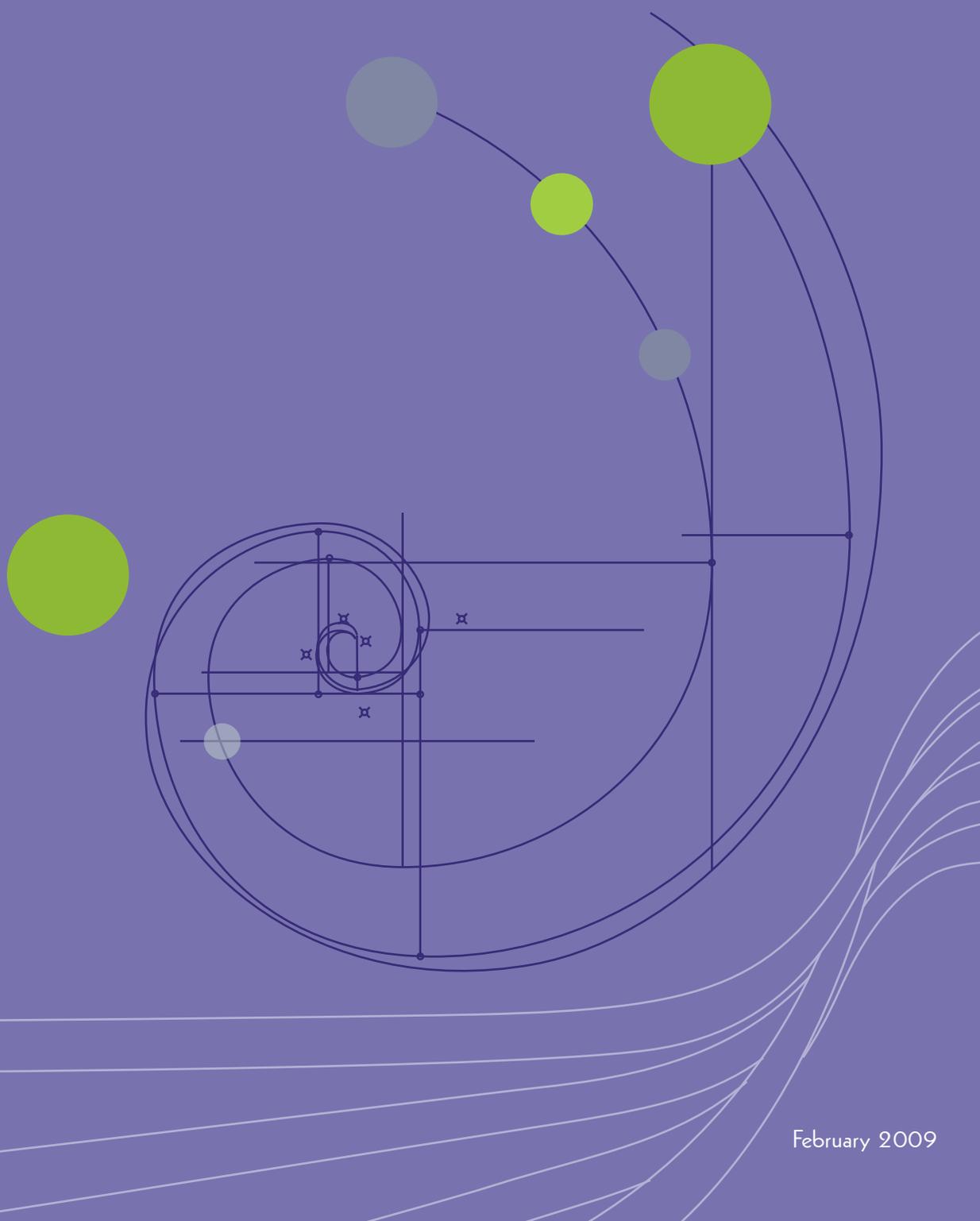


**ABERDEEN
CITY AND
SHIRE**

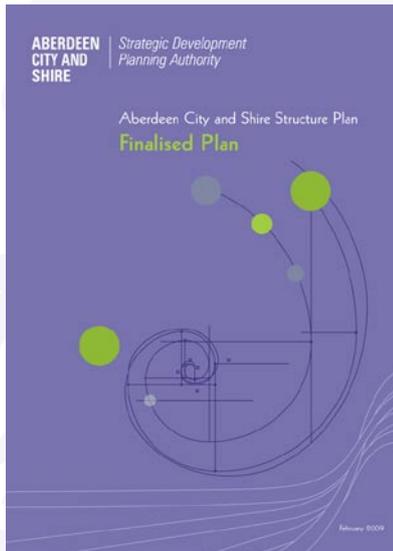
*Strategic Development
Planning Authority*

Finalised Structure Plan **Appropriate Assessment**



February 2009

Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire (excluding the Cairngorms National Park) Structure Plan



Area covered by the
Aberdeen City and Shire
Structure Plan

The Finalised Structure Plan was submitted to Scottish Ministers on 27 February 2009. The following documents were published in support of the Finalised Plan and are available from the Strategic Development Planning Authority or can be downloaded from its website:

Appropriate Assessment

Publicity and Consultation Statement

Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment

Addendum to the Report of Survey

Addendum to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report

Background Paper

Finalised Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan: Appropriate Assessment

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) has prepared the Finalised Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for submission to Scottish Ministers. This is a strategic plan which covers the areas of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire with the exception of that part of Aberdeenshire within the Cairngorms National Park.
- 1.2 This Appropriate Assessment has been carried out to comply with the European Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and has been informed by the “Interim Guidance on Assessing Development Plans in terms of the need for Appropriate Assessment” published by the Scottish Executive in 2006.
- 1.3 The report starts with an explanation of what an Appropriate Assessment is before identifying the sites covered by this assessment. It then goes on to summarise the nature and content of the Finalised Structure Plan and the previous work carried out on meeting the requirements of the European Directive before this report. The report outlines the assessment methodology before summarising the results of the screening exercise and the Appropriate Assessment itself. Appendices to the report provide the detailed findings of the Appropriate Assessment process.

2 What is an Appropriate Assessment?

- 2.1 Appropriate Assessment is a requirement of European Directive 92/43/EEC (The Habitats Directive). Its purpose is to carry out an assessment of plans and projects that either alone or in combination with other plans and projects are likely to have a significant effect on a European designated site (part of the Natura 2000 network).
- 2.2 The Natura 2000 network includes Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). Any plan or project which is likely to have a significant effect upon any of these sites is required to undertake an appropriate assessment.
- 2.3 The requirement is that before any competent authority submits plan for approval, in this case the submission of the Finalised Structure Plan to Scottish Ministers, it must consider whether:
 - (a) the plan is likely to have a significant effect on such a site, and where this is the case:
 - (b) to carry out an appropriate assessment to ascertain whether the plan will adversely affect the integrity of any Natura sites.

2.4 This assessment seeks to identify where the provisions of the plan are likely to affect European sites, as defined by the Directive, and where necessary carry out an “appropriate assessment” in terms of the plans implications for the integrity of such sites.

3 Sites covered by this Appropriate Assessment

3.1 The European Directive requires that the assessment covers all sites designated at a European level (known as Natura 2000 sites). These are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

3.2 As a matter of policy, Scottish Ministers have extended the requirement for assessment to Ramsar sites, listed under the international convention on the conservation of wetlands of international importance.

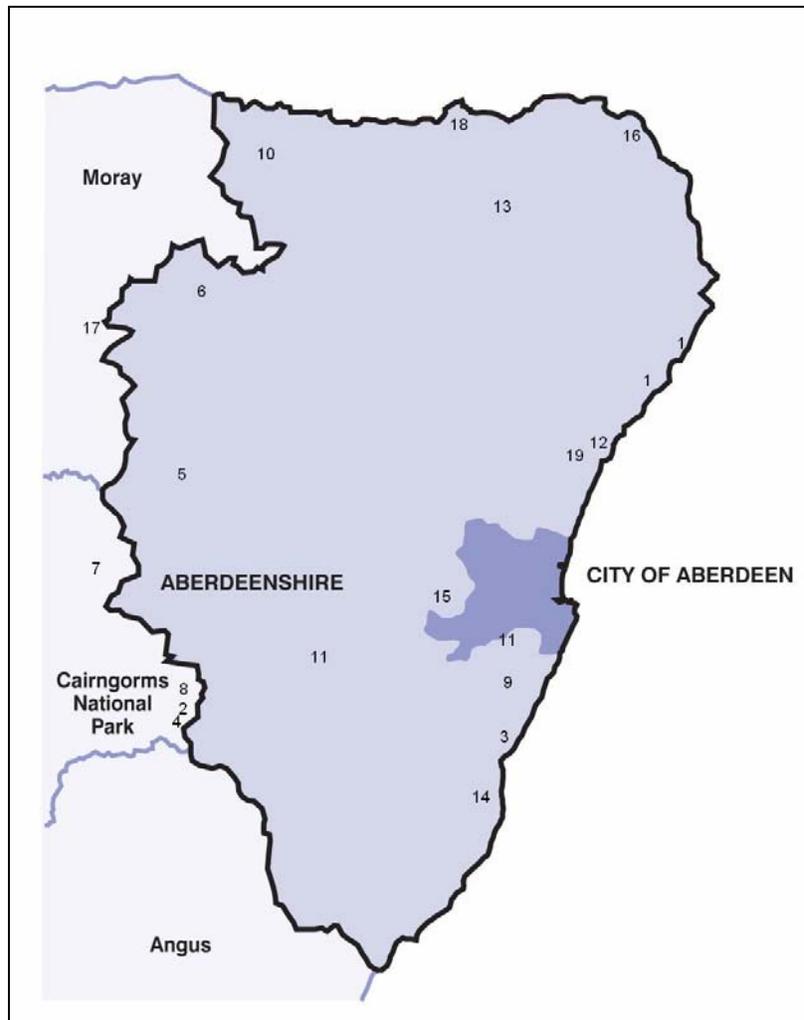
3.3 In the area covered by the Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan (or in close proximity to it) there are 13 SACs, 9 SPAs and 3 Ramsar site. These are set out in Figure 1 below and shown in Figure 2. The River Dee impacts on both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire but all other sites are in (or in close proximity to) Aberdeenshire.

Figure 1: Sites considered in the assessment process

No	Name	SAC	SPA	RAMSAR
1	Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast	✓	✓	
3	Garron Point	✓		
5	Hill of Towanreef	✓		
6	Mortlach Moss	✓		
9	Red Moss of Netherley	✓		
10	Reidside Moss	✓		
11	River Dee	✓		
12	Sands of Forvie	✓		
13	Turclossie Moss	✓		
14	Fowlsheugh		✓	
15	Loch of Skene		✓	✓
16	Loch of Strathbeg		✓	✓
17	Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor *		✓	
18	Troup, Pennan and Lions Head		✓	
19	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle loch		✓	✓
Outwith Structure Plan area but in close proximity to it				
2	Dinnet Oakwood	✓		
4	Glen Tanar	✓	✓	
7	Morven and Mullachdubh	✓		
8	Muir of Dinnet	✓	✓	

* The majority of this designation is outwith the Structure Plan area.

Figure 2: Map of sites considered in the assessment



3.4 Further information on these sites, including detailed mapping, is available from the Scottish Natural Heritage website (www.snh.org.uk/snhi/)

4 The Structure Plan

4.1 The Structure Plan is a strategic level policy document and programme for action that is used to guide a wide range of decision making and the implementation of positive change in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. The Finalised Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan covers the whole of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire except the part of Aberdeenshire within the Cairngorms National Park which is covered by separate development plans. It sets a clear direction for the future development of the North East over the period 2007 to 2030. It will replace the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Structure Plan, North East Scotland Together (NEST), which was approved in 2001.

4.2 The plan is the document to set out the detailed guidance for new development in Aberdeen City and Shire up to the end of 2030. The plan will inform the upcoming Local Development Plans for both the City and the Shire which must

be “consistent” with it. The Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan provides the broad strategic land use framework for considering development proposals. The Aberdeen City and Shire Local Development Plans will provide the detailed policies and allocations for assessing development proposals.

- 4.3 The central vision for the plan is to create an even more attractive, prosperous and sustainable European city region and an excellent place to live, visit and do business. It will promote economic growth whilst safeguarding and enhancing the natural and built environment, and promoting overall sustainability and recognising the area for its high quality of life.
- 4.4 The plan has been split into Vision, aims, spatial strategy (including schedule 1) objectives, targets and proposals. The spatial strategy is split into three sub sections; Strategic Growth Areas, Local Growth and Diversification Areas and Regeneration Priority Areas. There are also six objectives within the plan; economic growth, sustainable development and climate change, population growth, quality of the environment, sustainable mixed communities and accessibility. A summary of the main aspects of the plan is provided in Appendix 1.
- 4.5 The plan is strategic in nature and is not site specific, although sixteen more specific proposals are included. This assessment has therefore sought to apply a high level consideration of whether the plan would be likely to result in any significant effects on Natura 2000 sites or Ramsar sites. The detailed assessment of likely significant effects will only be possible at a more detailed plan or project level. For example, both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils will begin to produce Local Development Plans in the near future which will both, in themselves, be subject to an appropriate assessment. Each of the Local Development Plans will be subject to more detailed scrutiny relating to land use planning issues. This approach is recognised by the European Commission in their Article 6 guidance and by the Scottish Ministers in their interim guidance. Furthermore, both Council’s have current Local Plans which have been assessed under this legislation.

5 Assessment methodology

- 5.1 Detailed site specific appropriate assessments are not required at this stage as the structure plan is a strategic document without specific land allocations. Following the guidance (which indicates the need for assessments which are pragmatic, proportionate and fit for purpose), this assessment will be done at a strategic level – commensurate with the level of the plan.
- 5.2 An initial scoping exercise was carried out as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment for the 8 Strategic Options that were being considered in mid 2007. The SEA highlights the different issues that could have arisen depending on which option was selected. The rest of the plan including the objectives, targets and proposals were not assessed at this time.

- 5.3 Appendix 2 sets out the flow diagram included within the “Interim guidance” which shows the process of assessment undertaken.
- 5.4 The Finalised Structure Plan has been assessed against Natura 2000 and RAMSAR sites to consider whether its content would be likely to have a significant effect on the sites. The plan and its potential impacts have been discussed with staff from Scottish Natural Heritage. Matrices have been completed to consider each aspect of the plan against each of the Natura 2000 and RAMSAR sites which identify where there is:
- no likely significant effect (i.e. no impact) on the qualifying interests;
 - a likely significant effect (i.e. an impact that will need further assessment) requiring an appropriate assessment to determine whether or not there will be an adverse impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site;
- 5.5 Proposals having no, or minimal, effects have been screened out of this assessment.
- 5.6 Likely significant effect is defined as any effect that may reasonably be predicted as a consequence of a plan or project that may affect the conservation objectives of the features for which the site was designated. Where there is likely to be a significant effect then an appropriate assessment has been undertaken to consider each aspect against the conservation objectives for the designated site and sensitivities of the relevant habitats/species.
- 5.7 Where required appropriate safeguarding measures in the plan have been identified.
- 5.8 The SDPA has been advised by staff from Scottish Natural Heritage to follow the guidance and methodology set out in the Scottish Executive Interim Guidance on Assessing Development Plans in terms of the need for Appropriate Assessment.

6 Screening

- 6.1 All Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites within and adjacent to Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire (see figure 1) were considered as part of the assessment. The assessment was carried out at a level reflecting the level of the plan and taking a proportionate and pragmatic approach to the effect the finalised Structure Plan would be capable of having on the identified sites. At this stage a distinction was made between no likely significant effect on a site and a likely significant effect on a site.

6.2 As Appendix 3 shows, the following sections of the plan were screened out as they were found to have no likely significant effect on any sites:

- Vision
- Main Aim 1
- Main Aim 2
- Aim 4, Aim 5 and Aim 6
- Target 3, Target 4 and Target 5 within Economic Growth
- Target 1, Target 4 and Target 6 within Sustainable Development & Climate Change
- Target 2 within Population Growth
- The Quality of the Environment objective and all 3 targets
- Target 1, Target 3, Target 4, Target 5 and Target 6 within Sustainable Mixed Communities
- Target 1, Target 2 and Target 3 within Accessibility
- The Strategic Growth Areas (excluding the targets)
- Regeneration Priority Areas
- Proposal 2, Proposal 3, Proposal 4, Proposal 5, Proposal 7, Proposal 8, Proposal 11, Proposal 13, Proposal 14 and Proposal 15 within Putting this Plan into Practice

6.3 It was possible to eliminate 8 of the 21 Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites from further analysis (see Appendix 4) as the finalised Structure Plan was found to have no likely significant effect on them:

- Glen Tanar
- Mortlach Moss
- Muir of Dinnet
- Turclossie Moss
- Reidside Moss
- Morven and Mullachdubh
- Dinnet Oakwood
- Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor

6.4 The assessment was carried out by professional planning officers within the Strategic Development Plan Team together with discussions with those with expert knowledge. The SEA Environmental Report also helped inform the assessment.

7 “Likely Impacts” of the Finalised Structure Plan

7.1 Where it was not possible to screen out sites and elements of the plan, an appropriate assessment has been carried out to assess the likely effects of the plan in more detail. This is provided in Appendix 5 which identifies the conservation objective of each site and the nature of the likely effects as well as the safeguarding measures contained within the plan to protect the integrity of the site.

- 7.2 As Appendices 4 and 5 show, the majority of the Natura designations (due to their intrinsic and mostly rural natures, the scale of development proposed in these locations and the strategic high level of the Structure Plan) are not likely to experience significant or adverse effects through the implementation of the Structure Plan. The appropriate assessment demonstrates that it is possible to implement the finalised Structure Plan, and its integrated safeguarding measures, with no adverse impacts on the integrity of Natura sites.
- 7.3 Appropriate assessments will be required of Local Development Plans written in the context of this Structure Plan and it is expected that more detailed appropriate assessments of specific land allocations will be carried out at this stage if required. This is explicitly highlighted within the “Putting this plan into practice” section of the plan. Detailed proposals and policies will be required at the Local Development Plans stage, through supplementary guidance and planning application level, incorporating any identified safeguards or requirements. Any development proposals likely to have an impact on qualifying interests of a Natura site will require an appropriate assessment.
- 7.4 The River Dee SAC is likely to be the Natura site most sensitive to the provisions of the finalised structure plan. The qualifying interests of the Dee, and in particular the Freshwater Pearl Mussel, are sensitive to large fluctuations in water levels and to pollution. There have been problems in the past with issues of discharge into the River Dee and there may be potential problems in the future if abstraction of water from the River Dee is required to support population growth in the area.
- 7.5 The importance of maintaining the integrity of the River Dee SAC is reflected in the safeguarding measures contained within the plan. In addition the River Dee and catchments are shown on a diagram under the Sustainable Development and Climate Change section to highlight its importance.

8 Conclusions

- 8.1 This assessment has shown that:
- (a) The majority of the Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plans content is unlikely to have a significant effect on a European site either directly (e.g. through land-take) or indirectly (e.g. through hydrological changes, or through disturbance to the features which they contain).
 - (b) Following the appropriate assessment of the Plan in relation to possible impacts on European sites it is concluded that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of these sites.
- 8.2 SNH have been consulted at every stage of the Structure Plan process, and have expressed their satisfaction that the finalised Structure Plan has undertaken the assessment required by the Conservation (Nature Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 (as amended) and have no substantive concerns about its conclusions. The plan was also publicised widely and opportunity presented to

the general public to allow concerns to be raised or objections to be lodged to the plan.

- 8.3 It is therefore concluded that the Finalised Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan can be implemented without adversely affecting the integrity of any of the SPAs, SACs or Ramsar sites in the Structure Plan area.

Appendix 1: Summary of Structure Plan

The plans content comprises of:

Vision:

By 2030, Aberdeen City and Shire will be an even more attractive, prosperous and sustainable European city region and an excellent place to live, visit and do business.

We will be recognised for:

- our enterprise and inventiveness, particularly in the knowledge economy and in high-value markets;
- the unique qualities of our environment; and
- our high quality of life.

We will have acted confidently and taken the courageous decisions necessary to further develop a robust and resilient economy and to lead the way towards development being sustainable, including dealing with climate change and creating a more inclusive society.”

The **two main aims**:

- provide a strong framework for investment decisions which help to grow and diversify the regional economy, supported by promoting the need to use resources more efficiently and effectively; and
- take on the urgent challenges of sustainable development and climate change.

The **four supporting aims** are:

- make sure the area has enough people, homes and jobs to support the level of services and facilities needed to maintain and improve the quality of life;
- protect and improve our valued assets and resources, including the built and natural environment and our cultural heritage;
- help create sustainable mixed communities, and the associated infrastructure, which meet the highest standards of urban and rural design and cater for the needs of the whole population; and
- make the most efficient use of the transport network, reducing the need for people to travel and making sure that walking, cycling and public transport are attractive choices.

Policy

In assessing development proposals, we will balance the importance given to each aim in coming to a decision, taking into account the spatial strategy, objective and targets of the plan.

There are six objectives in the plan each with associated targets:

Economic growth: To provide opportunities which encourage economic development and create new employment in a range of areas that are both appropriate for and attractive to the needs of different industries, while at the same time improving the essential strategic infrastructure necessary to allow the economy to grow over the long term.

Targets

- To make sure there is at least 60 hectares of land available to businesses at all times in a range of places within Aberdeen City.
- To make sure there is at least 60 hectares of land available to businesses at all times in a range of places within strategic growth areas in Aberdeenshire.
- For at least 20 hectares of the above land available to businesses in the strategic growth areas to be of a standard which will attract high-quality businesses or be suitable for company headquarters.
- For Aberdeen to be one of the top-25 retail areas in the UK by 2030.
- For all new development in strategic growth areas to use modern, up-to-date high-speed telecommunications networks such as fibre optics.

Sustainable development and climate change: To be a city region which takes the lead in reducing the amount of carbon dioxide released into the air, adapts to the effects of climate change and limits the amount of non-renewable resources it uses.

Targets

- For all new buildings to be carbon neutral by 2016.
- For the city region's electricity needs to be met from renewable sources by 2020.
- To avoid having to increase the amount of water Scottish Water are licensed to take from the River Dee, as a result of the new developments proposed in the plan.
- For all new developments to use water-saving technology.
- To avoid developments on land which is at an unacceptable risk of flooding (as defined by the 'Indicative River and Coastal Flood Map for Scotland' or through a detailed flood risk assessment), except in exceptional circumstances.
- By 2020, for no more than 54,000 tonnes a year of biodegradable municipal waste to be sent to landfill.

Population growth: To increase the population of the city region and achieve a balanced age range to help maintain and improve people's quality of life.

Targets

- To increase the population of the city region by 9% to 480,000 by 2030.
- To increase the population of people who are of working age (16 to 65) by 15% by 2030.
- To move towards building at least 2,500 new homes a year by 2014 through the local development plan.
- To move towards building at least 3,000 new homes a year by 2020 through the local development plan.

Quality of the environment: To make sure new development maintains and improves the region's important built, natural and cultural assets.

Targets

- To make sure that development improves and does not lead to the loss of, or damage to, built, natural or cultural heritage assets.
- For all water bodies in the structure plan area to achieve 'good ecological status' under the Water Framework Directive by 2015.
- To carry out a green-belt boundary and policy review by 2010.

Sustainable mixed communities: To make sure that new development meets the needs of the whole community, both now and in the future, and makes the area a more attractive place for residents and businesses to move to.

Targets

- To increase the range and quality of housing and the residential environment in the regeneration priority areas.
- For 40% of all new housing in Aberdeen City to be on brownfield sites.
- For all housing development of over one hectare in strategic growth areas to be in line with approved supplementary guidance and generally have no less than 30 dwellings per hectare.
- For the quality and design of new developments in the city region to be nationally recognised, including developments recognised under the Scottish Sustainable Communities Initiative.
- For new housing to meet the needs of the whole community by providing appropriate levels of affordable housing (likely to be in the range of 20-30% as determined by the Housing Need and Demand Assessment) and an appropriate mix of types and sizes of houses, in line with local development plans and approved supplementary guidance.
- For local development plans and all masterplans to fully consider the scope for a mix of uses on a site.

Accessibility: To make sure that all new developments contribute towards reducing the need to travel and encourage people to walk, cycle or use public transport by making these attractive choices.

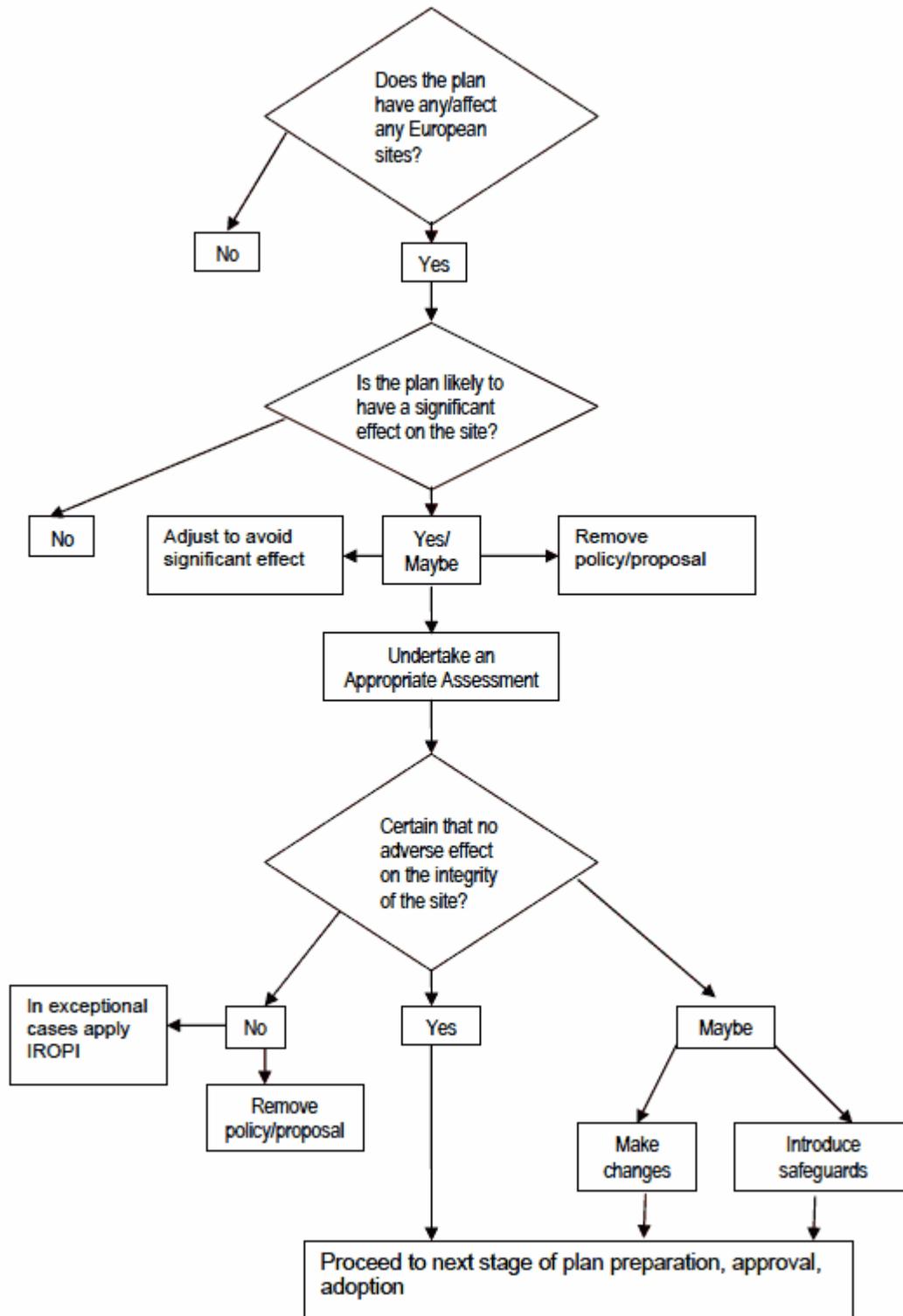
Targets

- For all developments to meet the accessibility standards set out in the local transport strategies by 2013.
- For major employment and service developments in strategic growth areas to show that they are easy to access by walking, cycling or using public transport. The travel plans produced for these developments should reduce the need for people to use cars.
- To reduce the percentage of journeys which are made by car.

Spatial Strategy:

The Spatial Strategy comprises of Strategic Growth Areas (SGAs), Local Growth and Diversification Areas (LG&DAs) and Regeneration Priority Areas (RPAs). The Strategic Growth Areas and Local Growth and Diversification Areas have specific housing numbers associated with them over different periods of the plan. It will be for the Local Development plans to allocate these numbers to appropriate sites throughout the North East. The spatial strategy also shows the requirement for business land allocations to be provided in the LDPs.

Appendix 2: Appropriate Assessment Flow Diagram



Source: *Assessing Development Plans in Terms of the Need for Appropriate Assessment: Interim Guidance*, Scottish Executive (2006)

Appendix 3: Screening Matrix (Plan Elements)

This Matrix screens the elements of the plan against eight broad criteria to determine which may have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites. Elements of the plan screen out will not be considered further, while elements screened in will be considered as part of the full appropriate assessment.

Policies, Objectives, Actions	Generate development (a)	Water abstraction (b)	Habitat loss / Land Take (c)	Generate Pollution (d)	Generate Soil erosion (e)	Cause disturbance (f)	Protect the environment (g)	Passive (h)	Screen out / screen in
Vision	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	OUT –The vision and aims show the direction in which the North East should develop and have been screened out, as they will not directly result in (a) – (h)
Main Aim 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	OUT –The vision and aims show the direction in which the North East should develop and have been screened out, as they will not directly result in (a) – (h)
Main Aim 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	OUT –The vision and aims show the direction in which the North East should develop and have been screened out, as they will not directly result in (a) – (h)
Aim 3	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	IN – (b) and (d) will affect site 11 OUT –The vision and aims show the direction in which the North East should develop and have been screened out, as they will not directly result in (a, c, e, f, g and h)
Aim 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	OUT –The vision and aims show the direction in which the North East should develop and have been screened out, as they will not directly result in (a) – (h)
Aim 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	OUT –The vision and aims show the direction in which the North East should develop and have been screened out, as they will not directly result in (a) – (h)

Aim 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	OUT - The vision and aims show the direction in which the North East should develop and have been screened out, as they will not directly result in (a) – (h)
Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	OUT – The vision and aims show the direction in which the North East should develop and have been screened out, as it will not directly result in (a)-(h)
Economic Growth (EG) Objective	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	IN – This objective has been screened in as it will result in (a) – (h). It will affect sites 9, 11, 12 & 18 as economic growth has been targeted in these areas.
Target 1	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	IN – Target 1 applies to development in Aberdeen city centre therefore only affecting site 11.
Target 2	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	IN – Target 2 applies to development in identified SGAs in Aberdeenshire therefore only affects sites 1, 3, 9, 11 & 18
Target 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	OUT – No development sites have been identified however assessing Target 1 and Target 2 against the sites above will cover all possible development locations.
Target 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	OUT – Target 4 will not generate development, it will improve and regenerate existing development therefore not affecting the River Dee (in terms of a-f)
Target 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	OUT – Target 5 is a quality issue and will not result in (a)-(f) thus affecting zero sites.
Sustainable Development and Climate Change (SDCC) Objective	X (In relation to development of renewables not housing)	- (possible mini-hydro)	-	- (except PM10)	-	X (in relation to birds and wind farms)	✓	-	IN – (a), (d) and (f) will affect sites 5, 9 and 12 in relation to the development of wind power. Site 11 will be affected by (a) and (d) in relation to possible development of mini-hydro power. This objective will protect the environment.

Target 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	OUT - Target 1 is a quality issue and will not result in (a)-(f) thus affecting zero sites. Target 1 will protect the environment.
Target 2	X (In relation to development of renewables not housing)	- (possible mini-hydro)	-	- (except PM10)	-	X (in relation to birds and wind farms)	✓	-	IN – (a), (d) and (f) will affect sites 5, 9 and 12 in relation to the development of wind power. Site 11 will be affected by (a) and (d) in relation to possible development of mini-hydro power. This objective will protect the environment.
Target 3	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	✓	IN - (b) and (g) will affect site 11 OUT - Target 3 will not result in (a, c, d, e, f and h). Target 3 will protect the environment.
Target 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	OUT - Target 4 is a quality issue and will not result in (a)-(f) thus affecting zero sites. Target 4 will protect the environment.
Target 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	OUT - Target 5 may result in (a)-(f) thus affecting site 11. Target 5 will assist in protecting the environment through informed decision making in relation to this target.
Target 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	OUT - Target 6 is a quality issue and will not result in (a)-(f) thus affecting zero sites. Target 6 will protect the environment.
Population Growth (PG) Objective	X (indirectly)	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	IN – Population growth is a driver for economic growth and will indirectly result in (a) – (f) at sites 9, 11 and 12.
Target 1	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	IN – Target 1 will affect site 11 as population growth in the city will result in further water abstraction (b) from the River Dee.
Target 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	OUT – Target 2 will not result in (a) – (f) or protect the environment (g). As such this is a passive target.

Target 3	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	IN – Target 3 will result in (a) – (f) throughout the city region where land has been identified for possible growth (sites 1, 3, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18)
Target 4	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	IN – Target 4 will result in (a) – (f) throughout the city region where land has been identified for possible growth (sites 1, 3, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18)
Quality of the Environment (QE) Objective	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	OUT – This objective aims to protect the environment (g) and will not significantly affect any of the sites in terms of (a) – (f).
Target 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	OUT – Target 1 will protect the environment (g) and will not significantly affect any of the sites in terms of (a) – (f).
Target 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	OUT – Target 2 will protect the environment (g) and will not significantly affect any of the sites in terms of (a) – (f).
Target 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	OUT – Target 3 will protect the environment (g) and will not significantly affect any of the sites in terms of (a) – (f).
Sustainable Mixed Communities (SMC) Objective	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	IN – This objective will affect site 11 ensuring that new development meets the needs of the whole community will result in further water abstraction (b) from the River Dee in addition to (a) and (c) – (f)
Target 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	OUT – Target 1 will not result in (a) – (f) or protect the environment (g). As such this is a passive target.
Target 2	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	IN – Target 2 will affect city only sites (site 11) and will result in further water abstraction (b) from the River Dee in addition to (a) and (c) – (f).
Target 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	OUT – Target 3 is a quality issue and will not result in (a)-(f) thus affecting zero sites. This is a passive target.

Target 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	OUT – Target 4 is a quality issue and will not result in (a)-(f) thus affecting zero sites. This is a passive target.
Target 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	OUT – Target 5 is a quality issue and will not result in (a)-(f) thus affecting zero sites. This is a passive target.
Target 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	OUT – Target 6 is a quality issue and will not result in (a)-(f) thus affecting zero sites. This is a passive target.
Accessibility (Acc) Objective	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	IN – Sites 1, 3, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17 have been identified for possible growth. As such this objective has been screened in following the precautionary principle as ensuring that new developments will contribute towards reducing the need to travel may result in (a) – (f).
Target 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	OUT – Target 1 is a quality issue and will not result in (a)-(f) thus affecting zero sites. This is a passive target.
Target 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	OUT – Target 2 is a quality issue and will not result in (a)-(f) thus affecting zero sites. This is a passive target.
Target 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	OUT – Target 3 is a quality issue and will not result in (a)-(f) thus affecting zero sites. This is a passive target.
Strategic Growth Areas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	OUT – This section highlights the proportion of development in the identified Strategic Growth Areas. This is a passive section as no direct development (a) – (f) will result from it thus affecting zero sites. The objectives and targets will be sufficiently screened as they provide the detail for development.

Target 1	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	IN – Target 1 will result in (a) – (f) in relation to housing and employment land at sites identified as within SGAs (sites 9, 11 and 18).
Target 2	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	IN – Target 2 will result in (a) – (f) in relation to housing in Aberdeen City sites (site 11 only).
Target 3	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	IN – Target 3 will result in (a) – (f) in relation to strategic developments located within SGAs (sites 9 and 11 likely to be affected).
Local Growth and DA's	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	IN - This section highlights the proportion of development in the Local Growth & Diversification Areas. Sites 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18 will be affected by (a) – (f) as they have been identified for potential growth.
Regeneration Priority Areas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	OUT – This section has been screened out as any potential development will be regeneration and the old will be replaced with new (counterbalanced development).
Proposal 1	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	IN – Proposal 1 may affect sites 9 and 11 due to associated required development to create the AWPR and will result in (a) – (f).
Proposal 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	OUT – Proposal 2 will not be in the immediate vicinity of any of the sites. This project will be subject to a separate assessment when further details are available.
Proposal 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	OUT – Proposal 3 is Aberdeen City based but will not affect Site 11 as development at the River Don will not affect the River Dee.
Proposal 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	OUT – Proposal 4 will not be in close proximity to any of the designated sites and is therefore screened out.

Proposal 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	OUT – Proposal 5 is not in close proximity to any of the designated sites and is therefore screened out.
Proposal 6	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	-	IN – Proposal 6 involves the promotion of environmentally friendly forms of transport thus meets criteria (g) but this may also have an impact on site 11 due to associated required development and further water abstraction.
Proposal 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	OUT – Proposal 7 is in close proximity to Aberdeen City but will not significantly affect site 11 or any of the remaining designated sites.
Proposal 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	OUT – Proposal 8 will not be in the immediate vicinity of any of the sites. This proposal will be subject to a separate assessment when further details are available.
Proposal 9	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	IN – Proposal 9 is Aberdeen City based and may result in (a) – (f) therefore affecting Site 11. This Proposal has been screened in following the precautionary principle.
Proposal 10	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	IN – Proposal 10 will be likely to result in (a) – (f) in the locations specified within the Energetica Strategic Framework. Sites likely to be affected are sites 1, 12 and 18.
Proposal 11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	OUT – Proposal 11 is an Aberdeen based regeneration proposal which has been screened out as any potential development will be regeneration and the old will be replaced with new (counterbalanced development).
Proposal 12	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	IN – Proposal 12 is Aberdeen based and may result in (a) – (f) therefore affecting Site 11 in particular relation to water abstraction and development of water sports.

Proposal 13	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	OUT – This proposal involves protection of existing assets thus not resulting in (a) – (f). Pedestrianisation of union street will assist in reducing air pollution and there will be no scope for further water abstraction of the River Dee.
Proposal 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	OUT – Proposal 14 will not affect any of the sites listed due to its proposed location. A new prison will regenerate the area and will act as a counterbalanced development if the old prison is replaced with a new facility.
Proposal 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	OUT - Proposal 15 will not be in the immediate vicinity of any of the sites. This proposal will be subject to a separate assessment when further details are available.
Proposal 16	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	IN – Proposal 16 is in close proximity to site 1 and will result in (a) – (f).

Key	Proposal will result in development; water abstraction, habitat loss/ Land Take, pollution, soil erosion, disturbance	X
	Proposal will not result in development; water abstraction, habitat loss/ Land Take, pollution, soil erosion, disturbance	-
	Proposal protects the environment and/or is passive	✓

Appendix 4: Screening Matrix (sites)

This matrix screens Natura 2000 sites against those elements of the plan that were not screened out in Appendix 3. It identifies those elements of the plan which must be included in the appropriate assessment for each site and those sites that can be screened out.

	Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast (1)	Dinnet Oakwood (2)	Garron Point (3)	Glen Tanar (4)	Hill of Towanreef (5)	Mortlach Moss (6)	Morven and Mullachdubh (7)	Muir of Dinnet (8)	Red Moss of Netherley (9)	Reidside Moss (10)	River Dee (11)	Sands of Forvie (12)	Turclossie Moss (13)	Fowisheugh (14)	Loch of Skene (15)	Loch of Strathbeg (16)	Tips of Corsemal and Tom Mor (17)	Troup, Pennan and Lions Head (18)	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle loch (19)
Aim 3											X								
Economic Growth Objective									X		X	X							X
Target 1											X								
Target 2	X		X						X		X								X
Sustainable Development and Climate Change Objective					X				X		X	X							
Target 2					X				X		X				X	X			X
Target 3											X								
Target 5											X								
Target 6																			
Population Growth Objective									X		X	X							
Target 1											X								
Target 3	X		X						X		X	X		X	X	X		X	X
Target 4	X		X						X		X	X		X	X	X		X	X
Sustainable Mixed Communities Objective											X								
Target 2											X								
Accessibility Objective	X		X									X		X	X	X		X	
Target 1	X								X		X								X
Target 2											X								
Target 3									X		X								
Local Growth and Diversification Areas	X								X		X	X		X	X			X	X
Proposal 1									X		X								
Proposal 6											X								
Proposal 9											X								
Proposal 10	X											X							X
Proposal 12											X								
Proposal 16	X																		
Screened out		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓					✓	
Key	Significant effect	X																	

Appendix 5: Appropriate Assessment

Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SAC

Conservation Objective

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat 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.

Qualifying Interest: Vegetated sea cliffs

Location	
Strategic Growth Area	✓
Local Growth and Diversification Area	✓
Regeneration Priority Area	✓

Elements of the plan screened in
Economic Growth Target 2
Population Growth Target 3
Population Growth Target 4
Accessibility Objective
Proposal 10
Proposal 16

The following elements of the plan were appropriately assessed and are considered to have been addressed already with the safeguarding measures within the plan:

Qualifying interest	Potential Development Issues	Safeguarding	Qualifying Interest Conclusion
Vegetated Coast	Economic growth could result in additional development adjacent to the site. This in turn could damage the sea cliffs and thus adversely affect the conservation objective. However due to the nature of the site it is highly unlikely development would be proposed on the SAC. Any development that would be proposed within the Local Development Plan would be subject to an appropriate assessment in itself. This would be a more appropriate level to consider any impact.	The plan protects important environmental natural assets in the Quality of the Environment Objective, issues (in particular paragraph 2) and target 1. The final paragraph within Putting this plan into practice confirms that more detailed appropriate assessments will be required of Local Development Plan and certain developments	Plan will not adversely affect the vegetated sea cliffs with the safeguarding contained in the plan.
	Population targets 3 and 4 to build 2,500 new homes each year by 2014, and to build 3,000 by	The plan protects important environmental natural assets in the Quality of the Environment	

	<p>2020. At this time it is unclear what numbers will be added to existing settlements. This is for the Local Development Plan to determine. Housing being located beside this designation could add to increased recreation usage.</p> <p>There could also be increased recreational usage as a result of the accessibility objective through increase in encouraging walking and cycling could increase usage of cliff top paths.</p>	<p>Objective, issues (in particular paragraph 2) and target 1.</p> <p>The final paragraph within Putting this plan into practice confirms that further appropriate assessments will be required through the Local Development Plan process in relation to the contents and certain developments.</p> <p>Paragraph 5 within the issues in Sustainable Mixed Communities states “New development needs to focus on communities”. In addition Target 2 of Sustainable Mixed Communities requires masterplanning for sites of over one hectare within an SGA.</p>	
	<p>Proposal 10 Energetica Initiative. This initiative is not being lead by the Council and is not at a decisive stage where any potential impact can be assessed. It is not possible to assess it at the Structure Plan level. It may however have an effect due to the proposals to increase development in the Peterhead corridor.</p>	<p>The final paragraph within Putting this plan into practice confirms that more detailed appropriate assessments will be required of Local Development Plan and certain developments</p>	
	<p>Proposal 16 upgrading of Peterhead power station. This proposal will result in development in close proximity to the site and development will take place nearby. However due to the nature of the site it is highly unlikely development would be proposed on the SAC. Any development that would be proposed within the Local Development Plan would be subject to an appropriate assessment in itself. This would be a more appropriate level to consider any impact.</p>	<p>As above</p>	

Conclusion

The appropriate assessment demonstrates that it is possible to implement the Structure Plan without adverse impact on the Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SAC.

Garron Point SAC

Conservation Objective

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.

Qualifying Interests: Narrow-mouthed whorl snail

Location	
Strategic Growth Area	✓
Local Growth and Diversification Area	
Regeneration Priority Area	

Elements of the plan screened in
Economic Growth Target 2
Population Growth Target 3
Population Growth Target 4
Accessibility Objective

The following aspects of the plan were appropriately assessed and are considered to have been addressed already with the safeguarding measures within the plan:

Qualifying interest	Potential Development Issues	Safeguarding	Qualifying Interest Conclusion
Narrow-mouthed whorl snail	<p>Economic growth could result in additional development adjacent to the site. This in turn could damage the habitat of the qualifying interest and thus adversely affect the conservation objective.</p> <p>However due to the nature of the site it is highly unlikely development would be proposed on the SAC. Any development that would be proposed within the Local Development Plan would be subject to an appropriate</p>	<p>The plan protects important environmental natural assets in the Quality of the Environment objective, issues (in particular paragraph 2) and target 1.</p> <p>The final paragraph within Putting this plan into practice confirms that more detailed appropriate assessments will be required of Local Development Plan and certain developments</p>	<p>Plan will not adversely affect the Narrow-mouthed whorl snail with the safeguarding contained in the plan.</p>

	<p>assessment in itself. This would be a more appropriate level to consider any impact.</p>		
	<p>Population targets 3 and 4 to build 2,500 new homes each year by 2014, and to build 3,000 by 2020. At this time it is unclear what numbers will be added to existing settlements. This is for the Local Development Plan to determine. Housing located adjacent to this designation could add to increased recreation usage.</p> <p>There could also be increased recreational usage as a result of the accessibility objective through increase in encouraging walking and cycling could increase usage of cliff top paths.</p>	<p>The plan protects important environmental natural assets in the Quality of the Environment Objective, issues (in particular paragraph 2) and target 1.</p> <p>The final paragraph within Putting this plan into practice confirms that more detailed appropriate assessments will be required of Local Development Plan and certain developments</p> <p>Paragraph 5 within the issues in Sustainable Mixed Communities states “New development needs to focus on communities”. In addition Target 2 of Sustainable Mixed Communities requires masterplanning for sites of over one hectare within an SGA.</p>	

Conclusion

The appropriate assessment demonstrates that it is possible to implement the Structure Plan without adverse impact on the Garron Point SAC.

Hill of Towanreef SAC

Conservation Objective

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (alpine and subalpine heaths, blanket bog*, dry heaths, grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals, juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands) 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.

Qualifying Interests: Alpine and subalpine heaths, blanket bog*, dry heaths, grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals, juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands

Location	
Strategic Growth Area	
Local Growth and Diversification Area	✓
Regeneration Priority Area	

Elements of the plan screened in
Sustainable Development and Climate Change Objective
Sustainable Development and Climate Change Target 2

The following elements of the plan were appropriately assessed and are considered to have been addressed already with the safeguarding objectives within the plan:

Qualifying interest	Potential Development Issues	Safeguarding	Qualifying Interest Conclusion
Alpine and subalpine heaths, blanket bog*, dry heaths, grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals, juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands.	<p>Sustainable Development and Climate Change includes limiting the amount of non-renewables sources used so in turn would equate to possible increase in the erection of wind turbines. The blanket bog site could be considerably damaged by any development on or adjacent to the site where development could affect the hydrological processes.</p> <p>The bog is dependant on rainfall and drainage into the site and on the stability of the peat and its ability to hold water.</p> <p>Any development that could affect rain</p>	<p>The plan protects important environmental natural assets in the Quality of the Environment Objective, issues (in particular paragraph 2) and target 1.</p> <p>Paragraph 2 within the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Issues states “all new developments must be designed and built to use resources more efficiently and be located in places where they have as little an effect on the environment as possible.”</p> <p>The final paragraph within Putting this</p>	<p>Plan will not adversely affect the Alpine and subalpine heaths, blanket bog*, dry heaths, grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals, juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands with the safeguarding contained in the plan.</p>

	water drainage or damage the peat itself could adversely affect the conservation interest.	plan into practice confirms that more detailed appropriate assessments will be required of Local Development Plan and certain developments	
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Conclusion

The appropriate assessment demonstrates that it is possible to implement the Structure Plan without adverse impact on the Hill of Towanreef SAC.

Red Moss of Netherley SAC

Conservation Objective

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat(s) (Active raised bogs*, degraded raised bogs) 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.

Qualifying Interests: Active raised bogs*, degraded raised bogs

Location	
Strategic Growth Area	
Local Growth and Diversification Area	✓
Regeneration Priority Area	

Elements of the plan screened in
Economic Growth Objective
Economic Growth Target 2
Sustainable Development and Climate Change Objective
Sustainable Development and Climate Change Target 2
Population Growth Objective
Population Growth Target 3
Population Growth Target 4
Strategic Growth Area Target 1
Strategic Growth Area Target 3
Local Growth and Diversification Areas
Proposal 1

The following elements of the plan were appropriately assessed and are considered to have been addressed already with the safeguarding measures within the plan:

Qualifying interest	Potential Development Issues	Safeguarding	Qualifying Interest Conclusion
Active raised bogs*, degraded raised bogs	Sustainable Development and Climate Change includes limiting the amount of non-renewables sources used so in turn would equate to possible increase in the erection of wind turbines. The raised peat bog could be considerably damaged by any development on or adjacent to the site where development could affect the hydrological processes.	The plan protects important environmental natural assets in the Quality of the Environment Objective, issues (in particular paragraph 2) and target 1. Paragraph 2 within the Sustainable Development and Climate Change	Plan will not adversely affect the Active raised bogs*, degraded raised bogs with the safeguarding contained in the plan.

	<p>The bog is dependant on rainfall and drainage into the site and on the stability of the peat and its ability to hold water. Any development that could affect rain water drainage or damage the peat itself could adversely affect the conservation interest.</p> <p>Due to the nature of the site it is highly unlikely that development would be proposed on the SAC.</p>	<p>Issues states “all new developments must be designed and built to use resources more efficiently and be located in places where they have as little an effect on the environment as possible.”</p> <p>The final paragraph within Putting this plan into practice confirms that more detailed appropriate assessments will be required of Local Development Plan and certain developments</p>	
	<p>Population increase or economic growth could result in additional development adjacent to the site this in turn could affect rain water drainage or damage the peat itself and thus could adversely affect the conservation interest.</p> <p>It is also for the Local Development Plan to determine whether this site is within an SGA or LG&DA, if in an SGA there may be a higher chance of development in the area however any form of development could have the same effect as that objectives mentioned.</p> <p>The raised peat bog could be considerably damaged by any development on or adjacent to the site where development could affect the hydrological processes.</p> <p>Furthermore the bog is dependant on rainfall and drainage into the site and on the stability of the peat and its ability to hold water.</p>	<p>As above</p>	
	<p>The 1st proposal in the plan relates to the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route and its</p>	<p>As above</p>	

	implementation. Excavation for a road adjacent to the site could have potential impact on the hydrological processes of the bog and could have an impact on the water table.		
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Conclusion

The appropriate assessment demonstrates that it is possible to implement the Structure Plan without adverse impact on the Red Moss of Netherly SAC.

River Dee SAC (Aberdeen City and Shire)

Conservation Objective

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (otters, freshwater pearl mussels and salmon) 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:

- 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

Qualifying Interests: Freshwater pearl mussel, Atlantic salmon, otter

Location	
Strategic Growth Area	✓
Local Growth and Diversification Area	✓
Regeneration Priority Area	

Elements of the plan screened in
Aim 3
Economic Growth Objective
Economic Growth Target 1
Economic Growth Target 2
Sustainable Development and Climate Change Objective
Sustainable Development and Climate Change Target 2
Sustainable Development and Climate Change Target 3
Sustainable Development and Climate Change Target 5
Population Growth Objective
Population Growth Target 1
Population Growth Target 3
Population Growth Target 4
Sustainable Mixed Communities Objective
Sustainable Mixed Communities Target 2
Strategic Growth Areas Target 1

Strategic Growth Areas Target 2
Strategic Growth Areas Target 3
Local Growth and Diversification Areas
Proposal 1
Proposal 6
Proposal 9
Proposal 12

The following elements of the plan were appropriately assessed and are considered to have been addressed already with the safeguarding measures within the plan:

Qualifying interest	Potential Development Issues	Safeguarding	Qualifying Interest Conclusion
Freshwater pearl mussel, Atlantic salmon, otter	The screened in Aim 3 may increase the population in the area resulting in abstraction from the Dee and possible pollution.	Target 3 of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change is "To avoid having to increase the amount of water Scottish Water are licensed to take from the River Dee, as a result of the new developments proposed in the plan." The review (and associated appropriate assessment) of the abstraction license (by SEPA) is the mechanism to address this issue and the target would equally apply to any revised license. The finalised plan ('How to meet the targets' 3) commits the SDPA to working with SEPA, SNH and Scottish Water on this issue.	Plan will not adversely affect the Freshwater pearl mussel, Atlantic salmon, otter with the safeguarding contained in the plan.

<p>Freshwater pearl mussel, Atlantic salmon, otter</p>	<p>The screened in objectives and targets of the plan may increase the population in the area.</p> <p>Development of any type close to the Dee could result in an increase in people using the area. Direct disturbance of habitats within SAC.</p> <p>Disturbance to qualifying interests from construction, access and recreation, domestic pets.</p>	<p>The plan protects important environmental natural assets in the Quality of the Environment Objective, issues (in particular paragraph 2) and target 1.</p> <p>The River Dee and catchments are shown on a diagram under Sustainable Development and Climate Change.</p> <p>Paragraph 2 within the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Issues states “all new developments must be designed and built to use resources more efficiently and be located in places where they have as little an effect on the environment as possible.”</p> <p>The final paragraph within Putting this plan into practice confirms that more detailed appropriate assessments will be required of Local Development Plan and certain developments.</p>	<p>Plan will not adversely affect the Freshwater pearl mussel, Atlantic salmon, otter with the safeguarding contained in the plan.</p>
<p>Otter, Atlantic salmon</p>	<p>The economic growth objective and associated targets, population growth objective and associated targets, Strategic Growth Areas and Local Growth and Diversification Areas could possibly impact on this conservation objective.</p> <p>Direct loss of open water, riparian and/or wetland habitats in the catchment. It is highly unlikely that development would occur on riparian or wetland habitats.</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Plan will not adversely affect the Otter, Atlantic salmon with the safeguarding contained in the plan.</p>

<p>Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Salmon</p>	<p>The economic growth objective and associated targets, population growth objective and associated targets, Strategic Growth Areas and Local Growth and Diversification Areas could possibly impact on this conservation objective.</p> <p>Increased siltation of watercourses especially during construction of developments within the catchment.</p>	<p>As above</p> <p>Target 3 of Sustainable mixed communities states sites “of over one hectare in SGAs to be in line with approved supplementary guidance”.</p>	<p>Plan will not adversely affect the Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Salmon with the safeguarding contained in the plan.</p>
<p>Freshwater Pearl Mussel</p>	<p>The economic growth objective and associated targets, population growth objective and associated targets, Strategic Growth Areas and Local Growth and Diversification Areas could possibly impact on this conservation objective.</p> <p>Discharges/ changes in water quality, in particular phosphorus levels, in the catchment.</p>	<p>As above</p> <p>Sustainable Development and Climate Change Target 4 states “For all new developments to use water-saving technology”</p>	<p>Plan will not adversely affect the Freshwater Pearl mussel with the safeguarding contained in the plan.</p>

<p>Salmon and fresh water pearl mussel</p>	<p>Objectives of the plan have the potential to impact on water abstraction if development occurs.</p> <p>Abstraction from river system resulting in lower flows.</p>	<p>The plan protects important environmental natural assets in the Quality of the Environment Objective, issues (in particular paragraph 2) and target 1.</p> <p>The plan identifies the River Dee as the area's main source of drinking water and recognises its SAC status. It is also recognized that the resource is under pressure and that consequently managing the use of water is important.</p> <p>Target 3 of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change is "To avoid having to increase the amount of water Scottish Water are licensed to take from the River Dee, as a result of the new developments proposed in the plan."</p> <p>Target 4 is for all new developments to use water – saving technology.</p> <p>In terms of actions the plan identifies two of relevance; working with SNH, SEPA and SW to establish the capacity of the River Dee for water abstraction will assist in enabling these targets to be met; and local development plans.</p> <p>There are also monitoring commitments contained within the plan to assess abstraction levels.</p>	<p>Plan will not adversely affect the Salmon and fresh water pearl mussel with the safeguarding contained in the plan.</p>
<p>Freshwater pearl mussel, Atlantic salmon, otter</p>	<p>Proposal 1, 6, 9 and 12 have the potential to impact dependant on the location and nature of any detailed proposal.</p>	<p>Paragraph 5.6 within Putting this plan into practice confirms that more detailed appropriate assessments will be required of the Local Development Plans and certain developments. The AWPR has already been through this process.</p>	<p>Plan will not adversely affect the Salmon, fresh water pearl mussel and otter with the safeguarding contained in the plan.</p>

Conclusion

The appropriate assessment demonstrates that it is possible to implement the Structure Plan without adverse impact on the River Dee Special Area of Conservation.

Sands of Forvie SAC

Conservation Objective

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (Humid dune slacks, Lime-deficient dune heathland with crowberry*, Shifting dunes and Shifting dunes with marram) 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.

This is highly active and mobile along the fringe but the older dunes have stabilised and largely support heathland and grassland. The land is a National Nature Reserve managed to an agreed management plan. Very little active management is required to maintain the habitats of interest.

Qualifying Interests: Humid dune slacks, Lime-deficient dune heathland with crowberry*, Shifting dunes and Shifting dunes with marram.

Location	
Strategic Growth Area	
Local Growth and Diversification Area	✓
Regeneration Priority Area	

Elements of the plan screened in
Economic Growth Objective
Sustainable Development and Climate Change Objective
Population Growth Objective
Population Growth Target 3
Population Growth Target 4
Accessibility Objective
Local Growth and Diversification Areas
Proposal 10

The following elements of the plan were appropriately assessed and are considered to have been addressed already with the safeguarding measures within the plan:

Qualifying interest	Potential Development Issues	Safeguarding	Qualifying Interest Conclusion
Humid dune slacks, Lime-deficient dune	The objective and targets which may have an adverse effect on the sites integrity are related to development and increasing population. Due to the nature of the site it is highly unlikely development would be proposed on the	The plan protects important environmental natural assets in the Quality of the Environment Objective, issues (in particular paragraph 2) and target 1. Paragraph 2 within the Sustainable	Plan will not adversely affect the Humid dune slacks, Lime-deficient dune heathland with crowberry*, Shifting dunes and Shifting dunes with marram with

<p>heathland with crowberry*, Shifting dunes and Shifting dunes with marram.</p>	<p>SAC. The Dune system is relatively stable and mature and the plan contains safeguarding measures to ensure this level of stability continues.</p>	<p>Development and Climate Change Issues states “all new developments must be designed and built to use resources more efficiently and be located in places where they have as little an effect on the environment as possible.” The final paragraph within Putting this plan into practice confirms that more detailed appropriate assessments will be required of Local Development Plan and certain developments.</p>	<p>the safeguarding contained in the plan.</p>
<p>Humid dune slacks, Lime-deficient dune heathland with crowberry*, Shifting dunes and Shifting dunes with marram.</p>	<p>Proposal 10 Energetica Initiative. This initiative is not being lead by the Council and is not at a decisive stage where any potential impact can be assessed. It is not possible to assess it at the Structure Plan level. It may however have an effect due to the proposals to increase development in the Peterhead corridor.</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Plan will not adversely affect the Humid dune slacks, Lime-deficient dune heathland with crowberry*, Shifting dunes and Shifting dunes with marram with the safeguarding contained in the plan.</p>

Conclusion

The appropriate assessment demonstrates that it is possible to implement the Structure Plan without adverse impact on the Sands of Forvie Special Area of Conservation.

Buchan Ness and Collieston Coast, Fowlsheugh, and Troup, Pennan and Lions Head.

Conservation Objective

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*)*, Guillemot (*Uria aalge*)*, Herring gull (*Larus argentatus*)*, Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)*, Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*)*, and Seabird assemblage) 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.

Qualifying Interests: Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*)*, Guillemot (*Uria aalge*)*, Herring gull (*Larus argentatus*)*, Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)*, Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*)*, and Seabird assemblage

Location	
Strategic Growth Area	✓
Local Growth and Diversification Area	✓
Regeneration Priority Area	✓

Elements of the plan screened in
Economic Growth Target 2
Population Growth Target 3
Population Growth Target 4
Accessibility Objective
Strategic Growth Areas Target 1
Local Growth and Diversification Areas
Proposal 10

The following elements of the plan were appropriately assessed and are considered to have been addressed already with the safeguarding measures within the plan:

Qualifying interest	Potential Development Issues	Safeguarding	Qualifying Interest Conclusion
Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>)*, Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>)*, Herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)*, Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>)*,	Economic growth could result in additional development adjacent to the site. This in turn could damage the sea cliffs and thus adversely affect the conservation objective. However due to the nature of the site it is highly unlikely	The plan protects important environmental natural assets in the Quality of the Environment Objective, issues (in particular paragraph 2) and target 1. The final paragraph within Putting this plan into practice confirms that more detailed appropriate assessments will be required of Local Development Plan and certain developments.	Plan will not adversely affect the Fulmar, Guillemot, Herring gull, Kittiwake, Shag and the seabird assemblage with the safeguarding contained in the plan.

<p>Shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> and (Buchan Ness) and Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i> (Troup, pennan etc and Fowlsheugh).and Seabird assemblage</p>	<p>development would be proposed on the SAC. Any development that would be proposed within the Local Development Plan would be subject to an appropriate assessment in itself. This would be a more appropriate level to consider any impact.</p>		
	<p>Population targets 3 and 4 to build 2,500 new homes each year by 2014, and to build 3,000 by 2020. At this time it is unclear what numbers will be added to existing settlements. This is for the Local Development Plan to determine. Housing developments located beside this designation could add to increased recreation usage, which may be of particular concern during breeding season.</p> <p>The same issues could also arise from the accessibility objective.</p>	<p>The plan protects important environmental natural assets in the Quality of the Environment Objective, issues (in particular paragraph 2) and target 1.</p> <p>Paragraph 2 within the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Issues states “all new developments must be designed and built to use resources more efficiently and be located in places where they have as little an effect on the environment as possible.”</p> <p>Paragraph 5 within the issues in Sustainable Mixed Communities states “New development needs to focus on communities”. In addition Target 2 of Sustainable Mixed Communities requires masterplanning for sites of over one hectare within an SGA.</p> <p>The final paragraph within Putting this plan into practice confirms that more detailed appropriate assessments will be required of Local Development Plan and certain developments.</p>	
	<p>Due to the uncertainty of whether this section of coast is in an SGA or a LG&DA both</p>	<p>As above.</p>	

	<p>have been considered.</p> <p>A considerable level of development in this area could result in higher visitor numbers to the area which could result in disturbance to the qualifying interest.</p>		
	<p>Proposal 10 Energetica Initiative (Buchan Ness SPA). This initiative is not being lead by the Council and is not at a decisive stage where any potential impact can be assessed. It is not possible to assess it at the Structure Plan level.</p>	<p>The final paragraph within Putting this plan into practice confirms that more detailed appropriate assessments will be required of Local Development Plan and certain developments.</p>	

Conclusion

The appropriate assessment demonstrates that it is possible to implement the Structure Plan without adverse impact on the Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast Special Protection Area, Fowlsheugh SPA or Troup, Pennan and Lion's Heads SPA.

Loch of Skene SPA and RAMSAR site

Conservation Objective

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (Greylag goose and whooper swans).

Qualifying Interests: Greylag goose and whooper swans

Location	
Strategic Growth Area	
Local Growth and Diversification Area	✓
Regeneration Priority Area	

Elements of the plan screened in
Sustainable Development and Climate Change Target 2
Population Growth Target 3
Population Growth Target 4
Accessibility Objective
Local Growth and Diversification Areas

The following elements of the plan were appropriately assessed and are considered to have been addressed already with the safeguarding measures within the plan:

Qualifying interest	Potential Development Issues	Safeguarding	Qualifying Interest Conclusion
Greylag goose (<i>anser anser</i>) and whooper swans (<i>Cygnus Cygnus</i>)	<p>Population targets 3 and 4 to build 2,500 new homes each year by 2014, and to build 3,000 by 2020. At this time it is unclear what numbers will be added to existing settlements. This is for the Local Development Plan to determine. Furthermore the accessibility objective encourages walking and making new developments more accessible to public transport.</p> <p>Increasing population and accessibility of the area may add to the use of the loch for recreational pursuits i.e. sailing etc. and also for dog walking which could lead to disturbance of the</p>	<p>The plan protects important environmental natural assets in the Quality of the Environment Objective, issues (in particular paragraph 2) and target 1.</p> <p>Paragraph 2 within the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Issues states “all new developments must be designed and built to use resources more efficiently and be located in places where they have as little an effect on the environment as possible.”</p> <p>Paragraph 5 within the issues in Sustainable Mixed Communities states “New development needs to focus on communities”. In addition Target 2 of Sustainable Mixed Communities</p>	<p>Plan will not adversely affect the Greylag goose or whooper swans the safeguarding contained in the plan.</p>

	species.	<p>requires masterplanning for sites of over one hectare within an SGA.</p> <p>The final paragraph within Putting this plan into practice confirms that more detailed appropriate assessments will be required of Local Development Plan and certain developments.</p>	
	<p>This designation is located within the Local Growth and Diversification Area. There is no clear idea at this time on how much development will be proposed in this area.</p> <p>A considerable level of development in this area could result in higher visitor numbers to the area which could result in disturbance to the qualifying interest.</p>	As above	

Conclusion

The appropriate assessment demonstrates that it is possible to implement the Structure Plan without adverse impact on the Loch of Skene Special Protection Area or RAMSAR.

Loch of Strathbeg SPA and RAMSAR site

Conservation Objective

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (Whooper Swan, Teal, Greylag Goose, Pinkfooted Goose, Barnacle Goose, Waterfowl assemblage, Sandwich Tern).

Qualifying Interests: Whooper Swan, Teal, Greylag Goose, Pinkfooted Goose, Barnacle Goose, Waterfowl assemblage, Sandwich Tern, Eutrophic loch

Location	
Strategic Growth Area	
Local Growth and Diversification Area	✓
Regeneration Priority Area	✓

Elements of the plan screened in
Sustainable Development and Climate Change Target 2
Population Growth Target 3
Population Growth Target 4
Accessibility Objective

The following elements of the plan were appropriately assessed and are considered to have been addressed already with the safeguarding measures within the plan:

Qualifying interest	Potential Development Issues	Safeguarding	Qualifying Interest Conclusion
Whooper Swan, Teal, Greylag Goose, Pinkfooted Goose, Barnacle Goose, Waterfowl assemblage, Sandwich Tern).	<p>Sustainable development and climate change objective could result in the erection of windfarms in this area. This in turn could have an impact on the birds by creating a collision risk in the immediate vicinity, or in the case of geese migratory routes.</p> <p>Furthermore the cumulative impact of turbines could also be of a greater threat.</p> <p>Population targets 3 and 4 to build</p>	<p>The site is an RSPB reserve and is therefore safeguarded from building on the site.</p> <p>The plan protects important environmental natural assets in the Quality of the Environment Objective, issues (in particular paragraph 2) and target 1.</p> <p>Paragraph 2 within the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Issues states “all new developments must be designed and built to use resources more efficiently and be located in places where</p>	<p>Plan will not adversely affect the Whooper Swan, Teal, Greylag Goose, Pinkfooted Goose, Barnacle Goose, Waterfowl assemblage, Sandwich Tern with the safeguarding contained in the plan.</p>

	<p>2,500 new homes each year by 2014, and to build 3,000 by 2020. At this time it is unclear what numbers will be added to existing settlements. This is for the Local Development Plan to determine. Furthermore the accessibility objective encourages walking and making new developments more accessible to public transport.</p> <p>Increasing population and accessibility of the area may add to the use of the loch for recreational pursuits i.e. sailing etc. and also for dog walking which could lead to disturbance of the species.</p>	<p>they have as little an effect on the environment as possible.”</p> <p>The final paragraph within Putting this plan into practice confirms that more detailed appropriate assessments will be required of Local Development Plan and certain developments.</p>	
Eutrophic loch	<p>Some of the objectives of the plan could lead to increased sediment load, enrichment, smothering of the substrate caused by changes in land use & sewage discharges. This could be the case if any land use changes are proposed.</p>	<p>The site is an RSPB reserve and is therefore safeguarded from building on the site.</p> <p>The plan protects important environmental natural assets in the Quality of the Environment Objective, issues (in particular paragraph 2) and target 1.</p> <p>The final paragraph within Putting this plan into practice confirms that more detailed appropriate assessments will be required of Local Development Plan and certain developments.</p>	<p>Plan will not adversely affect the Eutrophic loch with the safeguarding contained in the plan.</p>

Conclusion

The appropriate assessment demonstrates that it is possible to implement the Structure Plan without adverse impact on the Loch of Strathbeg Special Protection Area and RAMSAR site.

Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle loch SPA and Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch RAMSAR

Conservation Objective

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (Common tern, Eider, Lapwing, Little tern, Pinkfooted goose, Redshank Sandwich tern, Waterfowl assemblage).

Qualifying Interests: Common tern, Eider, Lapwing, Little tern, Pinkfooted goose, Redshank Sandwich tern, Waterfowl assemblage

Location	
Strategic Growth Area	
Local Growth and Diversification Area	✓
Regeneration Priority Area	

Elements of the plan screened in
Economic Growth Objective
Economic Growth Target 2
Sustainable Development and Climate Change Target 2
Population Growth Target 3
Population Growth Target 4
Strategic Growth Areas Target 1
Local Growth and Diversification Areas
Proposal 10

The following elements of the plan were appropriately assessed and are considered to have been addressed already with the safeguarding measures within the plan:

Qualifying interest	Potential Development Issues	Safeguarding	Qualifying Interest Conclusion
Common tern, Eider, Lapwing, Little tern, Pinkfooted goose, Redshank Sandwich tern, Waterfowl assemblage	Population targets 3 and 4 to build 2,500 new homes each year by 2014, and to build 3,000 by 2020. At this time it is unclear what numbers will be added to existing settlements. This is for the Local Development Plan to determine. Furthermore the accessibility objective encourages walking and making new developments more accessible to public transport.	The plan protects important environmental natural assets in the Quality of the Environment Objective, issues (in particular paragraph 2) and target 1. Paragraph 2 within the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Issues states “all new developments must be designed and built to use resources more efficiently and be located in places where they have as little an effect on the environment as possible.” Sustainable Development and Climate Change	Plan will not adversely affect the Common tern, Eider, Lapwing, Little tern, Pinkfooted goose, Redshank Sandwich tern, Waterfowl assemblage with the safeguarding contained in the plan.

	<p>Increasing population and accessibility of the area may add to the use of the loch for recreational pursuits i.e. sailing etc. and also for dog walking which could lead to disturbance of the species.</p> <p>The objectives and targets that require development could be an issue. Development close to this SPA could result in disturbance from increased recreational use or construction. This would be a problem, particularly during breeding season.</p>	<p>Target 4 states “For all new developments to use water-saving technology”</p> <p>Paragraph 5 within the issues in Sustainable Mixed Communities states “New development needs to focus on communities”. In addition Target 2 of Sustainable Mixed Communities requires masterplanning for sites of over one hectare within an SGA.</p> <p>The final paragraph within Putting this plan into practice confirms that more detailed appropriate assessments will be required of Local Development Plan and certain developments.</p>	
<p>Common tern, Eider, Lapwing, Little tern, Pinkfooted goose, Redshank Sandwich tern, Waterfowl assemblage</p>	<p>Sustainable development and climate change objective could result in the erection of windfarms in this area. This is turn could have an impact on the birds by creating a collision risk in the immediate vicinity, or in the case of geese migratory routes.</p> <p>Furthermore the cumulative impact of turbines could also be of a greater threat.</p>	As above	<p>Plan will not adversely affect the Common tern, Eider, Lapwing, Little tern, Pinkfooted goose, Redshank Sandwich tern, Waterfowl assemblage with the safeguarding contained in the plan.</p>
<p>Common tern, Eider, Lapwing, Little tern, Pinkfooted goose, Redshank</p>	<p>The changes in water quality particularly from discharges could be an issue that has an impact on the integrity of the site. Again this could be affected by any of the objectives or targets that promote</p>	As above	<p>Plan will not adversely affect the Common tern, Eider, Lapwing, Little tern, Pinkfooted goose, Redshank</p>

Sandwich tern, Waterfowl assemblage	development. There could also be an increased enrichment, siltation and smothering of the substrate of the river and its estuary, this would be of particular concern during construction.		Sandwich tern, Waterfowl assemblage with the safeguarding contained in the plan.
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Conclusion

The appropriate assessment demonstrates that it is possible to implement the Structure Plan without adverse impact on the Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle loch Special Protection Area or Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch RAMSAR.

If you wish to object to this plan you must do so by 24 April 2009 in writing to the Scottish Ministers at the address below :

Sandra Carey
The Scottish Government
Directorate for the Built Environment
Area 2-H
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Email: aberdeencityandshire@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Forms are available from the Strategic Development Planning Authority (address below) or can be downloaded from its website.

If you need help reading this document (for example if you need it in a different format or in another language), please phone us on 01224 628210.

ভাষা/ইন্টারপ্রেটিং এবং অন্যান্য ফরমেটের
যোগাযোগ সাহায্যের জন্য দয়া করে
: 01224 628210
নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করবেন।

如果需要語言/傳譯及其他形式的傳訊支援服務，
請聯絡: 01224 628210。

Если требуется помощь при выборе
языка /переводчика или других
способов общения, звоните по
телефону :01224 628210

للحصول على مساعدة بخصوص اللغة/ الترجمة
و وسائل الاتصال الأخرى، الرجاء الاتصال
بالرقم التالي: 01224 628210

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Jeśli potrzebujesz pomocy **językowej /
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porozumiewaniu się, proszę zadzwonić
pod numer: 01224 628210

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