



Outdoor Recreation Plan

Draft Habitats Regulations Appraisal

October 2019

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Section 1 - Introduction

This document represents the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) of the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Outdoor Recreation Plan 2019- 2023(the Plan).

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.

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.

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. 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. A recent judgement in the EU Court of Justice (C-323/17) has ruled that it is not appropriate, at the screening stage, to take account of measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of a plan or project on a European Site. As a consequence, mitigation measures have not been taken into account at the screening stage in this HRA.

HRA 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. Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) must be consulted as part of any appropriate assessment.

SNH 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 preparation of this HRA and will be formally consulted during the consultation process to ensure that they agree with the conclusions of the HRA.

Section 2 – Outdoor Recreation Plan - Context

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park is an amazing place. Its wonderfully varied landscapes combined with its proximity and accessibility to such large proportion of Scotland's population make it the ideal place for people to get outdoors and connect with nature.

There are a huge range of benefits that this can bring, from one person's first outdoor adventure opening them up to a lifelong love of the outdoors, to playing a major part in the National efforts to make Scotland a healthier, greener nation.

Building on the National Park's previous Outdoor Recreation Plan this plan sets out our ambitions for supporting and improving recreation opportunities for everyone, tackling the Global Climate Emergency through supporting a further shift towards active travel and improving people's health and wellbeing by getting outside into nature.

Great strides have already been made in these areas in recent years. This plan will not only build on those successes but learn from previous experience to test and learn new innovative approaches to establish the National Park as a model of best practice.

Making it happen

This plan maps out the areas of focus and guiding principles which can guide our work over the next 3 years to deliver the vision of the National Park Partnership Plan around recreation and active and sustainable lifestyles and experiences for all.

Why do we need one?

This plan guides the work of the many organisations and partners with an interest in recreation and active, sustainable lifestyles so that a coherent and co-ordinated approach can be taken which best delivers an accessible, active and sustainable home and destination for all those who wish to enjoy The National Parks special landscape.

The unique position of the National Park offers opportunities to bring partners together to innovate and deliver ambitious work which can set examples to others and inspire the millions of visitors who enjoy this special place.

Main Objectives of the National Park Outdoor Recreation Plan

There is wide consensus amongst stakeholders that the National Policy documents are now largely in place that recognise the value of outdoor recreation and activity under three main themes; improving health and well-being, supporting low-carbon lifestyles as we address a climate emergency, and economic benefits through tourism.

Working from this broad base this plan intends to take specific elements from all of the varying policy documents and holistically bring the priority aspects in each into the focused area of the National Park to show how the various policies around health and wealth being, climate change, cycling, walking and tourism can come together to provide a coherent programme.

There are six strategic themes:

1. A Park for All .
2. Active and Vibrant Places.
3. Coasts and Water.

4. Connecting Places.
5. Exploring Further
6. Happy and Healthy People

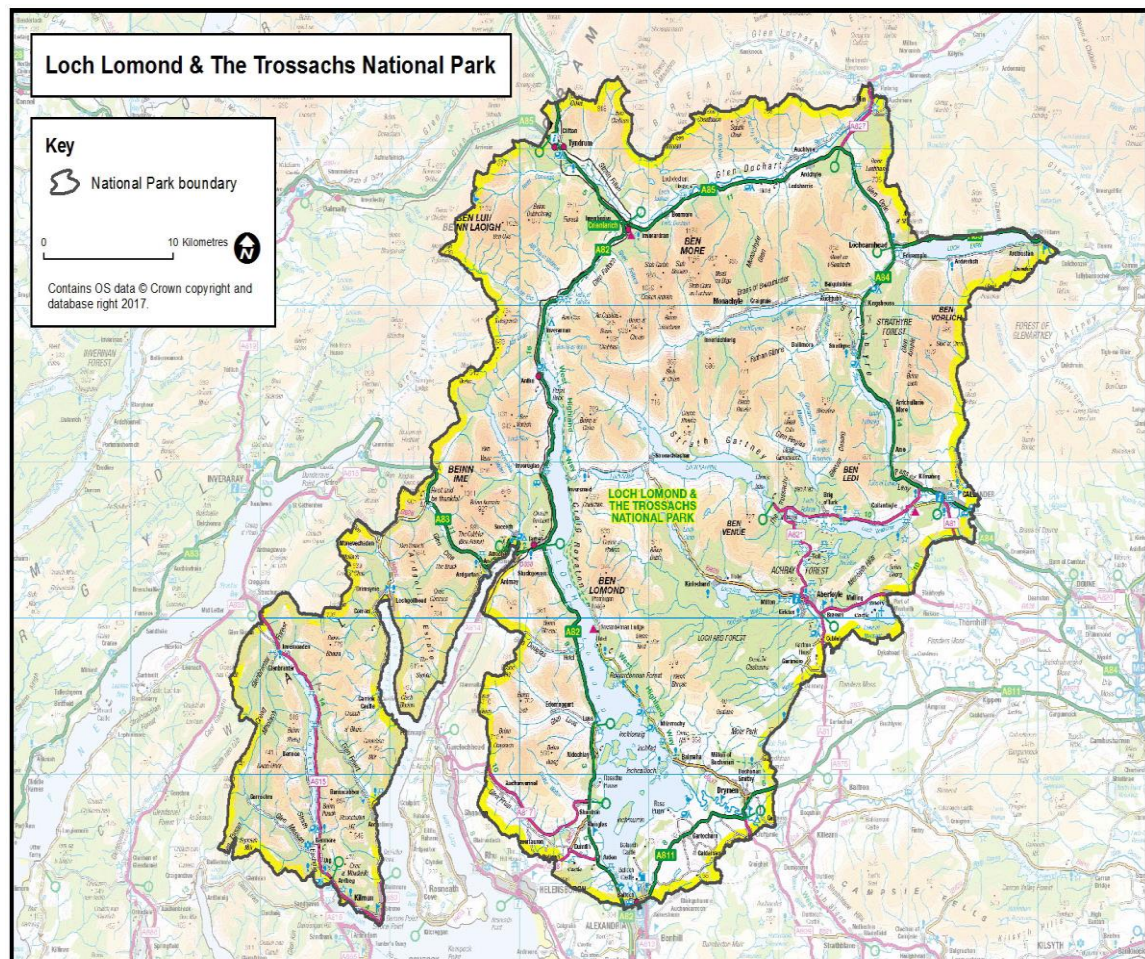
The Plan highlights six main themes each with a vision and identified priority initiatives that will help the National Park deliver its strategic objectives.

The Plan contains one strategic map showing a schematic spatial representation of the vision. It is very high level and doesn't show the detail of the initiatives only broad indications where the focus of each strategic theme will be focussed

Details of the National Park Outdoor Recreation Plan

Name of Responsible Authority:	Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority
Title of Plan:	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Outdoor Recreation Plan 2018-2023
Requirement for the Plan:	National Park Partnership Plan 2018-2023 Climate Change Action Plan Live Park (Local Development Plan 2017-2021)
Subject of the Plan:	Outdoor Recreation Plan
Period covered by the Plan:	2018 - 2023
Frequency of Updates:	Review every five years.
Geographic Area covered by the Plan:	Area designated as The Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. See Map 1
Purpose and/or objectives of the Plan:	The Plan coordinates the work of the National Park Authority and other partners to deliver Outdoor recreation projects and initiatives so far as affecting the National Park.
Contact:	Derek Manson Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority National Park Headquarters Carrochan Road Balloch G83 8EG derek.manson@lochlomond-trossachs.org 01389 727705

Map 1 Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park



Section 3 - Habitats Regulations Appraisal Methodology

European Sites considered

The Plan covers the geographical extent of the National Park. However, given the proximity of a number of European sites outside the National Park, a number of additional sites outwith the National Park boundary were included in the initial consideration. A list of the European sites that should be considered in the appraisal was identified (**Table 1**). These sites are based on the most up to date designations as of September 2019. GIS maps were used to determine the location of sites outside the boundary of the National Park and their potential to be affected by the Plan. Relevant factors were considered such as; the type and scale of actions promoted in the Plan, the qualifying interests of the European sites and their proximity to the National Park boundary.

There is one Ramsar site within the plan area that overlaps with the Loch Lomond SPA and the Loch Lomond Woods SAC. In line with Scottish Government policy, the wintering Greenland white-fronted goose interest of the Loch Lomond Ramsar site is safeguarded through the assessment of effects on the overlapping Loch Lomond SPA in this HRA. Impacts on the wider biodiversity interests of the Ramsar site are considered as part of the assessment of effects on the notified interests of the Endrick Mouth and Islands SSSI in the Plan.

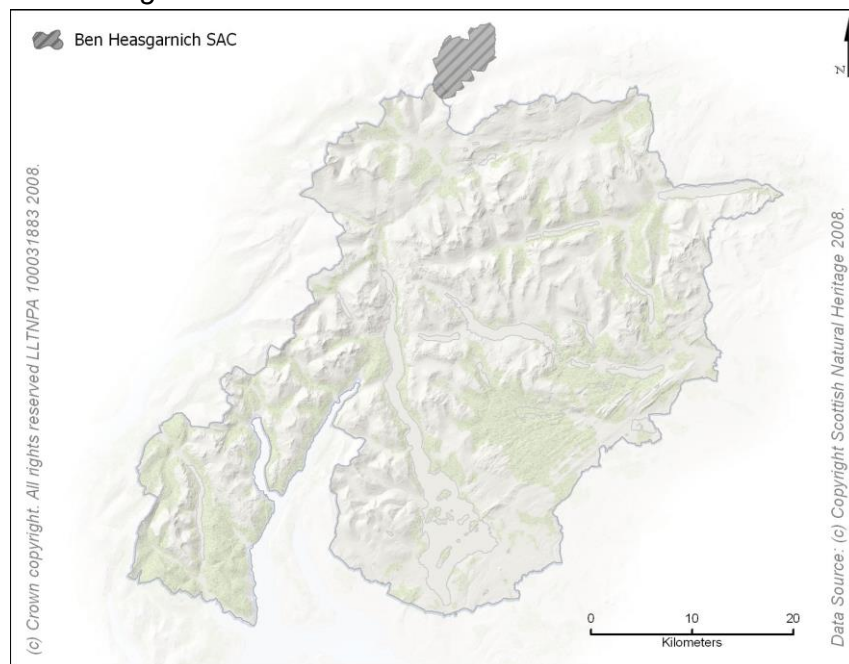
Table 1: European Sites selected as being potentially affected and reasons for their selection

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

European Site	Reason for selection
Firth of Tay & Eden Estuary SAC	Estuary downstream of the Plan area
Firth of Forth SPA	Estuary downstream of the Plan area
Forth Islands SPA	Estuary downstream of the Plan area

Information on European Sites

Ben Heasgarnich SAC

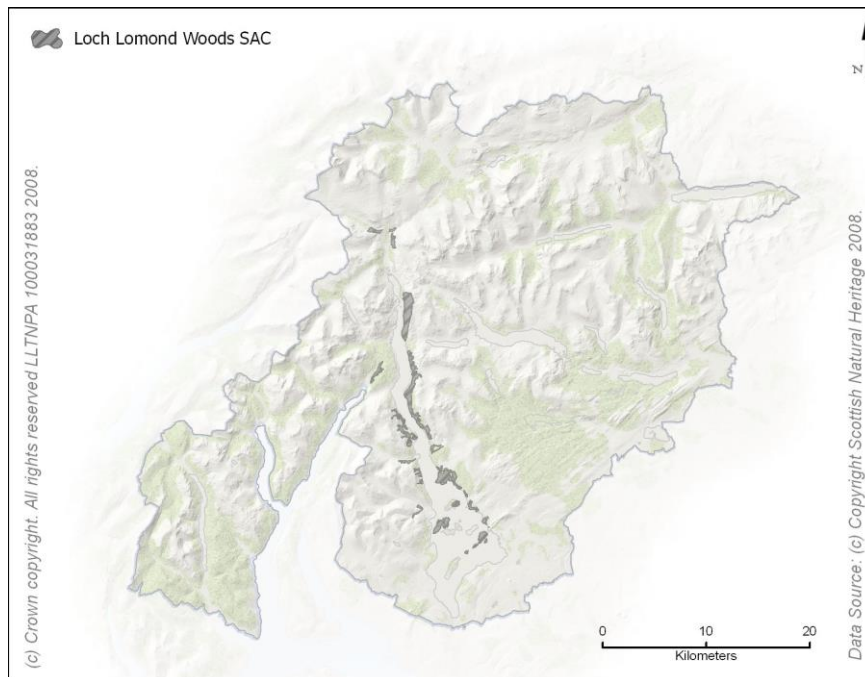


Name of European Site: Ben Heasgarnich
Site Type: Special Area of Conservation
<p>Qualifying Interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base-rich fens (Alkaline fens) • Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands • High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage* (Alpine pioneer formations of the <i>Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae</i>*) • 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 <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)
<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</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p>

- 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

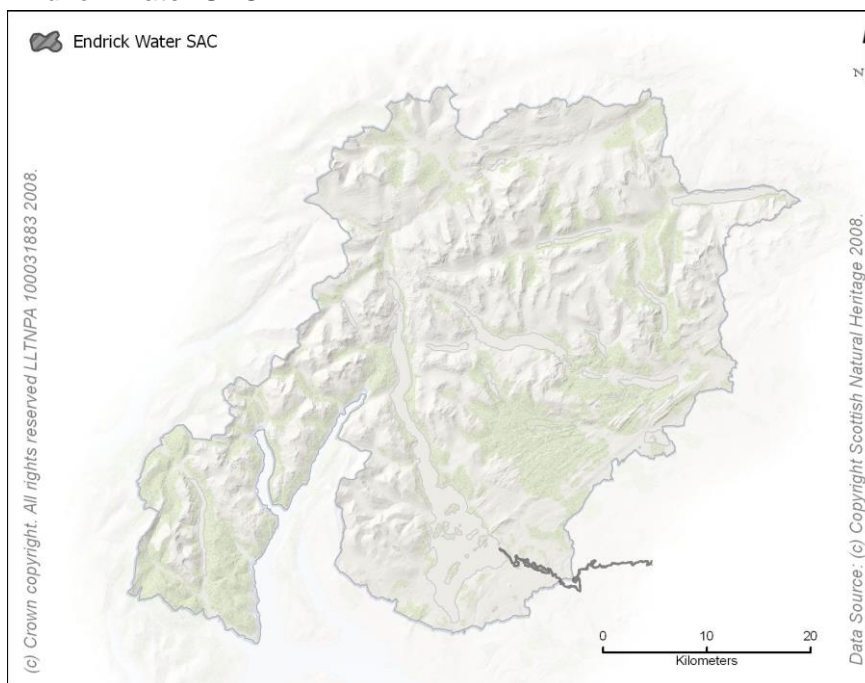


Name of European Site: Loch Lomond Woods
Site Type: Special Area of Conservation
Qualifying Interest(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western acidic oak woodland (Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles) • Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)
Conservation Objectives: <p>To avoid 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

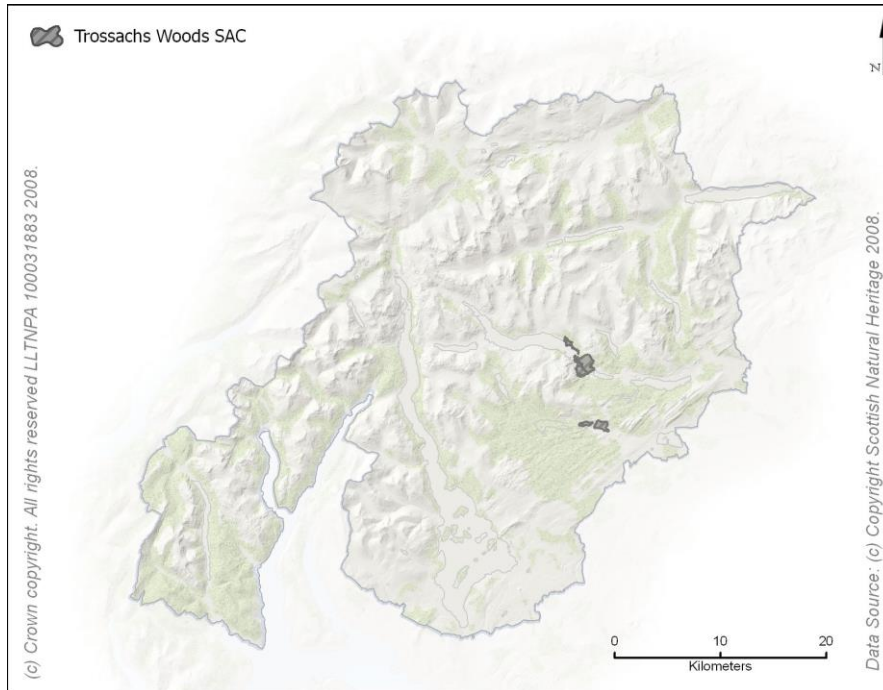
Endrick Water SAC



Name of European Site: Endrick Water
Site Type: Special Area of Conservation
Qualifying Interest(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) • Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) • Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</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 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, 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):

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

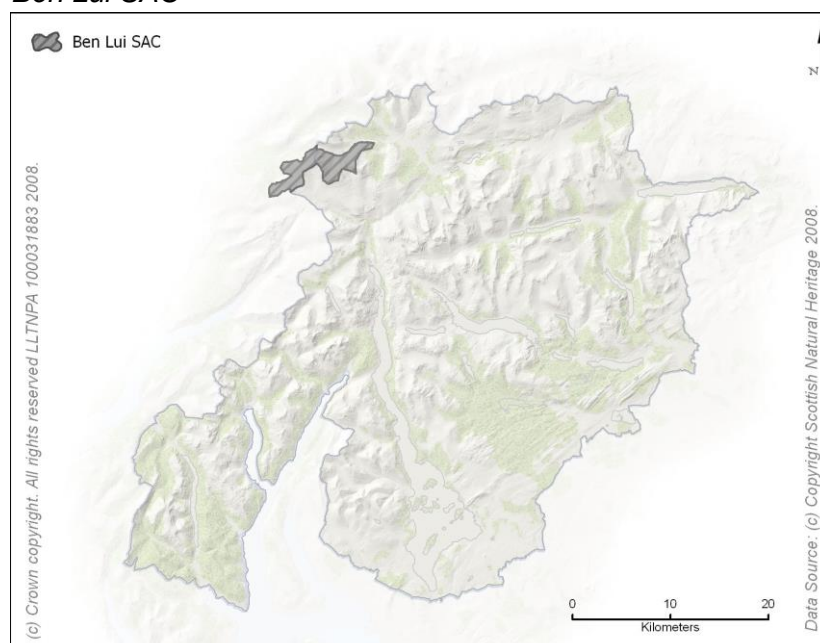
Conservation Objectives:

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

Ben Lui SAC



Name of European Site: Ben Lui

Site Type: Special Area of Conservation

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:

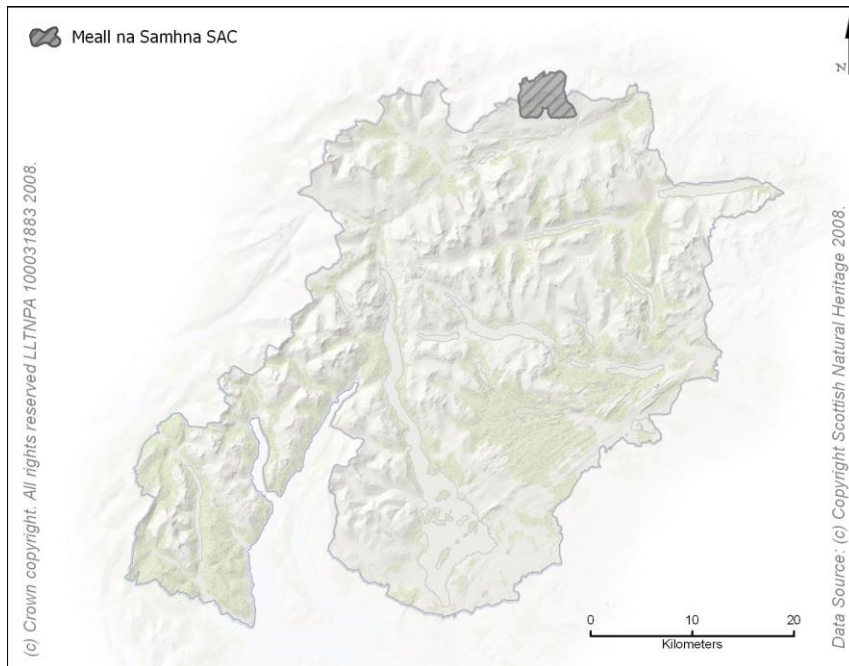
To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed above) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and to ensure for the qualifying habitats that the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

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:

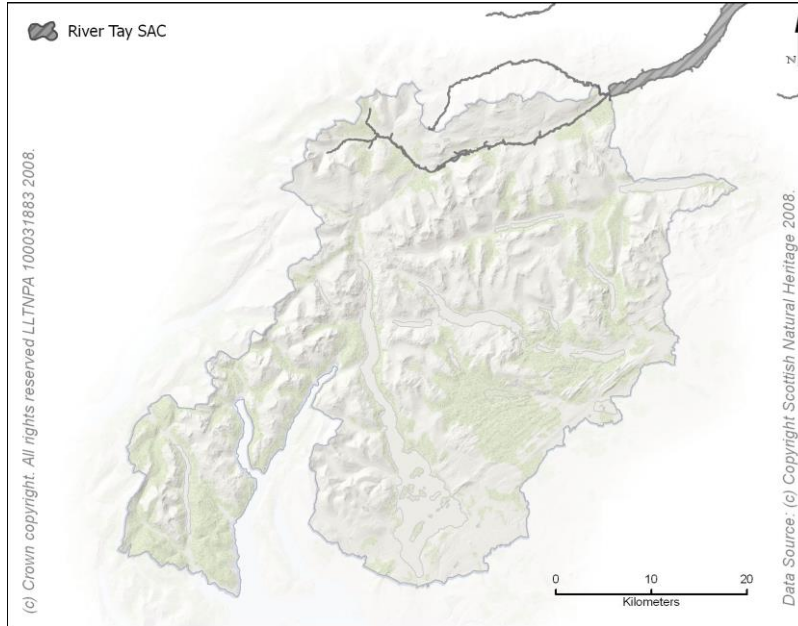
To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed above) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

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

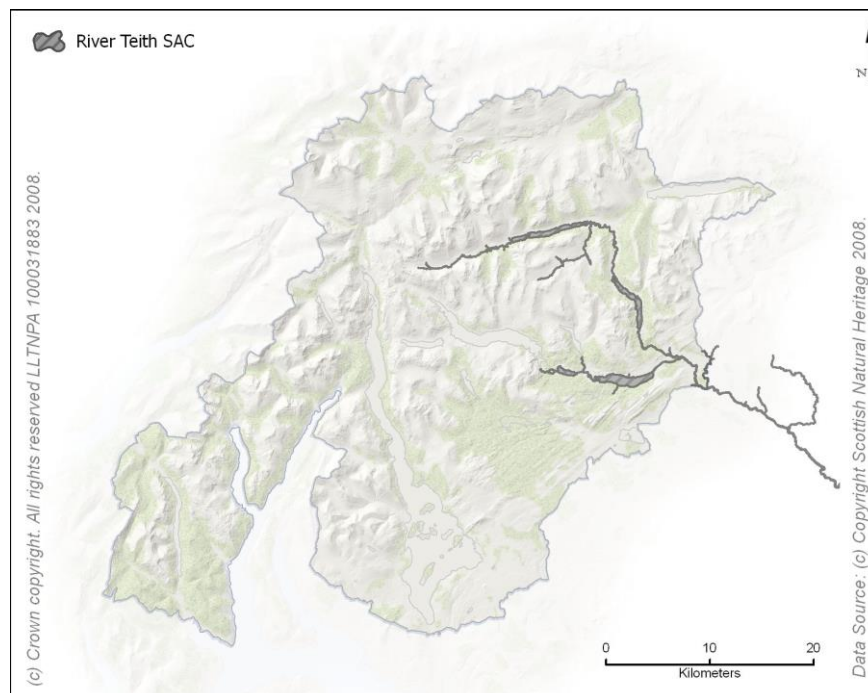
* *Indicates priority habitat*

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*)

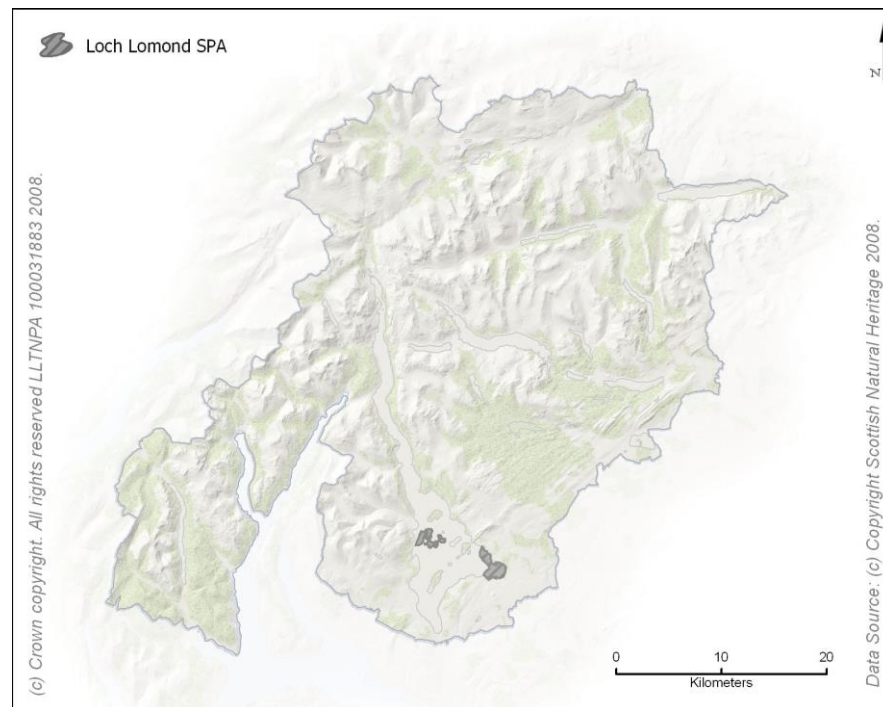
Conservation Objectives:

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

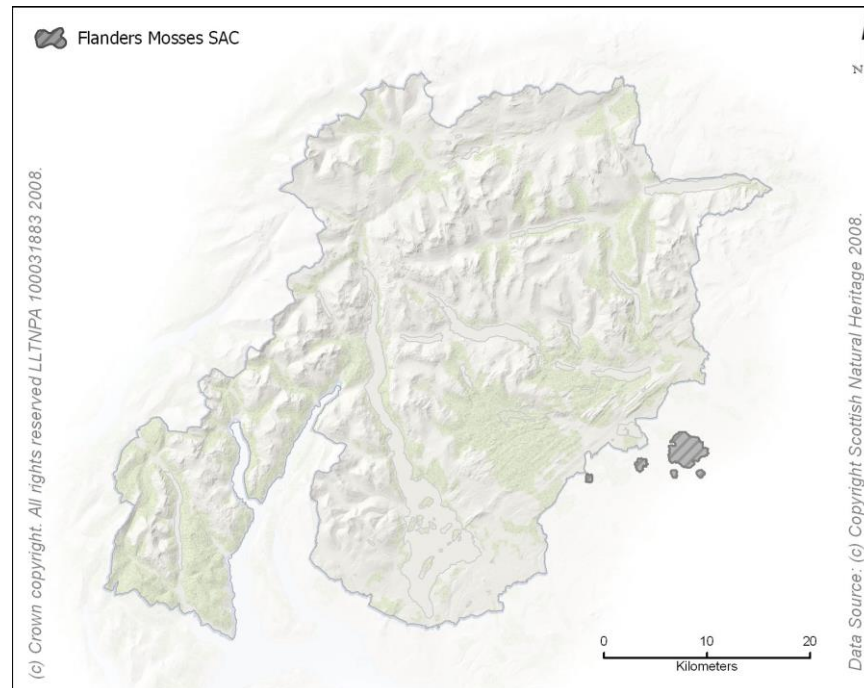
Loch Lomond SPA



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.

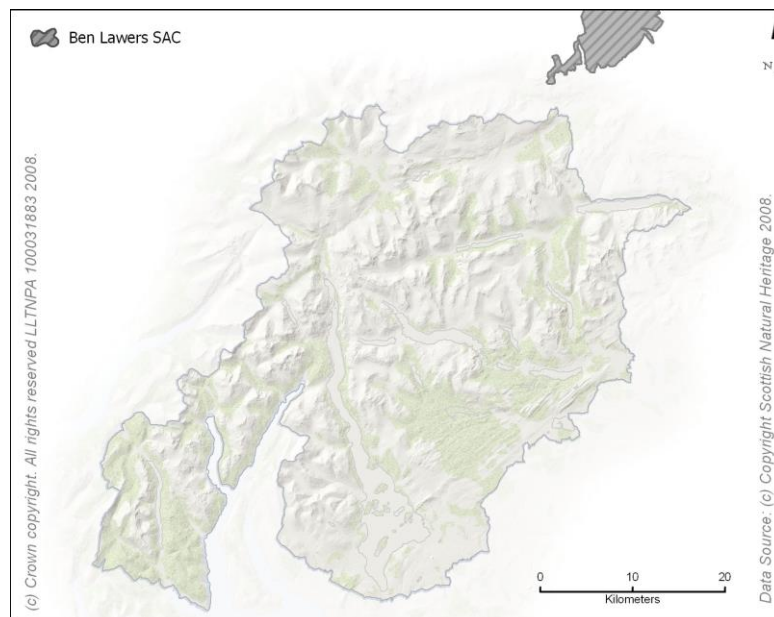
Flanders Mosses SAC



Name of European Site: Flanders Mosses
Site Type: Special Area of Conservation
Qualifying Interest(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active raised bogs Degraded raised bog (Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration)
Conservation Objectives: <p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of the habitat on site Distribution of the habitat within site Structure and function of the habitat Processes supporting the habitat Distribution of typical species of the habitat Viability of typical species as components of the habitat No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Qualifying Habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active raised bogs* Degraded raised bogs

* Indicates priority habitat

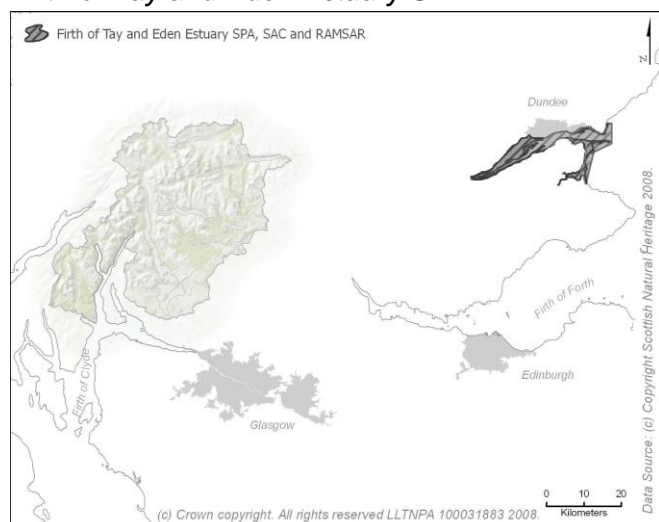
Ben Lawers SAC



Name of European Site: Ben Lawers
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 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)
<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

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

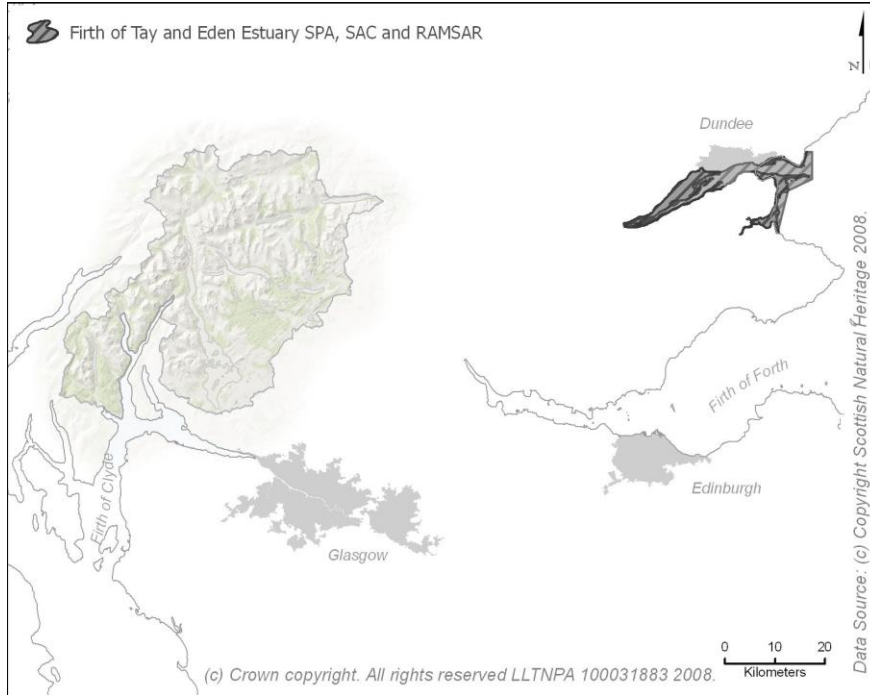
Conservation Objectives:

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

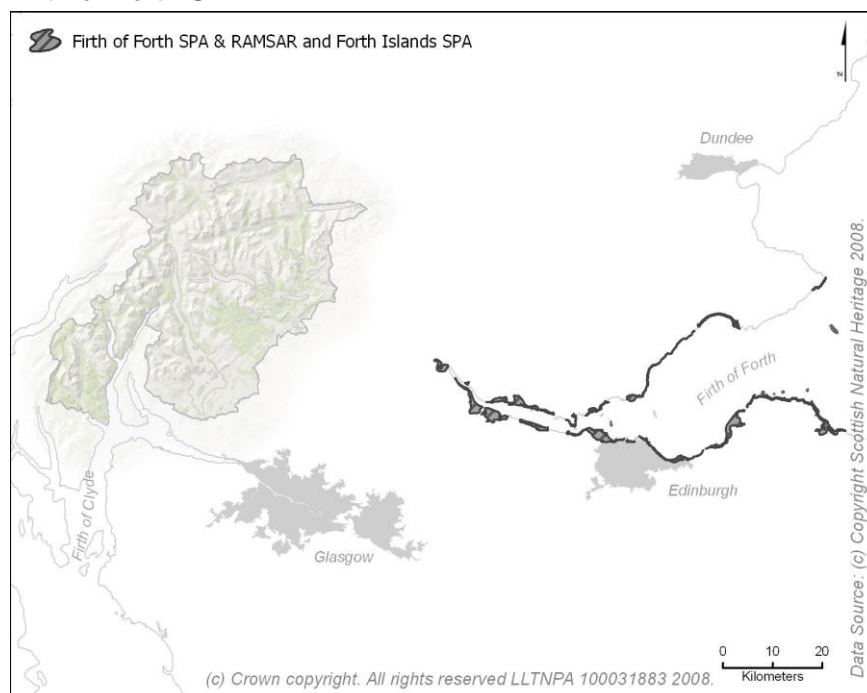
Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC



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

Conservation Objectives:

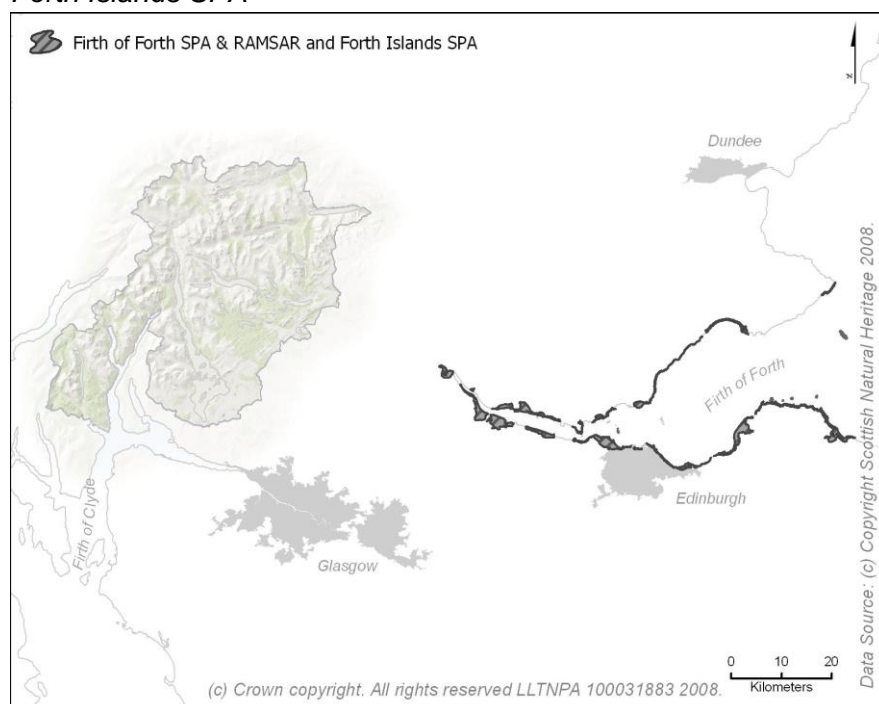
To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

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*

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

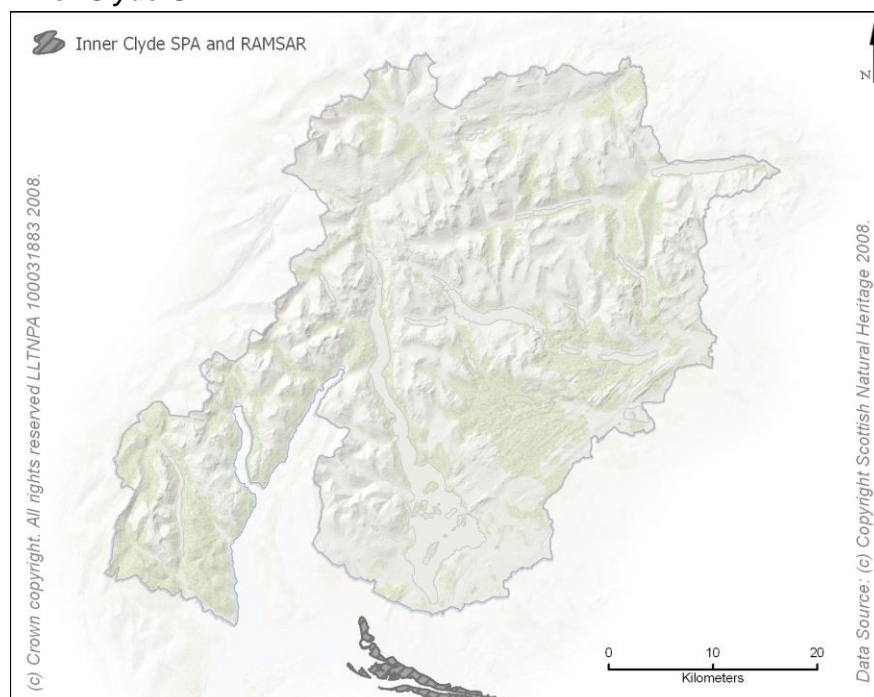
Conservation Objectives:

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)

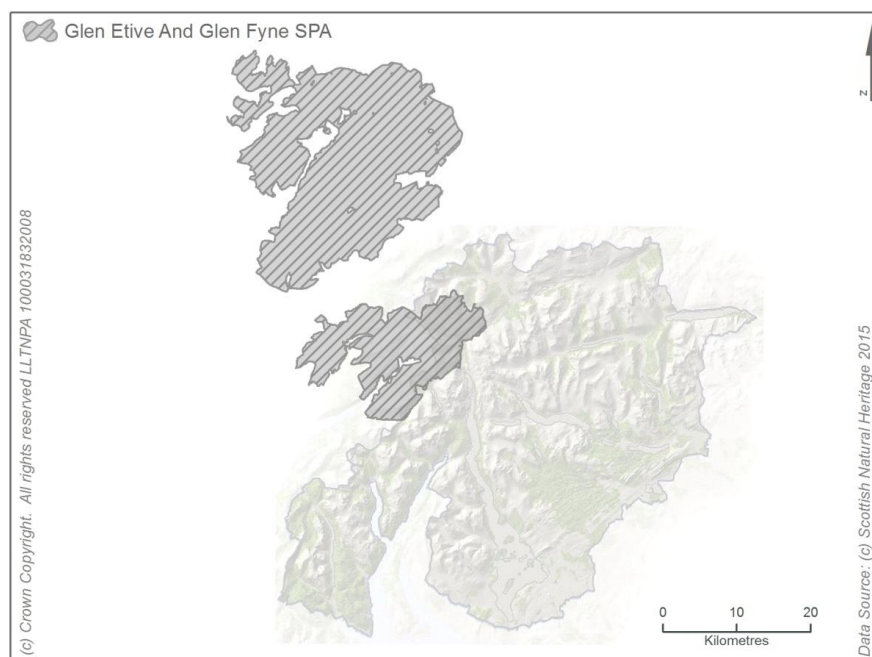
Conservation Objectives:

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
<p>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.</p> <p>Qualifying Interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports a population golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>.
<p>Conservation Objectives</p> <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 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

Six European sites outside the National Park boundary were scoped out of the HRA as there will be “No Likely Significant Effect” on these sites as a consequence of the Plan. Further details of the sites and the reasons they have been scoped out of the assessment can be found in **Table 2** below.

Table 2: European Sites Scoped Out of the Appraisal

European Site	Reason for Scoping Out ⁽¹⁾
Ben Lawers SAC	The SAC lies around 2.5km north of the National Park boundary. Given the separation distance between the National Park and the SAC, any access promoted by the Plan will not give rise to a likely significant effect on the qualifying interests of the SAC
Flanders Mosses SAC	Although part of the SAC lies adjacent to the National Park boundary, there is no possibility of downstream effects on the SAC as the active and degraded raised bog qualifying interests of the site are ombrotrophic (rain-fed) and will have no connectivity with any access promoted projects in the Plan .
Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SPA	The estuary is too far downstream of the National Park to be affected by any changes in water quality as a result of any project promoted by the Plan. In addition, the River Tay SAC lies upstream of this site and any potential impacts on water quality are assessed through consideration of the River Tay SAC in this HRA.
Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC	The estuary is too far downstream of the National Park to be affected by any changes in water quality as a result of any projects promoted by the Plan. In addition, the River Tay SAC lies upstream of this site and any potential impacts on water quality are assessed through consideration of the River Tay SAC in this HRA.
Firth of Forth SPA	The estuary is too far downstream of the National Park to be affected by any changes in water quality as a result initiatives promoted by the Plan. In addition, the River Teith SAC lies upstream of this site and any potential impacts on water quality are assessed through consideration of the River Teith SAC in this HRA.
Forth Islands SPA	The islands are too far downstream of the National Park and with too strong a maritime influence to be affected by any changes in water quality as a result of initiatives promoted by the Plan. In addition, the River Teith SAC lies upstream of this site and any potential impacts on water quality are assessed through consideration of the River Teith SAC in this HRA.

Inner Clyde SPA	The estuary is too far downstream of the National Park to be affected by any changes in water quality as a result of initiatives promoted by the Plan.
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Section 4 - Screening the National Park Outdoor Recreation Plan

Having gathered information on the European sites potentially affected by the National Park Outdoor Recreation Plan as set out in Table 1, the screening process, as set out in the SNH guidance, has been followed:

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.

Step 1-3: The screening process of the draft Plan has therefore included a record of outcomes/actions that are not likely to have a significant effect on a European Site.

Table 4

Outcomes	Priority Initiative	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
Visions and Spatial Strategy illustrations								x
Park For All	The National Park Authority and stakeholders will continue to protect and actively promote the public's right to responsible access under the Land Reform Act and remove barriers where they exist	x						
	The creation of a National Park Access Panel who can ensure that all key developments and projects consider all areas of accessibility within the early development phases to ensure the highest standards of accessibility can be met.				x			
	Step into the Park Initiative which recognises and celebrates entrance level outdoor recreation opportunities within the Park.				x			
	A comprehensive partnership signage initiative which ensures consistency and quality throughout the path network and provides confidence to all who wish to explore and enjoy.							x
	The implementation of creative and effective path monitoring and maintenance regimes which provide a sustainable programme which protects the integrity of the network and avoids barriers emerging through neglect.							x

Outcomes	Priority Initiative	1)	2)	3a)	3b)	3c)	3d)	3e)
	The expansion of the ParkMobility Programme and the development of Callander as an exemplar accessible tourism destination.				x			
	The creation of a usable and attractive online resource of path information which allows people to see where they can go and what paths are suitable for their interests.				x			
	The creation of a National Park Activity Ambassador programme which ensures all existing and potential stakeholder groups know that the outdoor opportunities within the Park are for them. All ages, all interests, all backgrounds.				x			
Connecting Places	Development of the National Walking and Cycling Network within and around the National Park.							x
	Development of transport hubs which allow people to easily join up active travel and public transport journeys.							x
	The development of a shared e-bikes scheme that connects communities and places, becoming an essential and enjoyable service for people who live in and/or visit the National Park.				x			
Vibrant & Active Places	Develop Aberfoyle and the Trossachs corridor area as a nationally recognised active tourism destination.							x
	Deliver projects that prioritise people and place over traffic movement through speed reduction measures and public realm village enhancements.							x
	Produce a Bike and Hike Life assessment of cycling and walking development within the National Park.				x			
	Establish a National Park Active and Sustainable Travel Forum.				x			

Outcomes	Priority Initiative	1)	2)	3a)	3b)	3c)	3d)	3e)
	Deliver and promote short cycling and walking links from village centres to the surrounding countryside.							x
	Support the development of an outdoor activity hub at Balloch Castle					x		
Explore Further	The development of a suite of longer distance route cards and itineraries which are targeted around settlements.				.			x
	Deliver a suite of projects which reconnects people with historic glen routes, coffin roads, drovers routes and hill lochs.				.			x
	The development and improvement of all Scotland's Great Trails within the National Park.							x
	Forest Park strategic recreation plans and implementation which maximises the opportunities for exploration and escape within these large landscapes.							x
	Use "short wow experiences" to promote under visited areas which have the capacity to relieve pressures elsewhere and offer greater choice.							x
	Micro-adventures. Quick escapes in the wilderness							x
Happy and Healthy People	Vale of Leven Outdoor Health Partnership.				x			
	Creation of the National Park "Sport, recreation and lifestyle steering group" – Active Girls Programme - AMAS.				x			
	National Park wide Daily Mile Programme.				x			
	Development of the Parkmobility Programme.				x			

Outcomes	Priority Initiative	1)	2)	3a)	3b)	3c)	3d)	3e)
Coasts & Water	Access and egress infrastructure programme.							x
	Development of renowned itineraries.				x			
	Integration of open water swimming lessons into Active Schools Programme.				x			
	Development of Blue Space and Blue Health Projects in Balloch, Arrochar and Lochearnhead (link into international BlueHealth Project).				x			

The above **Table 4** screens out all of the key elements of the Plan that will not individually have a likely significant effect on a European site.

Consideration of likely significant effects in combination with other relevant Plans or Projects

The 'in combination effects' of the Plan with other plans and projects has also been assessed. In line with SNH guidance, elements of the Plan that have individually been screened out because they will have no effect on a European site or because that element is too general in nature, do not require an in-combination assessment. This is also the case for those elements of the Plan that have been screened out because they are general policy statements. As a consequence, those elements of the Plan screened out in **Table 4** did not form part of the in-combination assessment.

Table 5 below identifies the other plans and projects which have been considered.

Table 5: 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 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 is a delivery mechanism for the conservation objectives and policies identified in the 2012-2017 and 2018-2023 National Park Partnership Plans. Both plans have been subject to HRA and no likelihood of significant effects on any European sites was identified.
Your Park 'Camping Development Plan'	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.
National Park Partnership Plan 2018-2023	HRA undertaken and no part of the plan was likely to have a significant effect on any European site 'alone' or 'in-combination'.
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. The route and design details are still to be finalised and therefore it cannot be considered in terms of potential in-combination effects.

The other relevant plans and projects listed above in **Table 5** have been considered for 'in combination' effects and there are no likely significant in combination effects.

Conclusion to screening

5.5 The Habitats Regulations Appraisal process has followed the key stages in the SNH Guidance. The appraisal process identified that no part of the Outdoor Recreation 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 Outdoor Recreation Plan 2018-2023 will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site. There are a couple of priority initiatives which reference locations; however, given the high level nature of the initiatives it isn't possible to undertake a worthwhile assessment of possible impacts. Any initiatives progressing to delivery would require assessment at the project level and this is where more meaningful assessment can be undertaken. To ensure this takes place text has been added into the Outdoor Recreation Plan to highlight possible sensitivities with the plan stating *"we are committed to ensuring that all locations are enjoyed within their limits of acceptable change and that promotion and celebration is appropriate and acknowledges landscape and habitat considerations."*

