Habitats Regulations Screening for the Cairngorms National Park Plan 2012-17

1. Introduction

The National Park Plan must be subject to assessment in terms of The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 (as amended) to determine likely effects on European designated sites (Natura sites).

This report sets out the screening process undertaken to inform the preparation of the Draft National Park Plan. The screening has been carried out by the Cairngorms National Park Authority having consulted Scottish Natural Heritage.

2. Summary of Natura 2000 sites within the Cairngorms National Park

Special Conservation Areas (SAC)

Ballochbuie
Beinn a Ghlo
Caenlochan
Cairngorms
Caenlochan
Coyles of Muick
Creag Meagaidh
Creag nan Gamhainn
Dinnet Oakwood
Drumochter Hills
Glen Tanar
Greenhill of Strathdon
Insh Marshes
Kinveachy Forest
Ladder Hills
Monadliath
Morrone Birkwood
Morven and Mullachdubh
Muir of Dinnet
River Dee
River South Esk
River Spey
River Tay

Special Protection Areas (SPA)

Abernethy Forest
Anagach Woods
Ballochbuie
Caenlochan
Cairngorms
Cairngorms Massif
Craigmore Wood
Creag Meagaidh
Drumochter Hills
Forest of Clunie
Glen Tanar
Kinveachy Forest
Loch Vaa
Lochnagar
Muir of Dinnet
River Spey – Insh Marshes

Ramsar sites

Cairngorms Loch
Muir of Dinnet
River Spey – Insh Marshes

3. Details of Natura 2000 sites within the Cairngorms National Park and potential vulnerabilities relevant to the National Park Plan

Name of European Site	Abernethy Forest
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) 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 the site • Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus) • Osprey (Pandion haliaetus) • Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica)
Site Condition	• Capercaillie, breeding. Monitored 2009, favourable maintained. • Osprey, breeding. Monitored 2007, favourable maintained. • Scottish crossbill, not monitored.
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, no factors currently influencing site.
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	• Disturbance from construction and recreation arising from neighbouring development • Relevant settlements: Boat of Garten, Nethy Bridge

Name of European Site	Anagach Woods
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) 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 the site • Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus)
Site Condition	• Breeding capercaillie, not monitored to date.
Factors currently influencing site	Impact from disturbance from adjacent village and footpaths within the wood.
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	• Disturbance from construction and recreation arising from neighbouring development • Relevant settlements: Grantown-on-Spey

Name of European Site	Ballochbuie
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
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 the site

	• Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • 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	• Blanket bog* • Bog Woodland* • Caledonian forest* • Dry heaths • Plants in crevices on acid rocks • Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks • Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath (* indicates priority habitat)
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Otter (Lutra lutra)
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) 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 the site • Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus) • Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica)
Site Condition	• Bog woodland, 2002. Unfavourable declining • Caledonian forest, 2002. Unfavourable declining • Otter 2004. Favourable maintained • Plants in crevices in acid rocks. 2008. Favourable maintained • Other features not yet monitored
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Beinn a Ghlo
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
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 the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • 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 habitat	• Acidic scree • Apline and subalpine heaths • Base-rich fens • Blanket bog • Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone • Dry heaths • Geyer's whorl snail (Vertego geyeri) • Hard-water springs depositing lime • High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage • Montane acid grasslands • Plants in crevices on acid rocks • Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks • Round-mouthed whorl snail (Vertego genesii) • Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas
Site Condition	• Species-rich grassland with mat-grass 2005 Unfavourable no change • Dry heaths 2005 Unfavourable no change • Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks 2005 Unfavourable no change • Plants in crevices on acid rocks 2005 Unfavourable no change • Acidic scree 2005 Favourable maintained • Alpine and subalpine heaths 2005 Unfavourable no change • Montane acid grasslands 2005 Unfavourable no change • Base-rich fens 2005 Unfavourable no change • High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage 2005 Unfavourable no change • Hard-water springs depositing lime 2005 Unfavourable no change • Blanket bog 2005 Unfavourable no change • Round-mouthed whorl snail (Vertigo genesii) 2005 Favourable maintained • Geyer's whorl snail (Vertigo geyeri) 2005 Favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	Recreational pressures from hillwalking may impact upon features although most popular routes are historical and were in place before classification of the site. Renewables development (unlikely?) would be difficult to

	accommodate in the habitat mosaics present.

Name of European Site	Caenlochan
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
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 the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • 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	• Acidic scree • Alpine and subalpine heaths • Base-rich fens • Base-rich scree • Blanket bog* • Dry heaths • Grasslands on soils in heavy metals • High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage* • Montane acid grasslands • Mountain willow scrub • Plants in crevices on acid rocks • Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks • Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas* • Tall herb communities (*indicates priority habitat)
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) 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 the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Dotterel (Charadrius moninellus) • Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)
Site Condition	• Acidic scree, 2006. Favourble maintained. • Alpine and sub-alpine heaths, 2006. Unfavourable no change. • Base rich fens, 2006. Unfavourable no change. • Base-rich scree, 2006. Favourable maintained. • Blanket bog, 2006. Unfavourable no change. • Dry heath, 2006. Unfavourable no change. • Grassland on soils rich in heavy metals, 2006. Favourable maintained.

	• High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage, 2006. Unfavourable no change. • Montane acid grasslands, 2006. Unfavourable no change. • Mountain willow scrub, 2006. Unfavourable no change. • Plants in crevices in acid rocks, 2006. Favourable maintained. • Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks, 2006. Favourable maintained. • Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas, 2006. Unfavourable no change. • Tall herb communities, 2006. Favourable maintained. • Dotterel, 1999. Favourable maintained. • Golden eagle, 2009. Favourable maintained.
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	Wind farms could impact on young golden eagles, given their mobility. Recreational pressure may affect the notified features.

Name of European Site	Cairngorms
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
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 the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • 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	• Acid peat-strained lakes and ponds • Acidic scree • Alpine and subalpine heaths • Blanket bog* • Bog Woodland* • Caledonian forest* • Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels • Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone • Dry heaths • Hard-water springs depositing lime* • High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage* • Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands • Montane acid grasslands • Mountain willow scrub • Plants in crevices on acid rocks • Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks • Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas* • Tall herb communities • Very wet mires often identified by an unstable ‘quaking’ surface • Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath

	(*indicates priority habitat)
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Green shield-moss (Buxbaumia viridis) • Otter (Lutra lutra)
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) 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 the site • Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus) • Dotterel (Charadrius moninellus) • Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos) • Merlin (Falco columbarius) • Osprey (Panion haliaetus) • Peregrine (Falco peregrinus) • Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica)
Site Condition	• Acid peat-stained lakes and ponds, 2004. Favourable maintained. • Acidic scree, 2007. Favourable maintained. • Alpien and subalpine heaths, 2007. Unfavourable no change. • Blanket bog, 2004. Unfavourable no change. • Bog woodland, 2002. Favourable maintained. • Caledonian forest, 2009. Unfavourable declining. • Clear water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, 2004. Favourable maintained. • Dry heaths, 2007. Unfavourable no change. • Green-shield moss (Bauxbaumia viridis), 2006. Favourable maintained. • High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage, 2006. Unfavourable no change. • Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands, 2007. Favourable maintained. • Montane acid grasslands, 2006. Unfavourable recovering. • Mountain willow scrub, 2007. Unfavourable no change. • Otter, 2004. Favourable maintained. • Plants in crevices on acid rocks, 2007. Favourable maintained. • Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks, 2007. Unfavourable no change. • Tall herb communities, 2007. Favourable maintained. • Very wet mires often identified by an unstable ‘quaking’ surface, 2007.

	Favourable maintained. • Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, 2007. Unfavourable no change. • Breeding dotterel, 1999. Favourable maintained. • Breeeding golden eagle, 2003. Favourable maintained. • Breeding osprey, 2006. Favourable maintained. • Breeding peregrine, 2002. Favourable maintained.
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	• Recreational disturbance to species from neighbouring development • Relevant settlements: An Camus Mor, Boat of Garten. Also developing of, or extension of existing, recreational facilities. • Wind farms could impact on young golden eagles, given their mobility

Name of European Site	Cairngorms Massif
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) 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 the site • Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)
Site Condition	• Golden eagle - not monitored to date
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Coyles of Muick
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
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 the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • 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 Habitat	• Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals
Site Condition	• Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals, 2006. Favourable maintained.

Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Craigmore Wood
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) 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 the site • Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus)
Site Condition	• Capercaille, 2009. Unfavourable no change.
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	• Recreational disturbance from development in neighbouring areas • Relevant settlements: Boat of Garten, Nethy Bridge

Name of European Site	Creag Meagaidh
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (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 the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • 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 Habitat	• Acidic scree • Alpine and subalpine heaths • Blanket bog* • Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels • Dry heaths • Montane acid grasslands • Mountain willow scrub • Plants in crevices on acid rocks

	• Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks • Tall herb communities • Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath (*indicates priority habitat)
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) 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 the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Dotterel (Charadrius morinellus)
Site Condition	• Acidic scree, 2005. Unfavourable no change. • Alpine and subalpine heaths, 2005. Unfavourable no change. • Blanket bog, 2005. Unfavourable no change. • Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, 2004. Favourable maintained. • Dry heaths, 2005. Unfavourable no change. • Montane acid grasslands, 2005. Unfavourable no change. • Mountain willow scrub, 2005. Unfacouralbe no change. • Plants in crevices on acid rocks, 2005. Favoruable maintained. • Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks, 2010. Favoruable maintained. • Tall herb communities, 2005. Unfavourable no change. • Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, 2005. Unfavourable no change. • Dotterel, 2001. Favourable maintained.
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Creag nan Gamhainn
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (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 the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • 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 Habitat	• Hard-water springs depositing lime*

	(*indicates priority habitat)
Site Condition	• Hard-water springs depositing lime, 2002. Favourable maintained.
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Dinnet Oakwood
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (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 the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • 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 Habitat	• Western acidic oak woodland
Site Condition	• Western acidic oak woodland, 2002. Favourable maintained.
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Drumochter Hills
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (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 the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • 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	• Acidic scree • Alpine and subalpine heaths • Blanket bog* • Dry heaths • Montane acid grasslands

	• Mountain willow scrub • Plants in crevices on acid rocks • Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas* • Tall herb communities • Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath (*indicates priority habitat)
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) 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 the site • Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Dotterel (Charadrius moninellus) • Merlin (Falco columbarius)
Site Condition	• Acidic scree, 2006. Favourable maintained. • Alpine and subalpine heaths, 2006. Unfavourable no change. • Blanket bog, 2006. Unfavourable no change. • Dry heaths, 2006. Unfavourable no change. • Montane acid grasslands, 2006. Unfavourable no change. • Mountain willow scrub, 2006. Unfavourable no change. • Plants in crevices on acid rocks, 2006. Unfavourable no change. • Species-rich grasslands with mat-grass in upland areas, 2006. Unfavourable no change. • Tall herb communities, 2006. Unfavourable recovering. • Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, 2006. Unfavourable no change. • Dotterel, 2004. Favourable maintained. • Merlin, 2004. Unfavourable no change.
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified.

Name of European Site	Forest of Clunie
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) 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 the site • Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species

Qualifying Species	• Hen harrier (circus cyaneus), breeding • Merlin (Falco columbarius), breeding • Osprey (Pandion haliatus), breeding • Short-eared owl (Asio flammeus), breeding
Site Condition	• Hen harrier (circus cyaneus), breeding, 2010, Unfavourable declining • Merlin (Falco columbarius), breeding, 2009, Unfavourable declining • Osprey (Pandion haliatus), breeding, 2011, Favourable declining • Short-eared owl (Asio flammeus), breeding, 2009, Unfavourable declining
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	Development of wind renewables within connectivity distance of the site has the potential to damage the features.

Name of European Site	Glen Tanar
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (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 the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • 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	• Blanket bog* • Caledonian forest* • Dry heaths • Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath (*indicates priority habitat)
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Otter (Lutra lutra)
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**

Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) 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 the site • Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus) • Hen Harrier (Circus cyaneus) • Osprey (Pandion halietus) • Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica)
Site Condition	• Blanket bog* 2007, Favourable maintained • Caledonian forest* 2005, Favourable maintained • Dry heaths 2005, Favourable maintained • Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath 2005, favourable maintained • Otter (Lutra lutra) 2007, Favourable maintained • Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus) 2005, Unfavourable declining • Hen Harrier (Circus cyaneus) 2005, Favourable maintained • Osprey (Pandion halietus), Favourable maintained • Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica) not monitored to date
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Greenhill of Strathdon
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (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 the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • 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 Habitat	• Dry heaths • Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals • Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands
Site Condition	• Dry heaths, 2009, Favourable maintained • Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals, 2009, Favourable maintained • Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands, 2005, Favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present

Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Insh Marshes
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (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 the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • 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	• Alder woodland on floodplains* • Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels • Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface (* indicates priority habitat)
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Otter (Lutra lutra)
Site Condition	• Alder woodland on floodplains* ,2009, Unfavourable recovering • Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, 2005, Favourable maintained • Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface, 2005, Favourable maintained • Otter (Lutra lutra), 2007, Favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	Potential impacts from new development due to additional nutrient loading.
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	• Effects on water quality including sewerage treatment, release of minerals, contamination or other waste • Relevant settlements: Kingussie, Newtonmore, Insh

Name of European Site	Kinveachy Forest
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (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 the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • 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	• Bog woodland* • Caledonian forest* (* indicates priority habitat)
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) 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 the site • Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus) • Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica)
Site Condition	• Bog woodland*, 2009 Unfavourable recovering • Caledonian forest*, 2009, Unfavourable recovering • Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus), 2009, Favourable maintained • Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica), not monitored to date
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	• Recreational disturbance from development in neighbouring areas • Relevant settlements: Boat of Garten

Name of European Site	Ladder Hills
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (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 the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • 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	• Alpine and subalpine heaths • Blanket bog* • Dry heaths (*indicates priority habitat)
Site Condition	Alpine and sub-alpine heaths – 1999 – Favourable maintained Blanket bog – 1999 – Favourable maintained Dry heaths – 2007 – Unfavourable declining
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	Potential effects from development in the neighbouring Lecht ski centre No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Loch Vaa
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) 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 the site • Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying species	• Slavonian grebe (Podiceps auritus)
Site Condition	• Slavonian grebe (Podiceps auritus), 2010, Unfavourable no change
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	• Effects on water quality including sewerage treatment, release of minerals, contamination or other waste

Name of European Site	Lochnagar
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) 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 the site • Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Dotterel (Charadrius morinellus)
Site Condition	• Dotterel (Charadrius morinellus), 2005, Favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Monadhliath
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (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 the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • 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 Habitat	• Blanket bog* (* indicates priority habitat)
Site Condition	• Blanket bog*, 2005, Unfavourable no change
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Morrone Birkwood
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (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 the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site

	• 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	• Alpine and subalpine heaths • Base-rich fens • Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone • Hard-water springs depositing lime* • High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage* • Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands (*indicates priority habitat)
Site Condition	• Alpine and subalpine heaths, 2009, Favourable maintained • Base-rich fens, 2010, Favourable maintained • Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone, 2005, Favourable maintained • Hard-water springs depositing lime*, 2005, Favourable maintained • High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage*, 2005, Favourable maintained • Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands, 2005, Unfavourable declining
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	Possibly access to water supply for housing

Name of European Site	Morven and Mullachdubh
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (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 the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • 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 Habitat	• Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands
Site Condition	• Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands, 2011, Favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Muir of Dinnet

Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (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 the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • 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	• Clear water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels • Degraded raised bogs • Dry heaths • Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Otter (Lutra lutra)
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) 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 the site • Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Greylag goose (Anser anser) • Waterfowl assemblage
Site Type	**Ramsar Site**
Feature	• Greylag goose (Anser anser)
Site Description	The Muir of Dinnet Ramsar Site comprises two neighbouring freshwater lochs (Davan and Kinord) in the Deeside are of Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The entire area of the SPA falls within Muir of Dinnet SSSI and NNR.
Site Condition	• Clear water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, 2005, Favourable maintained • Degraded raised bogs, 2005, Favourable maintained • Dry heaths, 2005, Unfavourable declining

	• Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface, 2005, Unfavourable no change • Otter (Lutra lutra), 2007, Favourable maintained • Greylag goose (Anser anser), 2005, Favourable maintained • Waterfowl assemblage, 2005, Unfavourable declining
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	Potential effects on water quality from neighbouring developments. Potential for recreational disturbance from neighbouring areas. Relevant settlement: Dinnet

Name of European Site	River Dee
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) 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 habitats 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 to the species • Distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel host species
Qualifying Interest(s)	• Atlantic salmon • Freshwater pearl mussel • Otter
Site Condition	• Atlantic salmon, 2007, Favourable maintained • Freshwater pearl mussel, 2005, Unfavourable no change • Otter, 2007, Favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	• Effects on water quality including sewerage treatment, release of minerals, contamination or other waste • Functioning of flood plains and the river system • Water abstraction • Micro-hydro schemes • River engineering • Rainbow trout fisheries • Relevant settlements: Braemar, Ballater, Dinnet

Name of European Site	River South Esk
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) 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 habitats 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 to the species • Distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel host species
Qualifying Species	• Atlantic salmon • Freshwater pearl mussel
Site Condition	• Atlantic salmon, 2007, Unfavourable recovering • Freshwater pearl mussel, 2005, Unfavourable declining
Factors currently influencing site	Diffuse pollution from agricultural operations, illegal collection of freshwater pearl mussels, morphological alterations to river channel.
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	• Effects on water quality including sewerage treatment, release of minerals, sedimentation, contamination or other waste • Functioning of flood plains and the river system • Changes to natural river morphology

Name of European Site	River Spey – Insh Marshes
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) 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 the site • Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Interest(s)	• Hen harrier (Circus cyaneus) • Osprey (Pandion haliaetus) • Spotted crake (Porzana porzana) • Whooper swan (Cygnus Cygnus) • Wigeon (Anus Penelope) • Woodsandpiper (Tringa galeola)
Site Type	**Ramsar Site**
Feature	• Breeding bird assemblage
	• Flood-plain fen
	• Mesotropic loch
	• Tropic range river/stream
	• Whooper swan (Cygnus Cygnus)
Site description	The River Spey-Insh Marshes site is a mosaic of freshwater wetland habitats. The River Spey is considered to be a unique example in Britain of a large, high altitude, but slow flowing river. Loch Insh is, however, noted for its exceptionally rapid water turnover and is an excellent example of a mesotrophic loch, an uncommon type in

	Britain. The Insh Marshes form the largest, most northerly, single-unit flood-plain mire of the poor fen type in Great Britain. The boundaries of the Ramsar site are coincident with those of the River Spey-Insh Marshes SSSI.
Site Condition	• Hen harrier (Circus cyaneus), 2010, Favourable maintained • Osprey (Pandion haliaetus), 2009, Favourable maintained • Spotted crake (Porzana porzana), 2005, Favourable maintained • Whooper swan (Cygnus Cygnus), 2010, Favourable maintained • Wigeon (Anus Penelope), 2010, Unfavourable no change • Woodsandpiper (Tringa galeola), 2005, Unfavourable declining • Breeding bird assemblage, 2005, Favourable maintained • Floodplain fen, 2005, Favourable maintained • Mesotrophic loch, 2005, Favourable maintained • Trophic range river/stream, 2005, Favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	Potential impacts from new development due to additional nutrient loading.
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	• Recreational disturbance from development in neighbouring areas • Effects on water quality including sewerage treatment, release of minerals, contamination or other waste • Functioning of flood plains and the river system • Relevant settlements: Kingussie, Newtonmore, Insh

Name of European Site	River Spey
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) 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 habitats 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 to the species • Distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel host species
Qualifying Interest(s)	• Atlantic salmon • Freshwater pearl mussel • Otter • Sea lamprey
Site Condition	• Atlantic salmon, 2005, Unfavourable recovering • Freshwater pearl mussel, 2005, Unfavourable recovering • Otter, 2007, Favourable maintained • Sea lamprey, 2007, Favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present

Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	• Effects on water quality including sewerage treatment, release of minerals, contamination or other pollution and waste • Functioning of flood plains and the river system • Abstraction of water • Relevant settlements: Dalwhinnie, Newtonmore, Kingussie, An Camus Mor, Aviemore, Inverdruie, Kincraig, Insh, Boat of Garten, Carrbridge, Dulnain Bridge, Nethy Bridge, Grantown-on-Spey, Cromdale,

Name of European Site	River Tay
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) 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 habitats 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 to the species • Distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel host species
Qualifying interests	• Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) • Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) • Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels. • Otter (Lutra lutra) • River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) • Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus)
Site Condition	• Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar), 2007, Favourable maintained • Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri), 2010, Favourable maintained • Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, 2005, Favourable maintained • Otter (Lutra lutra), 2007, Favourable maintained • River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis), 2010, Favourable maintained • Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus), 2010, Favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	• Effects on water quality including sewerage treatment, release of minerals, contamination or other waste • Functioning of flood plains and the river system Relevant settlements: Blair Atholl, Calvine.

Name of European Site	The Maim
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (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 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 of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Qualifying Interest(s)	• Dry heaths
Site Condition	• Dry heaths, 2010, Unfavourable no change
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

4. Screening of the National Park Plan

The screening has considered the following elements of the National Park Plan consultation draft:

- Vision
- Strategic Objectives
- 5-Year Outcomes
- Land Use Policy Directions

The following aspects of the National Park Plan consultation draft would not be likely to have a significant effect alone on a European site for the reasons given:

General policy statements	• Vision • Strategic Objectives 1,2 & 3
Policies which protect the natural environment, including biodiversity, or conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment	• 5 Year Outcome 1: *The quality and connectivity of habitats will have improved, enhancing the landscape at a Park scale* • 5 Year Outcome 2: *The species for which the Cairngorms National Park is most important will be in better conservation status in the Park* • 5 Year Outcome 3: *The qualities of wildness in the Park will be greater than in 2010* • 5 Year Outcome 4: *Settlements and built development will retain and enhance the distinct sense of place and identity within the landscapes of the Park* • Land Use Policy Direction 1: *enhance the special landscape qualities* • Land Use Policy Direction 2: *enhance biodiversity* • Land Use Policy Direction 3: *expand and enhance woodland*
Aspects which are too general so that it is not known where, when or how the aspect of the plan may be implemented, or where potential effects may occur, or which European sites, if any, may be affected	• 5 Year Outcome 5: *There will be a better targeted programme of advice and support for land managers in the Park that delivers the National Park Plan* • 5 Year Outcome 6: *The economy of the Park will have grown and diversified, drawing on Park's special qualities* • 5 Year Outcome 7: *Business and communities will be successfully adapting to a low carbon economy* • 5 Year Outcome 8: *The Park's communities will be more empowered and able to develop their own models of sustainability* • 5 Year Outcome 9: *The Park's recreation opportunities will have improved the health and enjoyment of residents and visitors* • 5 Year Outcome 10: *More people will learn about, enjoy, and help to conserve and enhance the special natural and cultural qualities of the Park* • Land Use Policy Direction 4: *enhance resilience of habitats and land use to climate*

	change • Land Use Policy Direction 5: *contribute to a low carbon economy* • Land Use Policy Direction 6: *provide high quality recreation opportunities* • Land Use Policy Direction 7: *Target proactive advice and public support to help land managers deliver multiple benefits* • Land Use Policy Direction 8*: settlement strategy*

Given that it is not possible to assess the effects of these outcomes and policy directions because they are too general, it is also not possible to assess the likely cumulative effects of potential policy approaches at this stage. The way these outcomes and policies will be delivered will be subject to appropriate assessment when there are particular proposals affecting a known site. For example, in preparing the draft Local Development Plan, we will be able to assess how planning and development policies and proposals or changes to core paths designation may affect particular Natura sites.

Land Use Policy Direction 8 identifies An Camus Mor as a new settlement and focus for growth. This is spatially defined and therefore could be subject to appropriate assessment. An appropriate assessment of the proposed settlement at An Camus Mor has already been undertaken for the Local Plan (2009) and repeated for the Main Issues Report (2011). The National Park Plan does not propose any modifications or changes to the allocation already assessed so no further assessment is required here.