LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK

LIVE PARK

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR NATIONAL PARK

Habitats Regulations Appraisal

Local Development Plan

(At post examinations stage, in the form proposed for adoption)

November 2016

Local Development Plan

CONTENTS

Section 1 - Introduction

1.1 This document represents the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Local Development Plan (LDP) as intended to be adopted.

1.2 European sites are Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the EC Birds Directive to protect wild birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the EC Habitats Directive to protect particular habitats and non-bird species.

1.3 Article 6(3) of the EC Habitats Directive requires that any plan (or project) which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site, but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to an "Appropriate Assessment" of its implications for the European Site in view of the site's conservation objectives. However having considered mitigation measures, if the likelihood of having a significant effect on a European Site can be ruled out on the basis of objective information, then those plans or policies can be screened out. This procedure is applied in Scotland through The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended), and is known as the "Habitats Regulations Appraisal" of plans.

1.4 The LDP can only be adopted if it can be ascertained that the plan will not adversely affect the integrity of a European Site.

1.5 Scottish Natural Heritage guidance 'Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans, Guidance for Plan-making Bodies in Scotland' (Version 3, January 2015), provides detailed guidance on the separate stages of carrying out an appraisal, and the considerations that will need to be taken into account.

Section 2 - Requirements of a Habitats Regulations Assessment

2.1 Planning Circular 6/2013 Development Planning provides guidance on the application of the habitats regulations. It states that, when submitting a plan to Scottish Ministers, a planning authority should include a Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA) Record setting out:

- how the authority has determined that there is not likely to be a significant effect on a European Site (if that is the case); and
- where a likely significant effect has been determined and an Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken, the conclusions reached and what action is proposed or has been undertaken to comply with the Habitats Regulations; and
- a copy of any relevant correspondence from SNH.

2.2 Circular 6/2013 states that further advice on the methodology of carrying out Habitats Regulations Appraisal can be obtained from SNH.

Section 3 - Local Development Plan - Context

3.1 Following consultation on the Proposed Local Development Plan during 2015 and the conclusion of the examination of the outstanding unresolved representations to the plan in October 2016, the Plan has been amended to reflect the modifications required by the reporter from the Scottish Governments Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals. As a result of this the HRA has also been updated, in consultation with Scottish Natural Heritage. The main changes include:-

- Site at Balloch VE2: East Riverside has been screened out as no longer adjacent to the river, given site area has been reduced. Therefore, the natura icon is not required for this site.
- New housing site at Gartmore H1 (6 units) has been screened and it has been screened out of need for an AA.
- All the site descriptions for Arrochar and Tarbet have been amended where necessary.
- All references to the Proposed Plan have been changed to Local Development Plan.

3.2 This was preceded by the Main Issues Report which was subject to extensive public consultation and engagement from April to July 2014 with a subsequent consultation on Additional Sites between November and December 2014. The LDP represents the settled view of the National Park Authority in regard to statutory land use and development and it has taken into the account all the views expressed on policies and proposals.

3.3 Once adopted, the Plan will supersede the Adopted Local Plan (2011). It has been the aim that this LDP focuses on key areas of change and that the general policy aims and objectives of the adopted Local Plan will be carried forward into the new LDP. A HRA was undertaken to accompany the adopted Local Plan and this has provided a useful starting point for this HRA.

National Park Aims

3.3 Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park was designated in 2002 as Scotland's first National Park under the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000. The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 sets out the four statutory aims for National Parks in Scotland and all planning decisions must be consistent with these:

- to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area
- to promote sustainable use of the natural resources of the area
- to promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public, and
- to promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.

3.4 The four aims are to be pursued collectively. However, if a conflict arises between the first aim, (the conservation and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage of the area), and any of the other aims, greater weight must be given to the first aim (Section 9(6) of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000). This is referred to as the Sandford Principle**.**

National Park Partnership Plan

3.5 Following public consultation, the National Park Partnership Plan (2012–2017) (NPPP) was approved by the National Park Board on 2 May 2012 and was approved by Scottish Ministers in June 2012. It takes the form of a management plan that sets out how the four aims of the Park are to be achieved through all the National Park Authority's activities. The Adopted Local Plan and the new LDP align with the high level policies contained in the NPPP. A HRA of the NPPP was undertaken and as a consequence, it was concluded that it would not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site within or adjacent to the Park.

Section 4 - Habitats Regulations Appraisal Methodology

European Sites considered

4.1 The LDP covers the geographical extent of the National Park. However given the proximity of a number of European sites outwith the National Park it was agreed that those potentially affected should be included. A list of the European sites that should be considered in the appraisal was identified and agreed with SNH (Table 1 below). The sites are based on those most up-to-date designations as of October 2016. Geographic Information System maps were used to determine the location of European sites outside the boundary of the Park and their potential to be affected by development within it. Relevant factors were considered such as the type and scale of development proposed and proximity to the National Park boundary.

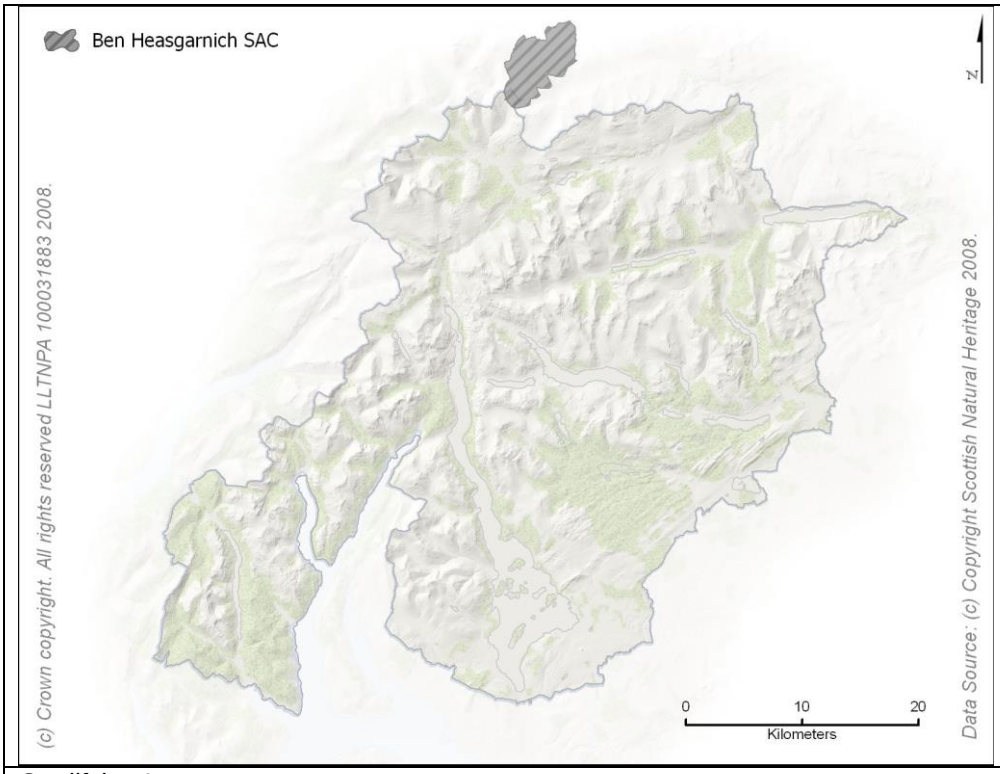
4.2 There is a Ramsar site within the Plan area that overlaps with the Loch Lomond SPA and the Loch Lomond Woods SAC. In accordance with the SNH Guidance (Section 1.12, page 5), all Ramsar interests are safeguarded by assessing the effects on the overlapping SPA and SAC sites.

Table 1: *European Sites selected as being potentially affected and reasons for their selection*

European Site	**Reason for selection**
Ben Heasgarnich SAC	Inside and outside plan area
Ben Lawers SAC	Outside plan area but near to the boundary at Killin
Ben Lui SAC	Inside plan area
Endrick Water SAC	Inside and outside plan area
Forth Islands SPA	Estuary downstream of plan area
Firth of Forth SPA	Estuary downstream of plan area
Firth of Tay & Eden Estuary SAC	Estuary downstream of plan area
Firth of Tay & Eden Estuary SPA	Estuary downstream of plan area
Flanders Mosses SAC	Peatland with hydrological link to land within plan area
Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA	Inside and outside plan area
Inner Clyde SPA	Estuary downstream of plan area
Loch Lomond SPA	Inside plan area
Loch Lomond Woods SAC	Inside plan area
Meall na Samnha SAC	Inside plan area and outside plan area
Trossachs Woods SAC	Inside plan area
River Tay SAC	Inside and outside plan area
River Teith SAC	Inside and outside plan area

Information on European Sites

Ben Heasgarnich SAC



Qualifying Interests:

- Base-rich fens (Alkaline fens)
- Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands
- High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage* (Alpine pioneer formations of the *Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae**)
- Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks (Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation)
- Tall herb communities (Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains) and of the montane to alpine levels
- Montane acid grasslands (Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands)
- Plants in crevices on acid rocks (Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation)
- Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas (Species-rich *Nardus* grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe)*)
- Mountain willow scrub (Sub-Arctic *Salix* spp. Scrub)

Conservation Objectives:

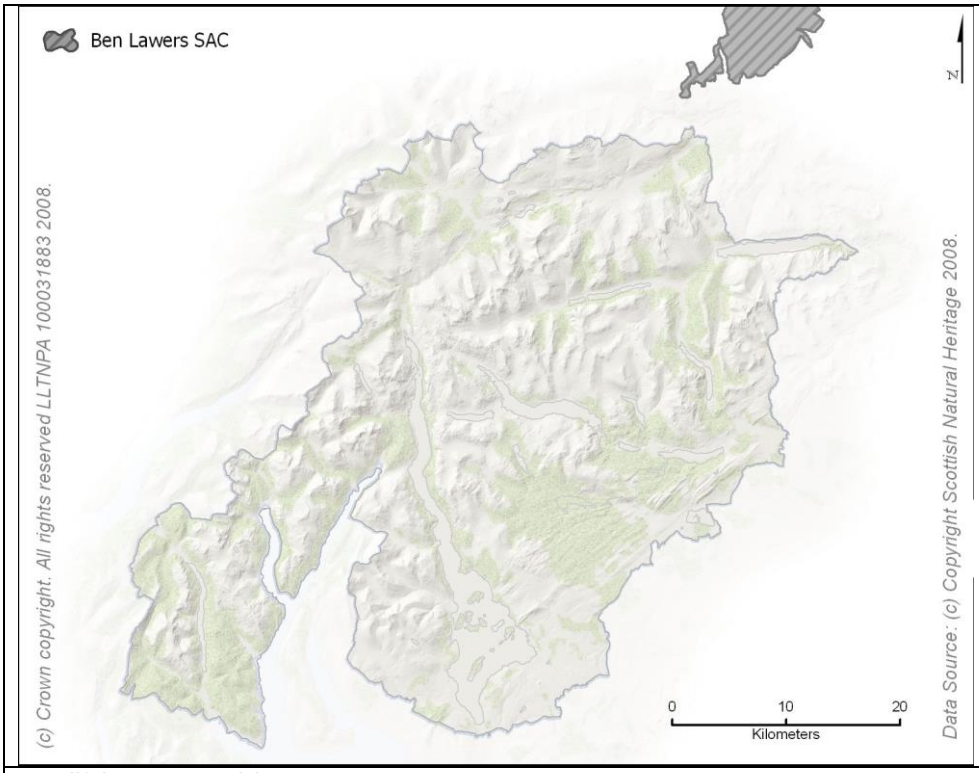
To avoid deterioration of the qualifying **habitats** (listed above) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

- 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

** Indicates priority habitat*

Ben Lawers SAC



Qualifying Interest(s):

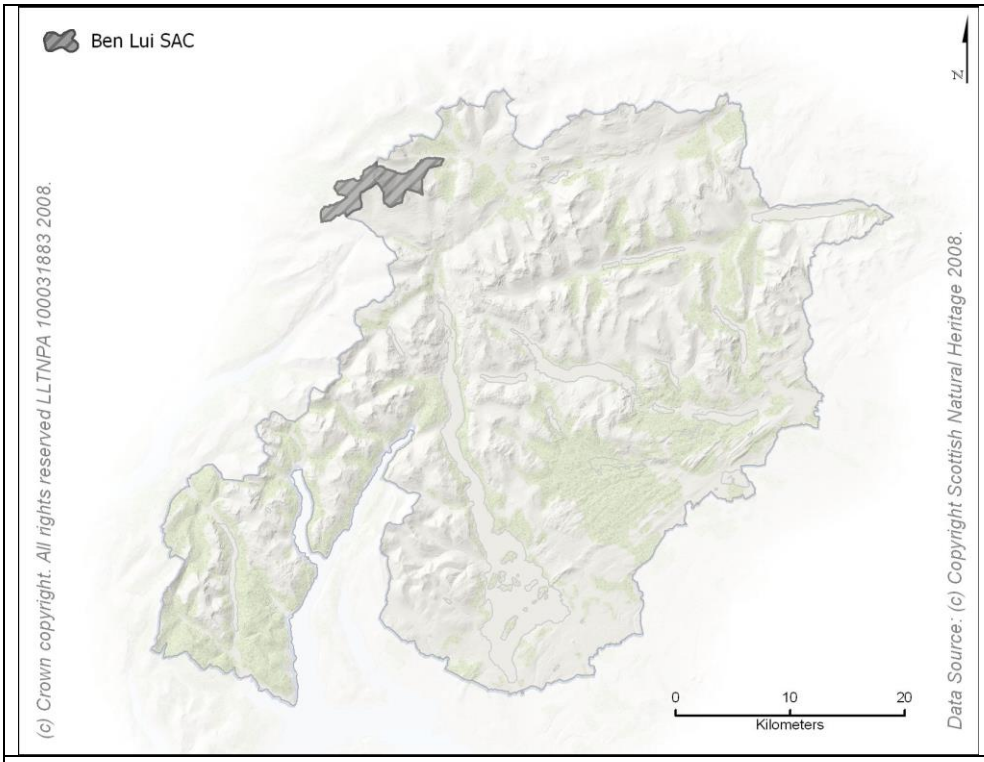
- Base-rich fens (Alkaline fens)
- Alpine and subalpine heaths (Alpine and Boreal heaths)
- Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands
- High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage*(Alpine pioneer formations of the Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae*)
- Blanket bog * **Indicates priority habitat*
- Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks (Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic plants)
- European Dry heaths
- Tall herb communities (Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels)
- Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels (Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea)
- Montane acid grasslands (Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands)
- Plants in crevices on acid rocks (Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation)
- Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas* (Species-rich Nardus grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe)*)
- Mountain willow scrub (Sub-Arctic Salix spp. Scrub)

Conservation Objectives:

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed above) 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:

- 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

Ben Lui SAC



Qualifying Interest(s):

- Base-rich fens (Alkaline fens)
- Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands
- High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage* (Alpine pioneer formations of the *Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae**)
- Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks (Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation)
- Tall herb communities (Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels)
- Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath (Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix)*
- Montane acid grasslands (Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands)
- Plants in crevices on acid rocks (Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation)
- Acidic scree (Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*))
- Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas (Species-rich *Nardus* grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe)*)
- Mountain willow scrub (Sub-Arctic *Salix* spp. Scrub)

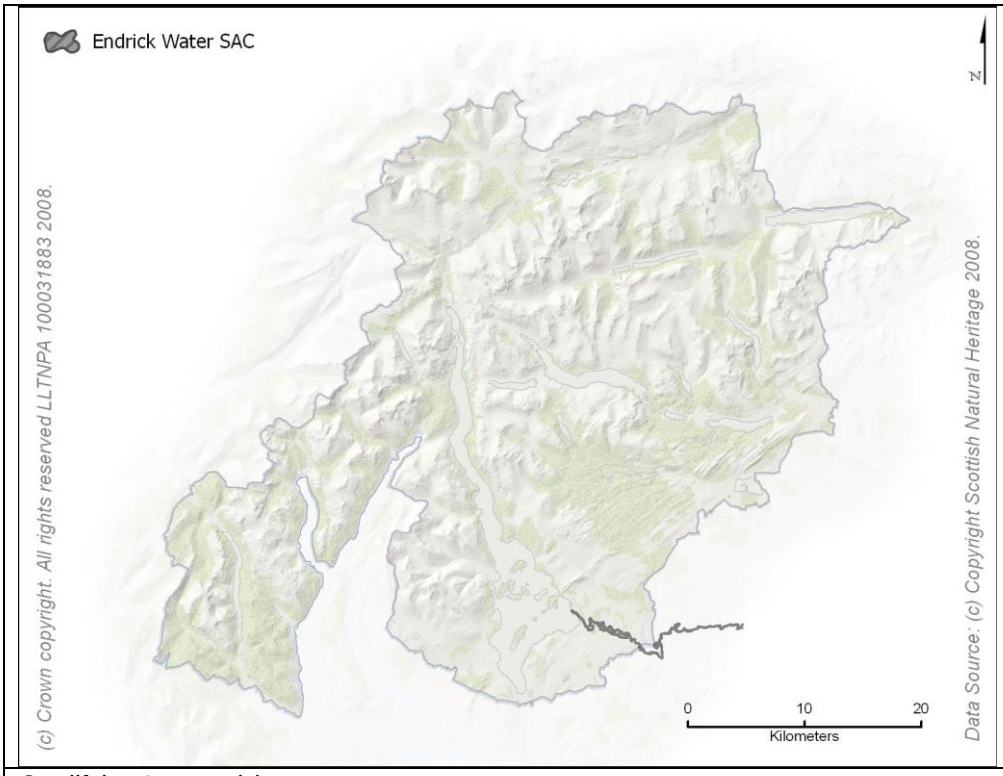
Conservation Objectives:

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed above) 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:

- 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

** Indicates priority habitat*

Endrick Water SAC



Qualifying Interest(s):

- River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis)
- Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri)
- Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar)

Conservation Objectives:

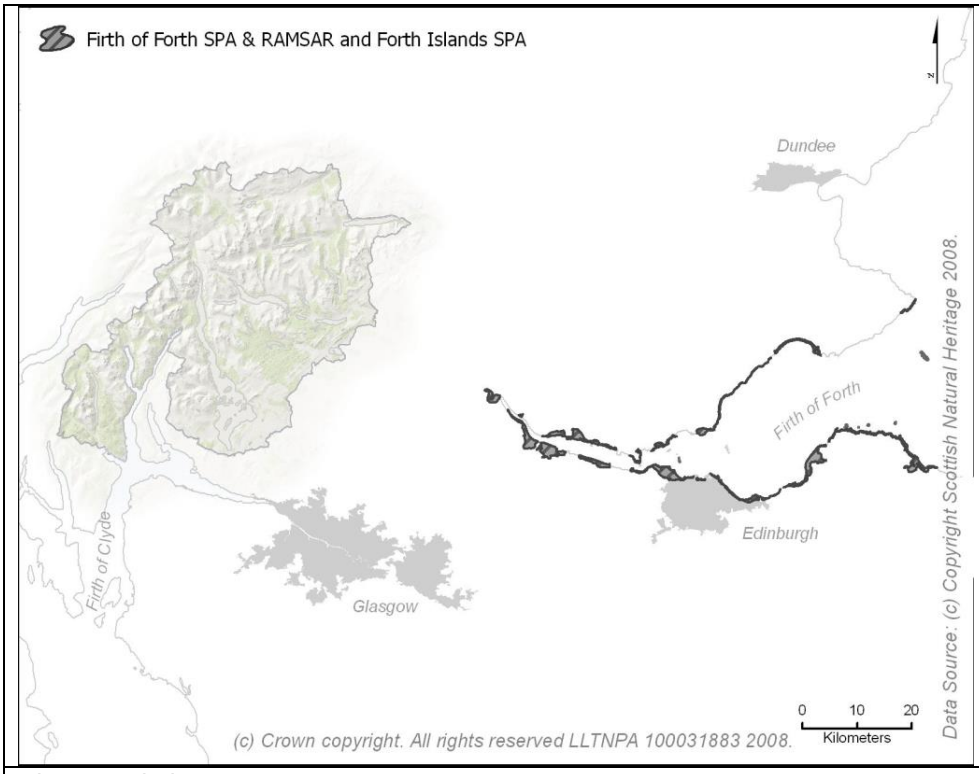
To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying 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

The site overlaps with Loch Lomond Special Protection Area

Forth Islands SPA



Site Description:
Forth Islands SPA consists of a series of islands supporting the main seabird colonies in the Firth of Forth. .The seaward extension extends approximately 2 km into the marine environment to include the seabed, water column and surface.

Qualifying Interest(s)

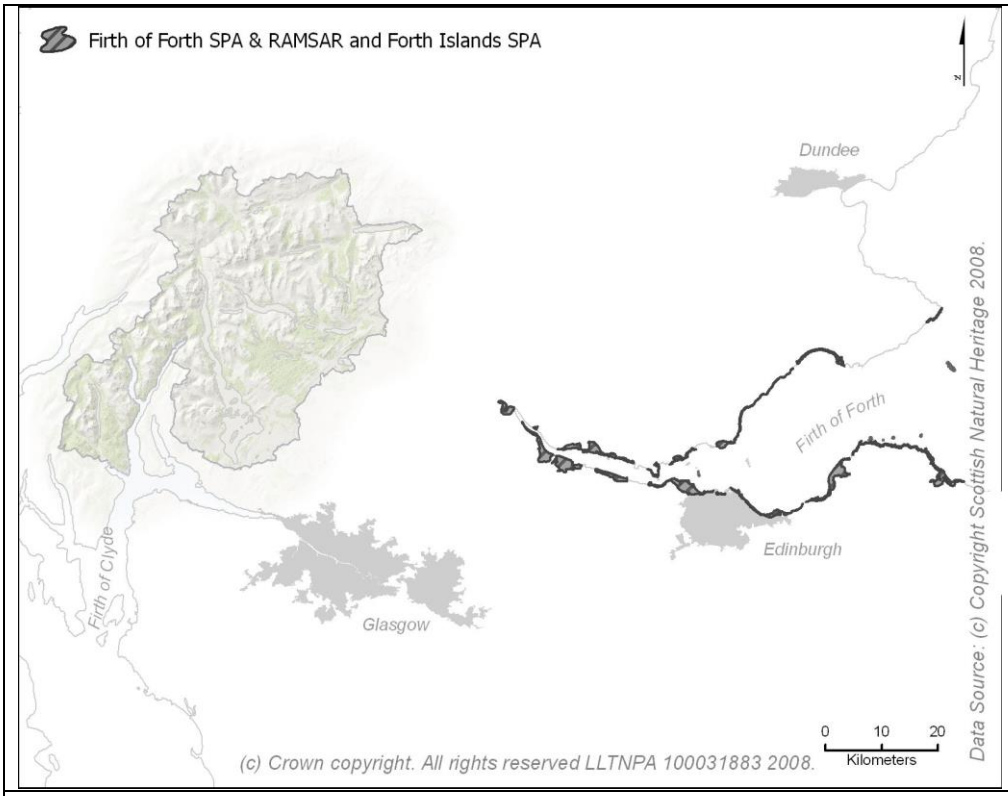
- Arctic tern (Sterna paradisaea)
- Common tern (Sterna hirundo)
- Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)*
- Gannet (Morus bassanus)
- Guillemot (Uria aalge)*
- Herring gull (Larus argentatus)*
- Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla)*
- Lesser black-backed gull (*Larus fuscus)*
- Puffin (Fratercula arctica)
- Razorbill (Alca torda)* (nationally important populations)
- Roseate tern (Sterna dougallii)
- Sandwich tern (Sterna sandvicensis)
- Shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis)
- Seabird assemblage

Conservation Objectives:
To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) 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:

- 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

** indicates assemblage qualifier only The site overlaps with Isle of May Special Area of Conservation.*

Firth of Forth SPA



Site description:

Qualifying interest(s):

- Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica)* (European Importance)
- Golden plover (Pluvialis apricaria) (European Importance)
- Red-throated diver (*Gavia stellar)* (European Importance)
- Slavonian grebe (*Podiceps au)* (European Importance)
- Knot (Calidris canutus) (Wintering populations)
- Pink-footed goose (Anser brachyrhynchus) (Wintering populations)
- Redshank (Tringa totanus) (Wintering populations)
- Shelduck (Tadorna tador) (Wintering populations)
- Turnstone (Arenaria interpres) (Wintering populations)
- Sandwich tern (Sterna sandvicensis) (Post-breeding (passage) population)

Wintering waterfowl assemblage including 15 migratory species:

- Common scoter (Melanitta nigra)*
- Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)*
- Curlew (Numenius arquata)*
- Dunlin (Calidris alpina alpina)*
- Eider (Somateria mollissima)*
- Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula)*
- Great crested grebe (Podiceps cristatus)*
- Grey plover (Pluvialis squatarola)*
- Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus)*
- Long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis)**
- Mallard (Anas platyrhnchos)*
- Oystercatcher (*Haematopus o*
- Red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator)**
- Ringed plover (Charadrius hiaticula) *
- Scaup (Aythya marila) *
- Velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca)**

- Wigeon (Anas penelope)*

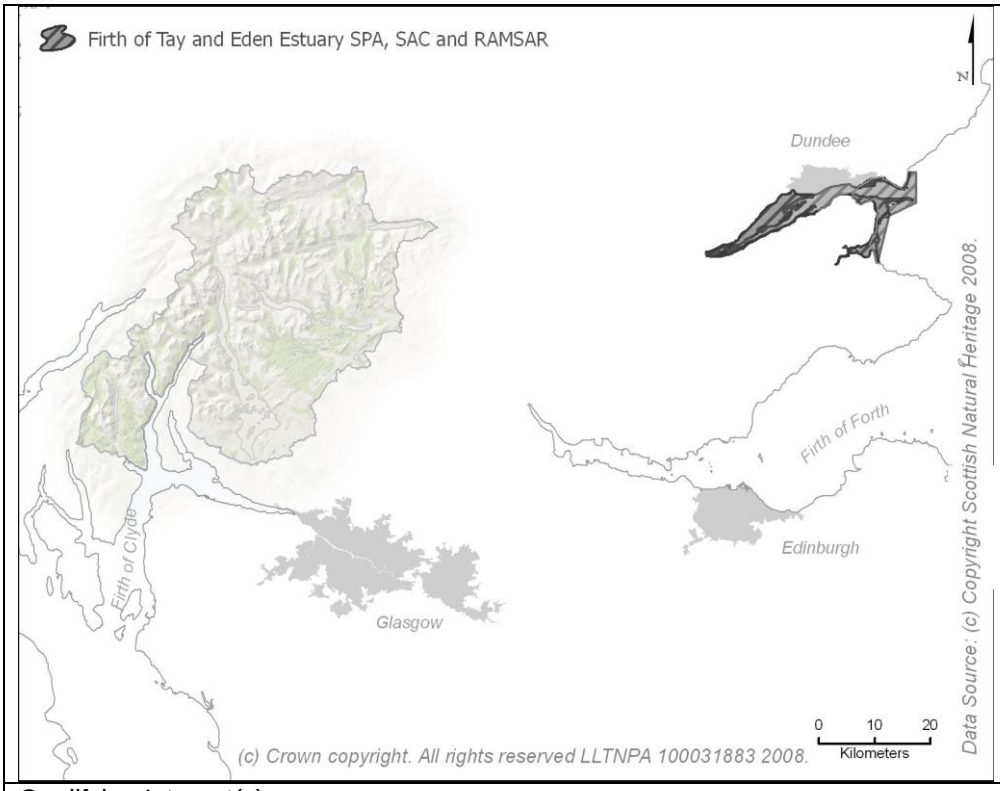
Conservation Objectives:
To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- 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

**indicates assemblage qualifier only*

Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC



Qualifying Interest(s):
Habitats

- Estuaries
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
- Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time

Species

- Common seal (Phoca vitulina)

Conservation Objectives:
Habitats - To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed above) 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:

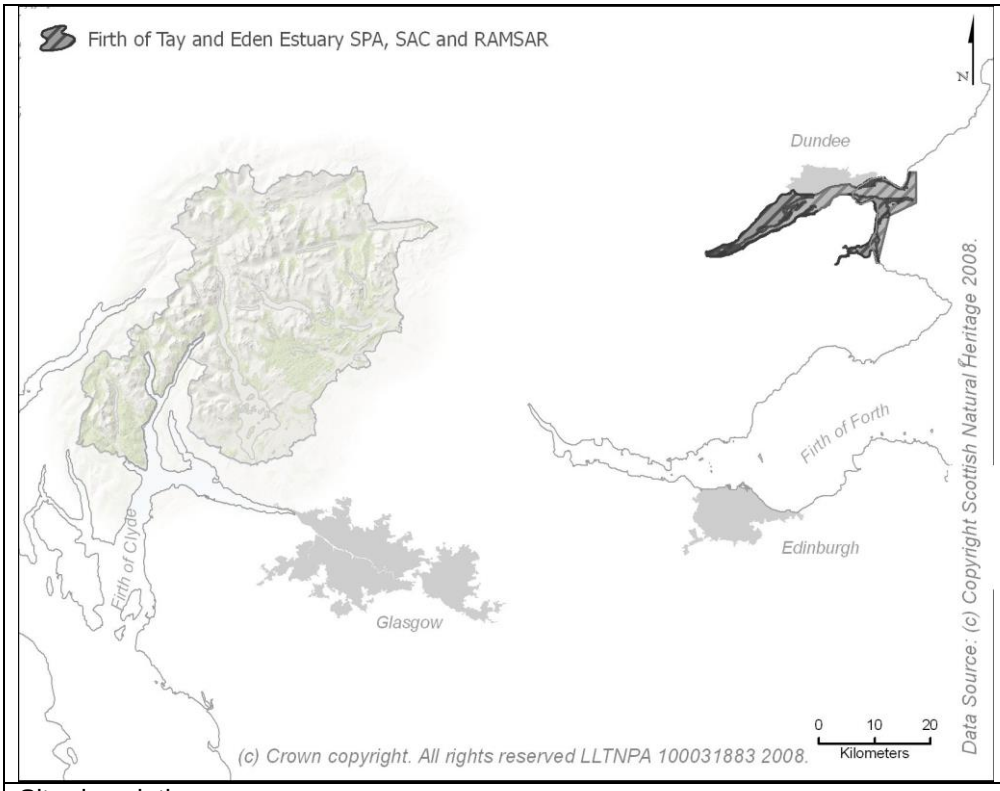
- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

Species - To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) 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 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

The site overlaps with Firth of Tay & Eden Estuary Special Protection Area.

Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SPA



Site description:
Qualifying interest(s):

- Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) (internationally important wintering population)
- Redshank (Tringa totanus) (internationally important wintering population)
- Anser anser• Little tern (Sterna albifrons) (Nationally important breeding populations)

- Marsh harrier (Circus aeruginosus) (Nationally important breeding populations)

Supporting in winter over 20,000 waterfowl including:

- Black-tailed godwit (Limosa limosa islandica)*
- Common scoter (*Melanitta nigra*)*
- Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)*
- Dunlin (Calidris alpina alpina)*
- Eider (Somateria mollissima)*
- Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula)*
- Goosander (Mergus merganser)*
- Grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)*
- Greylag goose
- Long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*)*
- Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus)*
- Pink-footed goose (Anser brachyrhynchus
- Red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*)*
- Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)*
- Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna
- Velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca*)*
- Waterfowl Assemblage

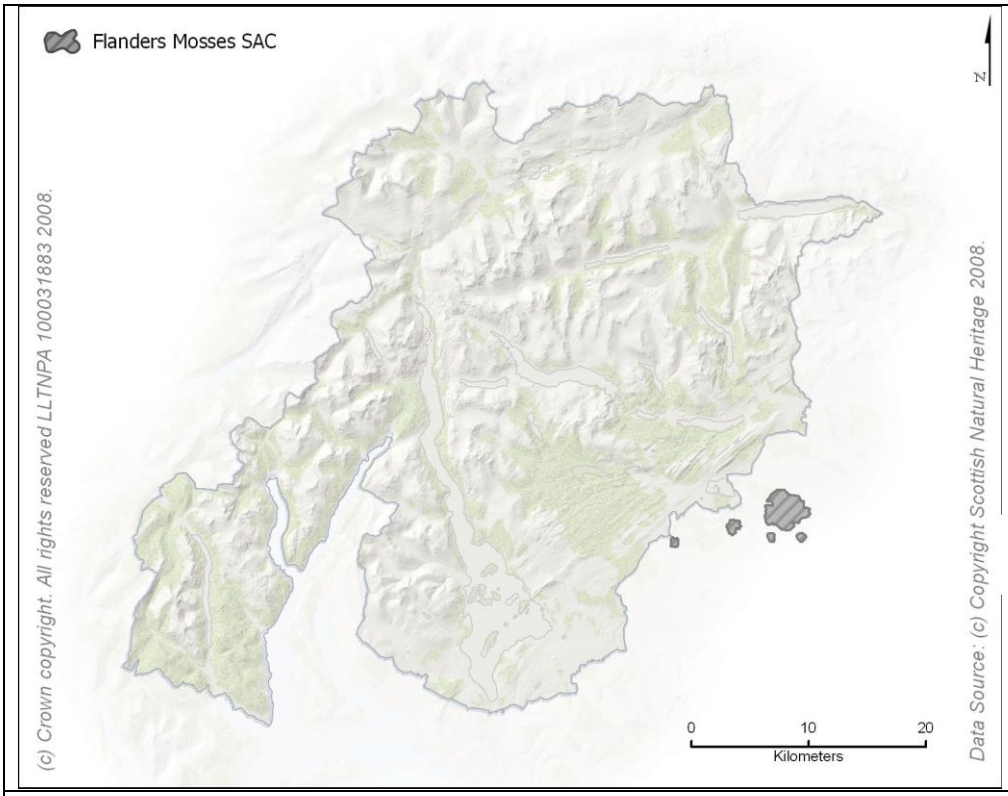
Conservation Objectives:

Habitats - To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) 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:

- 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

**Indicates assemblage qualifier only*

Flanders Mosses SAC



Qualifying Interest(s):

- Active raised bogs
- Degraded raised bog (Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration)

Conservation Objectives:

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:

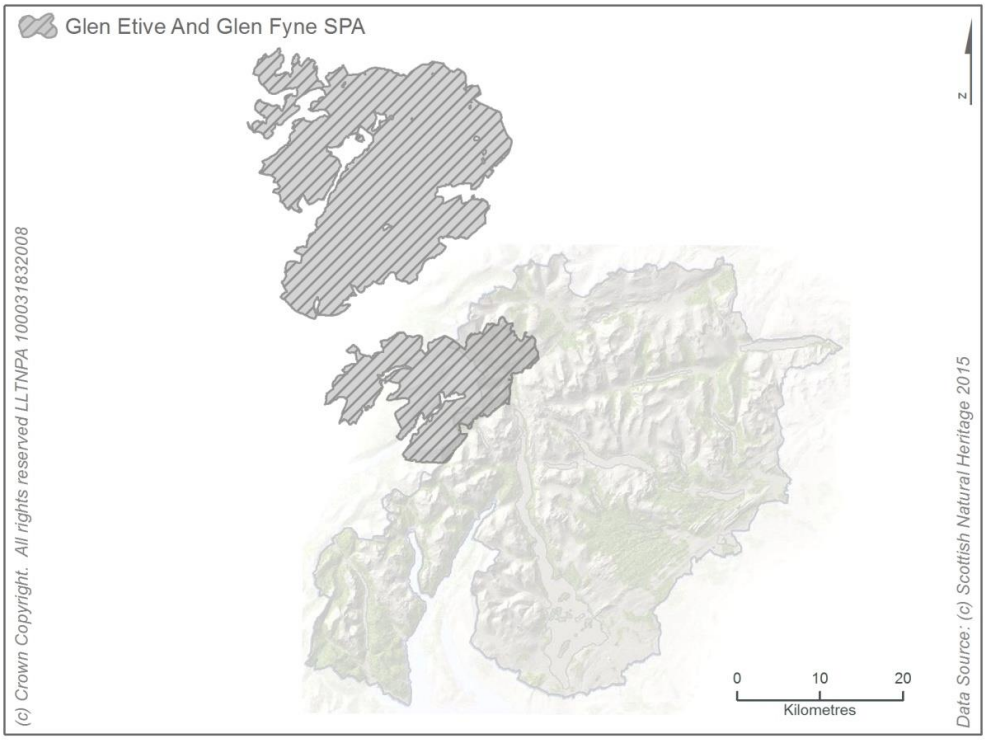
- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

Qualifying Habitats:

- Active raised bogs*
- Degraded raised bogs

** Indicates priority habitat*

Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA



Site Description:
Glen Etive and Glen Fyne Special Protection Area (SPA) is a large, predominantly upland site that rises from sea level to over 1100 m and encompasses a diverse range of habitats including heather moorland, rough grassland, blanket bog, native woodland, montane heaths and exposed rock and scree. There are also numerous freshwater lochs and river systems.
Qualifying Interest:

- Supports a population golden eagle Aquila chrysaetos.

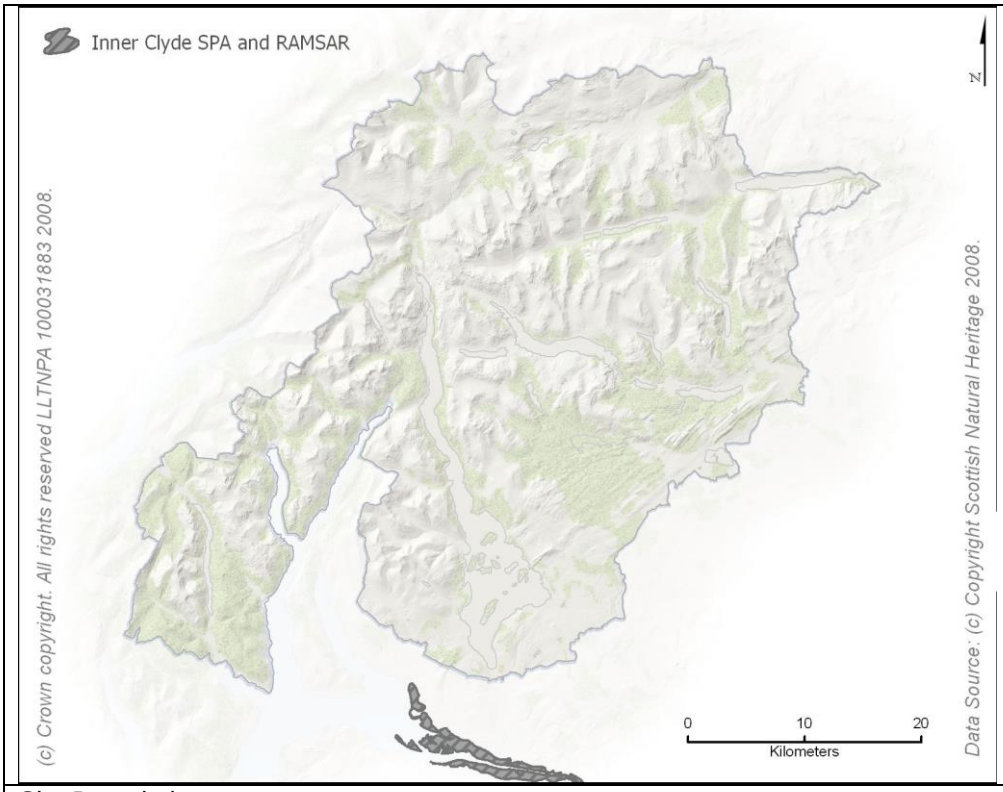
Conservation Objectives
To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- 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

This site overlaps with the following Special Areas of Conservation (SAC): Ben Lui, Glen Coe, Glen Creran Woods, Loch Etive Woods, Loch Lomond Woods, Rannoch Moor, River Tay and Glen Shira & also overlaps with Rannoch Lochs Special Protection Area (SPA).

Inner Clyde SPA



Site Description:
The Inner Clyde SPA contains extensive intertidal flats which support large numbers of wintering waterfowl.
Qualifying Interest:

- Redshank (Tringa totanus) (wintering population)

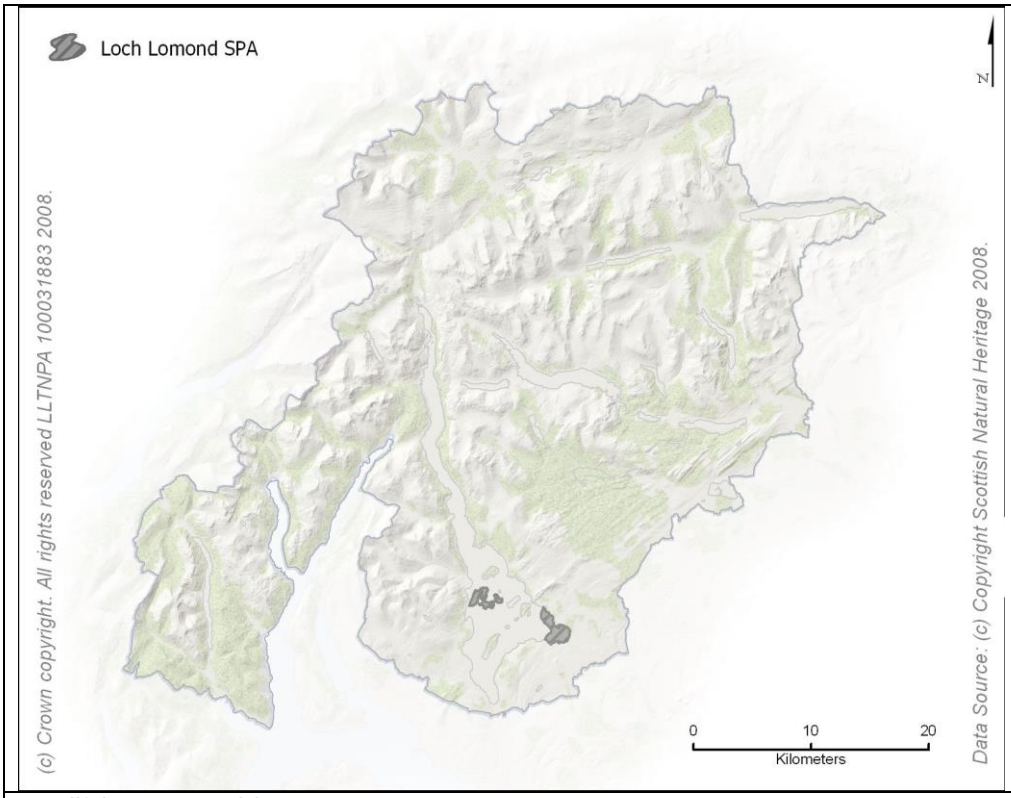
.

Conservation Objectives:
To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) 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:

- 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

Loch Lomond SPA



Qualifying Interest(s):

- Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus)
- Greenland white-fronted goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris)

Conservation Objectives:

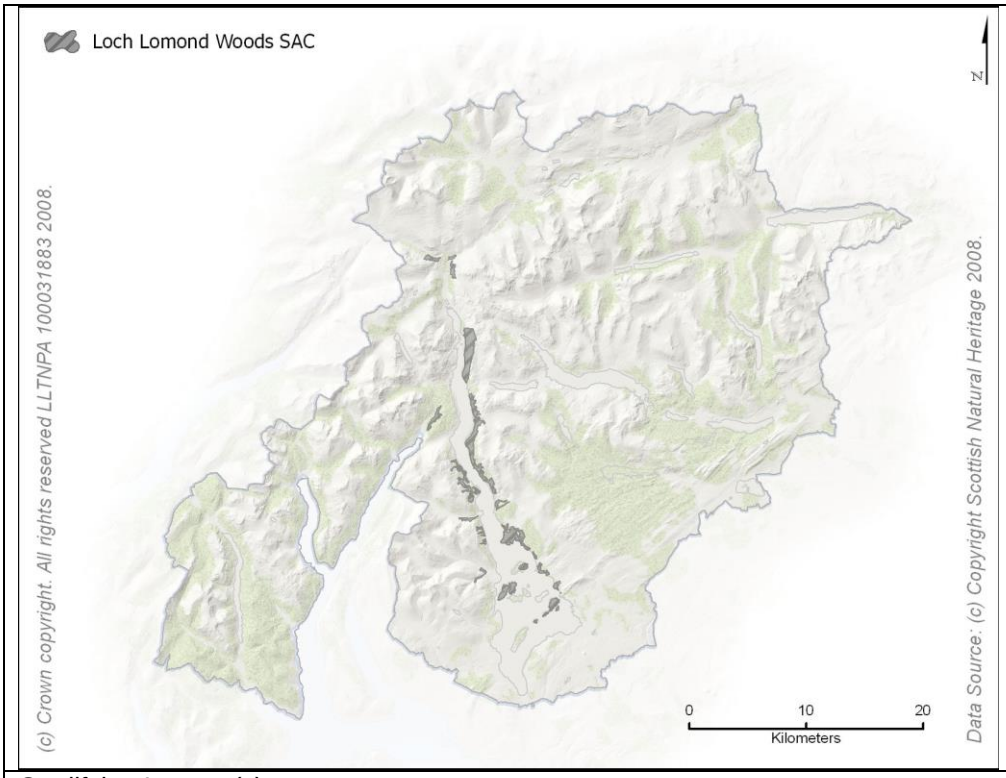
To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- 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

This site overlaps with Endrick Water Special Area of Conservation and Loch Lomond Woods Special Area of Conservation and Loch Lomond Ramsar Site.

Loch Lomond Woods SAC



Qualifying Interest(s):

- Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles)
- Otter (Lutra lutra)

Conservation Objectives:

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying **habitat** (listed above) 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:

- 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

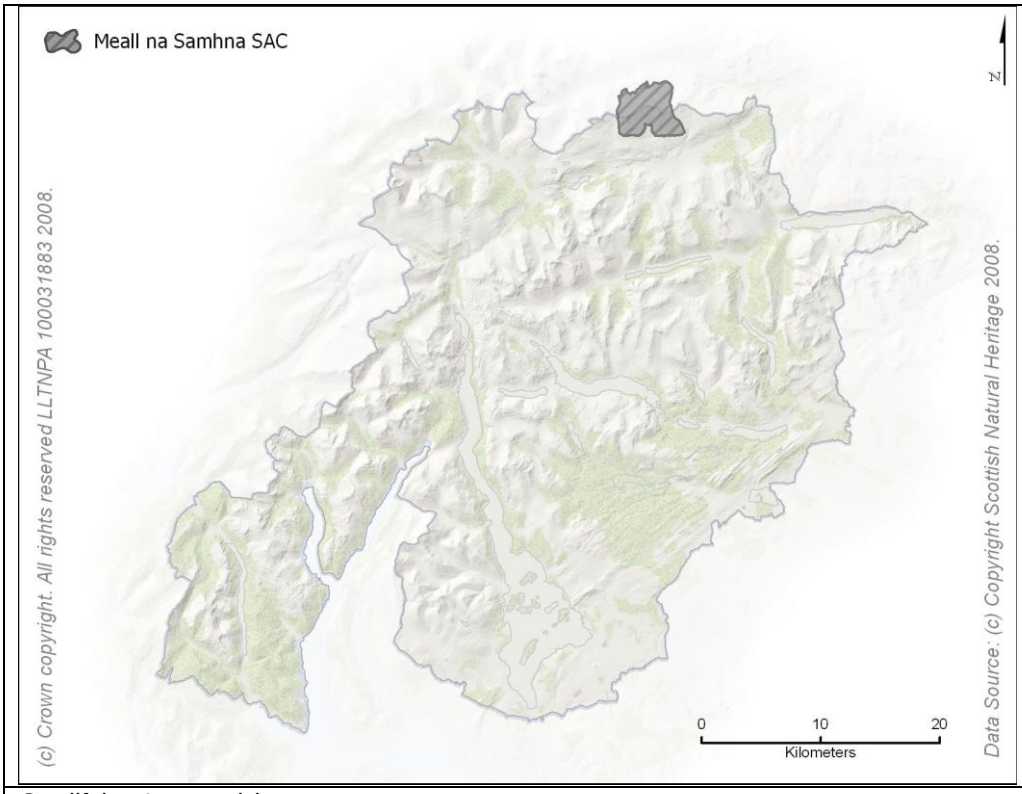
To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying **species** (listed above) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species 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

The site overlaps with Loch Lomond Special Protection Area and Locah Lomond Ramsar Site.

Meall na Samnha SAC



Qualifying Interest(s):

Habitats:

- Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands
- Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks (Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation)
- Tall herb communities (Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels)
- Montane acid grasslands (Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands)
- Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas (Species-rich *Nardus* grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas and submountain areas in continental Europe**
- Mountain willow scrub (Sub-Arctic *Salix* spp. Scrub)

Conservation Objectives:

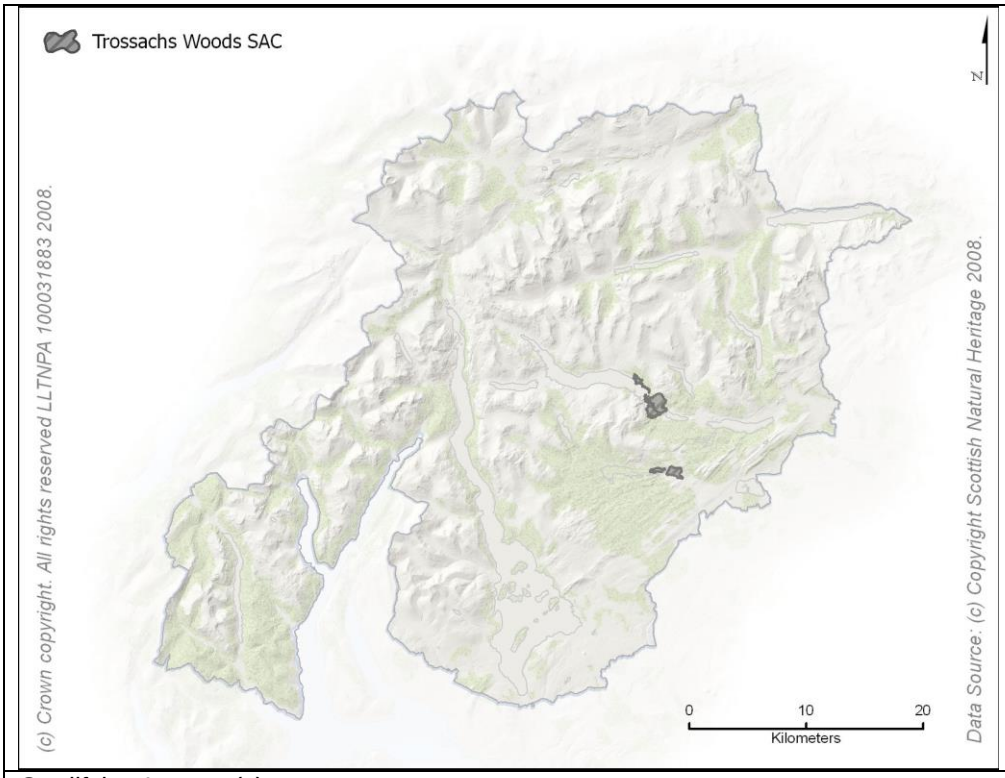
To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed above) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

- 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

** Indicates priority habitat*

Trossachs Woods SAC



Qualifying Interest(s):

- Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles)

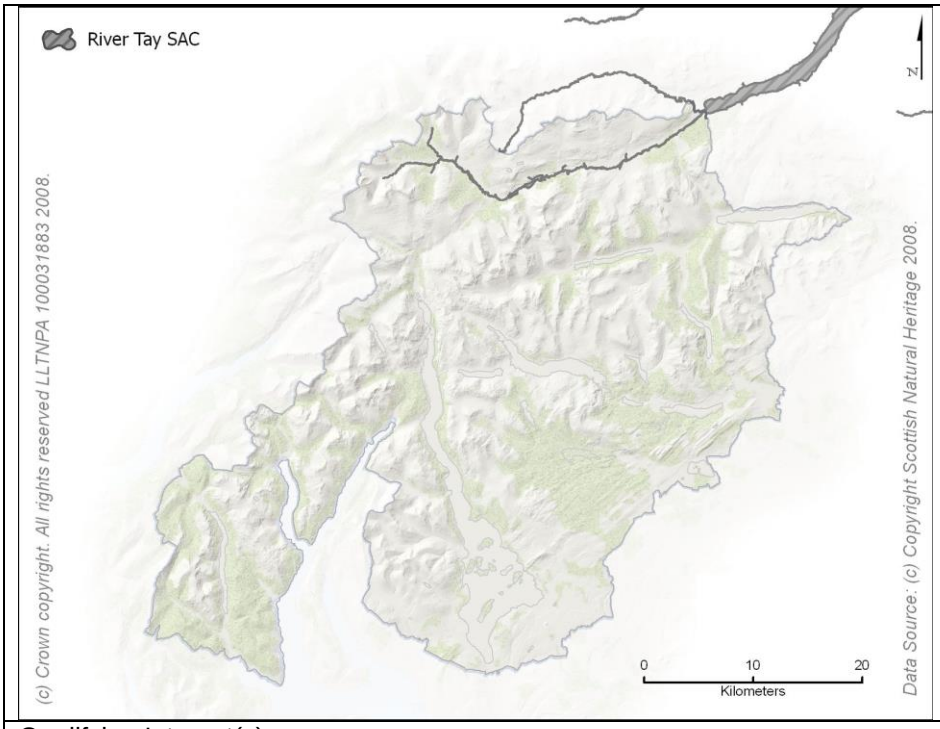
Conservation Objectives:

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (listed above) 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:

- 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

River Tay SAC



Qualifying Interest(s):

- River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis)
- Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri)
- Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus)
- Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar)
- Otter (Lutra lutra)
- Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels (Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea)*

Conservation Objectives:

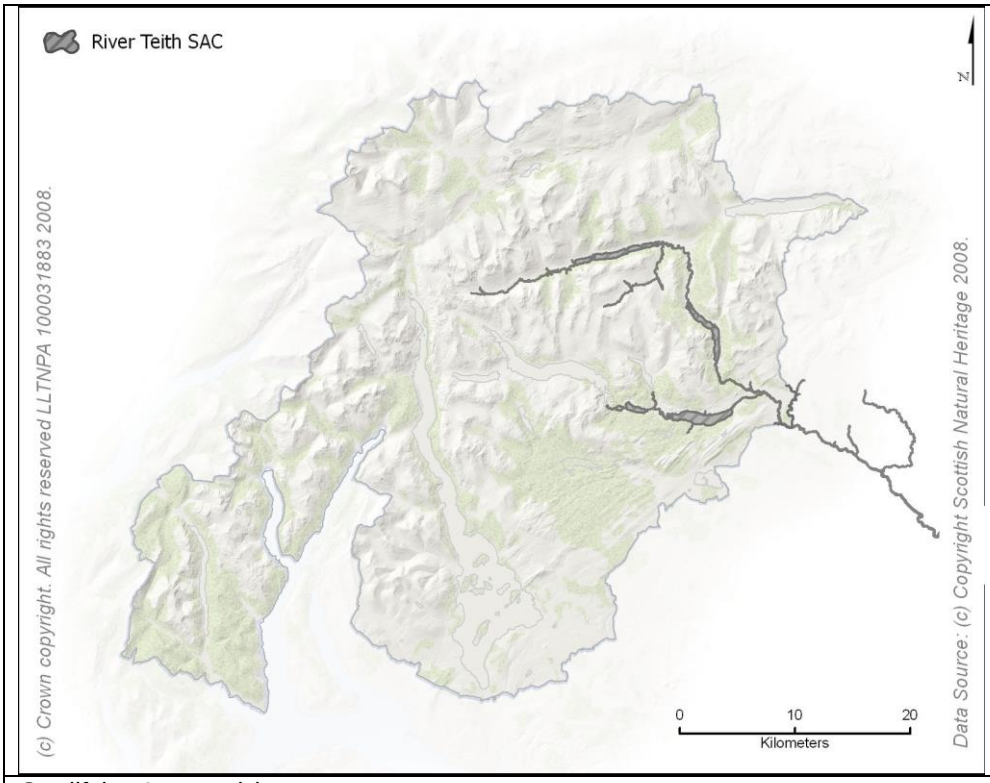
Habitat - To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (listed above) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and to ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:

- 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

Species - To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) 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

River Teith SAC



Qualifying Interest(s):

- River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis)
- Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri)
- Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus)
- Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar)

Conservation Objectives:
To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) 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

European sites scoped out

4.4 Two sites were scoped out as having "No Likely Significant Effect" in relation to all aspects of the Local Development Plan. Those were Flanders Mosses SAC and the Forth Islands SPA. For both of them, for all the policies and for all of the development location proposals, the previous HRA of the adopted local plan concluded that: *"No likely significant effects from any proposals were identified in relation of either of these European sites. Forth Islands SPA was considered to be too far downstream and too maritime in its influences to experience any effects from any of the proposals. Flanders Moss SAC, although hydrologically connected to the National Park, is upstream, by virtue of being ombrotrophic and therefore not subject to any possible influences from water quality. Any possible effects from air quality, e.g. from Class 5 industrial developments, quarries or biomass energy generation, were considered to be de minimis*"

4.5 For four others, the Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SPA and SAC, the Firth of Forth SPA, and the Inner Clyde SPA the only likely significant effect identified for the Plan was the potential for downstream effects on water quality. The subsequent screening for the Plan showed that there was sufficient mitigation in place for application process to ensure that there would be no adverse effects on these European sites.

4.6 Having reached these conclusions there is no likelihood that any of the policies or proposals in the LDP that could have a likely significant effect on those sites. As noted above, it is proposed that the six European sites below will not be included in the HRA. The reasons are summarised below for each site.

Table 2: *European Sites Scoped Out of the Appraisal*

European Site	**Reason for Scoping Out** [(1)]
Flanders Mosses SAC	Adjacent to Plan area but ombrotrophic (rain-fed) peatland so no possibility of downstream effects. The boggy terrain deters many recreation or tourism activities in the site, except in selected locations with sensitively constructed infrastructure, and these are subject to appropriate conservation management.
Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SPA	Estuary too far downstream of Plan area to be affected by any changes in water quality under the Local Development Plan. Too geographically distant to be affected by any small-scale housing, economic development, recreational, transport or tourism development. Additionally the River Tay is upstream of the site and any potential impacts on water quality is therefore assessed as part of this HRA.
Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC	Estuary too far downstream of Plan area to be affected by any changes in water quality under the Local Development Plan. Too geographically distant to be affected by any small-scale housing, economic development, recreational, transport or tourism development. Additionally the River Tay is upstream of the site and any potential impacts on water quality is therefore assessed as part of this HRA.
Firth of Forth SPA	Estuary too far downstream of Plan area to be affected by any changes in water quality under the Local Development Plan. Too geographically distant to be affected by any small-scale housing, economic development, recreational, transport or tourism development. Additionally, the River Teith is upstream of the site and any potential impacts on water quality is therefore assessed as part of this HRA.

Forth Islands SPA	Islands too far downstream of Plan area, and with too strong a maritime influence to be affected by any changes in water quality under the Local Development Plan. Too geographically distant to be affected by any small-scale housing, economic development, recreational, transport or tourism development. Additionally, the River Teith is upstream of the site and any potential impacts on water quality is therefore assessed as part of this HRA.
Inner Clyde SPA	Estuary too far downstream of Plan area to be affected by any changes in water quality under the Local Development Plan. The impact from any polices or proposals in the Local Development Plan will be de minimis due to the effect of dilution and biological breakdown in the river and estuary systems before they reach the SPA. Too geographically distant to be affected by disturbance from any small-scale housing, economic development, recreational, transport or tourism development in the National Park.

Section 5 - Screening the Local Development Plan

5.1 Having gathered information on the European sites potentially affected by the Local Development Plan as set out in Table 1 and scoping out of 6 sites (see Table 2), the Local Development Plan has followed the screening process as set out in the SNH guidance as follows:

Table 3: *SNH Guidance - Screening Steps*

Step 1	Screening out general policy statements
Step 2	Screening out projects referred to in, but not proposed by the Plan - These could be projects that are to be delivered as part of national infrastructure and promoted by national government and where the plan will play no part in its delivery or are subject to consent directly from Scottish Ministers.
Step 3	Screening out aspects of the Plan that could have no likely significant effect on a site alone a) Because they are intended to protect the natural environment b) This will not themselves lead to development or other change because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria c) Which make provision for change but could have no conceivable effect on a European site, e.g. because there is no link or path way or any effects would be positive or would not otherwise undermine the conservation objectives of the site; d) Which make a provision for change but which could have no significant effect (and hence a minor residual effect) on a European site because any potential effects would be insignificant, being so restricted or remote from the site that they would not undermine the conservation objectives for the site. e) For which the effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected.

5.2 **Step 1-3:** The screening process of the Local Development Plan has therefore included a record of policies and proposals that are not likely to have a significant effect on a European Site.

Table 4: *Policies not likely to have a significant effect (alone) on a European Site*

Aspects of the Plan which would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site alone	**Relevant parts of the Plan**
General Policy Statements *(Step1)*	• Introduction • Vision • Spatial Strategy • Strategic Principle Policy (OP1) • Development Requirements Policy (OP2) • Development Contributions Policy (OP3)
Projects excluded from appraisal because they are not proposals generated by this Plan *(Step 2)*	Transport Projects – listed below in Table 11 – other relevant plans and projects.
Policies which protect the natural environment, including biodiversity or conserving or enhancing the natural, built/historic or cultural environment. *Step 3(a)*	• Natural Environment Policies (NEP1 to NEP16 (excluding NEP12 Marine and Inland Aquaculture) • Renewable Energy Developments Adjacent to the National Park (REP2) • Historic Environment Policies (HEP1 – HEP8) • Sustainable Waste Management Policies - Waste management facilities (SWP2)

Policies which will not lead to development or other change because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria. *Step3(b)*	• Visitor Experience Policy – Delivering World Class Visitor Experience (VEP2)
	• Transport Policy - Design standards of new development (TRP3)
	• Open Space Policy (OSP1)
	• Economic Development Policy – Safeguarding sites (EDP3)
	• Supplementary Guidance:
	  ○ Design and Placemaking
	  ○ Housing
	  ○ West Loch Lomondside Rural Development Framework
	  ○ Buchanan Rural Development Framework
	  ○ Callander South Masterplan Framework

Which make provision for change but could have no conceivable effect on a European Site because there is no link or path way or any effects would be positive or would not otherwise undermine the conservation objectives of the site. *Step 3(c)*	• Retail Policies – Display of Advertisement (RET3) • Visitor Experience Policy – Safeguarding existing tourism sites (VEP3)

Which make a provision for change but which could have no significant effect (and hence a *minor residual effect*) on a European Site because any potential effects would be insignificant, being so restricted or remote from the site that they would not undermine the conservation objectives for the site (See Table 7 for 'In-combination effects) (paragraphs 4.34 – 4.41 of the SNH Guidance) re in combination effects with other aspects of the same plan or in combination with other plans or projects. *Step 3(d).*	• Sustainable Waste Management Policies – Waste management requirements for new developments (SWP1) • Housing Policy – Providing a diverse range of housing (HP1)
For which the effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified because the proposal is too general, for example, it is not known where or when or how the proposal will be implemented or where effects may occur or where sites if any may be effected. *Step 3(e).*	• Open Space Policies– protecting other important open space, new open space opportunities (OSP2,OSP3) • Marine and Inland Aquaculture (NEP12) • Economic Development in towns and villages (EP1) • Economic Development in the Countryside and Small Rural Communities (EDP2) • Safeguarding Economic Development sites (EDP3) • Telecommunications Policy (TELP1) • Transport Policy – Safeguarding sites to improve the Transport Network (TRP1) • Transport Policy - Promoting sustainable travel and improved active travel options (TRP2) • Housing Policy – Location and types of Housing Required (HP2) • Sustainable Waste Management Policy – Waste Management Facilities (SWP2) • Community Facilities Policy: Supporting New and Existing Community Facilities (CF1) • Mineral Extraction Policy (MEP1) *Note: This policy has no spatial strategy and even though the existing minerals sites are known and could be extended, it is not known when any proposal may come forward for an extension.*

Plan policies that may have a significant effect

5.3 The above Table 4 screens out a number of planning policies that do not have significant effect. Those remaining policies that cannot be screened out are included in Table 5. They are considered only to have a potential significant effect alone. The 'in combination' assessment is found at paragraph 5.8, Table 9 below.

Table 5: *Summary of plan policies where there is a likelihood of a significant effect on a European site alone cannot be ruled out (in-combination)*

Policy	Description	European Sites that may be affected and reason for potential effect
REP1	Renewable Energy within the National Park	All European sites within the National Park boundary may be affected by this policy given it proposes new, and supports existing, businesses, industry within towns and villages near to SACs and SPAs. The potential effects are mainly on water quality but also include potential disturbance to birds and loss of woodland within woodland SACs. There are maps showing likely locations of new hydro schemes and small-scale wind therefore locations are identifiable. The proposals would not have any significant effect on the upland Ben Lawers SAC given this upland area is remote from any proposals.
VEP1	Visitor Experience Policy – Location and Scale of New Development	The policy supports new and, extensions to existing, tourism related development proposals. This includes the construction of tourism facilities (visitor centres etc.), infrastructure (paths, pontoons etc.) and accommodation (hotels, lodges, camping sites etc.) The policy could have been screened out as the location of these new developments (on non-allocated sites) using the criteria is largely unknown. However, we do know that we would support National Park Partnership projects such as the new camping proposals, paths projects and support proposals within an area identified on the Development Strategy map on page 19 of the Local Development Plan. Therefore, there are potential significant effects for the woodland and upland European sites particularly in terms of habitat loss or disturbance to birds or otters.

Plan proposals that currently have planning permission

5.4 Plan proposals that have already obtained planning permission were screened out as these proposals would have been considered in relation to the requirements of the Habitats Regulations as part of the decision making process. Where required an Appropriate Assessment would have been undertaken and appropriate mitigation measures developed and applied. Table 6 below lists the Plan proposals that were screened out because they currently have planning permission.

Table 6: *Plan proposals with current planning permission as of October 2016*

Site reference and name	**Proposal**
Aberfoyle ED1: Forestry Commission Service Yard	Economic development - Temporary Siting of Portacabin Office
Arrochar H3: Dunbritton Site	Housing Development
Arrochar MU1: Land Adjacent to Three Villages Hall	Mixed Use – Visitor experience and community use
Balloch TR1: Loch Lomond Shores	Transport – new pontoon for waterbus
Balloch MU2: Carrochan Road	Mixed Use - 23 homes and car parking
Callander R1: Stirling Road	Retail
Carrick Castle H1: Former Hotel Site	Housing

Drymen H2: Stirling Road (formerly Gartness Road)	Housing
Tarbet VE3: Former Harvey's Garage Site	Visitor experience - Erection of guesthouse and 3 self-catering units
Kilmun H1: Finnartmore, Former Nursing Home	Housing
Callander H2: Old Telephone Exchange, Station Road (Housing)	Housing

Plan proposals where there is no likelihood of a significant effect on a European site

5.5 The following Table 7 sets out the proposals which have been screened out as even though they make a provision for change, they could have no conceivable effect on a European site because there is no link or pathway between them and the qualifying interest or any potential effect would be trivial or 'de minimis' or so restricted that they would not undermine the conservation objectives of the European site. These proposals also have no 'in combination' effects in relation to the site listed below so are screened out and do not require an Appropriate Assessment.

Table 7: *Proposals where there is no likelihood of a significant effect on a European site (Alone)*

Proposal reference, name, location and land use	Summary justification for screening out
• Arrochar H1: Cobblers Rest (Housing) • Arrochar H2: Succoth(Housing) • Arrochar H3: Church Road (Housing) • Arrochar ED1: Arrochar (Economic Development) • Arrochar VE1: Ben Arthur (Housing (16 homes) and Visitor Experience • Arrochar MU2: Succoth (Visitor experience, community use and open space) • Arrochar PP: New Village Centre (Placemaking priority) • Arrochar TR1: Arrochar Pier (Transport)	<u>Loch Lomond Woods SAC</u> The potential impacts would be de minimis given there are no sites immediately on the boundary of the SAC and the impacts from escaped invasive species is likely to be minimal. In terms of increased people in the area, people are likely to keep to the existing path network (Glen Loin path) and therefore no potential significant impact on the woodland qualifying interests.
• Balloch H1: Land North of Craiglomond Gardens (Housing) • Balloch VE3: Balloch Castle, Balloch Country Park (Visitor experience) • Balloch MU2: Carrochan Road (Mixed Use, 23 homes and car parking) • Balloch VE4: Woodbank House (Visitor experience) • Balloch VE2: East Riverside (Visitor Experience)	<u>Endrick Water SAC</u> There is no pathway between this site and the River Leven which is downstream of Endrick Water SAC.
• Callander H1: Pearl Street, (Housing) • Callander LT3: Balgibbon Drive (Housing – Long-term) • Callander MU1: Station Road (Mixed use retail, business, car parking and transport) • Callander PP: Town Centre and Meadows (Placemaking priority) • Callander VE1: Auchenlaich (Visitor experience)	<u>River Teith SAC</u> There is no pathway between these proposals and the River Teith SAC or its tributaries, therefore no likelihood of a significant effect on the qualifying interests.

Proposal reference, name, location and land use	Summary justification for screening out
• Crianlarich H1: Willowbrae, (Housing) • Crianlarich ED1: West of station, Crianlarich (Economic Development) • Tyndrum PP – Placemaking priority	River Tay SAC The proposal at Willowbrae is located approximately 163m from the River Tay SAC and the land at the station is approximately 400m from the River Tay SAC. Both proposals will result in the development of sites within the town on the other side of the main road A83(T). The Tyndrum Placemaking priority allows for public realm improvements along the A83(T), not adjacent to the River Tay SAC. Due to the distance of all these proposals from the River Tay SAC any pollution, sediment from construction and/or surface drainage would be 'de minimis'. Any proposed development will connect to the public waste water treatment works.
• Croftamie VE1: Pirniehall, (Visitor experience) • Drymen MU1: Salmon Leap, Drymen (Housing) • Drymen H1: Laurelfields, Drymen (Housing) • Drymen PP: Village Square, Drymen (Placemaking priority) • Drymen TR1: Balmaha Road (Car Parking) • Drymen LT1: South Stirling Road (Long Term Housing)	Endrick Water SAC The proposals are located within Drymen or on the outskirts of Croftamie and there is no link or pathway between the proposal and Endrick Water SAC therefore no likelihood of a significant effect on the qualifying interests.
• Gartmore H1: Park Avenue (Housing)	No European sites in the vicinity of this proposal in Gartmore, therefore there is no link or pathway between the proposal and any European site.
• Gartocharn H1: Burnbrae Farm, Gartocharn (Transport) • Gartocharn H2: France Farm, Gartocharn (Housing)	Endrick Water SAC, Loch Lomond Woods SAC, and Loch Lomond SPA There is no receptor/pathway to Endrick SAC. The proposal is also not in close vicinity to Loch Lomond Woods SAC – nearest place is near Balmaha. Therefore any impacts of noise, disturbance to geese, increase use of woodlands and impacts on water quality would be de minimis. Any proposed development will connect to the public waste water treatment works. H1 only is screened out in relation to Loch Lomond SPA as there no receptor/pathway to Loch Lomond SPA as Gartocharn village lies between the proposal. This proposal may affect the Loch Lomond SPA alone and in-combination (see Table 8)

Proposal reference, name, location and land use	Summary justification for screening out
	Note: H2 is screened in as potential alone effects on Loch Lomond SPA.
• Strone H2: High Road (Housing) • Blairmore PP: Village Centre (Placemaking priority) and Blairmore VE1: Blairmore Green (Visitor experience)	No European sites within close proximity of these allocated sites; therefore there is no link or pathway between the proposal and any European site.
• Lochearnhead MU1: (Visitor experience and economic development) • Lochearnhead H1: Holiday Centre (Housing)	No European sites in the vicinity of these proposals in Lochearnhead, therefore there is no link or pathway between the proposal and any European site.
• Lochgoilhead H1: Land North and East of Donich Park (Housing)	No European sites within close proximity of these allocated sites; therefore there is no link or pathway between the proposal and any European site.
• Luss H1: Land North of Hawthorn Cottage, Luss (Housing) • Luss H2: Land North of Lomond Arms (Housing) • Luss MU1: Land North of Primary School and Former filling station (Mixed Use visitor experience and public realm)	Endrick Water SAC The proposals are located within Luss and there is no link or pathway between the proposal and Endrick Water SAC therefore no likelihood of a significant effect on the qualifying interests.
• St Fillans H1: Station Road (Housing)	No European sites in the vicinity of this proposal in St Fillans, therefore there is no link or pathway between the proposal and any European site.
• Tarbet H1: Land South of A83 (Housing) • Tarbet VE1: Tourist Information Centre (Visitor experience) • Tarbet VE3: Land to Rear of Tarbet Hotel (Visitor experience) • Tarbet PP: Tarbet Village Centre (Placemaking priority) • Tarbet MU1: Central Green (Visitor experience and open space) • Tarbet TR1: Tarbet Pier (Transport)	Endrick Water SAC The proposals lie approximately 20km upstream of the Endrick Water SAC. The proposals are too geographically remote from the Endrick Water SAC and its qualifying interests.

Plan proposals that may have a significant effect

5.6 The following Table 8 list all the proposals where it is not possible, without mitigation, to eliminate the likelihood of a significant effect on a European site. All proposals within the Local Development Plan are either included in Table 6 above which includes proposals excluded as they have planning permission or Table 7 which includes a list of proposals that have no potential to affect a European site. This is part of the screening process and it can be concluded that the following proposals identified in the Local Development Plan will require an Appropriate Assessment due to potential significant effects on a European site alone. The 'in combination' assessment follows below.

Table 8: *Proposals where there is a likelihood of a significant effect on a European site alone cannot be ruled out (requiring Appropriate Assessment)*

Proposal reference, name and location and land use	European Sites(s) likely to be affected	Reason for potential effect
Balmaha TR1: Balmaha Pier (Transport)	Endrick Water SAC, Loch Lomond SPA	Proposal sits within Loch Lomond and has pathway to Endrick Water SAC and within close vicinity to Loch Lomond SPA.
Balmaha H1: Forestry Commission site (Housing)	Endrick Water SAC, Loch Lomond SPA,	Proposal has pathway (Loch Lomond) to Endrick Water SAC and within close vicinity to Loch Lomond SPA.
Balloch VE1: West Riverside (Visitor experience)	Endrick Water SAC	Proposal is immediately adjacent to River Leven and has pathway to Endrick Water SAC
Callander ED1: Lagrannoch Industrial Estate (Economic development)	River Teith SAC	Proposal is immediately adjacent to River Teith SAC.
Callander MU2: Claish Farm (Mixed use visitor experience, economic development, housing and playing field)	River Teith SAC	Proposal is immediately adjacent to River Teith SAC.
Callander LT2: Claish Farm South (Long term mixed use housing and visitor experience)	River Teith SAC	Proposal is immediately adjacent to River Teith SAC.
Callander LT1: Cambusmore (Long term Visitor experience)	River Teith SAC	Proposal is immediately adjacent to River Teith SAC.
Callander RA1: Callander East (Rural activity area)	River Teith SAC	Proposal is immediately adjacent to burn which flows into the River Teith SAC.
Croftamie H1: Buchanan Crescent (Housing)	Endrick Water SAC	Proposal lies on the hillside near (approximately 40m) to a small tributary burn to Endrick Water SAC (a pathway).
DrymenRA1: Drymen South (Rural Activity)	Endrick Water SAC, Loch Lomond SPA	Proposal is near to (approximately 60m) Endrick Water SAC and Loch Lomond SPA.
Gartocharn H2: France Farm, (Housing)	Loch Lomond SPA	Proposal is close to fields that are used for roosting geese the qualifying interest of Loch Lomond SPA with no development between the site and the SPA.
Killin ED1: Road Depot (Economic Development)	River Tay SAC	Proposal is immediately adjacent to River Tay SAC. Proposal may affect air quality and is downwind of upland SACs and SPAs including Beinn Heasgarnich, Meall na Samnha, Ben Lui, Ben Lawers and Glen Etive and Glen Fyne.
Killin RA1: Acharn (Rural activity area)	River Tay SAC	Proposal is near to River Tay SAC with ditches and drains running into the river. Proposal may affect air quality and is downwind of upland SACs and SPAs including Beinn Heasgarnich, Meall na Samnha, Ben Lui, Ben Lawers and Glen Etive and Glen Fyne.

Proposal reference, name and location and land use	European Sites(s) likely to be affected	Reason for potential effect
Tyndrum MU1: Clifton (Mixed use visitor experience and economic development)	River Tay SAC	Proposal is immediately adjacent to River Tay SAC.
Strath Fillan RA1: Strathfillan (Rural Activity Area)	River Tay SAC	Proposal is immediately adjacent to River Tay SAC. Proposal may affect air quality and is downwind of upland SACs and SPAs including Beinn Heasgarnich, Meall na Samnha, Ben Lui, Ben Lawers and Glen Etive and Glen Fyne.

Consideration of likely significant effects in combination

In-combination with other aspects of the Local Development Plan

5.7 A number of proposals were screened out as they have planning permission (Table 6) or have no potential impact on a European site (Table 7) or screened in as there was a likely significant effect (Table 8). Each proposal was then considered in terms of significant effect on a European site 'in combination' with other policies and proposals.

5.8 As can be seen from above (Table 7) there are a large number of proposals contained within the Plan which have the potential to have likely significant effect 'in combination' that were screened out as having 'alone' effects. These effects either relate to river and estuary European sites where the potential impacts are on water quality in a given catchment or increased disturbance on European sites protected for birds or woodland due to the increase in number of visitors or residents.

5.9 In relation to water quality none of the proposals are immediately adjacent to the watercourses so potential impacts are only from any increases in use of existing waste water treatment works or private waste systems but this would be tightly controlled by SEPA and is unlikely to have any effects on the water quality of the river SACs. Even when the proposals are considered in combination the cumulative impact on the water quality is considered to be de minimis.

5.10 In relation to the woodland SACs, there are no proposals directly adjacent to the woodland SAC but is identified in Table 7 that there is potential for minor impacts in terms of invasive species escaping from gardens and from increased footfall in the woodlands or construction of new paths within the woodland supported by policy VE1. However, there are existing well established paths through or adjacent to Loch Lomond woodlands, such as Glen Loin path, Luss Glen Waterfall path, West Highland Way and Millennium trail. The accessibility and firm walking surface of these paths will focus visitor presence onto them, so impacts on qualifying features would be minimal. For Trossachs SAC, the terrain and the existence of established footpaths should mean minimal impacts on the SAC features. Aberfoyle is fairly inaccessible due to the steep slope. There is a hill path up Craigmore but it only goes through a small section of woodland. The areas of woodland around Loch Katrine may be affected but similar to Loch Lomond Woods, there is a good network of paths and off-path pressure should be minimal. Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) will prevent the planting and cultivating of invasive plant species, but does not include a number of species of concern that currently grow in the National Park. The risks posed to the woodland SACs from intrusive non-native species such as Rhododendron ponticum or Spanish bluebell would be minimal given the small-scale nature of proposals and distance from the European sites boundary. So in conclusion, even when the

proposals and policies are considered in combination the cumulative impact on the woodland qualifying interest is considered to be de minimis.

In-combination with other relevant Plans or Projects

5.11 The 'in combination effects' of the Local Development Plan with other plans and projects which would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site has been undertaken. Only those elements of other plans or projects which have been assessed to have a minor residual effect should be considered with elements of the Local Development Plan which also have minor residual effects. Table 9 below identifies the other plans and projects which have been assessed.

Table 9: Other Relevant Plans and Projects considered for 'in combination' effects

Other Relevant Plans / Projects	
Key National Plans / Projects	
National Planning Framework	HRA undertaken. It guides the Local Development Plan. No policies or proposals identified that would have 'in combination' effects with proposals within the Local Development Plan.
River Basin Management Plans	HRA undertaken. Will improve river SACs. No de minimis/minor residual effects identified.
UK Biodiversity Action Plan	Guides habitat and species management, benefitting European sites.
Local Development Plans	
Argyll and Bute; Stirling; West Dunbartonshire ; Perth and Kinross	The majority of policies and proposals identified would have no 'in combination' effects. Only proposals in relation to the Inner Clyde SPA may have a potential cumulative effect. (See summary of each plan's habitat regulation appraisal in Appendix 2)
National Park Documents	
National Park Partnership Plan	HRA undertaken. All policies screened out. No 'de minimis'/minor residual effects identified.
Biodiversity Action Plan 'Wild Park'	HRA not undertaken. Wild Park 2020 is a delivery mechanism for the conservation objectives and policies in the NPPP 2012-2017, already subjected to HRA where it was concluded that there was no likelihood of the NPPP having significant effects on any European sites.
Your Park 'Campsite Development Plan' (in development)	There is Development Plan identifies a new site at Loch Chon which has planning permission. Some other projects identified within this Plan may require planning permission and would be assessed under the policies within this Local Development Plan.
Core Paths Plan	HRA not undertaken. It protects a network of paths throughout the Park. No effect on any European sites.

Outdoor Recreation Plan	HRA not undertaken as policies were too general and projects were not detailed enough.
Projects with planning permission but not started (not proposals)	
Hydro Schemes (>=500kW) - Coire Ealt; Glen Luss; Ledcharrie Farm; Land at Keltie Water; Invernoaden; Glenbranter; Benmore Burn; Donich Water; Kendrum Burn; Gleann Casaig; Alt Essan Gold Mine development - Cononish Glen, Tyndrum	All projects have been assessed in terms of impacts on the SACs and SPAs in the area. Some have no impacts on any SACs or SPAs and others have had appropriate assessments undertaken and mitigation measures are secured via planning condition (i.e. Cononish gold mine). It is concluded that there would be no cumulative effects arising where developments are progressing concurrently as appropriate mitigation measures secured via planning conditions to protect the water quality of the River Tay and Teith SAC.
Transport Scotland projects not started	
A82 Improvements: - Tarbet to Inverarnan Upgrade	This project will be assessed under the Habitats Regulations in terms of its impacts on Loch Lomond Woods SAC and River Endrick SAC. There is no information available about the details of this proposal so it cannot be considered in terms of potential in combination effects.

5.12 The other relevant plans and projects listed above in Table 10 have been considered for 'in combination' effects in regard to any minor residual effects from their proposals or policies. There are a number of proposals within the West Dunbartonshire council area that may have a cumulative impact on water quality in relation to the Endrick Water SAC. These have therefore been included in the Appropriate Assessment.

Conclusion to screening

5.13 There are **2 policies** and **15 proposals** that may have a potential significant effect on a European site within or adjacent to the National Park and that require an Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken. The 15 proposals and 2 policies identified as well as a site in Dumbarton area may have a cumulative impact on a European site(s) and therefore in combination require an Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken. There are no new proposals or policies identified that have in-combination effects.

Section 6 - Appropriate Assessment

Introduction

6.1 The screening process summarised in Section 5 identified the policies and proposals that will have likely significant effects and therefore need to be subject to Appropriate Assessment. This section sets out the Appropriate Assessment for each of those policies and proposals that were listed in Table 5 (policies) and Table 8 and 10 (proposals that either alone or in-combination have an effect).

6.2 The Appropriate Assessment is an assessment of the implications of the Plan for the qualifying interests of the European sites where a likely significant effect has been identified, in view of their "conservation objectives". The conservation objectives are therefore critical to and the focus of, the assessment.

6.3 The cumulative effects of more than one policy or proposal and the "in-combination" effects with other policies, plans and projects on a European site (identified during the screening stage) have been considered in the Appropriate Assessment.

6.4 The Plan can only be adopted if it can be ascertained, through the Appropriate Assessment, that the Plan will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site.

6.5 It is important to note that the Plan contains a policy (NE2 European sites – Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas) that protects Natura 2000 (European sites). Key policies and the other mitigating policies are set out in Appendix 1.

Appropriate assessment of the policies and proposals

6.6 The following tables lists all the Plan policies and proposals where it was not possible to rule out the risk of significant effects on a European site within or in close proximity to the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park. This section includes the Appropriate Assessment of the policies and proposals in the Local Development Plan. This section analyses the implications for each qualifying interest in light of its conservation objectives then states the mitigation measures to be applied or taken into account and the conclusions.

6.7 The policies and proposals have been grouped together as the development arising from these polices and proposals would be very similar in nature and scale, in location and have the same impacts. Where a proposal may have an effect alone then this has been considered in more detail in the mitigation section of the tables.

Table 10: Appropriate Assessment of Policies and Proposal on the Loch Lomond SPA (alone and in-combination)

Policies and Proposals that may have an effect on the Loch Lomond SPA (alone or in-combination)	Policies: REP1 – Renewable Energy Developments within the National Park VEP1 – Visitor Experience Policy – Location and scale of new development Proposals that may have an effect alone: Balmaha H1 - Forestry Commission Site, Balmaha (Housing) Balmaha TR1 – Balmaha Pier, Balmaha (Transport) Drymen RA1 – Drymen South (Rural activity area) Gartocharn H2 - France Farm, Gartocharn (Housing)
Summary of the likely significant effect(s) (in relation to qualifying interests detailed fully in Section 2)	Construction and use of new housing, visitor accommodation, water transport and public realm improvement with associated infrastructure and the resultant additional people living in and visiting Balmaha, Drymen, and Gartocharn could: • increase disturbance to geese or capercaillie from increased recreation and/or lighting near to the site. • affect water quality through mechanisms such as polluted runoff from roads, poor provision for foul flows, increased surface water runoff from changes in land use; • increase invasive riparian plant species e.g. from garden escapes or poor landscape planting; and • have direct physical impacts on aquatic and riparian habitats e.g. increased recreational use of loch shore (including erosion, boat fuel emissions) and direct physical impacts on loch shore habitats (e.g. out flow pipes, culverts, erosion protection) New wind power generation infrastructure could affect mortality to qualifying bird species in the SPA from collision with turbines sited in goose flight paths.
Implications for each qualifying interest in the light of its conservation objectives	Loch Lomond SPA is designated for Greenland white fronted geese that roost over winter in the marshes and for capercaillie that breed on the four Luss islands. The geese need sheltered open water with minimal disturbance over the winter months. The capercaillie need mature woodland with a well-developed understory and low levels of disturbance, especially during their breeding season in the spring and summer months. Additional people living and visiting the area could increase disturbance, e.g. from increased recreation or lighting, to geese roosting in the Endrick Marshes. Most of the site is very wet and accessible only with difficulty. There are few paths in and no through-routes. People will largely keep to paths and a few areas of

	loch shore that are already well-used. Additional housing and visitor accommodation will not, by itself, change levels of disturbance to birds by more than a de minimis amount but any new paths or introduction of new lighting in association with housing in proximity to the site could have effects. The Luss islands part of the SPA is already heavily impacted by disturbance from recreational boating traffic. The presence of additional housing and visitor accommodation on the mainland around Luss village would have de minimis effects on disturbance levels on the islands.
Mitigation Measures applied or to be taken into account	Proposals will need to comply with natural environment policy NE2, which protects European sites. Compliance with Strategic Principles (OP1), Development Requirements (OP2) will ensure any lighting associated with developments would be designed to avoid illuminating areas used by roosting geese. Additionally, policies: Protecting the Water Environment (NE10), Surface Water and Waste Water Management (NE11), Flood risk (NE14), Contaminated land (NE15) require developments to have no adverse impact on the water environment, particularly in relation to drainage, sewerage and impacts on the water and riparian environments. In relation to the proposals that may affect the Loch Lomond SPA alone each proposal map within the Local Development Plan has indicated that a European site designation may be affected and indicating that proposals must not have adverse effect on the qualifying interests of the Loch Lomond SPA. In addition, the icon states that an expert appraisal of the potential impacts on the qualifying interest will be required to inform a project-level Habitats Regulations Appraisal. It also highlights that a pre-application enquiry would be recommended to help assist in the scope of the information to be submitted with the application. Compliance with the above policies will ensure that conditions on planning permissions can be used to ensure that construction methods and timings do not disturb the geese. Renewable Energy Policy refers to the 'renewable energy planning guidance'. When revised the text contained within bullets 2.5 and 2.6 of the existing SPG must be carried across as currently worded e.g. "*where a proposal is located within an SAC or SPA or has the potential to negatively impact on the qualifying interests of one of these designated sites, a Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA) will be undertaken by National Park Authority or SEPA where required, to ensure there will be no negative impact on the integrity of the site".* Visitor Experience Policy refers to the "visitor experience planning guidance". The following text would be added "*where a proposal is located within an SAC or SPA or has the potential to negatively impact on the*

	qualifying interests of one of these designated sites, the application must be must be accompanied by an expert appraisal to inform a project-level Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA).”
Conclusion	There will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.

Table 11: *Appropriate Assessment of Policies and Proposal on the Endrick Water SAC (alone and in-combination)*

Policies and Proposals that may have an effect on the Endrick Water SAC (alone or in-combination)	Policies: REP1 – Renewable Energy Developments within the National Park VEP1 – Visitor Experience Policy – Location and scale of new development Proposals that alone may affect the Endrick Water SAC: Croftamie H1 – Buchanan Cresecent ,Croftamie (Housing) Drymen RA1 – Drymen South (Rural activity area) Balloch VE1 - West Riverside, Balloch (Visitor experience)
Summary of the likely significant effect(s) (in relation to qualifying interests detailed fully in Section 2)	Construction and use of new housing, visitor accommodation, facilities, public realm, water transport and associated infrastructure and additional people living in and visiting Balloch, Croftamie and Drymen could alone or in combination : • affect water quality of the Endrick Water through mechanisms such as polluted runoff from roads and poor provision for foul flows; • increase invasive riparian plant species along the banks of the Endrick Water e.g. from garden escapes or poor landscape planting; and • have direct physical impacts on aquatic and riparian habitats e.g. increased recreational use of loch shore of Loch Lomond at the mouth of the Endrick Water (including erosion, boat fuel emissions) and direct physical impacts on loch shore habitats (e.g. out flow pipes, culverts, erosion protection). New hydropower developments are unlikely due to lowland topography but if proposed it could have effects on the Endrick Water SAC from water quality impacts on riparian and in-stream fish habitats, entrainment of fish, impediment of fish migration and alterations to flow regimes.
Implications for each qualifying interest in the light of its conservation objectives	The Endrick Water is an SAC for salmon and two species of lamprey. There are no proposals listed above which are adjacent to the boundary of the Endrick Water SAC. The proposals would not have any adverse effects on the integrity of this European site alone as this is considered de minimus. However, in-combination there may be minor residual effects on water quality and increased

	invasive riparian plants, that could affect the feeding and breeding areas of the salmon and lamprey. Effects on water quality could also potentially affect the ability of salmon to migrate between the Endrick and the marine environment.
Mitigation Measures applied or to be taken into account	Proposals will need to comply with natural environment policy NE2, which protects European sites. Additionally, natural environment policies; Protecting the Water Environment (NE10) and Surface Water and Waste Water Management (NE11) policies require developments to have no adverse impact on the water environment, particularly in relation to drainage, sewerage and impacts on the water and riparian environments. Compliance with policies: Enhancing Biodiversity (NE6), Species and Habitats (NE5), Strategic Principles (OP1), Development Requirements (OP2) and conditions on planning permissions will ensure that all initial site landscaping enhances biodiversity, protects species and avoids invasive species. Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) will prevent the planting and cultivating of invasive plant species, but does not include a number of invasive species of concern that currently grow in the National Park. Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and local authority licensing and permitting regimes (under the relevant legislation) will help mitigate and manage the risk to the water environment and relevant pollution prevention guidance documents. Permits issued by SEPA are subject to HRAs. Compliance with Development Requirements Policy (OP2) ensures that proposals will not be supported where they would result in a significant adverse effect on air quality. The Design and Placemaking supplementary guidance provides further guidance on how the policies would be applied in terms of, protecting the water environment, undertaking species surveys and designing the proposal using an ecosystem service approach. In relation to the proposals that may affect the Endrick Water SAC alone each proposal map within the Local Development Plan has indicated that a European site designation may be affected and indicating that proposals must not have adverse effect on the qualifying interests of the Endrick Water SAC. In addition, the Natura icon states that an expert appraisal of the potential impacts on the qualifying interest will be required to inform a project-level Habitats Regulations Appraisal. It also highlights that a pre-application enquiry would be recommended to help assist in the scope of the information to be submitted with the application. Compliance with the above policies will ensure that conditions on planning permissions can be used to ensure that Construction Method Statements and drainage details are submitted, agreed to, and complied with to ensure there is no effect on water quality.

	Renewable Energy Policy refers to the 'renewable energy planning guidance'. When revised the text contained within bullets 2.5 and 2.6 of the existing SPG must be carried across as currently worded e.g. "*where a proposal is located within an SAC or SPA or has the potential to negatively impact on the qualifying interests of one of these designated sites, a Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA) will be undertaken by National Park Authority or SEPA where required, to ensure there will be no negative impact on the integrity of the site".* Visitor Experience Policy refers to the "visitor experience planning guidance". The following text would be added "*where a proposal is located within an SAC or SPA or has the potential to negatively impact on the qualifying interests of one of these designated sites, the application must be must be accompanied by an expert appraisal to inform a project-level Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA)."*
Conclusion	There will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.

Table 12: *Appropriate Assessment of Policies and Proposal on the Loch Lomond Woods SAC and Trossachs Woods SAC (alone and in-combination)*

Policies and Proposals that may have an effect on the Loch Lomond Woods SAC and Trossachs Woods SAC (alone or in-combination)	Policies: REP1 – Renewable Energy Developments within the National Park VE1 – Visitor Experience Policy – Location and scale of new development
Summary of the likely significant effect(s) (in relation to qualifying interests detailed fully in Section 2)	They could be an increase in the deposition of air-borne pollutants from biomass plants and quarries with consequent effects on habitats and the species they support. Against a significant background trend of decreasing air emissions from industry in the UK, any impacts from local development would be small. However, some of the rarer lower plants they support may be very vulnerable to any deterioration in air quality, however slight. Emissions will therefore need to be carefully regulated to avoid any adverse impacts on the woodland SACs, especially if they are in close proximity. In relation to renewables (wind energy, hydro) and new visitor facilities, infrastructure (e.g. paths) and accommodation (camping, lodges, hotels etc) this could result in direct loss of woodland due to siting of these proposals.
Implications for each qualifying interest in the light of its conservation objectives	Loch Lomond Woods SAC is designated for oak woodlands and otter. Trossachs Woods is designated an SAC for oak woodlands.
Mitigation Measures applied or to be taken into account	Proposals will need to comply with natural environment policy NE2, which protects European sites. Additionally, compliance with Enhancing Biodiversity (NE6), Strategic Principles (OP1), Development Requirements (OP2) and conditions on any planning permission will ensure that all initial site landscaping avoids invasive species. Developer contribution (OP3) policy can require contributions to fund habitat enhancements to mitigate for disturbance. Compliance with policy: Legally protected species (NE4) would ensure an otter survey is undertaken (in relation to Loch Lomond Woods SAC) and a species protection plan is secured and implemented via a condition. The Design and Placemaking supplementary guidance provides further guidance on how the policies would be applied in terms of, undertaking habitat and species surveys and designing the proposal using an ecosystem service approach. Renewable Energy Policy refers to the ‘renewable energy planning guidance’. When revised the text

	contained within bullets 2.5 and 2.6 of the existing SPG must be carried across as currently worded e.g. "*where a proposal is located within an SAC or SPA or has the potential to negatively impact on the qualifying interests of one of these designated sites, a Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA) will be undertaken by National Park Authority or SEPA where required, to ensure there will be no negative impact on the integrity of the site".* Visitor Experience Policy refers to the "visitor experience planning guidance". The following text would be added "*where a proposal is located within an SAC or SPA or has the potential to negatively impact on the qualifying interests of one of these designated sites, the application must be must be accompanied by an expert appraisal to inform a project-level Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA)."*
Conclusion	There will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.

Table 13: *Appropriate Assessment of Policies and Proposal on the River Teith SAC (alone and in-combination)*

Policies and Proposals that may have an effect on the River Teith SAC (alone or in-combination)	Policies: REP1 – Renewable Energy Developments within the National Park Proposals that may have an effect alone: Callander ED1 – Lagrannoch Industrial Estate, Callander (Economic development) Callander MU2– Claish Farm, Callander (Mixed use visitor experience, economic development, housing and playing field and long-term housing and visitor experience) Callander LT2 – Claish Farm, Callander (Long-term – Housing and visitor experience) Callander RA1 – Callander East (Rural Activity Area) Callander LT1 – Cambusmore, Callander (Long-term - Visitor experience)
Summary of the likely significant effect(s) alone and in-combination (in relation to qualifying interests detailed fully in Section 2)	Construction and use of new housing, businesses, waste facilities or tourism development and associated infrastructure and additional people living in areas such as Callander, Brig o Turk, Strathyre, Balquidder and other building groups near to the River Teith could: • Affect water quality through mechanisms such as sedimentation or diffuse pollution from runoff from roads and parking areas, increase in runoff rates/patterns and pressure from managing additional foul flow requirements, with scope to harm spawning grounds or altering availability of food or habitats. • Increase invasive riparian plant species, e.g. from garden escapes or poor landscape planting. These have the potential to alter bank stability and invertebrate composition, altering sediment regime, bank morphology and food availability. • Have direct physical impacts on riparian habitat. It is important to retain a mix of open and wooded

	bank side vegetation types as a key habitat influencing stream morphology and contributing nutrient inputs that provide food for these species. • Water quality could also be affected by air emissions generated from the industrial sites. New hydropower developments could have effects on the River Teith SAC from water quality impacts on riparian and in-stream fish habitats, entrainment of fish, impediment of fish migration and alterations to flow regimes.
Implications for each qualifying interest in the light of its conservation objectives	The River Teith SAC are designated for salmon and three species of lamprey. These species are vulnerable to sedimentation and reductions in water quality, and are dependent on a range of in-stream habitat features for varying stages of their life cycles. Salmon also depend on riparian plants for shade and invertebrates as food. Leaf litter is an important nutrient supply for in-stream invertebrates that are eaten in turn by juvenile salmon.
Mitigation Measures applied or to be taken into account	Proposals will need to comply with natural environment policy NE2, which protects European sites. Additionally, natural environment policies; Protecting the Water Environment (NE10) and Surface Water and Waste Water Management (NE11) policies require developments to have no adverse impact on the water environment, particularly in relation to drainage, sewerage and impacts on the water and riparian environments. Compliance with policies: Enhancing Biodiversity (NE6), Species and Habitats (NE5), Strategic Principles (OP1), Development Requirements (OP2) and conditions on planning permissions will ensure that all initial site landscaping enhances biodiversity, protects species and avoids invasive species. Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) will prevent the planting and cultivating of invasive plant species, but does not include a number of species of concern that currently grow in the National Park. SEPA and local authority licensing and permitting regimes (under the relevant legislation) will help mitigate and manage the risk to the water environment and relevant pollution prevention guidance documents. Permits issued by SEPA are subject to HRAs. The Design and Placemaking supplementary guidance provides further guidance on how the policies would be applied in terms of protecting the water environment, undertaking species surveys and designing the proposal using an ecosystem service approach. In relation to the proposals that may affect the River Teith SAC <u>alone</u> each proposal map within the Local Development Plan has indicated that a European site designation may be affected and indicating that proposals must not have adverse effect on the qualifying interests of the River Teith SAC. In addition, the Natura icon states that an expert appraisal of the potential impacts on the qualifying interest will be required to inform a project-level Habitats Regulations Appraisal. It also highlights that a pre-application enquiry would be recommended to help assist in the scope of the information to be submitted with the application. For the Claish Farm site there is also planning guidance (Callander south masterplan framework) which specifically mentions the River Teith SAC. Claish Farm site map shows a strip along river and states '*mitigate against any*

	possible impact on SAC' and '*Sensitive boundary – SAC and flood risk'*. Compliance with the above policies will ensure that conditions on planning permissions can be used to ensure that Construction Method Statements, and drainage details are submitted, agreed to, and complied with to ensure there is no effect on water quality. Renewable Energy Policy refers to the 'renewable energy planning guidance'. When revised the text contained within bullets 2.5 and 2.6 of the existing SPG must be carried across as currently worded e.g. "*where a proposal is located within an SAC or SPA or has the potential to negatively impact on the qualifying interests of one of these designated sites, a Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA) will be undertaken by National Park Authority or SEPA where required, to ensure there will be no negative impact on the integrity of the site".*
Conclusion	There will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.

Table 14: *Appropriate Assessment of Policies and Proposal on the River Tay SAC (alone and in-combination)*

Policies and Proposals that may have an effect on the River Teith SAC (alone or in-combination)	Policies: REP1 – Renewable Energy Developments within the National Park VE1 – Visitor Experience Policy – Location and scale of new development Proposals that may have an effect alone: Killin ED1 – Road depot, Killin (Economic development) Killin RA1 – Acharn, Killin (Rural Activity Area) Tyndrum MU1 – Clifton, Tyndrum (Mixed use visitor experience and economic development) Strath Fillan RA1 – Strathfillan (Rural Activity Area)
Summary of the likely significant effect(s) (in relation to qualifying interests detailed fully in Section 2)	Construction and use of new housing, businesses and visitor accommodation with associated infrastructure and additional people living in and visiting Crianlarich, Killin, Tyndrum could: • affect water quality through mechanisms such as polluted runoff from new roads, poor provision for foul flows and increased surface water runoff; and • increase invasive riparian plant species e.g. from garden escapes or poor landscape planting. Construction and operation of new businesses, industrial premises at Strathfillan, Acharn and Killin depot could : • affect water quality through decrease in quality of site runoff (e.g. from roads and parking areas), increase in runoff rates/patterns, and pressures from managing additional foul flow requirements

	(including fluctuations from visitor numbers). Increased water quality and morphological pressures on river and riparian habitats (loss/reduction) through increased and improved access, increase in visitor/user numbers and infrastructure associated with development (e.g. outfalls from drainage, bridge). Direct impacts on water quality and morphology of watercourses located within the site that feed into the SAC. New hydropower developments could have effects on the River Tay SAC from water quality impacts on riparian and in-stream fish habitats, entrainment of fish, impediment of fish migration and alterations to flow regimes. There is the potential for direct impacts, including potential damage to otter holts or disturbance to otters from construction activities. Greater potential for mixed used developments to have impacts, especially if increasing visitor and tourist numbers to an area not currently accessed by these groups. This is in combination with additional residential access numbers.
Implications for each qualifying interest in the light of its conservation objectives	The River Tay is an SAC for salmon, three species of lamprey, otter and clear water lakes. Any reduction of fish populations as a food supply or losses of suitable habitat for holts or lying-up sites from direct impacts of developments (including disturbance by increased riparian access by residents and visitors) could affect otter populations. Clear water lakes and their characteristic plant communities are vulnerable to changes in water quality, especially pH, nutrient levels and sediment load. Composition of native plant communities could be altered by the introduction of invasive non-native species.
Mitigation Measures applied or to be taken into account	Proposals will need to comply with natural environment policy NE2, which protects European sites. Additionally, natural environment policies; Protecting the Water Environment (NE10) and Surface Water and Waste Water Management (NE11) policies require developments to have no adverse impact on the water environment, particularly in relation to drainage, sewerage and impacts on the water and riparian environments. Compliance with policies: Enhancing Biodiversity (NE6), Species and Habitats (NE5), Strategic Principles (OP1), Development Requirements (OP2) and conditions on planning permissions will ensure that all initial site landscaping enhances biodiversity, protects species and avoids invasive species. Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) will prevent the planting and cultivating of invasive plant species, but does not include a number of species of concern that currently grow in the National Park. Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and local authority licensing and permitting regimes (under the relevant legislation) will help mitigate and manage the risk to the water environment and relevant pollution prevention guidance documents. Permits issued by SEPA are subject to HRAs.

	Compliance with policy: Legally protected species (NE4) would ensure an otter survey is undertaken and a species protection plan is secured and implemented via a condition. The Design and Placemaking supplementary guidance provides further guidance on how the policies would be applied in terms of protecting the water environment, undertaking species surveys and designing the proposal using an ecosystem service approach. In relation to the proposals that may affect the River Tay SAC alone each proposal map within the Local Development Plan has indicated that a European site designation may be affected and indicating that proposals must not have adverse effect on the qualifying interests of the River Tay SAC. In addition, the Natura icon states that an expert appraisal of the potential impacts on the qualifying interest will be required to inform a project-level Habitats Regulations Appraisal. It also highlights that a pre-application enquiry would be recommended to help assist in the scope of the information to be submitted with the application. Compliance with the above policies will ensure that conditions on planning permissions can be used to ensure that Construction Method Statements, Species Protection Plan, and drainage details are submitted, agreed to, and complied with to ensure there is no effect on water quality. Renewable Energy Policy refers to the 'renewable energy planning guidance'. When revised the text contained within bullets 2.5 and 2.6 of the existing SPG must be carried across as currently worded e.g. "*where a proposal is located within an SAC or SPA or has the potential to negatively impact on the qualifying interests of one of these designated sites, a Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA) will be undertaken by National Park Authority or SEPA where required, to ensure there will be no negative impact on the integrity of the site".* Visitor Experience Policy refers to the "visitor experience planning guidance". The following text would be added "*where a proposal is located within an SAC or SPA or has the potential to negatively impact on the qualifying interests of one of these designated sites, the application must be must be accompanied by an expert appraisal to inform a project-level Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA)."*
Conclusion	There will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.

Table 15: *Appropriate Assessment of Policies in relation to Beinn Heasgarnich SAC, Meall na Samnha SAC, Ben Lui SAC, Ben Lawers SAC, Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA (in-combination)*

Policies that may have an effect on the above sites (alone or in-combination)	Policies: REP1 – Renewable Energy Developments within the National Park (Not including Ben Lawers SAC) VE1 – Visitor Experience Policy – Location and scale of new development (Not including Ben Lawers SAC)

Summary of the likely significant effect(s) (in relation to qualifying interests detailed fully in Section 2)	New biomass and biogas plants could cause air emissions and deposition with effects on vegetation in these upland sites. New wind power generation infrastructure could cause disturbance to typical species (e.g. upland birds) within upland SACs, particularly during the construction phase. Habitat destruction on the upland SPAs and SACs during construction and decommissioning phase. Mortality to qualifying bird species in SPAs from collision with turbines sited in eagle foraging areas or goose flight paths. New visitor infrastructure (such as paths) could result in the disturbance to upland birds due to increase numbers of people and direct habitat loss.
Implications for each qualifying interest in the light of its conservation objectives	The qualifying habitats of Ben Heasgarnich SAC, Ben Lawers SAC, Meall na Samnha SAC, Ben Lui SAC as listed fully in Section 4 above may be affected. In summary they include • Alpine and subalpine calcareous grassland, • Mountane acid grasslands, • Base-rich fens, • Mountain willows, • Tall herb communities, • Species-rich grassland with matt grass in upland areas, • Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks. Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA supports a population of golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos) that may be affected if that habitats that support the eagle are affected.
Mitigation Measures applied or to be taken into account	Proposals will need to comply with natural environment policy NE2, which protects European sites. Additionally, compliance with the criteria within Renewable Energy Policy (REP1) and other policies Enhancing Biodiversity (NE6), Strategic Principles (OP1), Development Requirements (OP2), Legally protected species (NE4), Species and Habitats (NE6), Protecting Peatlands (NE10) and conditions on any planning permission will ensure Construction Method Statements (inc pollution prevention measures), Species Protection Plan are submitted, agreed to, and complied with to ensure there is no effect on water quality or disturbance to protected species (inc otters). Conditions can also be used to restrict construction working hours. Compliance with Development Requirements Policy (OP2) ensures that proposals will not be supported where they would result in a significant adverse effect on air quality. Renewable Energy Policy refers to the ‘renewable energy planning guidance’. When revised the text

	contained within bullets 2.5 and 2.6 of the existing SPG must be carried across as currently worded e.g. "*where a proposal is located within an SAC or SPA or has the potential to negatively impact on the qualifying interests of one of these designated sites, a Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA) will be undertaken by National Park Authority or SEPA where required, to ensure there will be no negative impact on the integrity of the site".* Visitor Experience Policy refers to the "visitor experience planning guidance". The following text would be added "*where a proposal is located within an SAC or SPA or has the potential to negatively impact on the qualifying interests of one of these designated sites, the application must be must be accompanied by an expert appraisal to inform a project-level Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA)."*
Conclusion	There will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.

Section 7 - Conclusions

7.1 The screening process undertaken excluded a number of proposals within the Local Development Plan because they have current planning permission as per October 2016. It also excluded general policy statements and protection polices but it highlighted there may be a potential effect from 2 policies (visitor experience and renewables) which were site specific and an appropriate assessment was required. It also identified there were no proposals that had a potential in-combination effect on a European site and 15 proposals that may have a potential effect alone on a European site.

7.2 The appropriate assessment of the proposals and the site specific policies alone and in combination was undertaken highlighting the implications for the European sites and the mitigation measures that would be applied. The appropriate assessment sets out the mitigation required within the Local Development Plan and supplementary or planning guidance and subject to this mitigation the site integrity would be protected for all European sites within the National Park area.

Appendix 1 – Further information on plan policies

Table 16: *Local Development Plan Policies Safeguarding the Natural Environment*

Policy Title and (Policy Reference) and description of how the policy safeguards the natural environment
Overarching Policy: Strategic Principles (OP1) The policy emphasises the achievement of the national Parks four aims, and respect for the important physical/historical/landscape/cultural features of the site and surrounding area.
Overarching Policy: Development Requirements (OP2) The policy protects and enhances the natural and historic environments within the National Park and avoids any significant adverse impact of flooding, noise/vibration, air, emissions/ odours/ fumes/ dust, light pollution, loss of privacy/ sunlight/ daylight. The policy also supports climate friendly design to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The policy also protects the landscape.
Overarching Policy: Development Contributions (OP3) The policy asks for contributions towards water and sewage infrastructure including sustainable drainage systems; all of which protect the water environment.
Natural Environment 1: National Park Landscapes, Seascapes and Visual Impact (NE1) This policy protects the special landscape qualities of the Park and Wild lands.
Natural Environment 2: European Sites – Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas (NE2) Development likely to have a significant effect will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment. Thereby any development will only progress in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations
Natural Environment 3: Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves and RAMSAR Sites (NE3) Criteria within policy safeguard these designations.
Natural Environment 4: Legally Protected Species (NE4) Policy requires applicants to undertake an ecological survey to determine whether legally protected species are present on a site and propose mitigation and compensation measures accordingly. This policy therefore provides additional protection of qualifying species such as otters.
Natural Environment 5: Species and Habitats (NE5) Policy has the potential to enhance biodiversity including habitat networks, invasive species.
Natural Environment 6: Enhancing Biodiversity (NE6) Policy requires new developments to plant native species which helps to avoid the introduction of invasive species into river and woodland, and to enhance habitat diversity, which can bolster European sites.
Natural Environment 7: Protecting Geological Conservation and Review Sites (NE7) Policy sets specific criteria protecting geological conservation and review sites.
Natural Environment 8: Development Impacts on Trees and Woodlands (NE8) Policy specifically protects woodland, trees and hedges by ensuring that planning permission will not be granted for any development that would result in the loss or deterioration of a woodland, unless there are overriding public benefits. Although the policy is designed to protect woodlands which have no statutory designation, it complements policy NE2 Special Areas of Conservations (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA). Policy provides for the application of tree protection measures such as Tree Preservation Orders and/or management agreements. These measures could be applied to areas of the SAC under threat from development impacts.
National Environment 9: Woodlands on or adjacent to development sites (NE9) Policy specifically protects trees and woodlands during construction of a development site ensuring that the developer meets the recommendation and guidance in the British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction'.

Natural Environment 10: Protecting Peatlands (NE10) Policy protects peat lands and carbon rich soils. In rare circumstances where development is permitted, it safeguards the deepest areas of peat and a peat management plan required.
Natural Environment 11: Protecting the Water Environment (NE11) Policy requires all new developments to demonstrate that there would be no significant adverse impact on protected species or their habitats in the water body or its catchment area, protect and enhance the natural heritage and physical characteristics of water bodies, and ensure no significant adverse impact on the water environment.
Natural Environment 12: Surface Water and Waste Water Management (NE12) Policy requires new development to connect to public sewers where possible, and only permits private water and wastewater systems where there is no adverse effect on the water environment and where the system is of a standard that can be adopted by Scottish Water. This policy therefore controls wastewater discharges into the water environment and minimises the risk of new development increasing sediment and nutrient input. Policy requires Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDs) to be incorporated into all new developments (except for single dwellings where the surface water discharge is made directly to coastal waters). This will ensure that surface water run-off from new developments will not discharge into watercourses, avoiding pollution of European Sites.
Natural Environment 13: Marine and Inland Aquaculture (NE13) Policy supports shellfish and finfish aquaculture proposals where no significant adverse effect on areas controlled by Ministry of Defence for training purposes, navigational and fishing interests, and existing aquaculture sites.
Natural Environment 14: Coastal Marine Area (NE14) Policy ensures coastal development is aligned to National and Regional Marine Plans, sensitive to cumulative impacts, outside the natural foreshore except for essential circumstances, and protects public access to and along the coast.
Natural Environment 15: Flood Risk (NE15) Policy prevents new development unless complies with the Flood Risk Framework, and flood risk management plans. A flood risk assessment will be required for development proposed in medium to high risk flood areas along with protection measures.
Natural Environment 16: Contaminated Land (NE16) Development proposed on or close to contaminated land will require a risk assessment to protect human health and the wider environment, and to remediate the site in line with PAN33.
Renewable Energy 1: Renewable Energy Developments within the National Park (RE1) Policy safeguards against significant adverse impacts on landscape, woodlands, forestry biodiversity, water environment, cultural heritage, air quality, recreation and access. Policy prevents large scale wind commercial developments.
Renewable Energy 2: Renewable Energy Developments Adjacent to the National Park (RE2) Policy protects the visual impact on the landscape setting of the Park along with noise, light flicker or lighting impact.
Mineral Extraction (ME1) Policy protects special qualities of the Park, and safeguards against flooding as a result of mineral extraction proposals. Only in exceptional circumstances will mineral applications be supported within the Park.
Telecommunications Development (TEL1) Policy protects hilltop and prominent locations from telecommunications development.
Sustainable Waste Management 1 (SW1) Waste Management Requirement for New Policy supports waste management collections, recycling storage and composting facilities.
Sustainable Waste Management 2: Waste Management Facilities (SW2) Policy supports waste management facilities to reduce waste.

Appendix 2 – Summary of other Local Development Plans

Argyll and Bute Council LDP

The Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in March 2015. The European sites that were considered in the HRA in relation to this plan which could be cumulatively affect in-combination by proposals and policies in this HRA include: Ben Lui SAC, Ben Heasgarnich SAC, Glen Etive/Glen Fyne SPA and the Inner Clyde SPA.

The Habitats Regulations Appraisal (2015) concluded that there were no policies or proposals that would affect Ben Heasgarnich SAC and Ben Lui SAC. The HRA identified a number of proposals that would affect the European sites in their area and that required an appropriate assessment and the conclusions of this can be summarised as follows:

Inner Clyde SPA

- Proposals at: BI-AL 3/1 at Craigendoran, Helensburgh, H2005 Sawmill field, Helensburgh, PDA2001 Moss Road, Helensburgh, AFA 3/4 Craigendoran, Helensburgh, AFA 3/18 Black Wood, Colgrain. In addition housing land at Ardoch, Dumbarton to Helensburgh cycle path were identified.
- Policy caveat – *"For planning permission to be granted, development must ensure that there would be no adverse effect on the Inner Clyde Special Protection Area/Ramsar site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects through factors such as construction and operational disturbance (including noise, vibration, timing of construction works relative to the bird wintering period, and timing of construction works relative to other projects that affect the SPA and increased recreational disturbance"*

Glen Etive/Glen Fyne SPA

- Proposal Min-AL 9/2 Cairndow Quarry, Loch Fyne – conclusion states *"Given the large area of the SPA, the transient nature of the qualifying species and the fixed boundaries and activity within the quarry, it is considered that the Mineral Allocation Min-Al 9/2 will not have a significant effect on the qualifying interests or conservation objectives of the Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA."*

In conclusion the Argyll and Bute Council area proposals and policies would not affect the integrity of the European sites within its area.

Stirling Council LDP

Stirling Council Local Development Plan was adopted in September 2014. The European sites that were considered in the HRA in relation to this plan which could be cumulatively affect in-combination by proposals and policies in this HRA include: Ben Lui SAC, Ben Heasgarnich SAC, Glen Etive/Glen Fyne SPA, Inner Clyde SPA, River Teith SAC, Endrick Water SAC, Firth of Forth SPA and River Tay SAC.

The Habitats Regulations Appraisal (2015) concluded that there were no policies or proposals that would affect Glen Etive/Glen Fyne SPA, Inner Clyde SPA, Ben Heasgarnich SAC and Ben Lui SAC. The proposals and policies that may affect the other sites included within this HRA are summarised below:

River Teith SAC, Firth of Forth SPA, Endrick Water SAC

- Proposals at: H94, B46 Deanston, B44 Keltie Bridge, H28, H26 and B6 Stirling,
- Policy caveat: "*To ensure the maintenance of the integrity of the River Teith SAC/Endrick Water Sac/Firth of Forth SPA foul and surface water drainage shall be treated to the relevant standards of Scottish Water and SEPA."*

River Tay SAC

- Policy 12/1 Wind Turbines – Area of search located to the east and south-east of Killin.
- Policy caveat: *"The details of the Appropriate Assessment of Policy 12.1 have been inserted into Supplementary Guidance 33 to draw particular attention to the mitigation necessary to ensure there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the European Site."*

In conclusion the Stirling Council area proposals and policies would not affect the integrity of the European sites that are also included within this HRA

West Dunbartonshire LDP

West Dunbartonshire Council Local Development Plan May 2015. The European sites that were considered in the HRA in relation to this plan which could be cumulatively affect in-combination by proposals and policies in this HRA include: Inner Clyde SPA, Loch Lomond SPA, Endrick Water SAC and Loch Lomond Woods SAC.

The Habitats Regulation Appraisal (2013) concluded that there were no policies or proposals that would affect Loch Lomond SPA and Loch Lomond Woods SAC. The proposals and policies that may affect the other sites included within this HRA are summarised below:

Inner Clyde SPA

- Proposals at: Bowling Basin, Carless, Castlegreen St, Cable Depot Rd, Clydebank Industrial Estate, Dumbarton Waterfront, Esso Bowling and Scott's Yard and Queen's Quay.
- For some proposals, to deal with noise and disturbance from construction, demolition, piling, these works are prevented between September and April as a precautionary approach. In some proposals, visual screens would be used and trees and shrubs along the river side would be retained. In relation to potential water pollution, there would be a requirement to adhere to pollution control measures. It was concluded that with this mitigation there would be no significant effect on patterns of feeding, roosting, immigration and emigration of the redshank or negatively affecting the habitats that support the redshank.

Endrick Water SAC

- Proposal at Dumbarton Waterfront.
- Restrictions would also be put in place to restrict the timing and methods of work that could affect in-channel effect upon migrating fish species. Also, controls of lighting. In relation to potential water pollution, there would be a requirement to adhere to pollution control measures.

In conclusion the West Dunbartonshire Council area proposals and policies would not affect the integrity of the European sites that are also included within this HRA.

Perth and Kinross LDP

Perth and Kinross Council Local Development Plan was adopted in February 2014. The European sites that were considered in the HRA in relation to this plan which could be cumulatively affect in-combination by proposals and policies in this HRA include: Ben Heasgarnich SAC, Ben Lawers SAC, Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC & SPA and River Tay SAC.

The Habitats Regulations Appraisal (2015) concluded that there were no policies or proposals that would affect Ben Heasgarnich SAC, Ben Lawers SAC and River Tay SAC. The proposals and policies that may affect the other sites included within this HRA are summarised below:

Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC and SPA

- Policies RD3: Housing in the Countryside Proposals at:

River Tay SAC

- Policies: ED4: Caravan Sites, ED1:Employment and Mixed Use Areas, ED5: Major Tourism Resorts, RDC1: Town Centres, RC2: Perth City Centre Secondary Use Area, RC3: Retail and Commercial Leisure Proposals, RD3: Housing in the Countryside, ES3B: Foul Drainage, EP10: Management of Inert and Construction Waste. Proposals: H7: Berthapark, H27: Luncarty South; H37: South of Kenmore, E14: Inver Park, H40: Ballinluig North, E14: Inver Park, E31: Welton Road, H68: Ardler Road.
- Policy mitigation states that proposals must be assessed against Policy NE1A: International Nature Conservation Sites and other protection policies (EP3A, EP3C, EP3D) and River Tay SAC Advice for Developers Supplementary Guidance. Additionally policies and proposals have the following policy caveat:
    - *Construction Method Statement to be provided for all aspects of the development to protect the watercourse.*
    - *Methodology should provide measures to protect the watercourse from the impact of pollution and sediment so as to ensure no adverse affects on the River Tay SAC.*
    - *Where the development of the site is within 30m of a watercourse an otter survey should be undertaken and a species protection plan provided, if required so as to ensure no adverse effects on the River Tay SAC."*

In conclusion the Perth and Kinross Council area proposals and policies would not affect the integrity of the European sites that are also included within this HRA.

LIVE PARK

LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK

www.ourlivepark.com

twitter.com/ourlivepark

facebook.com/ourlivepark

Published by: Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority