firth, Ythan	Yes Water abstraction, Habitat loss, recreational impacts, chemical change, effect on hydrology, disturbance, vibration effects on dolphins	Some minimal effects on the Regional Transport Strategy, as well as sites in the Cairngorms/Cairngorms LDP and Moray LDP as well as Angus LDP .	Yes Disturbance and pollution on Dolphins
Sustainable Development and Climate Change	Positive effects on all sites	No LSE	No LSE	No
Population Growth	Buchan Ness to Collieston SAC/SPA, Garron Point, Red Moss	Yes Recreational effect and disturbance to species	Some minimal effects on the Regional Transport Strategy, as well as sites in the Cairngorms/Cairngorms LDP and Moray	Yes Disturbance and pollution on Dolphins

	of Netherley, Dee and Moray Firth, Ythan, Troup Pennan Lion's Head, Fowlsheugh, Lock of Skene, Loch of Strathberg, Sands of Forvie	and habitats	LDP as well as Angus LDP.	
Quality of the Environment	Positive effects on all sites	No LSE	No LSE	No
Sustainable Mixed Communities	Buchan Ness to Collieston SAC/SPA, Garron Point, Red Moss of Netherley, Dee and Moray Firth, Ythan,	Yes Water abstraction, Habitat loss, recreational impacts, chemical change, effect on hydrology, disturbance, vibration effects on dolphins	Some minimal effects on the Regional Transport Strategy, as well as sites in the Cairngorms/Cairngorms LDP and Moray LDP as well as Angus LDP .	Yes Disturbance and pollution on Dolphins
Accessibility - including River Dee link	Buchan Ness to Collieston SAC/SPA, Garron Point, Red Moss of Netherley, Dee and Moray Firth, Ythan, Troup Pennan Lion's Head, Fowlsheugh, Lock of Skene, Loch of Strathberg, Sands of Forvie	Yes Habitat loss, recreational impacts, chemical change, effect on hydrology, disturbance, vibration effects on dolphins	Some minimal effects on the Regional Transport Strategy, as well as sites in the Cairngorms/Cairngorms LDP and Moray LDP as well as Angus LDP .	Yes Disturbance and pollution on Dolphins

4.5 Summary of Screening and Mitigation applied

In mitigating the effects of the plan on the sites, we have made the choice from the following alternatives as appropriate

- deleting the policy or proposal that may cause the likely significant effect;
- changing the nature or type of a potentially damaging proposals;
- reducing the scale of the potentially damaging provision, whether it is an overall level of growth across all or part of the plan area, or a single proposal of a specific scale or size;
- relocating or altering the spatial distribution of the potentially damaging provision;
- phasing or timing of a proposal so that its possible effects can be adequately managed over time;
- programming a proposal so that it is dependent on key infrastructure provision or upgrading, such as water supply or waste water treatment, being in place before it could proceed; and
- requiring buffer zones to be put in place
- requiring lower-tier plans to undertake HRAs and/or SEAs

These measures are reflected in Table 4.6 below:

Table 4.6: Summary of individual and in-combination effects and Mitigation

Policies, Strategies and Sites	European sites affected	Likely Significant Effect individually and in combination with parts of the SDP	In-Combination effects (external)	Mitigation Measures	Risk of LSE persisting? (Yes/No)	Is Appropriate Assessment Required? (Yes/No)
Spatial Strategy	Buchan Ness to Collieston SAC/SPA, Garron Point, Red Moss of Netherley, Dee and Moray Firth, Ythan	Yes Water abstraction, Habitat loss, recreational impacts, chemical change, effect on hydrology, disturbance, vibration effects on dolphins	Some minimal effects on the Regional Transport Strategy, as well as sites in the Cairngorms, Cairngorms LDP and Moray LDP. Regarding the Moray Firth, there are the following risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diffuse run-off pollution from agricultural practices • Excessive underwater noise causing disturbance to dolphin populations • Commercial effluent has potential to cause deterioration of dolphin populations • Sewage effluent has potential to cause deterioration of dolphin populations • Marine Litter • Activities involving nets have the potential to cause disturbance, injury and mortality. • Dredging and disposal of materials containing contaminants Offshore renewable energy developments have the potential to cause disturbance or injury. • Oil exploration has the potential to cause disturbance or deterioration of dolphin populations or their prey through oil related 	<p>Future LDPs and other strategies like the Local Housing Strategy should avoid policies or proposals that may cause damaging effects on the qualifying interest;</p> <p>Future LDPs and other strategies like Local Housing Strategy should change the nature or type of a potentially damaging proposal;</p> <p>Future LDPs should avoid allocating sites which potentially damages sites.</p> <p>The delivery of future LDPs and strategies should be programmed so that they are dependent on key infrastructure provision or upgrading.</p> <p>Lower-tier plans and strategies should undertake HRA and EIA to ensure that adverse effects are fully mitigated</p> <p>Agree with relevant bodies any appropriate mitigation measures to ensure that water abstracted from the River Dee will not affect qualifying interests.</p> <p>Agree with relevant bodies to prepare a water shortage plan as an adaptation to future climate impacts</p> <p>As part of the masterplanning or planning application process, developers will ensure that the recreational use of sites do not affect qualifying interests.</p> <p>Future LDPs and strategies should require developments to demonstrate through appropriate marine-noise modelling, that adverse impacts on Bottlenose Dolphins and Atlantic Salmon</p>	No	No

			development and activities. • Impacts from boats and shipping and other motorised water sports	are avoided		
Economic Growth	Buchan Ness to Collieston SAC/SPA, Garron Point, Red Moss of Netherley, Dee and Moray Firth, Ythan	Yes Water abstraction, Habitat loss, recreational impacts, chemical change, effect on hydrology, disturbance, vibration effects on dolphins	Some minimal effects on the Regional Transport Strategy, as well as sites in the Cairngorms, Cairngorms LDP and Moray LDP as well as Angus LDP.	Same as above	No	No
Sustainable Development and Climate Change	Positive effects on all sites	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No	No
Population Growth	Buchan Ness to Collieston SAC/SPA, Garron Point, Red Moss of Netherley, Dee and Moray Firth, Ythan, Troup Pennan Lion's Head, Fowlsheugh, Lock of Skene, Loch of Strathberg, Sands of Forvie	Yes Recreational effect and disturbance to species and habitats	Some minimal effects on the Regional Transport Strategy, as well as sites in the Cairngorms/Cairngorms LDP and Moray LDP as well as Angus LDP.	Future LDPs and other strategies like Local Housing Strategy should avoid policies or proposals that may cause damaging effects on the qualifying interest; Future LDPs and other strategies like the Local Housing Strategy should change the nature or type of a potentially damaging proposal; Future LDPs should avoid allocating sites which potentially damages sites. The delivery of future LDPs and strategies should be programmed so that they are dependent on key infrastructure provision or upgrading. Lower-tier plans and strategies should undertake HRA and EIA to ensure that adverse effects are fully mitigated	No	No
Quality of the Environment	Positive effects on all sites	No LSE	No LSE		No	No

Sustainable Mixed Communities	Buchan Ness to Collieston SAC/SPA, Garron Point, Red Moss of Netherley, Dee and Moray Firth, Ythan,	Yes Water abstraction, Habitat loss, recreational impacts, chemical change, effect on hydrology, disturbance, vibration effects on dolphins	Some minimal effects on the Regional Transport Strategy, as well as sites in the Cairngorms/Cairngorms LDP and Moray LDP as well as Angus LDP.	Future LDPs and other strategies like Local Housing Strategy should avoid policies or proposals that may cause damaging effects on the qualifying interest; Future LDPs and other strategies like Local Housing Strategy should change the nature or type of a potentially damaging proposal; Future LDPs should avoid allocating sites which potentially damages sites. The delivery of future LDPs and strategies should be programmed so that they are dependent on key infrastructure provision or upgrading. Lower-tier plans and strategies should undertake HRA and EIA to ensure that adverse effects are fully mitigated	No	No
Accessibility - including River Dee link	Buchan Ness to Collieston SAC/SPA, Garron Point, Red Moss of Netherley, Dee and Moray Firth, Ythan, Troup Pennan Lion's Head, Fowlsheugh, Lock of Skene, Loch of Strathberg, Sands of Forvie	Yes Habitat loss, recreational impacts, chemical change, effect on hydrology, disturbance, vibration effects on dolphins	Some minimal effects on the Regional Transport Strategy, as well as sites in the Cairngorms/Cairngorms LDP and Moray LDP as well as Angus LDP.	Future LDPs and other strategies like Local Housing Strategy should avoid policies or proposals that may cause damaging effects on the qualifying interest; Future LDPs and other strategies like theLocal Housing Strategy should change the nature or type of a potentially damaging proposal; Future LDPs should avoid allocating sites which potentially damages sites. The delivery of future LDPs and strategies should be programmed so that they are dependent on key infrastructure provision or upgrading. Lower-tier plans and strategies should undertake HRA and EIA to ensure that adverse effects are fully mitigated Plans for the River Dee Link should include measures for the protection of qualifying interests.	No	No

5 Conclusion

Following the screening of the SDP and the application of mitigation measures, we can conclude that this SDP would not be likely to have a significant effect on European sites listed in this assessment, either alone or in combination with other aspects of the same plan or other plans or projects. No further appropriate assessment will be undertaken.

Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan - Modifications

**Habitats Regulation Appraisal
Screening Report**

The Scottish Government

25 March 2014

Preamble

1. This screening report considers the modifications recommended to the Proposed Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan in the report of the examination into that plan.
2. The Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) prepared a [Draft Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record](#) in February 2013. Following comments from Scottish Natural Heritage in a letter dated 9 April 2013, the SDPA agreed to make some revisions to the Draft HRA Record. These were set out in a letter dated 26 June 2013. This screening report does not revisit the consideration of Habitats Regulations issues contained in that Record or its revisions, where these are connected with parts of the plan unaffected by the modifications. However it has been prepared in the light of the information on sites and effects contained in the earlier work. This report is intended to form an annex to the earlier HRA record.
3. This report is informed by Version 2.0 of the Scottish Natural Heritage Guidance for Plan-Making Bodies in Scotland on Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans of August 2012 ('the [SNH Guidance](#)'¹). Where modifications are screened out for the purposes of HRA, the table below refers to the relevant screening step described in the SNH Guidance.
4. This screening report is based upon the modifications proposed in the report of the examination into issues raised in representations on the Proposed Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan. It is possible that, in approving the plan, the Scottish Ministers may make some further changes. If further changes are made, and these go beyond editorial amendments then the Scottish Government will revisit this screening report.

¹ <http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/B1116296.pdf>

Summary of the modification	Screening	Relevant step of SNH Guidance
<p>Issue 1. Introduction Extend list of legislation and strategies that influence the plan to include the <i>2020 Routemap for Renewable Energy in Scotland</i>.</p>	<p>This is a factual update to reflect the importance of this strategy on the plan. It is part of the section on 'Influences on the plan' which then feeds into the aims and vision. Although not a policy statement itself, it may be seen for the purposes of HRA as a general policy statement. It does not itself have any likely significant effects and can therefore be screened out.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Issue 2. Vision To clarify that the plan's aims will also contribute towards the overarching Scottish Government purpose of increasing sustainable economic growth, to ensure that the plan is in line with Scottish Planning Policy.</p>	<p>This is to ensure that the plan is explicitly consistent with the Scottish Government's central purpose, albeit that this is implied in the range of policies and proposals. The draft HRA record already establishes that the vision and aims are general policy statements, which can be screened out.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Issue 3. Economic Growth To clarify that Aberdeen <i>city centre</i>, rather than Aberdeen as a whole, should remain one of the top 20 retail areas in the UK.</p>	<p>This is a clarification of the location to which the target will apply. It remains an overarching target which points to further action, and is a general policy statement. It does not itself have any likely significant effects, and can therefore be screened out.</p>	<p>1</p>

Summary of the modification	Screening	Relevant step of SNH Guidance
<p>Issue 4. Sustainable Development and Climate Change A number of changes: (1) To clarify that the aim of increasing the supply of renewable energy relates both to heat and power; (2) To highlight potential limitation of water abstraction from the River Dee in order to protect the river's status as a Special Area of Conservation, and to highlight related mitigation measures in the Habitats Regulation Appraisal that may be required; (3) To clarify that, taking into account an ongoing need for some non-renewable power generation, that the target for renewable energy relates to an amount <i>equivalent</i> to the city region's needs; (4) To clarify that the target for waste management infrastructure is a minimum target; (5) To ensure that Local Development Plans (and supplementary guidance) promote water efficiency in relevant developments; (6) To ensure that the necessary safeguards in the Habitats Regulations Appraisal are applied to subsequent Local Development Plans and development management decisions.</p>	<p>(1) This is a factual correction to a general policy statement and no likely significant effects are predicted, so can be screened out. (2) & (6) This is to strengthen the text and highlight that adaptation measures of a particular kind may be required in future, as well as ensuring that local development plans and development proposals take into account related safeguards in the Habitats Regulations Appraisal. This change does not itself have any likely significant effects but it is recognised that these may occur at later stages of planning. The modifications in themselves are intended to be protective of the natural environment , so can be screened out. (3) This is a point of clarification around a general policy statement and no likely significant effects are predicted, so can be screened out. (4) This is a point of clarification. It could be seen to increase the amount of infrastructure required but the plan is not altered on the general locations for new waste management facilities so no likely significant effects are predicted by the modification as it is too general. It can therefore be screened out. (5) This is to strengthen the plan by backing up its existing target on water efficiency in new developments with action through local development plans (and supplementary guidance). However, given that the target already exists and the actions are in later stages of planning, no likely significant effects are expected and this can be screened out.</p>	<p>Stage 1 (for (1), (3), (4) & (5); Stage 3a for (2) & (6)</p>

Summary of the modification	Screening	Relevant step of SNH Guidance
<p>Issue 6. Sustainable Mixed Communities To focus on the creation of successful and sustainable communities, with the necessary services and facilities.</p>	<p>This is to ensure the plan is consistent with national policy and guidance around delivering appropriate services and facilities linked to developments. It guides future decisions on development and infrastructure. It is not possible to determine any effect at this stage as the specific locations are not identified. It can therefore be screened out.</p>	<p>3e</p>
<p>Issue 7. Quality of the Environment To ensure adequate monitoring of the improvement of, as well as the loss of, built, national or cultural heritage assets.</p>	<p>This is a factual correction to ensure effective monitoring. The modification ties monitoring of development to a target of the Strategic Development Plan that development improves and does not lead to the loss of, or damage to, natural heritage assets. Of itself this modification will not lead to development or other change, since it relates to the monitoring rather than the development stage. This modification can therefore be screened out.</p>	<p>3b</p>
<p>Issue 8. Putting this Plan into Practice (1) To remove references to increases in land value funding a large percentage of new infrastructure; and (2) to include a new proposal to identify and develop green networks in and around Aberdeen and other major settlements in the area.</p>	<p>(1) The removal of the references to land value will ensure that the plan properly reflects the intentions of legislation and national policy in relation to the use of planning obligations. It will guide future work on local development plans and on individual planning applications but environmental effects cannot be determined at this stage as it is not possible to identify specific locations or proposals. The modification relates to the general context for infrastructure contributions from developers and the public sector, so of itself it will not lead to development. It can therefore be screened out</p> <p>(2) The inclusion of a green network proposal brings the plan into line with Scottish Planning Policy. The proposal is to carry out further work to identify and develop such a network. This will be implemented through Local Development Plans and through decisions on planning applications. Again, while the proposal may have environmental effects, these are not possible to determine at this stage as the location of the network or the detailed policies that may apply there are not identified, so the change can be screened out.</p>	<p>3b & 3e</p>
<p>Issue 9. Strategic Transport Fund A number of changes:</p>	<p>These are corrections to bring the text in line with legislation and national policy on the use of planning obligations. The proposed modification defines the transport</p>	<p>3b</p>

Summary of the modification	Screening	Relevant step of SNH Guidance
<p>- To clarify that statutory supplementary guidance on the Strategic Transport Fund will define the types of development to which it will apply, and be used only to support projects that are related to the developments concerned and necessary to make those developments acceptable in planning terms; and</p> <p>- To clarify which infrastructure projects will be delivered through the Strategic Transport Fund.</p>	<p>projects to benefit from the Strategic Transport Fund as those that are identified in Schedule 2 of the plan. These were assessed within the Draft HRA Record, being screened in under Table 4.1 and with mitigation measures set out under Table 4.6. Of itself therefore the modification does not identify or include any additional development or other change in the plan, and therefore can be screened out.</p> <p>The proposed changes to Schedule 2 are factual corrections to clarify which proposals are delivered by the Strategic Transport Fund rather than by other means. It should be noted that Table 4.1 in the draft HRA record identifies that the projects proposed for delivery through the Strategic Transport Fund will have likely significant effects and Table 4.6 in the draft HRA record sets out appropriate mitigation measures to ensure future local development plans and strategies fully mitigate any adverse effects. An agreed amendment to Table 4.6 in SDPA's letter of 26 June 2013 is to add: "Plans for the River Dee Link should include measures for the protection of qualifying interests [of River Dee SAC]". This relates also to one of the reporter's proposed modifications under Issue 4 above, to ensure that local development plans and development proposals take into account related safeguards in the Habitats Regulations Appraisal.</p>	
<p>Issue 10. Spatial Strategy - General To clarify that consideration of a strategic walking and cycling network should form an integral part of planning for the strategic growth areas.</p>	<p>This is minor point of clarification and does not change the effect of the text. It remains a general policy statement with no likely significant effects and can be screened out.</p>	1
<p>Issue 11. Strategic Growth Areas – Active Travel To show diagrammatically that the strategic walking/cycling links on page 17 are proposed, rather than existing, projects.</p>	<p>This is a factual correction to the diagram to reflect the actual status of the proposal. It does not change the general spatial strategy in the plan. The detail of the strategic walking/cycling links in this Strategic Growth Area will be considered at the Local Development Plan level. The diagrammatic line is too general to assess at this stage, so can be screened out.</p>	3e

Summary of the modification	Screening	Relevant step of SNH Guidance
<p>Issue 12. Strategic Growth Areas – Aberdeen City To emphasise the need for more major office developments in the city centre, to support the region’s economic development.</p>	<p>This is to strengthen the text and capitalise on the city centre’s economic development role. The text promotes development of a specific kind (office) within the existing urban area, but specific proposals are not yet identified, so no significant effects can yet be identified as the text is too general. This change can therefore be screened out.</p>	<p>3e</p>
<p>Issue 13. Strategic Growth Areas – Aberdeen - Peterhead To clarify that a development framework for the southern gateway to Peterhead will be prepared as statutory supplementary guidance, and that the southern end of the Energetica corridor extends into northern Aberdeen, where projects on energy technology development and energy efficiency will continue.</p>	<p>This is to clarify that supplementary guidance will be prepared at a later date so no environmental effects can be identified at this stage as the text is too general. A factual correction is also made to reflect the true extent of the Energetica corridor, within which energy related developments are promoted. Decisions on specific proposals or locations within that corridor are for later stages of planning, so again no likely significant effects can be identified at this stage. These modifications can therefore be screened out.</p>	<p>3e</p>

The ‘in-combination’ test

No in-combination assessment is necessary for the modifications to the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan because all the modifications are either general policy statements or will have no effect at all on any European site because the proposed change is too general in nature, would not of itself lead to development, or is intended to protect the environment. In these circumstances, paragraph 4.35 of the SNH Guidance confirms that no in-combination assessment is required as the modifications will not result in any minor residual effects.

Overall Conclusion

The overall conclusion is that the modifications to the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan are not likely to have any significant effect on any European site.

The Scottish Government
25 March 2014