



Habitats Regulations Appraisal for the

National Park Partnership Plan 2018- 2023

November 2017

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Section 1 - Introduction

- 1.1 This document represents the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Partnership Plan 2018- 2023.
- 1.2 The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c.) Regulations 1994 require that certain plans which are likely to have a significant effect on a European site must be subject to an 'Appropriate Assessment' by the plan-making authority. The process for determining whether an appropriate assessment is required, together with the appropriate assessment itself – is known as the Habitats Regulations Appraisal.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 Habitats Regulations Appraisal is mandatory and where an appropriate assessment is required, plan-making bodies may not usually adopt the plan, unless the assessment concludes that the plan would not adversely affect the integrity of the site. SNH must be consulted as part of any appropriate assessment.
- 1.6 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. SNH have been informally consulted during the undertaking of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal and will be formally consulted during the consultation process to ensure that they agree with the conclusions of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal.

Section 2 – National Park Partnership Plan - Context

- 3.1 The National Park Partnership Plan is a draft management plan that sets out how the four aims are to be achieved through the actions of all public sector bodies in Scotland, including the National Park Authority. This Draft National Park Partnership Plan proposes, for public consultation, how the National Park Authority and a wide range of other organisations and interests, can work together over a 5-year period up to 2023, to look after, enhance and make the most of the special landscape of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park.
- 3.2 It sets out proposed outcomes and suggests main priorities for action, which will achieve a shared vision for the area. There are 13 priority outcomes. The Plan will supersede the Approved National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017. The draft plan was subject to public consultation and the HRA has been updated to take account of the changes resulting from the public consultation. The amended National Park Partnership Plan will be submitted to Scottish Ministers for adoption.

National Park Aims

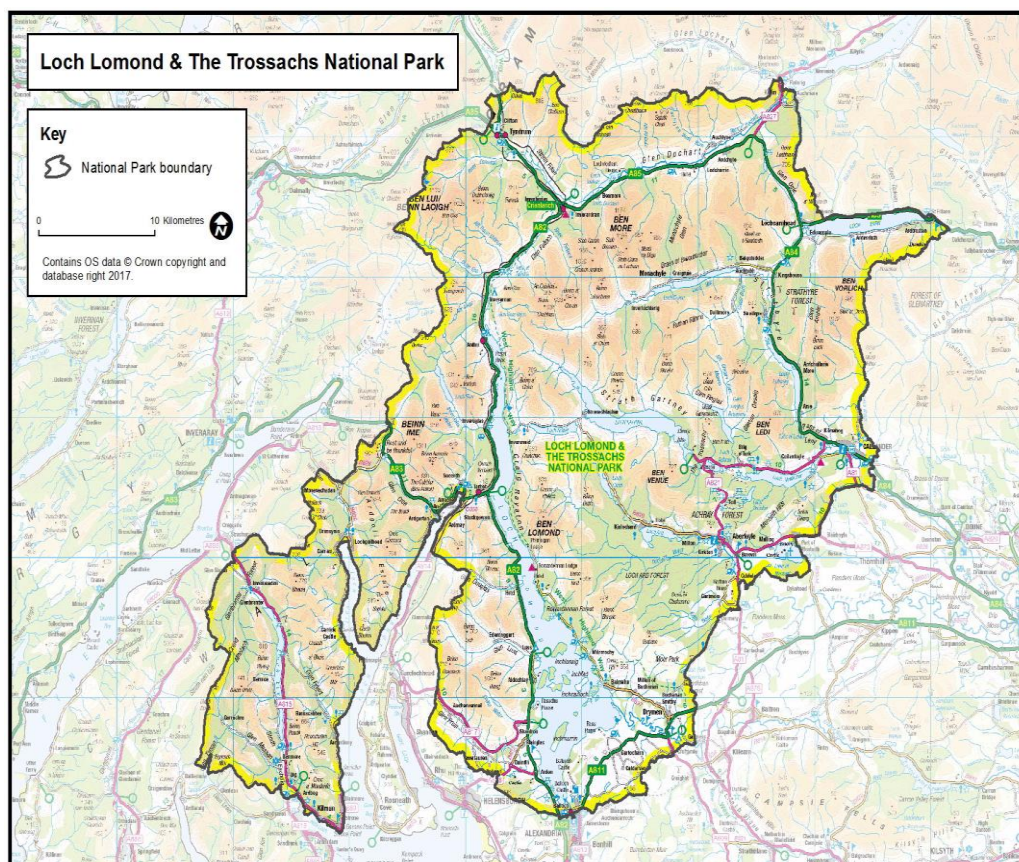
- 3.3 Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park was designated in 2002 as Scotland's first National Park under the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000. The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 sets out the four statutory aims for National Parks in Scotland and all planning decisions must be consistent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

Details of the National Park Partnership Plan

Name of Responsible Authority:	Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority
Title of Plan:	Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Partnership Plan 2018- 2023
Requirement for the Plan:	Section 11 of the National Park (Scotland) Act 2000 requires that the National Park Authority prepares a National Park Plan. Once approved, this will replace the current National Park Plan which covers the period 2012-2017.
Subject of the Plan:	Conservation (natural, cultural and built heritage), Visitor Experience & Management and Rural Development

Period covered by the Plan:	2018 - 2023
Frequency of Updates:	At least every five years.
Geographic Area covered by the Plan:	Area designated as The Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. See Map 1
Purpose and/or objectives of the Plan	Management Plan which will set out how the National Park is to be managed in order to achieve its four statutory aims. The Plan coordinates the work of the National Park Authority and other public bodies and office holders so far as affecting the National Park.

Map 1 Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park



Main Objectives of the National Park Partnership Plan

Purpose

3.5 The Plan sets out how the National Park is to be managing in order to achieve its statutory aims as specified in the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000, which are to:-

- a) Conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area,
- b) Promote the sustainable use of the natural resources of the area,
- c) Promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public, and
- d) Promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.

These aims are to be collectively achieved, unless there is a conflict between the first aim and any of the other aims in which case the first aim must be given greater weight.

3.6 The Plan provides the strategic context for coordinating the authority's functions and activities, and importantly also those of other partner bodies operating in the National Park. Its main purpose is to:-

- Set out the vision and overarching strategy for managing the National Park
- Guide the work of all public bodies and other partners to deliver the aims of the National Park
- Set out the regional land use framework for the National Park
- Provide the strategic context for the Local Development Plan
- Show how the National Park will contribute to the Scottish Government's core purpose and national outcomes.

Objectives

3.7 The new Plan will still be structured around the three key themes of Conservation, Visitor Experience and Rural Development. The new Plan's vision/outcome for each of these themes are:-

- Conservation: Nature, heritage, land and water are valued, managed and enhanced to provide multiple benefits for people and nature.
- Visitor Experience: There is a high quality, authentic experience for visitors from all backgrounds to enjoy recreation activities and appreciate the area's outstanding natural and cultural heritage.
- Rural Development: Businesses and communities thrive and people live and work sustainably.

Big Themes

3.9 Throughout this plan the National Park we aim to address some key issues not just for the benefit of the Park itself but for Scotland as a whole.

National priorities that the National Park contributes to include:

- **Sustainable Economic Growth**

Our National Parks' growing international reputation as 'must visit' destinations can contribute significantly to the Scottish rural economy, supporting business growth and providing more jobs and training opportunities, especially for young people.

- **Climate Change**

Promoting land uses and management practices, particularly extensive woodland expansion and peatland restoration, that better manage carbon mitigates against climate change. An integrated approach to land use planning can also help deliver significant adaptation and resilience for communities within National Parks and in surrounding lower river catchments.

- **Valuing Nature and Reversing Biodiversity Loss**

Covering around 9% of Scotland, including some of the most important areas for rare and threatened species, Scotland's National Parks deliver landscape scale conservation. Large scale habitat enhancement together with priority species action in National Parks makes a significant contribution to meeting Scotland's 2020 Biodiversity Challenge.

- **Natural Capital**

Scotland's National Parks exemplify the connections between nature and our economy. With over six million visitors each year, our National Parks are national assets that protect and enhance the natural capital underpinning tourism and land-based businesses. Covering the upper catchments of some of Scotland's major rivers, our National Parks are key places to connect the value of land management with wider community and economic benefits.

- **Park for All**

Scotland's National Parks are for everyone to enjoy. People of all ages, abilities and backgrounds should be able to engage with and take advantage of the many important benefits they provide.

- **Community Empowerment**

Building on the strong foundation and legacy of community capacity building and action planning, communities in our National Parks are increasingly taking the lead in local development and regeneration. There is growing potential and opportunity for communities to provide services, manage assets and deliver projects important to them and to the wider Park area.

- **Health & Wellbeing**

National Parks enable people to improve their health and wellbeing by getting active and connecting with nature. The growing network of recreation routes and opportunities within Loch Lomond & The Trossachs, and its close proximity to Scotland's urban population, offers significant scope to work with the health sector and increase participation in outdoor activity.

Section 3 - Habitats Regulations Appraisal Methodology

European Sites considered

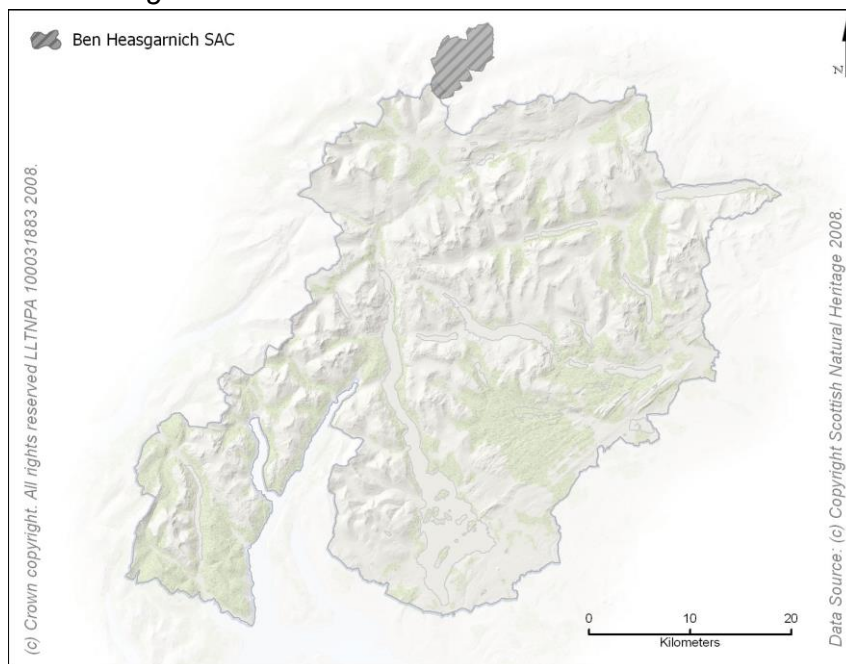
- 4.1 The National Park Partnership Plan covers the geographical extent of the National Park. However given the proximity of a number of European sites outside the National Park it was decided that those potentially affected should be included in the initial consideration. A list of the European sites that should be considered in the appraisal was identified (Table 2). The sites are based on those most up to date designations as of March 2017. GIS maps were used to determine the location of 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 management 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 2: 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
Loch Lomond Woods SAC	Inside plan area
Endrick Water SAC	Inside and outside plan area
Trossachs Woods SAC	Inside plan area
Ben Lui SAC	Inside plan area
Meall na Samnha SAC	Inside plan area and outside plan area
River Tay SAC	Inside and outside plan area
River Teith SAC	Inside and outside plan area
Loch Lomond SPA	Inside plan area
Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA	Inside and outside plan area
Flanders Mosses SAC	Peatland with hydrological link to land within plan area
Ben Lawers SAC	Outside plan area but near to the boundary at Killin
Inner Clyde SPA	Estuary downstream of plan area
Firth of Tay & Eden Estuary SPA	Estuary downstream of plan area
Firth of Tay & Eden Estuary SAC	Estuary downstream of plan area
Firth of Forth SPA	Estuary downstream of plan area
Forth Islands SPA	Estuary downstream of plan area

Information on European Sites

Ben Heasgarnich SAC



Name of European Site: Ben Heasgarnich

Site Type: Special Area of Conservation

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:

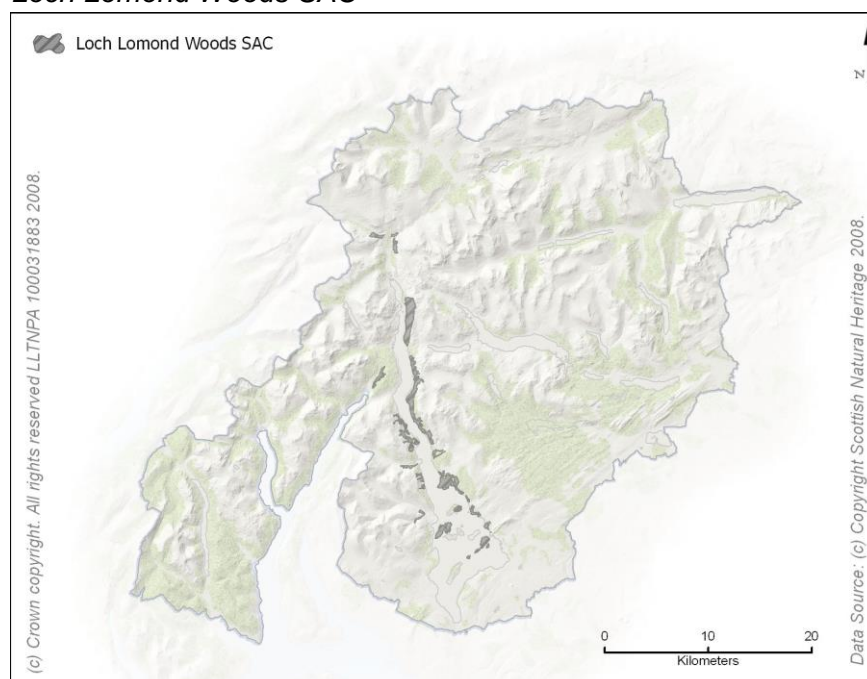
To avoid deterioration of the qualifying **habitats** (listed above) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

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

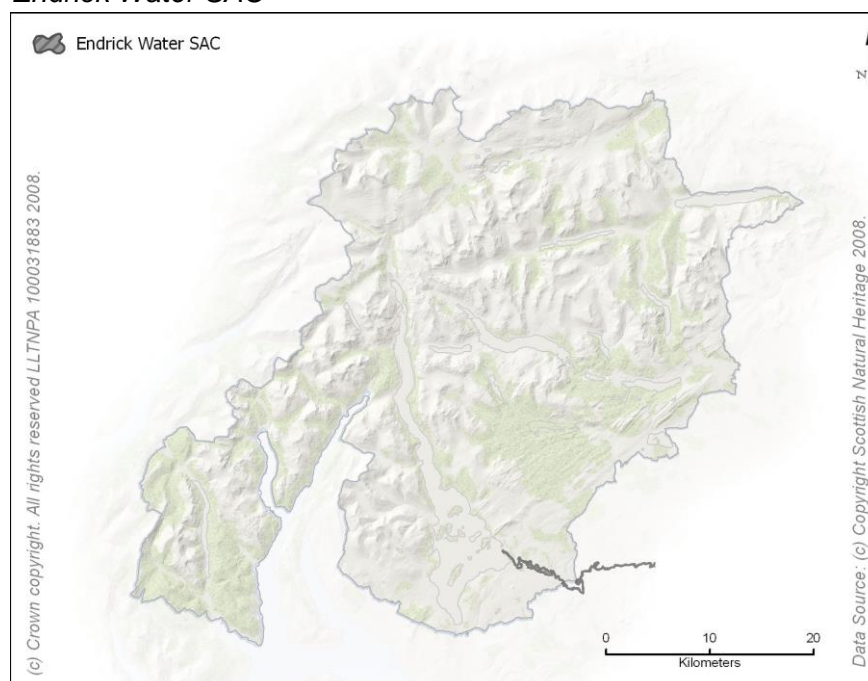
Loch Lomond Woods SAC



Name of European Site: Loch Lomond Woods
Site Type: Special Area of Conservation
Qualifying Interest(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles) Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)
Conservation Objectives: <p>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</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of the habitat on site Distribution of the habitat within site Structure and function of the habitat Processes supporting the habitat Distribution of typical species of the habitat Viability of typical species as components of the habitat No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
<p>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</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of the species as a viable component of the site Distribution of the species within site Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species No significant disturbance of the species

The site overlaps with Loch Lomond Special Protection Area

Endrick Water SAC



Name of European Site: Endrick Water

Site Type: Special Area of Conservation

Qualifying Interest(s):

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

Conservation Objectives:

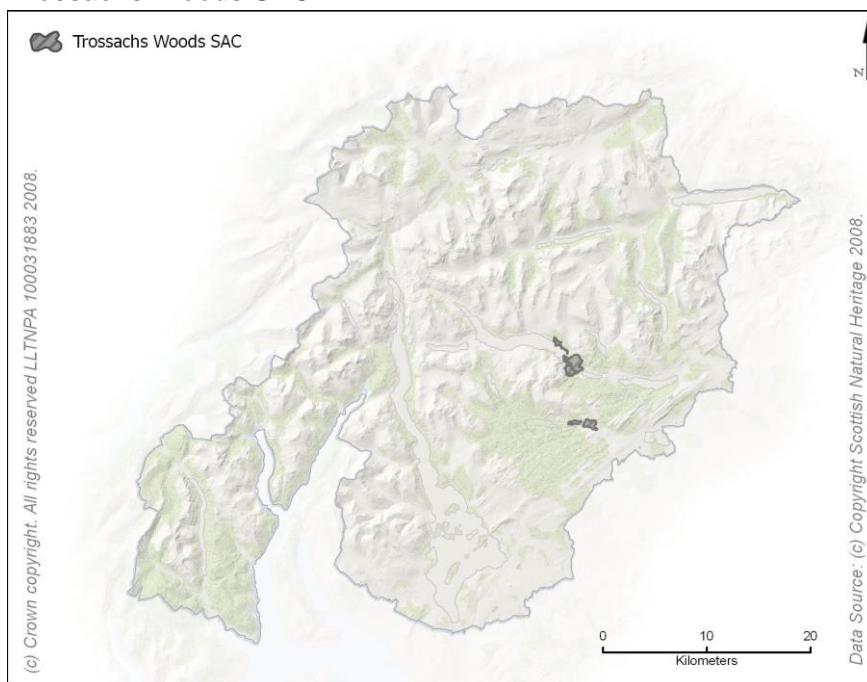
To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying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

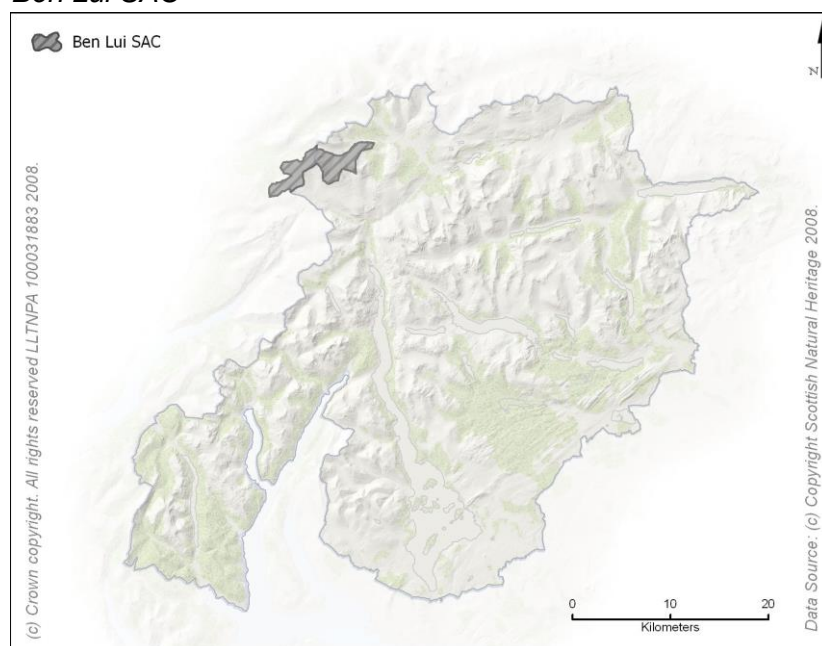
The site overlaps with Loch Lomond Special Protection Area

Trossachs Woods SAC



Name of European Site: Trossachs Woods
Site Type: Special Area of Conservation
Qualifying Interest(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles)
Conservation Objectives:
<p>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</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of the habitat on site Distribution of the habitat within site Structure and function of the habitat Processes supporting the habitat Distribution of typical species of the habitat Viability of typical species as components of the habitat No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

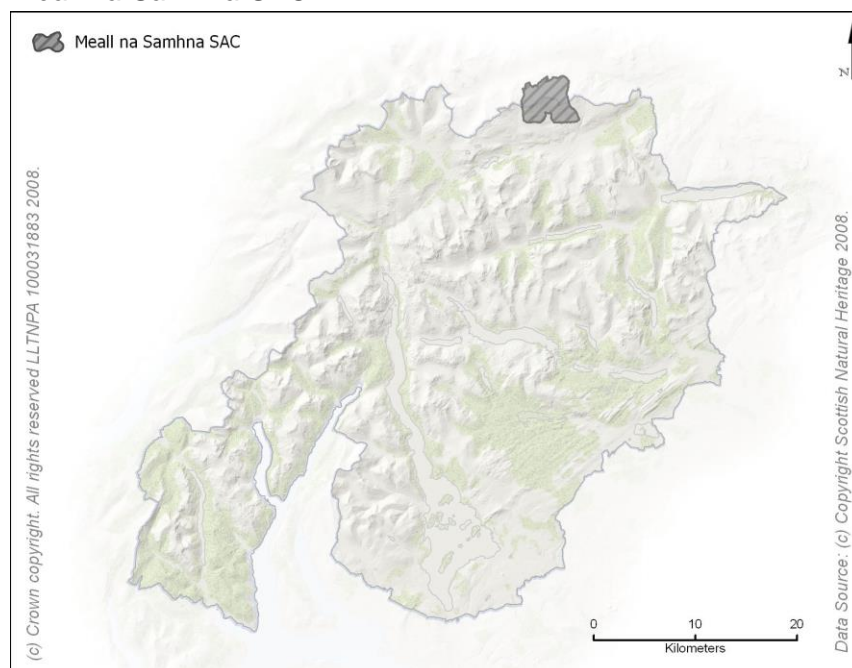
Ben Lui SAC



Name of European Site: Ben Lui
Site Type: Special Area of Conservation
<p>Qualifying Interest(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)
<p>Conservation Objectives:</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within site • Structure and function of the habitat • Processes supporting the habitat • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

* Indicates priority habitat

Meall na Samhna SAC



Name of European Site: Meall na Samhna

Site Type: Special Area of Conservation

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:

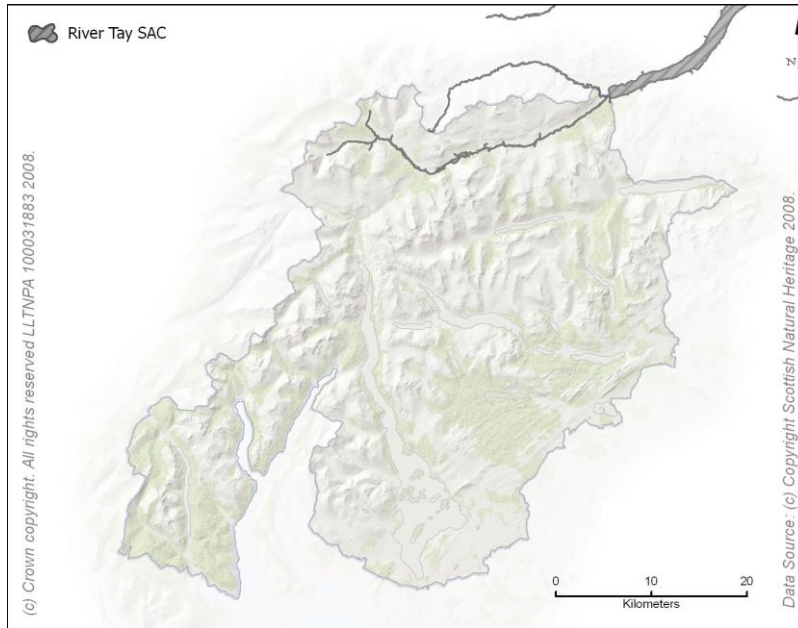
To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed above) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

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

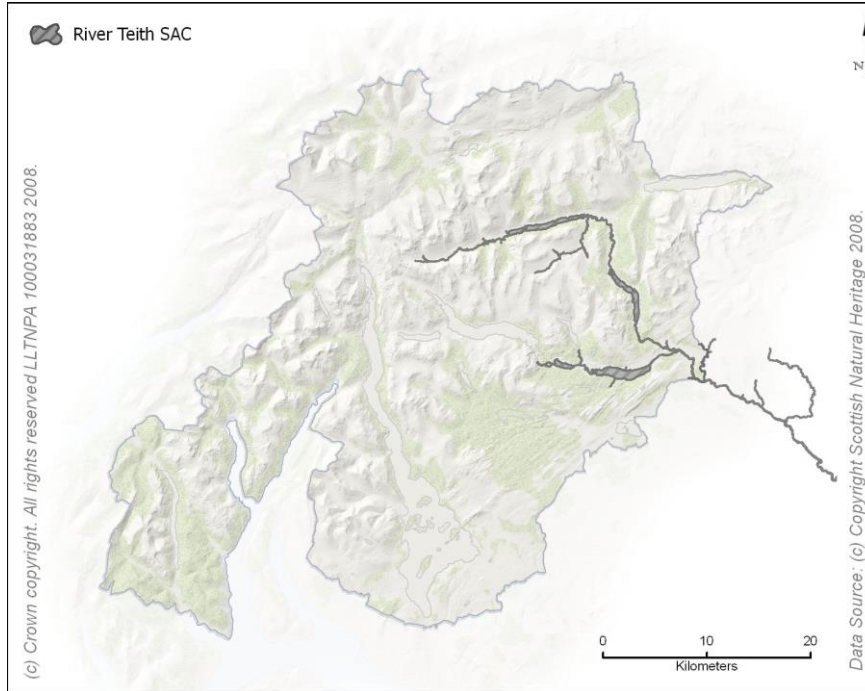
* Indicates priority habitat

River Tay SAC



Name of European Site: River Tay
Site Type: Special Area of Conservation
<p>Qualifying Interest(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) • Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) • Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) • Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) • Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) • Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels (Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i>)
<p>Conservation Objectives:</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within site • Structure and function of the habitat • Processes supporting the habitat • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species

River Teith SAC



Name of European Site: River Teith

Site Type: Special Area of Conservation

Qualifying Interest(s):

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

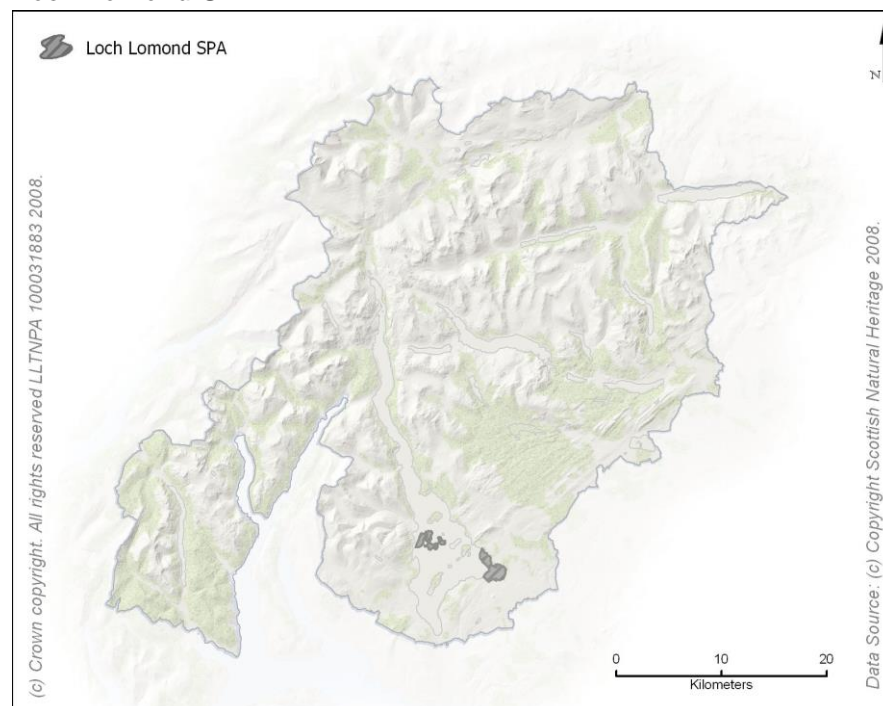
Conservation Objectives:

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

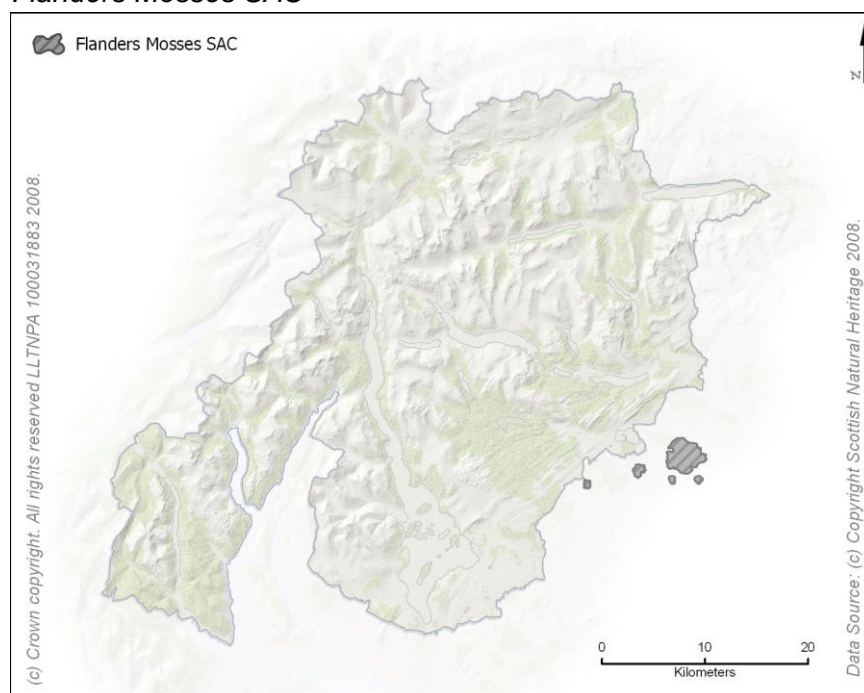
Loch Lomond SPA



Name of European Site: Loch Lomond
Site Type: Special Protection Area
Qualifying Interest(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capercaillie (<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>) • Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>)
Conservation Objectives:
<p>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</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species

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

Flanders Mosses SAC



Name of European Site: Flanders Mosses

Site Type: Special Area of Conservation

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:

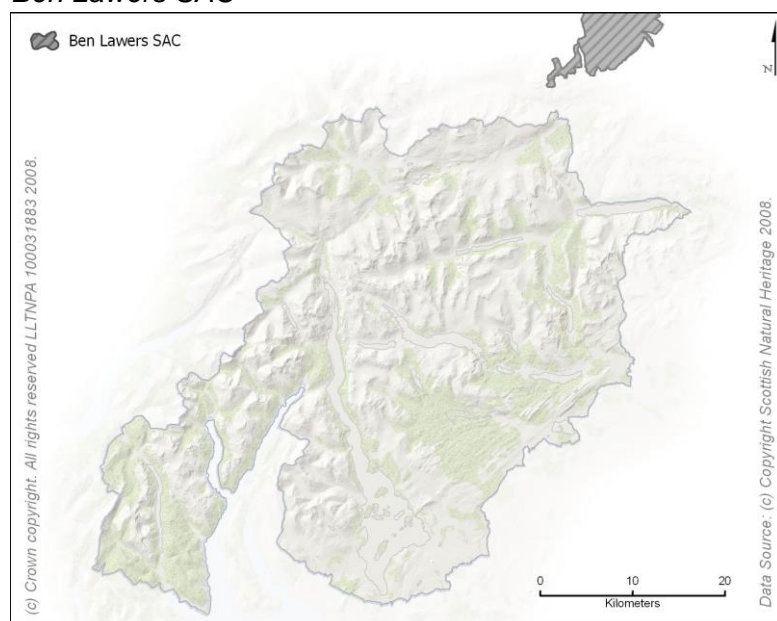
- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species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

Qualifying Habitats:

- Active raised bogs*
- Degraded raised bogs

* Indicates priority habitat

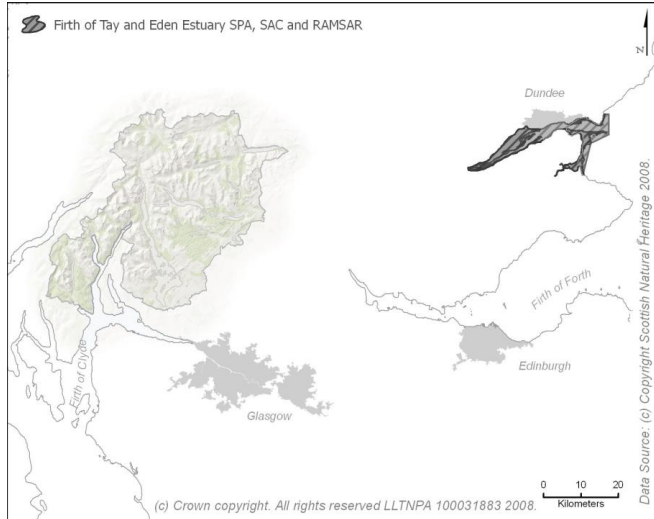
Ben Lawers SAC



Name of European Site: Ben Lawers
Site Type: Special Area of Conservation
Qualifying Interest(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <i>Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae</i>*) • Blanket bog * • 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 <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i>) • 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 <i>Nardus</i> grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe)*) • Mountain willow scrub (Sub-Arctic <i>Salix</i> spp. Scrub)
Conservation Objectives: <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within site • Structure and function of the habitat • Processes supporting the habitat • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

*Indicates priority habitat

Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SPA



Name of European Site: Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary

Site Type: Special Protection Area

Site description:

Qualifying interest(s):

- Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) (internationally important wintering population)
- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) (internationally important wintering population)
- 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 (*Anser anser*)
- 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

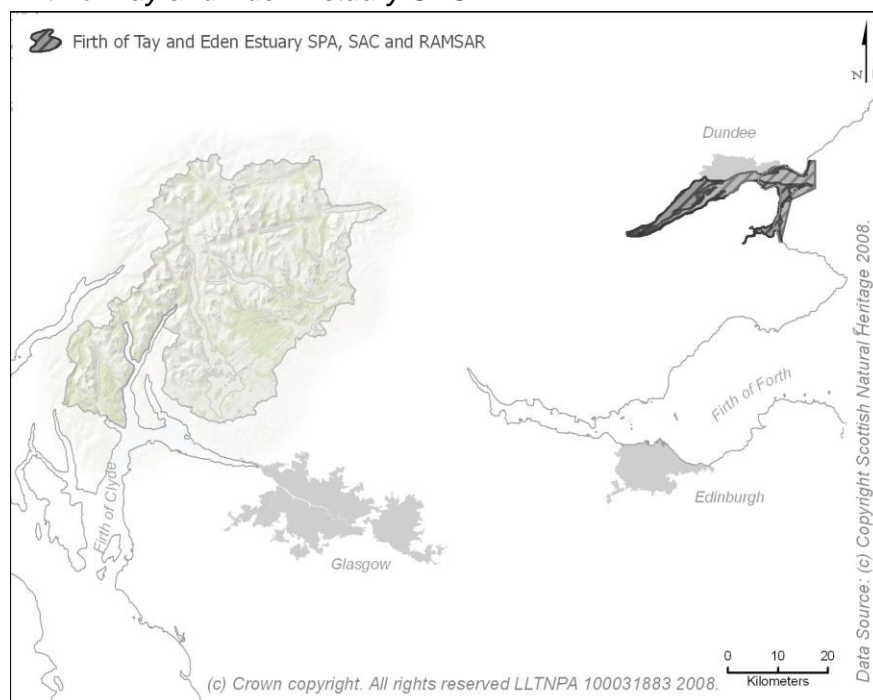
Conservation Objectives:

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

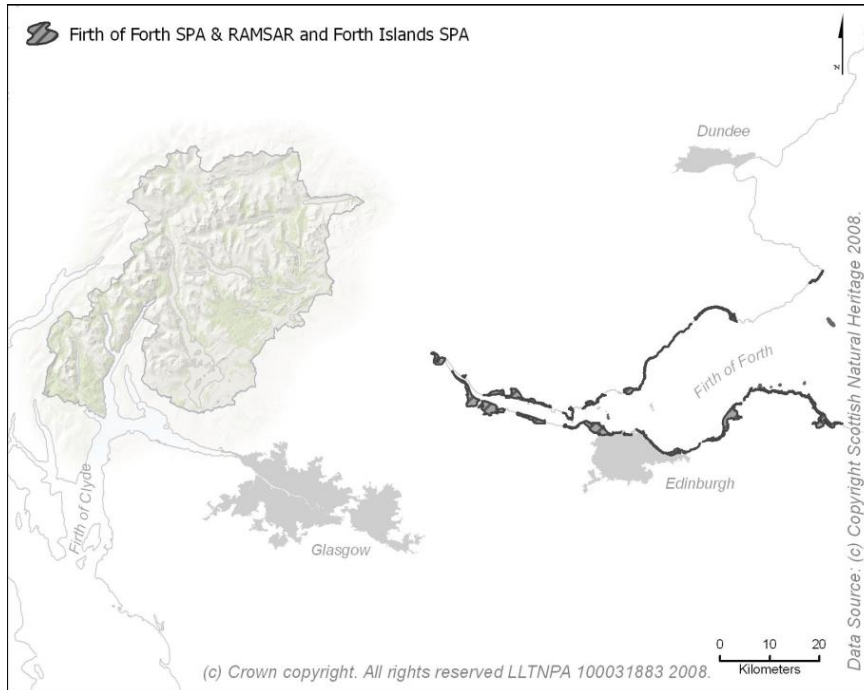
Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC



Name of European Site: Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary
Site Type: Special Area of Conservation
Qualifying Interest(s): Habitats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time Species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>)
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within site • Structure and function of the habitat • Processes supporting the habitat • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species

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

Firth of Forth SPA



Name of European Site: Firth of Forth (SPA)

Site Type: Special Protection Area

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)

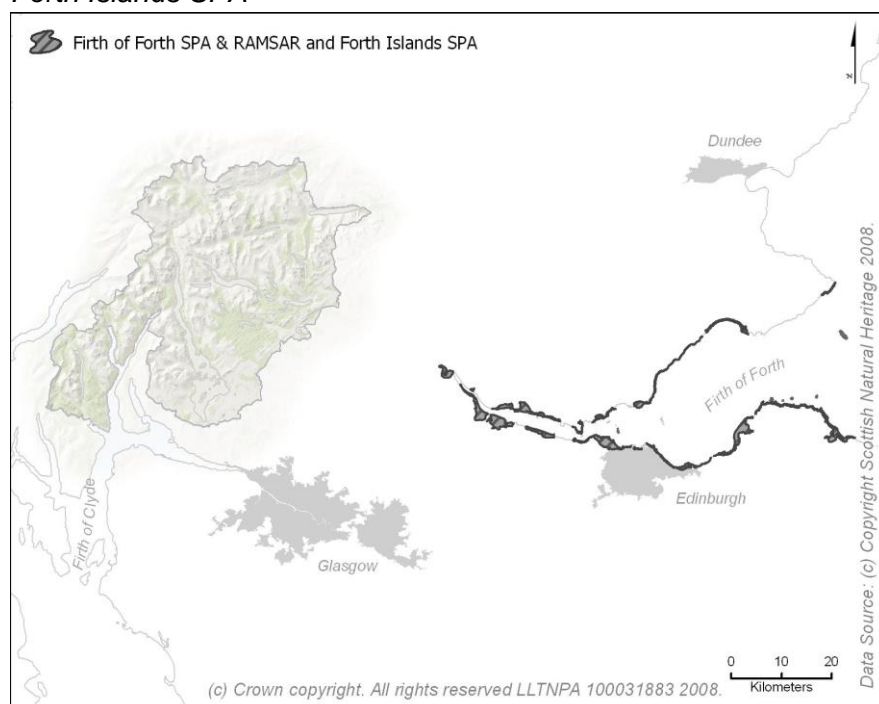
Wintering waterfowl assemblage including 15 migratory species:

- 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 platyrhynchos*)*
- Oystercatcher (*Haematopus o*
- Red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*)*
- Ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)*
- Scaup (*Aythya marila*)*
- Velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca*)*
- Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)*

Conservation Objectives:
<p>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</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species

** indicates assemblage qualifier only*

Forth Islands SPA



Name of European Site: Forth Islands (SPA)

Site Type: Special Protection Areas

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

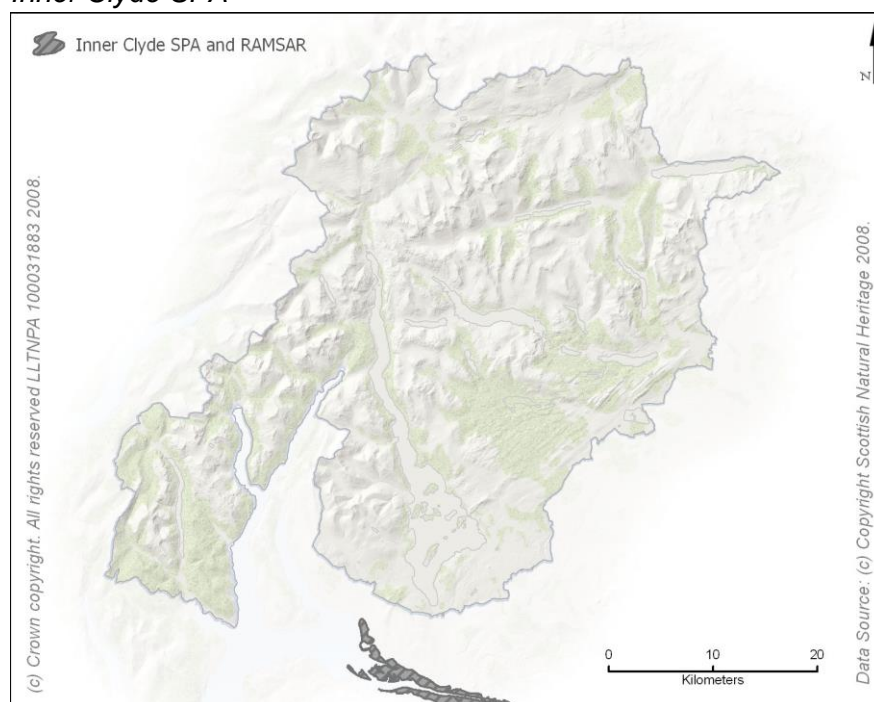
Conservation Objectives:

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.

Inner Clyde SPA



Name of European Site: Inner Clyde

Site Type: Special Protection Area

Site Description:

The Inner Clyde SPA contains extensive intertidal flats which support large numbers of wintering waterfowl.

Qualifying Interest:

- Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) (wintering population)

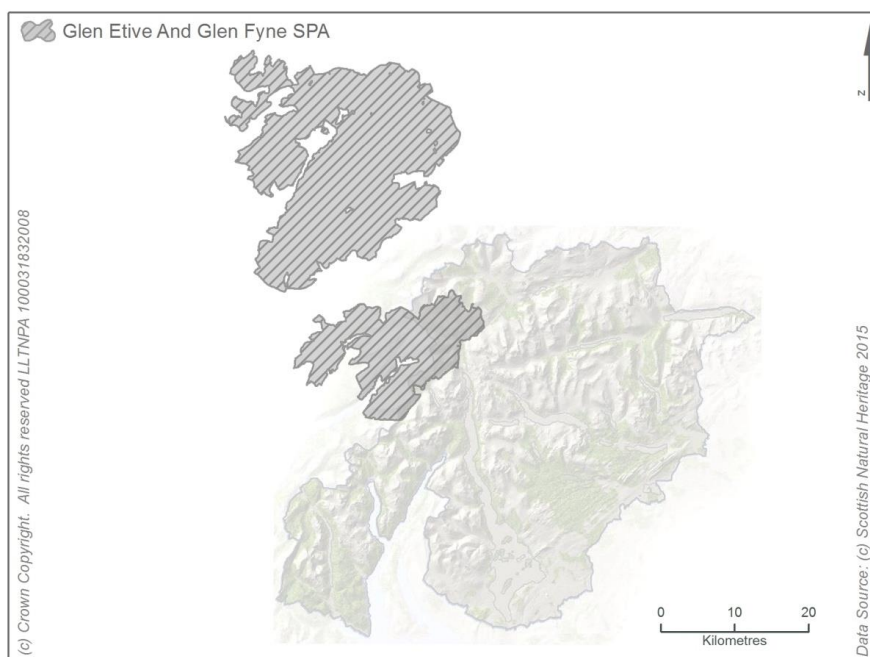
Conservation Objectives:

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

Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA



Name of European Site: Glen Etive and Glen Fyne

Site Type: Special Protection Area

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).

European sites scoped out

- 4.4 Two European sites were scoped out as “No Likely Significant Effect” in relation to all aspects of the Local Development Plan. These were Flanders Mosses SAC and the Forth Islands SPA. 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. 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.
- 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 Local Development plan showed that there was sufficient mitigation in place for the application process to ensure that there would be no adverse effects on these European sites so these have not been screened into the National Park Partnership Plan HRA.
- 4.6 Having reached these conclusions there is no likelihood that any of the policies or proposals in the Local Development Plan could have a likely significant effect on those six European sites it is proposed that these European sites are not included in the HRA with reasons set out 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 National Park Partnership Plan. Too geographically distant to be affected by any small-scale development and management actions. Additionally the River Tay is upstream of the site and any potential impacts on water quality are 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 National Park Partnership Plan. Too geographically distant to be affected by any small-scale development and management actions. Additionally the River Tay is upstream of the site and any potential impacts on water quality are 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 National Park Partnership Plan. Too geographically distant to be affected by any small-scale development and management actions. Additionally, the River Teith is upstream of the site and any potential impacts on water quality are 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 National Park Partnership Plan. Too geographically distant to be affected by any small-scale development and management actions. Additionally, the River Teith is upstream of the site and any potential impacts on water quality are 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 National Park Partnership Plan. The impact from any policies or proposals in the National Park Partnership 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 development and management actions in the National Park.

Section 4 - Screening the National Park Partnership Plan

5.1 Having gathered information on the European sites potentially affected by the National Park Partnership Plan as set out in Table 3 the National Park Partnership 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

- 5.4 **Step 1-3:** The screening process of the draft NPPP has therefore included a record of outcomes/actions that are not likely to have a significant effect on a European Site. The detailed matrix of the screening process is included in the Appendix.

Table 4: **Summary** of Priorities 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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward • Long-term vision
Projects referred to in but not proposed by the plan – i.e excluded from appraisal because they are not proposals generated by this Plan (Step 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor Experience Priority – Path Provision • Visitor Experience Priority – Visitor Management • Rural Development Priority – Infrastructure and Active Travel • Rural Development Priority – Improved Resilience • Rural Development Priority – Low Carbon Economy
Policies which protect the natural environment , including biodiversity or conserving or enhancing the natural, built/historic or cultural environment. Step 3(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Priority – Species • Conservation Priority – Landscape and Heritage • Conservation Priority – Climate Change • Conservation Priority –Habitats • Conservation Priority –Integrated Land Management • Rural Development Priority – Built Heritage
Policies which will not lead to development or other change because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria. Step3(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor Experience Priority – Path Maintenance • Visitor Experience Priority – Tourism Markets • Visitor Experience Priority – Connectivity • Visitor Experience Priority – Public Transport • Visitor Experience Priority – Health Improvement • Visitor Experience Priority – Engagement and Learning • Rural Development Priority – Skills and Training • Rural Development Priority – Local Services • Rural Development Priority – Supporting Capacity of Community Organisations • Rural Development Priority – Supporting

	Community Lead Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Development Priority – Supporting partnership working
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. <i>Step 3(c)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitor Experience Priority – Waterbus Network
Which make a provision for change but which could have no significant effect (and hence a <i>minor residual effect</i>) 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. <i>Step 3(d)</i> .	
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. <i>Step 3(e)</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitor Experience Priority – Active Travel Visitor Experience – Water Facilities Visitor Experience – Water Recreation Rural Development Priority – Rural Diversification Rural Development – Business Support Rural Development – Broadband and Mobile Coverage Rural Development Priority – Affordable Housing

5.6 The above Table 4 screens out all the outcomes that do not have significant effect 'alone'. The 'in combination' assessment is found in Table 6 below.

Consideration of likely significant effects in combination

In-combination with other relevant Plans or Projects

5.5 The 'in combination effects' of the National Park Partnership 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 National Park Partnership Plan which also have minor residual effects. Table 9 below identifies the other plans and projects which have been assessed.

Table 6: 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 National Park Partnership 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	HRA was undertaken. The majority of policies and proposals identified would have no 'in combination' effects.
National Park Documents	
Local Development Plan 'LIVE Park'	HRA was undertaken. The policies and proposals identified would have no 'in combination' effects.
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 'Camping Development Strategy'	HRA not undertaken as a strategic plan, projects not detailed enough.
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.
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 any European site such as Loch Lomond Woods SAC. There is no information available about the details of this proposal so it cannot be considered in terms of potential in combination effects.

- 5.6 The other relevant plans and projects listed above in Table 6 have been considered for 'in combination' effects and there are no likely significant in combination effects.

Conclusion to screening

- 5.7 The Habitats Regulations Appraisal process has followed the key stages in the SNH Guidance. The appraisal process identified that no part of the National Park Partnership Plan was likely to have a significant effect on any European site 'alone' or 'in combination'. As a consequence, it can be safely concluded that the National Park Partnership Plan 2018-2023 will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site.

Appendix : Detailed Matrix of Priorities and Reasons For Screening Out

Outcomes	Priorities	1)	2)	3a)	3b)	3c)	3d)	3e)
		1) General policy statements	2) Projects not generated by this plan	3a) Intended to protect the natural environment	3b) Will not themselves lead to development or other change	3c) Make provision for change but could have no conceivable effect on a European site	3d) Make provision for change but would have no significant effect – minor residual effect	3e) Effects on European site cannot be identified
Conservation Outcomes								
Outcome 1 The Park's natural resources are enhanced for future generations: important habitats are restored and better connected on a landscape scale.	Conservation Priority - Habitats We will work with others to deliver multiple benefits from nature including natural flood management, carbon storage, and sustainable timber and food production. Specific habitats for focus include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woodlands - The National Park Authority's priority will be supporting and encouraging land managers with advice and resources to expand and manage native woodland and restructure plantations. We will produce a Woodland Strategy highlighting the opportunities for native woodland expansion and management. Our key focus will be on areas with sparse woodland cover and the restoration of native upland woodland and scrub habitats, particularly along hillside burns, and also waterside woodlands on the banks of rivers, burns and lochs in the lowland areas of 			X				

Outcomes	Priorities	1)	2)	3a)	3b)	3c)	3d)	3e)
	<p>the Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshwater and Marine - Working with key partners such as SEPA, the National Park Authority's priority and focus will be on supporting the restoration of naturally-functioning river and loch systems, particularly in and around the wilder parts of the Park. This will be done by taking a catchment-by-catchment approach to tackling diffuse pollution and improving water quality, flows and wetland habitat. We will work towards encouraging natural flood management solutions, as demonstrated by projects such as the Strathard Partnership, and highlight the problem of marine litter in Loch Long. 							

Outcomes	Priorities	1)	2)	3a)	3b)	3c)	3d)	3e)
	<p>Conservation Priority - Species</p> <p>Whilst the National Park Authority's main focus will first and foremost be on the wider health of ecosystems and habitats which support species, it will also support targeted work on key species whose conservation status is in decline or at risk, with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling and reducing the impacts of invasive non-native species such as Rhododendron, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, and Grey squirrel with a strategic, landscape-scale approach. • 'Flagship' species that are gauges of natural health and representative of key, threatened habitats in the Park. These species help engage people with the natural environment and the benefits it brings. These include 'flagship' species targeted for action under Wildpark 2020, the National Park's biodiversity action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Red Squirrel (woodland) ○ Black Grouse (upland) ○ Brown Trout (freshwater) ○ Gannet (marine) 			X				
<p>Outcome 2</p> <p>The Park's special landscape qualities and</p>	<p>Conservation Priority – Landscape and Heritage</p> <p>The National Park Authority, and its partners, will work to conserve and enhance the special landscape and cultural heritage qualities of the area by:</p>			X				

Outcomes	Priorities	1)	2)	3a)	3b)	3c)	3d)	3e)
sense of place are conserved and enhanced with more opportunities to enjoy and experience them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that developments and projects recognise the need to protect and, where possible, enhance the qualities of wildness, tranquillity, dark skies and the historic environment. Supporting projects that enhance opportunities to enjoy landscapes particularly along major transport routes and around settlements. Including implementing a strategically planned and designed upgrade to the A82 between Tarbet and Inverarnan, and continuing to review landslip management measures on the A83 at The Rest and Be Thankful. Prioritising spatially targeted landscape enhancements that also deliver improvements for nature such as woodland creation, re-structuring of commercial forestry blocks, wetland restoration or tackling invasive non-native species. Safeguarding and restoring tranquil loch-shores through initiatives including the Your Park camping management programme and Respect Your Park campaign. 							
Outcome 3 The natural environment of the Park is better managed to help mitigate	Conservation Priority – Climate Change Our focus will be working with partners and communities to better adapt to, and mitigate against the impacts of climate change by building resilience and collaborating on land use and water management initiatives which capture carbon and reduce flooding impacts. These will include supporting:			X				

Outcomes	Priorities	1)	2)	3a)	3b)	3c)	3d)	3e)
and address the impacts of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural flood management projects. Sensitively sighted woodland enhancement and expansion. Building resilient habitat networks. Peatland restoration projects upstream of flood risk communities, including Aberfoyle and Callander. Implementation of the Clyde and Loch Lomond, Forth, and Tay Flood Risk Management Plans that cover the Park. 							
Outcome 4 New landscape-scale partnerships deliver better integrated management of the land and water environment providing multiple benefits for nature and people.	<i>Conservation Priority– Integrated Land Management</i> To achieve better integrated and more sustainable land management in the National Park we will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with land managers and communities to establish and facilitate Land Use Partnerships operating at landscape and catchment scales, across multiple land ownerships in key areas of the National Park. Examples include the Strathard Partnership, Callander Landscape Partnership and East Loch Lomond Land Management Forum. Support Deer Management Groups to achieve sustainable, long term deer impact management in the Park. This will be done through the development of Deer Management Plans and associated Habitat Impact Assessments, focusing efforts on areas with adverse grazing impacts, and the support of new Deer Management Groups in parts of the Park where none 			X				

Outcomes	Priorities	1)	2)	3a)	3b)	3c)	3d)	3e)
	<p>exist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support land managers to plan and deliver multiple environmental and social benefits, alongside economic return, through the creation and delivery of Integrated Land Management Plans for land management businesses 							
Visitor Experience Outcomes								

Outcomes	Priorities	1)	2)	3a)	3b)	3c)	3d)	3e)
Outcome 5 The National Park has a wide variety of well promoted and managed outdoor recreation opportunities providing for a range of abilities and interests.	Visitor Experience Priority – Path Provision Improving and extending the National Park’s recreational path network by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that the National Park Core Paths are reviewed and fit for purpose. Restoring 22 mountain paths and delivering training and volunteering opportunities through the Mountains and The People project (see case study below/overleaf). Investing in recreational routes in the landscape around Callander through the Callander Landscape Partnership. Enabling the development of the cross-Scotland Pilgrim’s Way as a national development by connecting the Tyndrum to St Fillans section passing through the National Park. Developing key active travel linkages between communities. 		X					

Outcomes	Priorities	1)	2)	3a)	3b)	3c)	3d)	3e)
	. Visitor Experience Priority – Path Maintenance Developing ways to resource the required investment to maintain high quality path networks (including through visitor and charitable giving), particularly the West Highland Way and other long distance routes and Core Paths in the National Park.				X			.
	. Visitor Experience Priority– Active Travel Promoting greater use of the National Walking and Cycling Network in the national Park for recreation and active travel and promoting better linkages from existing public transport hubs and services.							X
Outcome 6 There are more opportunities to enjoy water-based recreation and sporting activities across the Park's lochs, rivers and coasts while	Visitor Experience Priority– Water Facilities Securing investment in more publicly accessible boating and recreational facilities, such as piers, pontoons and moorings for a range of users, particularly on Loch Lomond, Loch Long and Loch Earn.							X
	Visitor Experience Priority – Waterbus Network Encouraging the development of the Waterbus network on Loch Lomond and Loch Katrine and enabling new opportunities on Loch Long.					X		

Outcomes	Priorities	1)	2)	3a)	3b)	3c)	3d)	3e)
maximising safety for all users and protecting the quality of water environments.	Visitor Experience Priority– Water Recreation Encouraging more participation in established and emerging water recreation activities such as fishing, kayaking, canoeing, open water swimming and board sports by promoting suitable locations and itineraries as well as clear water safety advice.							X
Outcome 7 The Park's visitor economy is thriving with more businesses and organisations working together to create a world-class	Visitor Experience Priority – Tourism Markets Encouraging new and established tourism businesses to innovate and collaborate by capitalising on growing markets linked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking, cycling and canoeing. • Camping and motorhomes. • Nature based tourism. • Marine tourism. • Food and drink. • Business tourism. • Signature Events. • Cultural Heritage including Gaelic language. • Film and TV locations. • Accessible tourism. 				X			

Outcomes	Priorities	1)	2)	3a)	3b)	3c)	3d)	3e)
destination. .	<p>Visitor Experience Priority - Connectivity</p> <p>Making it easier to find out what the National Park has to offer and ensure the connectivity for businesses to grow and collaborate by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating better joined-up, consistent and relevant visitor information, particularly on digital platforms. • Providing advice and online resources for tourism businesses in the National Park. • Facilitating business collaboration through events and digital engagement. • Providing a good Ranger and Volunteer Ranger visitor welcome service. • Securing better Superfast Broadband, public Wi-Fi and mobile telephone network coverage. 				X			

Outcomes	Priorities	1)	2)	3a)	3b)	3c)	3d)	3e)
Outcome 8 The most popular parts of the National Park which experience pressures are managed to ensure that the quality of environment, visitor experience and community life are protected and enhanced.	Visitor Experience Priority – Visitor Management Ensuring locations experiencing visitor and recreational pressures are well managed with the appropriate combination of infrastructure investment, education and regulation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring designated Camping Management Zones provide for sustainable levels of camping and motorhome use alongside other visitor activities., Strengthening efforts to prevent and manage litter more effectively at popular visitor sites, and address marine litter issues on Loch Long. Developing car parking and traffic management measures to address peak traffic pressures at some locations such as East Loch Lomond. Delivering educational campaigns with partners to promote responsible enjoyment of the Park's environment, including safe use of its road network. 		X					
	Visitor Experience Priority – Public Transport Improving public transport options for travelling to and within the National Park including making more use of existing railway and active travel infrastructure, encouraging more convenient services to popular destinations and providing better travel information at strategic transport hubs surrounding the Park.							X

Outcomes	Priorities	1)	2)	3a)	3b)	3c)	3d)	3e)
Outcome 9 People from a wider range of backgrounds are enjoying, valuing and helping manage the National Park. It is used more as a place for people to realise the personal health and wellbeing benefits of connecting with nature.	Visitor Experience Priority – Health Improvement Improving how the National Park can be used to support health improvement, strengthening links to health focused activities such as walking, outdoor learning and volunteering programmes as well as sports hubs, award schemes, outdoor activity providers, active travel opportunities and Park mobility schemes.				.			X
	Visitor Experience Priority– Engagement and Learning Increasing opportunities for engagement, volunteering and education activities, especially for young people and those who are experiencing disadvantage or have difficulty in accessing the National Park.				X			
Rural Development Outcomes								

Outcomes	Priorities	1)	2)	3a)	3b)	3c)	3d)	3e)
Outcome 10 The National Parks towns villages and countryside are enhanced with investment in the built and historic environment, public spaces and infrastructure.	Rural Development Priority – Infrastructure and Active Travel Supporting new development, infrastructure and public realm improvements, which facilitate and link to active travel opportunities, focussing on Arrochar, Tarbet, Balloch and Callander (as well as villages identified as ‘Placemaking Priorities’ in the Local Development Plan)		X					
	Rural Development Priority – Built Heritage Conserving and enhancing the built and historic environment, including the repair and restoration of traditional and landmark buildings.			X				
	Rural Development Priority – Improved Resilience Improving resilience to the effects of climate change, including flooding in towns and villages (and affecting sites and buildings) and encouraging high quality development that embodies low and zero carbon technologies.		X					
Outcome 11 The rural economy has been strengthened through	Rural Development Priority– Low Carbon Economy Supporting the transition towards a lower carbon economy through greater energy efficiency, reduced waste and greenhouse gas emissions and appropriate renewable energy generation with a focus on small scale, low carbon opportunities.		X					

Outcomes	Priorities	1)	2)	3a)	3b)	3c)	3d)	3e)
sustainable business growth and diversification.	Rural Development Priority – Rural Diversification Supporting land managers to diversify, including increased use of more rural place based planning strategies in the National Park Local Development Plan.							X
	Rural Development Priority– Business Support Increasing workspace provision and access to training and support for new business start-ups and development, including more focused rural business support and digital hubs.							X
	Rural Development Priority– Broadband and Mobile Coverage Improving broadband and mobile coverage/speed via current and emerging investment programmes and community led projects.							X
Outcome 12- Population decline is being addressed by attracting and retaining more skilled working age and young people within the National Park and a	Rural Development Priority – Skills and Training Identifying and addressing skills and training needs, and provision of skills development support (working collaboratively with industry associations, training providers and employers including delivery of the Developing Young Workforce agenda).				X			
	Rural Development Priority – Affordable Housing Investing in more affordable housing provision, including identifying new delivery models for affordable self-build and private rent options.							X

Outcomes	Priorities	1)	2)	3a)	3b)	3c)	3d)	3e)
better range of housing options.	Rural Development Priority – Local Services Supporting improved local service delivery and infrastructure, safeguarding rural facilities, including improving public transport links in and around the National Park.				X			
Outcome 13 The Park's communities are supported to influence and deliver actions that improve their quality of life and place.	Rural Development Priority –Supporting Capacity of Community Organisations Supporting communities to maintain good organisational capacity with effective Community Development Trusts and Community Councils actively involved in decision making that influences local service delivery.				X			
	Rural Development Priority – Supporting Community Lead Action Supporting communities, through Local Action Planning, to develop and lead on project delivery, village enhancements and to own, or share ownership, and manage assets (including income generation and social enterprise opportunities).				X			
	Rural Development Priority – Supporting partnership working Supporting communities to work in partnership with others to deliver large scale projects with multiple benefits.				X			