

Proposed Strategic Development Plan

Habitats Regulation Appraisal Record

August 2018

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1 Background to Habitats Regulations Appraisal

Natura 2000 sites are a network of protected sites of international importance. They are referred to as European sites, and are required to be considered through the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) process. These sites are Special Protection Areas (SPA), classified under the Birds Directive, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), designated under the EC Habitats Directive 1992, and 'candidate' Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC). The parts of SPAs, SACs and cSACs which lie below Mean High Water Spring tide are also referred to as 'European Marine Sites', and those in the offshore marine area are also called 'European Offshore Marine Sites' (EOMS). which include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) (including candidate and proposed), Special Protection Areas (SPA's) (including proposed) and Ramsar designated sites that are European sites as set out above. 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).

Appraisal of the effects of Scottish 'land use plans' on European sites is required by Part IVA (regulations 85A – 85E) of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended SSI 2007/80). These Regulations transpose into domestic legislation the requirements of the EC Habitats Directive. Part IVA covers Strategic Development Plans, Local Development Plans and Supplementary Guidance, as provided for under Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended.

The precautionary principle is embedded within the Directive and Regulations and should be applied. Given that the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) is very strategic in nature, very often there is no detail on the proposals that are supported to come forward. As such, the actual or likely effects including locational impacts are often unknown, and so the HRA process can highlight potential effects, but not determine the scale accurately as this would be based on the detail to be developed and location selected. However any projects that may flow from the provisions of the SDP will, in any event, be subject to detailed, statutory assessment for their effects on European sites, and will only be permitted if they meet the tests of the Regulations.

The HRA process requires an appraisal of whether the components of the SDP, either alone or in combination, will result in 'likely significant effects' (LSE) on a European Site, designated under the European Habitats or Birds Directives as Special Areas for Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or as RAMSAR sites. Elements of a plan with minor residual effects (MRE) should be screened for in-combination effects.

If it is determined that 'likely significant effects' (LSE) may occur on a European site, then the SDP will be subject to an 'appropriate assessment' of its implications for the European site in view of the sites conservation objectives. It is at the Appropriate Assessment stage when it is ascertained if the SDP will avoid adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites. The systematic and staged process is set out in the tables forming appendices within this document.

2 Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan

This Habitats Regulations Appraisal has been undertaken in support of the preparation of the second Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan. This appraisal seeks to demonstrate in a systematic manner how the European sites have been considered in the preparation of the revised SDP and how we have been able to conclude that there would be no adverse effects on the integrity on European sites.

As with the SDP 2014, this Strategic Development Plan covers the whole of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire except that part of Aberdeenshire within the Cairngorms National Park. The SDP provides a strategy for the future development of the area up to 2040 and is an evolution of previous strategic documents to guide development in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. The Strategic Development Plan 2014 was approved by Scottish Ministers in March 2014 and is being reviewed and refreshed to reflect changes in circumstance that have occurred since that date.

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

Contents of Strategic Development Plan

SDP Vision, Strategy and Policies	Plan Section	Option promoted
Vision	2	<p>By 2040, Aberdeen City and Shire will have grown and evolved to become an even more attractive, prosperous, resilient and sustainable European City Region. It will be an excellent place to live, visit and do business.</p> <p>We will be recognised for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> our enterprise and inventiveness in the knowledge economy and high-value markets – with a particular focus on energy, biopharmaceuticals, tourism, food and drink and the primary industries; and, the City Region’s unique built, historic and natural environment, which will be protected and, where appropriate, enhanced as a key asset in underpinning a high quality of life and place. <p>Decision makers will have acted confidently and taken the courageous decisions necessary to further develop a robust and diversified economy.</p> <p>Both Councils will have taken a proactive approach towards development that: ensures the sustainable use of natural resources, the ability to live within the area’s environmental capacity, can deal with climate change, and creates a more open, inclusive society.</p>
Aims	2	<p>The main aims of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a strong framework for investment decisions which will help to grow and diversify the regional economy in a sustainable manner; promote the need to use resources more efficiently and effectively whilst protecting our assets; and,

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take on the urgent challenges of 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 homes and jobs to support the level of services and facilities needed to maintain and improve the quality of life; • protect and, where appropriate, enhance our valued assets and resources, including biodiversity, the historic and natural environment and our cultural heritage; • help create sustainable mixed communities, and the provision of associated infrastructure, which will meet the highest standards of placemaking, urban and rural design, and cater for the needs of the whole population; • encourage opportunities for greater digital connectivity across the City Region; 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.
Vision Policy	2	In assessing proposals for development, we will balance the importance given to each Aim in coming to a decision, taking into account the Vision, Spatial Strategy, Objectives and Targets of this Plan.
Spatial Strategy and Strategic Growth	3	This retains the same locations and broad scales of growth identified in the Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan 2009 and the Strategic Development Plan 2014. Most new development will be in: (i) the Strategic Growth Areas, previously promoted; and in (ii) the Regeneration Priority Areas; while other areas will accommodate (iii) Local Growth and development contributing to Diversification of the economy. Around 80 % of the total housing growth promoted will be accommodated within the Aberdeen Housing Market Area and half of all housing development is promoted to be in the Aberdeen City boundary. At least 75% of the total housing growth is promoted within the Strategic Growth Areas. Housing and economic growth is promoted that reduces the need to travel and / or facilitate low carbon options including opportunities for active travel.
Communities	4	We seek the highest standards for placemaking, urban and rural design, promote a mix of land uses, use land more efficiently, and prioritise the re-use of previously developed land while protecting valued existing habitats. Deliver quality environments for all community needs with range of tenures and affordability and do so using the 'Place Standard' as a tool to deliver quality.
Economy	5	Employment land allocation, high-speed communication, innovation, retail and tourism, viability of town centres, regional shopping facilities, Energetica corridor, infrastructure needs protected and improved including that for a low carbon economy, supporting active travel and low carbon transport options, and increased movement of freight by rail and sea.
Resources	6	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, support low carbon energy opportunities and greater energy efficiency, while reducing flooding, and promote waste management in support of a circular economy.
Connections	7	Support the delivery of necessary infrastructure to support low carbon options for travel, safe transport movement, digital

		transformation for the region as well for a more sustainable and diverse low carbon economy.
Strategic Projects / Proposals		
		A90 and A952 Improvements
		Building on the National Decommissioning Centre at Newburgh
		Offshore Electricity Transmission HVDC link to Norway
		Offshore Electricity Transmission HVDC link to North of England
		CO2 Pipeline associated with CCS and links Central Belt and St Fergus
		Enhanced High Voltage Energy Transmission Upgrade (OHL) from Kintore, via Fetteresso and south to Central Scotland.
		Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Network and Thermal Generation
		A96 Dual Carriageway (Listed under Strategic Projects)
		Rail Service Enhancements Aberdeen -Inverness
		Strategic Walking / Cycling Links
		Possible new stations at Aberdeen South and Newtonhill
		A90 Improvements
		Rail Service Enhancements Aberdeen to Central Belt
		Aberdeenshire Regeneration Strategy
		River Dee Initiative
		Underground electricity cable to serve Moray Offshore (East and West) Wind Farm
		Waste Treatment and Energy Facility at Altens.
		City Centre Masterplan and Delivery Programme, approved by Aberdeen City Council in 2015, provides a 20-year regeneration and development strategy for the city centre.
		North and North East Mortuary Project
		City Region Deal Innovation
		St Fergus Acorn Project

3 Approach to the Appraisal of the Plan

The approach to this Habitats Regulatory Appraisal is based on SNH Guidance for Plan-Making Bodies in Scotland, Version 3.0, dated January 2015 (based on David Tyldesley and Associates, Doc. Ref. 1739).

This guidance sets out the approach as staged process to meet the requirements of the Habitats Regulation Appraisal, and this is the approach adopted here. While the analysis is set out as appendices within this document, the summary findings are set out as part of the report.

The following stages are identified in the above guidance.

Stage 1 - Is the Plan subject to HRA?

Stage 2 - Identify the European sites that should be considered in the appraisal.

Stage 3 - Gather Information about the identified sites.

Stage 4 - Discretionary discussions on the method and scope of the appraisal.

Stage 5 - Screening the proposed plan for likely significant effect.

Stage 6 - Applying mitigation measures at screening stage to avoid likely significant effects.

Stage 7 - Re-screen the Plan and decide on the need for appropriate assessment.

Should an 'appropriate assessment' be required then Stages 8 to 13 are completed are followed. If no need for appropriate assessment, then undertaking Stage 10 is completed with preparation of Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record.

Stage 8 - The 'appropriate assessment' – where site integrity, conservation objectives, the consideration of in-combination effects within the context of the precautionary principle

Stage 9 - Amend the plan until to resolve adverse effects on site integrity.

Stage 10 - Prepare a draft of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record

Stage 11 - Consultation

Stage 12 - Proposed Modifications

Stage 13 - Modification and completing the appraisal record.

The Habitats Regulations Appraisal

STAGE 1 – Is the Plan subject to HRA?

As a Strategic Development Plan promoting a policy framework and proposals for development, there may be impacts on Natura 2000 sites either individually, or in combination with other plans and projects within the area and/or nearby. As a Strategic Development Plan it is required to undertake a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended), as the Plan will be used as a material consideration by those who are responsible for deciding the outcome of applications for project consents and the Plan may contain proposals that have the potential to affect European (Natura 2000) sites.

STAGE 2 – what Natura 2000 sites should be considered through the Appraisal?

In identifying sites that may be affected by policies and proposals in the Plan, it is necessary to identify sites within the development plan boundary as well as sites that meet any of the following European sites checklist:

1. where plans could affect the aquatic environment - Sites upstream or downstream of the plan area in the case of river or estuary sites
2. Peatland and other wetland sites with relevant hydrological links to land within the plan area, irrespective of distance from the plan area
3. For plans that could affect mobile species - Sites which have significant ecological links with land in the plan area, for example, land in the plan area may be used by migratory birds, which also use a SPA, out with the plan area, at different times of the year
4. For plans that could increase recreational pressure on European sites potentially vulnerable to such pressure - sites within a reasonable travel distance of the plan area boundaries that may be affected by local recreational or other visitor pressure from within the plan area (the appropriate distance in each case will need to be considered on its merits, in light of any available evidence); or where sites are National Nature Reserves where public visiting is promoted, sites or in National or Regional Parks, coastal sites and sites in other major tourist or visitor destinations within a longer travel distance of the plan area, which are major (regional or national) visitor attractions. In these cases, the appropriate distance in each case will need to be considered on its merits, in light of any available evidence.
5. For plans that would increase the amount of development - sites used for, or could be affected by, water abstraction in or close to the plan area; or that could be affected by, discharge of effluent from waste water treatment works or other waste management streams serving land in the plan area, irrespective of distance from the plan area
6. Sites that could be affected by transport or other infrastructure (e.g. by noise or visual disturbance).
7. Sites that could be affected by increased deposition of air pollutants arising from the proposals, including emissions from significant increases in traffic
8. For plans that could affect the coast - Sites in the same coastal 'cell', or part of the same coastal ecosystem, or where there are interrelationships with or between different physical coastal processes.

European Sites which were identified under this selection process and set out in Appendix A and in Table A.1 and includes the sites identified within Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, along with sites in nearby administrative areas i.e. within the Cairngorms National Park, Angus, Moray in terms of proximity and connectivity, and coastal and including consideration of marine sites. SNH guidance also advises that mobile species associated with designations are also relevant to the selection of sites.

STAGE 3 – Gather information on the sites identified

Information on the sites is collated and included in Appendix A Table A.2 and A.3. The source of this information is taken from JNCC website and from SNH Sitelink. Information regarding important features of sites and Site Condition Monitoring information has been updated as necessary from this site.

STAGE 4 – Discretionary Consultation

While there have been a number of additional Natura sites promoted since the SDP 2014 the status and baseline date of most sites remains the same and as such no formal consultation regarding sites and additional pressures was considered necessary. Site information has however been updated to reflect some recorded changes in condition since the earlier Plan was assessed as well as additional sites included to reflect new sites proposed. There are two proposed SPAs. One is an extension to the Ythan Estuary and Sands of Forvie SPA. This extension is however a proposed marine extension encompassing the marine waters within three kilometres of the coast stretching from Aberdeen harbour northwards to Cruden Bay. The extension will help protect Tern colony offshore foraging grounds. The second addition is part of the Moray Firth proposed SPA which extends eastwards along the Moray coast almost to Portsoy. This proposed SPA is an extensive

site stretching seaward from the Helmsdale coast in the north, to Portsoy in the east and it includes the outer Dornoch and Cromarty Firths, Beaully and Inverness Firths, as well as part of the wider Moray Firth.

STAGE 5 - 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 B.1. In doing so, we have identified all aspects of the Plan which would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site, 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. This allows the focus to concentrate where the plan will have likely significant effects, however the Plan in its development should have already avoided its significant effects by the time it reaches its options stage and issues stage.

The SNH and JNCC site information is critical to identifying the pressures on the sites and potential likely significant effects. In Table A.5a, we have screened out parts of the Plan on the basis of the criteria listed in Section B.1a below. Next in Table B.1b and Table B.1c 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 and these in combination are set out in B.2d. 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.

We have screened out aspects of the SDP based on 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.

Tables B.1 to B.2d within Appendix B identifies those policies and proposals within the SDP which have been considered and screened in of the assessment against the sites set out in Appendix A. Table B.2d also considers in combination effects, including those areas beyond SDP area. The SDP proposals and affected sites are identified and carried forward into Stage 6 when Locally Significant Effects cannot be ruled out and mitigations applied.

While the Strategic Development Plan does include significant scale of development to meet the housing requirements for a growing region and supports economic development that moves the region towards a low carbon economy, the scale of housing development for the most part is in Aberdeen City and within specific growth corridors beyond the city. While increased population can be expected to increase recreational pressure, those sites considered to most likely to be under pressure are managed sites, either as a National Nature Reserve or Local Nature Reserves (Scottish Wildlife Trust or RSPB), or lie they within the National Park. On this basis recreational pressures are not identified as having LSE. Managed sites along with the extent of undesignated areas and other managed outdoor attractions within the City Region support the assumption of broader scale recreational impacts rather than necessarily impacting on Natura 2000 sites.

STAGE 6 - Applying mitigation measures at screening stage to avoid likely significant effects.

Summary of Screening and Mitigation applied set out in

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;
- requiring buffer zones to be put in place; and
- requiring lower-tier plans to undertake HRAs and/or SEAs.

Mitigation is identified in Table B.2e for those sites where residual effects either from a proposal alone or in combination with other proposals cannot be ruled out.

Only one Natura 2000 site affected by the SDP moved into the final stage for consideration, and the relevant European site was the River Dee SAC and the issue of related to growth within the River Dee catchment and that specifically focussed within the City of Aberdeen. The key issue is the potential impact on the River Dee SAC from multiple pressures, including water abstraction for drinking water, but also recreational pressures and other development pressures currently managed through the development management system. All drinking water is licenced and the SDPA has been advised that all will be delivered within the volume currently licenced. New developments are certainly more water efficient than earlier developments and surface water management requirements are also more exacting than previously was the case. Many of the pressures within the River Dee catchment are beyond the scope of the development plan, however those that fall within the planning system can be managed to remove negative impacts and mitigation in terms of managing the way the site is developed. Appropriate mitigation and monitoring will be essential. The Habitats Directive requires that surveillance of the Community interest features be carried out on Natura 2000 sites by the UK conservation agencies, using the JNCC Common Standards Monitoring (CSM) framework. The conservation agencies are therefore responsible for setting the attributes and targets for determining the condition of designated habitats and species.

The objectives of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Birds and Habitats Directive (BHD) are closely related and special attention and coordination is expected where these directives are implemented in the same areas. The measures serving the BHD and WFD objectives need to be included in the river basin management plans required under Art. 13 WFD and should also be include the management plans of

the Natura 2000 sites. Good monitoring will be essential to identify and support appropriate mitigations.

The River Basin Management Plan for the Scotland river basin district includes Catchment summaries. The River Dee catchment summary includes the following “The Dee Special Area of Conservation has been identified by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) as being in unfavourable condition in relation to freshwater pearl mussel populations. No single causal factor has been identified but drinking water abstraction, diffuse pollution and alterations to beds and banks may all contribute. SNH has set a target to achieve favourable status by 2027.” The SDPA will work with all partners and Agencies to deliver this target.

Development pressures that are site specific can be managed through the planning system with site development employing a range of mitigation methods allows the Strategic Development Plan in respect to the River Dee SAC as not requiring an appropriate assessment. These mitigations are identified in Table 6.2e and include exclusion of certain sites, case-specific explicit policy restrictions to be identified in Local Development Plans, management plans and Construction Environmental Management Plans, construction method statements, lower-tiers assessments (many of which are already identified within Local Development Plans). The exclusions and mitigation identified supports the position that no appropriate assessment is required, and this is the basis for the conclusion is set out in the record in Stage 10 below.

STAGE 10 - Prepare a draft of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record

In conclusion following on from Stage 6 above, based on findings set out in Table B3.3d where sites identified for mitigation following the screening of the SDP at previous stage and the application of mitigation measures now identified, we have concluded 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 is therefore deemed necessary at this stage.

Appendix A: Background Information on Sites

List of European sites

Table A.1: List of European sites within SDP Boundary

Site Ref.	European sites	Aquatic environment	Mobile species	Vulnerable to recreational pressure	Pressure from development	Coastal relationship
8214	Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SAC			√	√	√
8473	Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA	√	√	√	√	√
8671	Garron Point SAC			√		√
8271	Hill of Towanreef SAC					
8601	Red Moss of Netherley SAC	√				
8329	Mortlach Moss SAC	√				
8351	Reidside Moss SAC	√				
8357	River Dee SAC	√	√	√	√	√
8592	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch SPA /RAMSAR (part)	√	√	√	√	√
10479	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch SPA (Proposed Marine Extension)				√	√
8373	Sands of Forvie SAC			√		√
8402	Turclossie Moss SAC	√				
8505	Fowlsheugh SPA	√	√			√
8536	Loch of Skene SPA/RAMSAR	√	√		√	
8537	Loch of Strathbeg SPA/RAMSAR	√	√			√
8584	Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor SPA		√			
8587	Troup, Pennan & Lions Head SPA	√	√	√		√
10490	Moray Firth SAC	√	√			√
10490	Moray Firth SPA (Proposed)		√	√		√
10234	Cairngorm Massif SPA (partly in Aberdeenshire)			√		

Table A.2 European sites close to, or show connectivity with the with the SDP area, or have mobile species with a connection

8330	Morven and Mullachdubh SAC			√		
8334	Muir of Dinnet SAC	√		√		
8334	Muir of Dinnet SPA /RAMSAR	√		√		
8240	Dinnet Oakwood SAC			√		
8266	Glen Tanar SAC	√		√		
8508	Glen Tanar SPA	√		√		

Table A.3: 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>Buchan Ness to Collieston SAC (206.03 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 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.</p>	<p>Favourable Declining (21/06/2016)</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 including 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 i.e. no negative pressures identified.</p> <p>Summary of Potential Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Disturbance from recreation
<p>Buchan Ness to Collieston SPA (5,400.76 ha) designated on 30/03/1998 with marine extension on</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>Shag</p> <p>Guillemot (Uria aalge), breeding.</p> <p>Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla), breeding.</p>	<p>Unfavourable, No change (16/06/2017).</p> <p>Favourable, Maintained (16/06/2017).</p> <p>Unfavourable no change (16/06/2017).</p>	<p>Applications have been considered for marine dredging, onshore wind farm, offshore wind farm, renewable energy projects and other developments</p> <p>There is a</p>	<p>The management of part of the site by the Scottish Wildlife Trust Longhaven Reserve ensures that there are no significant pressures regarding interest at present.</p> <p>SNH is engaged in a programme of monitoring</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>Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>), breeding.</p> <p>Herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>), breeding</p> <p>Seabird assemblage, breeding.</p>	<p>Unfavourable declining (16/06/2017).</p> <p>Unfavourable no change (16/06/2017).</p> <p>Favourable recovered (16/06/2017).</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>recreational use of the cliffs and rock-climbing.</p>	<p>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>Summary of Potential Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss Disturbance Recreational impact Unfavourable and declining qualifying features.
<p>Garron Point SAC (15.01 ha) designated on 05/09/2008</p>	<p>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 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 	<p>Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>)</p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (20.09.2011)</p> <p>General site characteristics include the following features: Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair (4.5%) Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets (11%) Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (5.8%) Heath. Scrub. Maquis</p>	<p>Some risk from grazing, however grazing is also considered positive for habitat.</p>	<p>Assessment JNCC 22/12/2015</p> <p>Summary of Potential Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat change Human induced changes to hydraulic conditions from beyond site.

	<p>within site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>and garrigue. Phygrana (18.7%) Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (60%).</p>		
<p>Hill of Towanreef SAC (1889.66 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 • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat 	Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals.	Favourable Maintained (12/09/2007).	<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 due to inappropriate habitat management • Bog / heath burning
		Blanket bog. (priority habitat)	Unfavourable Declining (28/08/2013).		
		Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands.	Favourable Maintained (12/09/2007).		
		Marsh saxifrage (Saxifraga hirculus). (qualifying species)	Favourable Maintained 07/08/2000).		
		Dry heaths.	Unfavourable, Declining (17/09/2015).		
		Alpine & subalpine heaths	Favourable maintained (12/09/2007).		

Red Moss of Netherley SAC (92.52 ha) designated on 17/03/2005.	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: <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.	Unfavourable, No change (22/10/2008).	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).	Former activities are no longer a threat. However, scrub encroachment remains an ongoing issue in areas. <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects on hydrology • Low water table • Erosion • Loss of bog habitat.
		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%).		
Dinnet Oakwood SAC (19.63 ha) designated on 17/03/2005	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of the habitat on site 	Western acidic oak woodland.	Favourable, Maintained (12/07/2002). Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (100%).	Non-native plantings and invasive shrubs (Rhododendron) have been successfully cleared since creating the reserve in 1996.	Vulnerable to colonisation by invasive species Overgrazing <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive species overgrazing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>Mortlach Moss SAC (12.36 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</p> <p>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 	<p>Base-rich fens.</p>	<p>Favourable, Maintained (01/09/2005).</p> <p>Site has Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (100%)</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>Susceptible to changes in drainage and local hydrology.</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No negative pressures identified

	typical species of the habitat.				
Reidside Moss SAC (86.75 ha) designated on 17/03/2005	<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</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 	Active raised bog (priority habitat)	Unfavourable, Recovering (16/11/2017).	Factors that influence the site include existing drains, woodland encroachment, grazing, cultivation and afforestation.	<p>Existing management agreement covering part 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"> • Invasive species
		Degraded raised bog.	Unfavourable, Recovering (16/11/2017).		
			Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens (65%) Heath, Scrub, Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana (25%) Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (10%).		
River Dee SAC (2446.82 ha) designated on 17/03/2005 The Dee is a major east coast river, flowing uninterrupted for some 130 km from its upland reaches in	<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 the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the</p>	Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) (high proportion of the river accessible to salmon)	Favourable, Maintained (21/07/2011)	Site is affected by housing developments, water abstraction and river engineering. The site is subject to recreational use. Agriculture impacts. Invasive species –	<p>River Dee Catchment Management Plan is in place; Survey, analysis undertaken, and local improvements identified across catchment. Overall river condition identified as Moderate from Banchory to Peterculter and</p>
		Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) (10/09/2004) Surveys indicate otters found throughout Dee	Favourable, Declining (06/10/2012)		

the high Cairngorms to the North Sea.	<p>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 	catchment.		non-native.	<p>planned actions to meet condition as good by 2027. Water quality for river (incl. Banchory to Peterculter) currently High. Extended deadline to meet all parameters (SEPA Water Environment Hub, July 2018). SEPA monitors for WFD and regulates licence to abstract water.</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development with Planning permission • Disturbance • Potential recreational impact • Coastal squeeze • Water management (Abstraction) Managing water levels and quality in line with BHD and WFD. • Water Management (morphological alteration) • Water Quality from diffuse pollution and agricultural operations
		Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) (07/08/2003)	Unfavourable, No change (07/08/2003)		
		(Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> , which is common in the Dee, recorded from a location approximately 30 km from the river source to approximately 6-7 km upstream from its mouth.)			
Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA (1016.24 ha) designated on 30/03/1998	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	Little tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>), breeding	Favourable Maintained (01/08/2012)	Factors that influence the site include tourism / leisure development.	Tern colonies are vulnerable to recreational activities and disturbance. Tern breeding is vulnerable
		Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>), breeding	Favourable Maintained (01/08/2012)		

	<p>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>Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus), non-breeding</p> <p>Eider (Somateria mollissima), non-breeding</p> <p>Redshank (Tringa totanus), non-breeding</p> <p>Common tern (Sterna hirundo), breeding</p> <p>Pink-footed goose (Anser brachyrhynchus), non-breeding</p> <p>Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding</p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (02/09/07)</p> <p>Favourable Declining (21/08/2012)</p> <p>Favourable Maintained (31/01/2002)</p> <p>Unfavourable No change (01/08/2012)</p> <p>Favourable Maintained (06/11/2012)</p> <p>Favourable Maintained (19/10/2012)</p>		<p>to predation and the periodic overtopping of the favoured shingle beds by sand. Shooting of geese not thought an issue. Effects of eutrophication on the estuary increases build-up of algal mats.</p> <p>Fox control measures and bye laws are thought to be helping</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural activity • Eutrophication • Predation • Recreational disturbance
<p>Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch Proposed SPA Extension (60.51 km²)</p>	<p>This marine extension has been specifically selected to protect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - foraging habitat used by Sandwich tern and little tern breeding at the Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA. <p>The conservation objectives are: To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, subject to natural change, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained in the long-term and it continues to make an appropriate contribution to achieving the aims</p>	<p>Proposed qualifying interests: Breeding Little tern, Sandwich tern (protection for these species will be provided within the proposed extension of this SPA), Lapwing, Redshank, (proposed additions to the existing part of the SPA)</p>		<p>The Ythan has a long, narrow estuary with the Sands of Forvie lying on the north bank. The proposed extension encompasses the marine waters within three kilometres of the coast stretching from Aberdeen harbour northwards to Cruden Bay. The linear coast immediately north of Aberdeen is intersected Rivers Don and Ythan.</p>	<p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <p>Fishing - mobile gear</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Benthic trawls - Mechanical and hydraulic benthic dredging - Pelagic trawls and seines <p>Ports and harbours, new developments -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aberdeen, Collieston, Newburgh, Port Erroll and Whinnyfold. <p>There are no offshore wave or tidal stream draft option areas identified in the respective draft Sectoral plans that overlap with this</p>

	of the Birds Directive for each of the qualifying species.				proposed marine extension. However, there is consented wind energy development within the proposed marine extension. SNH does not anticipate that the operation of the wind farm poses a risk to conservation objectives.
Sands of Forvie SAC (734.02 ha) designated on 17/03/2005	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: <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	Shifting dunes	Favourable Maintained (28/09/2000)	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. The Site is managed as a National Nature Reserve with Visitor Centre. Tern Breeding colonies are cordoned off during breeding season.	This is highly active and mobile dune environment 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. Summary of Key Issues No serious issues identified. Sands of Forvie is managed NNR.
		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)		
Turclossie Moss SAC (62.77 ha) designated on	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is	Degraded raised bog	Favourable Maintained (30/06/2001)	Factors that influence the site include past cut- over	At present there are no damaging activities being carried out on the site. A

17/03/2005	<p>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>	Active raised bog	<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>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 Hydrological effects (lowered water table)</p>
<p>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> <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 	Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>), breeding	Favourable Maintained (11/06/1999)	<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 along the clifftop for the benefit of visitors to the colony and provided information boards.</p>
		Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>), breeding	Favourable Maintained (11/06/1999)		
		Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>), breeding	Favourable Maintained (11/06/1999)		
		Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>), breeding	Favourable Maintained (18/06/1999)		
		Herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>), breeding	Unfavourable Declining (18/16/1999)		

	<p>species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species 	Seabird assemblage, breeding	Favourable Maintained (18/06/1999) 99.6% (Marine) 0.04% (Coastal north-east Scotland)		
<p>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 the species 	Greylag goose (Anser anser), non-breeding	Unfavourable Declining (01/11/2008)	The loch supports an internationally important roost of Icelandic Greylag Goose Anser anser, as well as Icelandic Whooper Swan Cygnus cygnus. Both swans and geese feed away from the SPA on surrounding agricultural land during the day. Loch used for sailing, sports fishing and wildfowling activity. Hypertrophication from sewerage and agriculture	<p>SPA is potentially vulnerable water quality affects aquatic flora and fauna. No negative pressures as yet</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution • Hunting and collection of wild animals
<p>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</p>	Sandwich tern (Sterna sandvicensis), breeding	Unfavourable recovering (31/07/2013)	SNH have piloted a Strathbeg Goose Management Scheme to alleviate the conflict between the geese and farming. Countryside	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) manages to reduce conflicts and vulnerabilities e.g. disturbance is being regulated by RSPB's purchase of some shooting
		Pink-footed goose (Anser brachyrhynchus),	Favourable Maintained (01/04/2009)		

	<p>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 	<p>non-breeding</p>		<p>agreements with five farms active for period 2002 to 2018</p>	<p>rights and by licensing. Countryside agreements with five farms active for period 2002 to 2018</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance • Conflict between roosting activities and farming
		<p>Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding</p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (01/04/2008)</p>		
		<p>Whooper swan (Cygnus cygnus), non-breeding</p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (01/04/2009)</p>		
		<p>Teal (Anas crecca), non-breeding</p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (01/04/2009)</p>		
		<p>Svalbard Barnacle goose (Branta leucopsis), non-breeding</p>	<p>Unfavourable Declining (01/03/2014)</p>		
		<p>Greylag goose (Anser anser), non-breeding</p>	<p>Unfavourable Declining (01/04/2009)</p>		
<p>Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor SPA (84 ha). Site Reference 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 • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species 	<p>Common gull (Larus canus), breeding</p>	<p>Unfavourable Declining (04/06/2015)</p>	<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>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No negative pressures identified

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species 				
Troup, Pennan and Lion's Heads SPA (3365.2ha) designated on 14/03/1997	<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 • 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 Declining (13/07/2017)	<p>Applications have been considered off-shore Wind on-shore wind, marine activities, electricity (exc. renewable energy cases) and other developments and water abstraction.</p>	<p>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. No negative pressures identified.</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential disturbance from access and recreation
		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 No change (13/07/2017)		
Morven and Mullachdubh SAC (916.69 ha) designated on 17/03/2005	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat and ensure 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</p>	Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands	<p>Favourable Maintained (25/01/2005)</p> <p>Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens (1%) Heath, Scrub, Maquis</p>	<p>Morven, an outlying summit of the eastern Highlands, has extensive juniper scrub on the middle and lower slopes.</p>	<p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burning • Overgrazing • Lack of remedial management • Plant pests and

	<p>features; and 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>and Garrigue, Phygrana (62%) Dry grassland, Steppes (28%) Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (7%) Coniferous woodland (2%)</p>	<p>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>diseases.</p>
<p>Muir of Dinnet SAC/Ramsar (417.76 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 	<p>Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)</p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (04/10/2012)</p>	<p>Applications had been received for electricity (exc. renewable energy cases) and other developments.</p>	<p>The moorland is vulnerable to colonisation from adjacent woodland. Peat growth can be impeded by 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 • Invasive species • Agricultural operations
		<p>Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface</p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (10/09/2014)</p>		
		<p>Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels</p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (25/06/2004)</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>Dry heaths</p>	<p>Unfavourable Declining (16/02/2001)</p>		
		<p>Degraded raised bog</p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (30/06/2000)</p>		
<p>Muir of Dinnet SPA/ Ramsar (156.95 ha) designated on 10/05/1999)</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>	<p>Greylag goose, non-breeding, and Waterfowl</p>	<p>Unfavourable Declining (05/11/2010)</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 vegetation. The lochs support important numbers of roosting passage.</p>	<p>Applications for developments for electricity, potentially affecting site not objected to, subject to conditions (2005).</p>	<p>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>
<p>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</p>	<p>Subtidal sandbanks</p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (12/08/2004)</p>	<p>Dolphin Watching activities</p>	<p>Species are vulnerable to disturbance, harassment, contamination, reduction of food availability, traumatic death and injury. The</p>

	<p>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 the species 	Bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus)	Favourable Recovered (21/09/2010)		<p>impact of boat numbers, potential impact of underwater noise and vibration requires to be monitored and managed. An accreditation scheme is used for dolphin- watching cruise boats. There are codes of conduct for recreational pleasure craft.</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance • Harassment, • Contamination • Injury • Recreational Impact
<p>Moray Firth SPA (Proposed)</p> <p>Proposed 28/06/16</p>	<p>The key pressure associated with benthic dredging and trawling is the potential to reduce the amount and/or quality of prey available to all qualifying features through removal of their prey species, including bivalves, crustaceans and/or fish. Benthic dredging and trawling therefore pose a risk to the conservation objectives if these activities cause a significant reduction in prey availability, either by direct removal or changes to the prey-supporting habitat.</p> <p>The conservation objectives for</p>	An extensive marine site stretching seaward from the Helmsdale coast in the north, to Portsoy in the east. Includes the outer Dornoch and Cromarty Firths, Beaully and Inverness Firths, as well as part of the wider Moray Firth	<p>The area is proposed as a Special Protection Area (SPA) because it supports these important wintering and breeding populations of marine birds. This pSPA has been specifically selected to protect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - foraging habitat used by breeding shags; and - areas used by wintering divers, grebes and sea ducks. 	Overlaps with the Dornoch Firth and Morrich More Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the Moray Firth SAC. As such some management exists for these sites under the relevant legislation.	<p>Marine bird species are exposed to a range of wider drivers of change. Some are natural (e.g. population fluctuations/ shifts or habitat changes resulting from natural processes) and not of direct human influence. Wider ranging anthropogenic impacts potentially driving change e.g. climate change or fisheries stock management.</p> <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benthic Dredging

	the Moray Firth proposed SPA are: To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, subject to natural change, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained in the long-term and it continues to make an appropriate contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive for each of the qualifying species.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trawling • Port and Harbour development (harbour identified in Highland) • Recreational – Jet skiing • Renewable - wind (already consented) and wave (lease area)
Glen Tanar SAC/RAMSAR (4180.09 ha) Designated on 17/03/2005	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: <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)	Active management agreements for the site in place up to 2028.	The main issues that are controlled include grazing, strikes by woodland grouse and risk of accidental fire. <p>Summary of Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance • Water management • 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)		

Glen Tanar SPA (4180.09 ha) Designated 19/09/1994	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: <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 	Capercaillie	Capercaillie – Unfavourable declining (18/04/11).	Applications have been lodged for felling licence and telecommunications.	Disturbance to osprey breeding sites is reduced through the ranger service. Long-term monitoring of the woodland grouse population has been undertaken by the landowner and this informs decisions on the sustainability of shooting. This site is managed as a National Nature Reserve under management agreements with owners.
		Hen harrier	Hen harrier - Favourable maintained (19/07/10)		
		Osprey	Osprey – Favourable maintained (13/10/10)		
		Scottish Crossbill	Favourable Maintained 23/03/2012		
Cairngorms Massif SPA (187484.85 ha) Designated 28/10/2010	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: <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 	Golden Eagle	Favourable Maintained (31/07/2015)	Pre-applications and applications have been considered.	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. This is a popular area for a range of outdoor pursuits including hill walking, skiing, mountain biking and bird

	<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. • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat 				<p>watching, which can cause unintentional disturbance to golden eagles. Visitors can cause damage to the more vulnerable areas and a combination of strategies for visitor management. Most of SPA with National Park.</p>
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Appendix B: Screening

Table B.1: Screening in / Screening out of Contents of PPS

	Policies, objectives, actions and projects	PPS likely to have significant	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 change with no or minimal effects	Too general nature of PPS with no information on where,	Screen OUT
2	Vision to make Aberdeen City & Shire attractive, prosperous and sustainable		X						X	OUT
	Aims									
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure the area has enough homes and jobs to support the level of services and facilities needed to maintain and improve the quality of life 		X						X	OUT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and, where appropriate, enhance our valued assets and resources, including biodiversity, the historic and natural environment and our cultural heritage 		X		X					OUT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help create sustainable mixed communities, and the provision of associated infrastructure, which will meet the highest standards of placemaking, urban and rural design, and cater for the needs of the whole population 				X				X	OUT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage opportunities for greater digital connectivity across the City Region 		X						X	OUT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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						X	OUT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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						X	OUT
3	Strategy related development priorities									
	a) Strategic Growth Areas	X								
	b) Local Growth and Diversity Areas		X					X	X	OUT

	c) Regeneration Priority Areas		X				X	X	X	OUT
4	Our Communities	X							X	OUT
5	Our Economy	X							X	
6	Our Resources									
	a) Renewable energy generation and energy efficiency		X						X	OUT
	b) Carbon Capture and Storage			X						OUT
	c) Waste Management Facilities	X						X		OUT
8	Our Connections									
	a) Transport		X					X		OUT
	b) Digital		X					X		OUT
	c) Energy	X								
Proposals										
	A90 and A952 Improvements		X							OUT
	Building on the National Decommissioning Centre at Newburgh	X								
	Offshore Electricity Transmission HVDC link to Norway	X		X						OUT
	Offshore Electricity Transmission HVDC link to North of England	X		X						OUT
	CO2 Pipeline associated with CCS and links Central Belt and St Fergus	X		X						OUT
	Enhanced High Voltage Energy Transmission Upgrade			X						OUT
	Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Network and Thermal Generation	X		X						OUT
	A96 Dual Carriageway (Listed under Strategic Projects)	X		X						OUT
	Rail Service Enhancements Aberdeen -Inverness		X							OUT
	Strategic Walking / Cycling Links		X							OUT
	Possible new stations at Aberdeen South and Newtonhill		X				X			OUT
	A90 Improvements		X							OUT
	Rail Service Enhancements Aberdeen to Central Belt			X						OUT
	Aberdeenshire Regeneration Strategy		X							OUT
	River Dee Initiative				X					OUT
	Underground electricity cable to serve Moray Offshore (West) Wind Farm	X								OUT
	Waste Treatment and Energy Facility at Altens. (consented subject to conditions)	X						X		OUT

City Centre Masterplan & Delivery Programme, approved by Aberdeen City Council in 2015, provides a 20-year regeneration & development strategy for the city centre.								X	OUT
Offshore Wind landfall connection to Kincardine Offshore Wind Farm	X								
North and North East Mortuary Project							X		OUT
City Region Deal Innovation Hubs							X		OUT
St Fergus Acorn Project						X			OUT

From the aspects of the plan set out above a number of strategic options have been identified to be carried forward.
These are:

- Strategic Growth Areas and Our Economy
- Energy Connections with Landfall (on coast)
- National Decommissioning Centre at Newburgh

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

In this section, aspects of the SDP screened in from in previous section are screened to determine the nature of their effects on the European sites. Key to the abbreviations used in the screening is explained at the base of Table B.2a.

Table B.2a: Screening for likely significant effects: Aspects of the PPS Screened in from B.1 above

Plan	Buchan Ness to Collieston SAC	Buchan Ness to Collieston SPA	Garron Point SAC	Hill of Towanreef SAC	Red Moss of Netherley SAC	Troup Pennan Lions Head SPA	Fowlheugh SPA	River Dee SAC	Yhan Estuary Sands of Fovie & Meikle Loch SPA and proposed Extension	Mortloch Moss SAC	Loch of Skene SPA	Loch of Strathbeg SPA	Sands of Forvie SAC	Moray Firth Proposed SPA
Vision, Aims and Policy	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	No LSE
Spatial Strategy and Strategic Growth	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	WA, D, RI, CC, EoH, EoMS	RI, D	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	RI	No LSE
Communities	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	RI, D	RI, D	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	RI	No LSE
Economy	HL	D	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	WA, HL, D, CC, EoH	D, RI, WQ, EoH	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	RI	No LSE
Resources	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	No LSE
Connections	HL	D	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	EoMS
Landfall(s) for Offshore connections	HL	D	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	EoMS
Newburgh Centre of Excellence for Decommissioning	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	RI, D	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE

Table B.2a (contd.): Screening for likely significant effects: Aspects of the PPS Screened in from B.1 above

Policies, Strategies and Sites	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 (small area within Aberdeenshire)
Vision, Aims and Policy	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Spatial Strategy and Strategic 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
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
Economy	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Resources	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Connections	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Landfall(s) for Offshore connections	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Newburgh Centre of Excellence for Decommissioning	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	LSE – Likely Significant Effect HL - Habitat Loss RI - Recreational Impact CS - Coastal Squeeze (see App. D) WA – Water Abstraction EoH – Effect on Hydrology					EoP – Effect of Pollution D – Disturbance WQ – Water Quality Impacts EoMS – Effect on Mobile Species						

Table B.2b - 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. Vision, Aims and Policy
2. Spatial Strategy and Strategic Growth Areas
3. Our Communities
4. Our Economy
5. Our Resources
6. Our Connections
7. Landfalls for Offshore Energy
8. Newburgh National Centre of Excellence for Decommissioning (Newburgh CoE)

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

Table of Possible Combination of parts of the plan

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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	

From the table above there are 28 possible combinations between parts of the Plan shown below. These 28 combinations have been used in screening the effects of the SDP on the European sites considered and the result is indicated in Table B.2c below.

Table B.2c: Screening for in-Combination Effects (Internal)

In- combination between parts of the plan as set out in B2b	Buchan Ness to Collieston SAC	Buchan Ness to Collieston SPA	Garron Point SAC	Hill of Tawanreef 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 and proposed Extension	Mortloch Moss SAC	Loch of Skene SPA	Loch of Strathbeg SPA	Sands of Forvie SAC	Moray Firth Proposed SPA
Vision, aims + Growth Strategy								WA, HL, D, RI, CC, EoH	D, RI,					
Vision, aims + Communities								WA, HL, D, RI, CC, EoH	D, RI,					
Vision, aims + Economy	HL	D						WA, HL, D, RI, CC, EoH	D, RI, WQ					
Vision, aims + Resources								RI, D						
Vision, Aims + Connections	HL	D							D					
Vision, Aims + Landfalls	HL	D												EoMS
Vision, Aims + Newburgh CoE									D, RI				HL	
Spatial Strategy + Communities								WA, HL, D, RI, CC, EoH	D, RI,					
Spatial Strategy + Economy	HL	D												
Spatial Strategy + Resources								RI, D	RI, D					
Spatial Strategy + Landfall Connections	HL	D						WA, HL, D, RI, CC, EoH						EoMS
Spatial Strategy + Newburgh CoE								RI, D	RI, D				HL	

Communities + Economy															
Communities + Resources															
Communities + Economy	RI, D	RI, D						WA, HL, D, RI, CC, EoH	D, RI, WQ,						
Communities + Landfalls	RI, D	RI, D						RI, D	RI, D						
Communities + Newburgh CoE	RI	RI						WA, HL, D, RI, CC, EoH	D, RI, WQ, EoH					RI, HL	
Economy + Resources	RI, D	RI, D						RI, D	RI, D					RI, HL	
Economy + Connections															
Economy + Landfalls															
Economy + Newburgh CoE	RI	RI							D, RI, WQ, EoH					RI, HL	
Resources + Connections	RI	RI													
Resources + Landfalls	RI, D	RI, D													
Resources + Newburgh CoE									D, RI, WQ, EoH						
Connections + Landfalls															
Connections + Newburgh CoE									D, RI, WQ, EoH						
Landfalls + Newburgh CoE									D, RI, WQ, EoH					RI, HL	
Key	HL – Habitat Loss RI – Recreational Impact CC – Coastal Squeeze (see Appendix D) WA – Water Abstraction							EoH – Effects on Hydrology EoP – Effects on Pollution D - Disturbance WQ – Water Quality							

Table B.2c (contd.): Screening for in-Combination Effects (External Sites)

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 Mullachduh SAC	Muir of Dinnet SAC	Glen Tanar SAC	Reidside Moss SAC	Cairngorm Massif SPA (small area within)
Vision, aims + Growth Strategy	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Vision, aims + Communities	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Vision, aims + Economy	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Vision, aims + Resources	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Vision, Aims + Connections	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Vision, Aims + Landfalls	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Vision, Aims + Newburgh CoE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Spatial Strategy + Communities	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Spatial Strategy + Economy	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Spatial Strategy + Resources	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Spatial Strategy + Landfall	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Spatial Strategy + Newburgh CoE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Communities + Economy	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Communities + Resources	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Communities + Economy	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Communities + Landfalls	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Communities + Newburgh CoE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Economy + Resources	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Economy + Connections	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Economy + Landfalls	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Economy + Newburgh CoE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Resources + Connections	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Resources + Landfalls	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Resources + Newburgh CoE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Connections + Landfalls	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Connections + Newburgh CoE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Landfalls + Newburgh CoE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Key	LSE – Likely Significant Effects HL – Habitat Loss RI – Recreational Impact CC – Coastal Squeeze (see Appendix D) WA – Water Abstraction				EoH – Effects on Hydrology EoP – Effects on Pollution D - Disturbance WQ – Water Quality				

Table B.2.d All effects, combination along with from Plans beyond SDP area

This section considers the combination between elements of the SDP and other plans approved in the City Region and in neighbouring authorities. The other plans considered include the Regional Transport Strategy, the Cairngorms LDP and Moray LDP. The elements of the SDP combined with neighbouring plans are the Strategic and Local Growth, the Economy, landfalls for Energy Infrastructure, and further development of Newburgh National Centre of Excellence for Decommissioning. In able B.2d below, we show how we have carried out the in-combination effects.

Table B.2d: Screening for in-combination effects (including external plans and proposals)

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 	River Dee SAC and Sands of Forvie SAC, as well as potential to affect Ythan Estuary Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch and proposed Extension.	Water abstraction a particular issue for River Dee but need to assess long-term impact with Climate Change and other abstraction demands within river catchment. Changes to hydrology and recreational impacts from strategic growth.	No significant developments identified in Cairngorms/Cairngorms LDP that might be expected to affect River Dee. Further development for economic development, however no specific proposals of scale that might raise abstraction demands or recreational impacts on SACs and SPAs other than relating to River Dee SAC. Recreational pressures managed beyond River Dee by NNR Management Plans.	Yes
Economic Growth	River Dee SAC and Sands of Forvie SAC. Potential effect on Ythan Estuary Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch SPA and proposed Extension.	Water abstraction, recreational impacts, potential effects on hydrology, potential hydraulic changes affecting site, disturbance and potential loss of habitat. However, all water abstractions are licenced and all engineering works in or near rivers and lochs must make sure the appropriate authorisations are in place with SEPA before work begin.	No anticipated effects from development sites in the Cairngorms NPP or Moray LDP and Angus LDP. As such no defined proposals for in combination with River Dee SAC from these plans. Further development for economic development, however no specific proposals of scale that might raise abstraction demands or recreational impacts on SACs and SPAs other than relating to River Dee SAC. Recreational pressures managed beyond River Dee by NNR Management Plans.	Yes

<p>Landfalls from Energy Infrastructure</p>	<p>Landfall from Moray Wind Farm West, potential effect on Moray Firth proposed SP Extension.</p> <p>Landfall from Kincardine (offshore) Wind Farm is to landfall and connect to existing sub-station within the Aberdeen City and will be subject to project HRA.</p>	<p>Offshore impacts on Moray Firth SPA extension from Moray Offshore WF West has been scoped and is being considered through project HRA process.</p> <p>Cable landfall which are national projects i.e. NorthConnect and affecting Buchan Ness to Collieston SAC and SPA has already been scoped and will subject to project HRA based on final detailed proposals and mitigated as necessary for each site.</p>	<p>No anticipated effects from development sites Moray LDP.</p> <p>All cable landfall applications including onshore cable routing will be subject to project level HRA, depending on route and connectivity.</p> <p>SPA components affecting Buchan Ness to Collieston SPA, Moray Firth SPA and any potential impacts from Newburgh National Decommissioning Centre of Excellence land-based proposals and impacts on Ythan Estuary Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch SPA and proposed Extension will be considered at project HRA.</p> <p>Both the proposed Moray Firth and Ythan Estuary Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch Extension SPAs are primarily designated for their offshore contributions i.e. species movement and feeding grounds and are not considered to raise cumulative. These will be considered by Marine Scotland.</p> <p>While SNH has stated that it does not anticipate that the operation of the offshore wind farm poses a risk to conservation objectives of the Ythan Estuary Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch SPA and proposed Extension, they do identify potential issues with Ports and harbours, new developments identifying Aberdeen, Collieston, Newburgh, Port Erroll and Whinnyfold.</p>	<p>No</p>
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<p>Newburgh National Decommissioning Centre of Excellence.</p>	<p>Sands of Forvie SAC and Ythan Estuary Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch and proposed Extension.</p>	<p>Habitat loss, recreational impacts, effect on hydrology, disturbance.</p>	<p>No anticipated effects from development sites in Moray LDP or Angus LDP. While SNH has stated that it does not anticipate that the operation of the While SNH has stated that it does not anticipate that the operation of the offshore wind farm poses a risk to conservation objectives of the Ythan Estuary Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch SPA and proposed Extension, they do identify potential issues with Ports and harbours, new developments identifying Aberdeen, Collieston, Newburgh, Port Erroll and Whinnyfold.</p> <p>The Newburgh National Centre of Excellence for Decommissioning builds on established centre of research and innovation (University of Aberdeen) and will be developed further as a training base and test centre. The extent of further development within Newburgh and how it might affect SPA will be considered through HRA as and when necessary. The scale and connectivity to the SAC/SPA and proposed Extension will determine whether HRA required. No mitigations identifiable at this stage and therefore LSE persisting is not the case for Newburgh National Decommissioning Centre.</p>	<p>No</p>
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Table B.2e: Summary of individual and in-combination effects and Mitigation Measures

Policies, Strategies and Sites	European sites affected	Likely Significant Effect - persisting from Table 2.d	In-Combination effects (external)	Mitigation Measures	Risk of LSE persisting? (Yes/No)	Appropriate Assessment Required? (Yes/No)
Spatial Strategy	River Dee SAC	Water abstraction a particular issue for River Dee but need to assess long-term impact with Climate Change and other abstraction demands within river catchment. Habitat loss and recreational impacts from growth on both SACs.	Water abstraction a particular issue for River Dee but need to assess long-term impact with Climate Change and other abstraction demands within river catchment. Habitat loss and recreational impacts from growth on both SACs.	Future LDPs and/or other strategies should avoid promoting development and/or proposals that may result in damaging effects to a site and / or its qualifying interest; Environmental Management Plans should be used to control potential effects during construction and HRA should be used where direct or indirect effects may result from development, depending on scale of proposal & location. Future LDPs and strategies should be programmed to ensure that necessary and essential resources are available to serve the development and that development does not proceed in advance of infrastructure or resource availability. SDP strategy does not promote strategic growth within Dee catchment beyond Aberdeen City. The SDPA have been advised that sufficient licence is in place to provide for the development proposed within the plan. However, the SDPA will work with partners to further assess this position in order to identify further mitigations should this be found necessary. The scale	No	No

				<p>of any longer-term issue associated with abstraction from the River Dee has not as yet been quantified or defined. Should a future SDP review be provided with evidence that there are potential impacts from climate change on longer-term water supply availability, and reduced availability of resource then necessary and appropriate mitigations may be agreed.</p> <p>Recreation impacts can be managed through a CEMP, and NNR management plan. Lower-tier plans and strategies should undertake HRA and EIA as required to ensure that adverse effects are avoided or fully mitigated in all developments.</p> <p>Using masterplans and/or detailed planning proposals, developers will ensure that recreational access and site development does not adversely affect site qualifying interests of a related European site. Aberdeenshire promotes buffers along rivers, and River Basin Management Planning is currently promoting enhancements to River Dee catchment.</p> <p>SDPA, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils will work with relevant bodies to prepare a RBMP that brings forward mitigation measures to address climate change impacts and help manage river levels within the River Dee.</p>		
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Economic Growth	River Dee SAC	Water abstraction, Habitat loss, recreational impacts, chemical change, effect on hydrology, disturbance.	National Developments for Landfalls are promoted through NPF3 have already been considered through HRA to NPF3. Project HRA are expected for all these proposals that are connected to a European Site.	<p>Regarding River Dee future LDPs and/or other strategies should avoid promoting development and/or proposals that may result in damaging effects to a site and/or its qualifying interest; Conditions attached to any planning consent along with (Construction) Environmental Management Plans should be used to control potential effects during construction. The HRA process should be used where direct or indirect effects may result from development, and need determined by scale of proposal and location of any proposal.</p> <p>Future LDPs and strategies should be programmed to ensure that necessary and essential resources are available to serve the development and that development does not proceed in advance of infrastructure or resource availability.</p> <p>Until a future SDP review confirms potential impacts from climate change on longer-term water supply availability, and advice received.</p>	No	No
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				<p>Lower-tier plans and strategies should undertake HRA and EIA as required to ensure that adverse effects are avoided or fully mitigated in all developments.</p> <p>Through master planning and/or through submission of detailed planning applications, developers will ensure that recreational access and site development will not adversely affect the site's qualifying interest(s) of any related European site.</p>		
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Appendix C: Stage 2 - Selecting European Sites that Should be Considered in the Appraisal

Criteria	European sites to check
All plans	Sites within the plan area, including those for the criteria listed below
For plans that could affect the aquatic environment	Sites upstream or downstream of the plan area in the case of river or estuary sites
Peatland and other wetland sites with relevant hydrological links to land within the plan area, irrespective of distance from the plan area	
For plans that could affect mobile species	Sites which have significant ecological links with land in the plan area, for example, land in the plan area may be used by migratory birds, which also use a SPA, outwith the plan area, at different times of the year ¹⁵
For plans that could increase recreational pressure on European sites potentially vulnerable to such pressure	Such European sites in the plan area
	Such European sites within a reasonable travel distance of the plan area boundaries that may be affected by local recreational or other visitor pressure from within the plan area (the appropriate distance in each case will need to be considered on its merits, in light of any available evidence)
	Such European sites within a longer travel distance of the plan area, which are major (regional or national) visitor attractions such as European sites which are National Nature Reserves where public visiting is promoted, sites in National or Regional Parks, coastal sites and sites in other major tourist or visitor destinations (the appropriate distance in each case will need to be considered on its merits, in light of any available evidence)
For plans that would increase the amount of development	Sites that are used for, or could be affected by, water abstraction in or close to the plan area
	Sites used for, or could be affected by, discharge of effluent from waste water treatment works or other waste management streams serving land in the plan area, irrespective of distance from the plan area
	Sites that could be affected by transport or other infrastructure (e.g. by noise or visual disturbance)
	Sites that could be affected by increased deposition of air pollutants arising from the proposals, including emissions from significant increases in traffic
For plans that could affect the coast	Sites in the same coastal 'cell', or part of the same coastal ecosystem, or where there are interrelationships with or between different physical coastal processes.

