Cairngorms National Park Proposed Local Development Plan

Habitats Regulations Appraisal (update Dec 2013)

1. **Introduction**

1.1 The Local Development Plan (LDP) is a document that sets out how places should change and what they could be like in the future. It says what type of development should take place where, and which areas should not be developed. It comprises a vision, spatial strategy, policies, settlement proposals and supplementary guidance. The supplementary guidance includes the Core Paths Plan.

1.2 European Directive 92/43/EEC, transposed into law in Scotland by The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended), requires that the plans and policies of competent authorities that could have a likely significant effect on a Natura site, should be subject to an assessment of their potential impacts upon the site. There are two categories of such sites, both of which are found within the Cairngorms National Park. In addition, under Scottish Planning Policy, Ramsar sites are treated as if they are Natura sites. Sites put forward for designation under Natura (provisional sites) are also fully protected until the time when the designation is either confirmed or refused. The types of site considered for this appraisal are therefore:

- Special Area of Conservation (SAC and pSAC) – a European designation which protects natural habitats and wild flora and fauna other than birds
- Special Protection Area (SPA and pSPA) – a European designation which protects wild birds
- Ramsar Site – an international designation which protects wetlands

1.3 The Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan (LDP) and its Supplementary Guidance (including the Cairngorms National Park Core Paths Plan (CPP)) fall within the regulations and must be assessed. The Cairngorms National Park Authority cannot approve or adopt these plans unless it can be concluded that there will be no adverse effect upon the integrity of any of these sites arising from the measures within the plans. This process of assessment is known formally as a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA), or informally as a Natura Appraisal. This is not to be confused with an Appropriate Assessment (AA), which is a component of the process of appraisal.

1.4 This HRA considers all parts of the LDP, the supplementary guidance and the CPP within the same HRA. Appraising them together ensures consistency of approach and allows consideration of the integration of effects and consequent mitigation across both plans and guidance. The elements of the CPP are still identifiable through the stages of the appraisal and so this can be read in its own right if required.

2. Methodology

2.1 There is no prescribed method for a HRA. CNPA are therefore following the guidelines prepared by David Tyldesley and Associates for Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) 'Habitats Regulations Appraisals of Plans' and have consulted SNH during the preparation of the appraisal.

2.2 There are 13 stages to the methodology followed, set out in the table below. This report records stages 1 to 10, this being the draft record of the HRA. Stages 11, 12 and 13 will be completed as the Local Development Plan is completed.

Stages of Methodology *(Source: SNH Guidance: Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans, D Tyldesley)*	
Stage 1	Decide whether plan is subject to HRA
Stage 2	Identify Natura Sites that should be considered
Stage 3	Gather information about the Natura Sites
Stage 4	Discretionary consultation on the method and scope of the appraisal
Stage 5	Screening the plan for potential likely significant effects on Natura sites
Stage 6	Apply mitigation measures
Stage 7	Re-screen the plan after mitigation measures have been applied
Stage 8	If significant effects still likely, undertake an appropriate assessment in view of conservation objectives
Stage 9	Apply mitigation measures until there is no adverse effect on site integrity
Stage 10	Prepare a draft record of the HRA – this report
Stage 11	Consult on the draft record of the HRA
Stage 12	If amending the plan in light of consultation, screen amendments for likely significant effects and if required, carry out appropriate assessment and consult SNH again
Stage 13	Modify HRA record in light of any amendments, complete and publish the final HRA record with clear conclusions

Further details of the methodology applied during screening and appropriate assessment are given in the relevant sections.

3. Screening Process

3.1 Stage 1: The Local Development Plan (LDP) and Core Paths Plan (CPP) and the decision to screen

3.1.1 The LDP for the Cairngorms National Park is a land use plan. The CPP is a strategy plan for safeguarding access. Neither plan is wholly concerned with the necessary management of a European site for nature conservation (Natura Site). As such the plans must be subject to an HRA under the terms of Directive 92/43/EEC.

3.2 Stages 2 and 3: Identification of Natura Sites and gathering their details

3.2.1 The following sites have been identified with the assistance of SNH. In total there are 42 sites within the Cairngorms National Park. Approximately 49 per cent of the Park's 4,500 km^2 area is covered by at least one Natura designation. See Appendix 1 for details on each site and its qualifying features.

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

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

Special Protection Area (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

Cairngorm Lochs
Muir of Dinnet

River Spey – Insh Marshes

3.3 Stage 4: Discussions on the method and scope of the appraisal

3.3.1 Advice from SNH was sought at key stages in preparing the HRA including:

- Scoping approach and methodology for assessment
- Review and discussion of first draft
- Consultation on final draft

3.3.2 In addition, advice has also been sought from SEPA, Scottish Water and SNH on matters specifically relating to the River Spey, River Dee and River Tay SACs in relation to water quality, abstraction, and wastewater treatment.

3.4 Stage 5: Screening the plan for potential likely significant effects

3.4.1 Screening for likely significant effects (LSE) involved four steps:

- Step 1: Screening out general policy statements
- Step 2: Screening out projects referred to, but not proposed by, the LDP
- Step 3: Screening out aspects of the LDP that could have no likely significant effect on a site, alone or in combination with other aspects of the same plan, or with other plans
- Step 4: Assessing if any combination of minor residual effects amounts to a likely significant effect

Stage 5 Step 1: Screening out general policy statements

3.4.2 The vision and spatial strategy of the LDP are general policy statements that set out the overall direction for the plan. Table 1 sets out the screening for these statements.

Table 1: Screening of General Policy Statements

Aspect of Plan, policy, project or strategy		Screened in or out	General policy statement
Vision	An outstanding National Park enjoyed and valued by everyone, where nature and people thrive together.	Out	General policy statement from NPPP setting out overall vision for the National Park.
Spatial Strategy	We will focus future activity and growth on these corridors, and within the settled valleys and straths of the Park.	Out	General CNPA aspiration for future development within the National Park.
	New housing will be focussed on existing settlements, and, within Badenoch and Strathspey, in the new settlement of An Camas Mòr.	Out	General CNPA aspiration for future development within the National Park. Though locations are listed these are dealt with individually in settlement screening in step 3 below.
	The remaining areas of the Park are identified as having important land management, recreation, landscape, wildness and nature conservation benefits. Within these areas, development should be to support the delivery of those multiple benefits.	Out	General CNPA aspiration for future development within the National Park.

3.4.3 *Stage 5 Step 1 Conclusion - No Likely Significant Effects or Minor Residual Effects were identified.*

Stage 5 Step 2: Screening out projects referred to, but not proposed by, the LDP

3.4.4 Eight of the settlements identified in the LDP have sites with extant permission for housing development: Aviemore; Carr-Bridge; Cromdale; Dalwhinnie; Dulnain Bridge; Kingussie; Newtonmore and Tomintoul. These will be screened in Stage 5 Step 3 alongside the allocations as it is possible they add to the potential effects on their respective settlements. There are no other projects referred to in the LDP.

3.4.5 *Stage 5 Step 2 Conclusion - Extant permissions referred to but not proposed by the LDP to be screened at Stage 5 Step 3.*

Stage 5 Step 3: Screening out other aspects of the LDP that could have no likely significant effect

3.4.6 Beyond the vision and spatial strategy, the LDP has three sections: policies; supplementary guidance; and community information which includes information on how development within that settlement should be undertaken and specific allocations of land for housing, economic, tourism, open space and community development. A number of housing allocations are accompanied by additional information in the form of Development Briefs which are supplementary guidance. All parts of the Plan have been screened.

Policies and Supplementary Guidance(SG)

3.4.7 Policies and Supplementary Guidance have been screened together (Table 2). Screening has determined that none of the general policies within the LDP has any identifiable effects on any specific Natura site. Consequently they have all been screened out for individual effects. No minor residual effects have been identified for any of these policies.

3.4.8 All Supplementary Guidance, with the exception of the Core Paths Plan and Development Briefs, has been screened out as it provides additional information to the criteria set out in the corresponding policy and does not in itself propose any specific measures, nor is it site specific. No Likely Significant Effects (LSE) or Minor Residual Effects (MRE) have been identified. The development briefs have been screened alongside the relevant settlements in the main screening.

Table 2: Screening policies for likely significant effects

Nature of policy or guidance	Screened in or out	Title of policy or guidance
Policies and guidance which are too general so that it is not known where, when or how development may be implemented, or where potential effects may occur, or which European sites, if any, may be affected.	Out	• Housing Development • Supporting Economic Growth • Resources • Renewable Energy
Policies and guidance that have been screened out because they do not of themselves promote development, but are qualitative in nature or relate to process, and are based upon general criteria	Out	• Sustainable Design • Housing SG • Resources SG • Supporting Economic Growth SG • Renewable Energy SG • Sustainable Design SG

		• Developer Contribution • Developers Contribution SG • Sport and Recreation • Sport and Recreation SG
Policies and guidance that are excluded because they are protective in nature and so have no potential negative effects upon designated sites.	Out	• Natural Heritage • Natural Heritage SG • Landscape • Landscape SG • Cultural Heritage • Cultural Heritage SG

Core Paths Plan Supplementary Guidance

3.4.9 The Core Paths Plan (CPP) is Supplementary Guidance to the LDP. It contains the paths from the existing CPP as well as a number of new paths. All paths have been screened for LSEs and this process is set out in the matrix in Appendix 2. Where LSEs have been found they are taken forward to the Appropriate Assessment (AA) unless mitigation can be applied. Where MREs have been found, either directly from screening or as a result of the application of mitigation, these have been considered in combination with other MREs.

The purpose of the core path designation is to safeguard a route for public access. It is a policy aim of the CNPA to ensure that all core paths are fit for purpose. What this means will change from location to location and may result in some improvements to paths. It is not intended that additional promotion will follow from designation, though some additional signage may follow.

3.4.10 Existing and proposed paths are screened in if designation as a core path will result in:

- increased promotion and therefore use; or
- significant improvements to the physical state of the path that will encourage significantly greater use

3.4.11 Only where a path is significantly improved and/or given additional promotion is it likely that there could be an increase in users. Paths that cross, or are within 100m, of SPAs or other supporting habitat and are unfit for purpose were screened.

3.4.12 Since the existing paths were first designated and assessed there has not, in general, been any change which has led to any likely significant effect. However, people using paths, especially with dogs, may disturb capercaillie. This may happen at a number of critical times over the year, for example during the breeding season. Disturbance at such a time may lead to a reduction in productivity of the birds, resulting ultimately in a reduced population. In addition, dogs may kill birds thus being a direct threat.

However, there has been no clear relationship established between the volume of users and the significance of disturbance as habituation, or other factors, may mitigate the effects.

3.4.13 All existing core paths were screened and, with the exception of the Highburnside path, found to have no LSEs on Natura sites. The Highburnside core path links the new housing development at Highburnside to the path network of Craigellachie NNR. It requires upgrading which will improve connectivity between Aviemore and Kinveachy Forest SPA. There is an LSE from recreational disturbance that cannot be ruled out.

3.4.14 The same conditions have been applied to proposed core paths. Again where the path is already in existence, in suitable condition (fit for purpose), well promoted, and signed, the designation will add nothing that would encourage more users to the path and there will be no LSE or any MRE. This is again shown in Appendix 2.

3.4.15 A new core path crossing the River Spey has been proposed which will link Aviemore and An Camas Mòr. This is an SAC and there is an LSE on otter from increased disturbance, as well as on freshwater pearl mussel from siltation and/or pollution from construction activity. Mitigation has been applied following screening that ensures that there will be no adverse effects upon the integrity of the River Spey SAC. No MREs were identified.

Settlements

3.4.16 Each settlement with a defined boundary has been screened against each Natura site for possible LSEs, options where mitigation is possible, occasions with MREs or where it has been possible to screen them out completely. Criteria have been used to assess direct and indirect effects (see Appendix 2). It is important to note that if a site or qualifying interest is not included within Appendix 2, then it has been concluded that there will be no adverse impact on it. Table 4 summarises those settlements that may have LSEs and the Natura sites that might be affected.

3.4.17 The sensitivity to recreational disturbance of capercaillie, a qualifying feature for several SPAs, meant that the potential impacts of settlements had to be given special consideration. Screening for LSEs on capercaillie considered the relationship between the size of housing developments and their distance from the Natura site. A matrix sets out the significance of effect in relation to the size of development and proximity to the site (Table 3). Dog walking is considered to be the most significant potential source of recreational disturbance to capercaillie.

For the purposes of screening, thresholds based on evidence of recreational behaviour were used to determine LSEs:

- 2 km threshold reflects the distance around settlements where most dog-walking is likely to take place.

- Thresholds of 5 and 10 km were also used to assess the impact of increasing distance between a settlement and a site.

- Beyond the distance of 10 km from a settlement, it is considered that the volume of people would be so low as to be negligible.

Table 3: Screening thresholds for capercaillie SPAs and housing development

No. units /distance from site	Less than 2 km	2-5 km	5-10 km	More than 10 km
Less than 100 houses	LSE	MRE	MRE	No effect
100-300 houses	LSE	LSE	MRE	No effect
More than 300 houses	LSE	LSE	LSE	No effect

3.4.18 Where no housing or economic development allocations are identified within a settlement's boundary, the settlement is screened out as the Plan does not propose any significant growth. Any applications for development would be considered on a windfall basis. Tourism allocations identify and safeguard important facilities so these are screened out as they do not support alternative uses and are not considered to have identifiable effects upon any Natura designations. It is important to note that if development proposals come forward they would be subject to appraisal to assess any likely significant effect upon a Natura site.

Table 4 sets out the conclusions of Stage 5 Step 3.

Table 4: Summary of LSE for Settlements and Core Paths

Abbreviations:

- QI – Qualifying Interest
- WW – Waste Water

Aspect of LDP or CPP	SPA	Likely Significant Effect	SAC/Ramsar	Likely Significant Effect
An Camas Mòr	Abernethy Forest SPA	Disturbance to QI	River Spey SAC	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off
	Cairngorms SPA	Disturbance to QI	Cairngorms SAC	Distribution of qualifying habitats
	Kinveachy Forest SPA	Disturbance to QI		
Aviemore and vicinity	Abernethy Forest SPA	Disturbance to QI	River Spey SAC	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off
	Cairngorms SPA	Disturbance to QI		

	Kinveachy Forest SPA	Disturbance to QI		
Ballater			River Dee SAC	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off
Blair Atholl			River Tay SAC	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off
Boat of Garten	Abernethy SPA	Disturbance to QI	River Spey SAC	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off
	Cairngorms SPA	Disturbance to QI		
	Craigmore Wood SPA	Disturbance to QI		
	Kinveachy Forest SPA	Disturbance to QI		
Braemar	Ballochbuie SPA	Disturbance to QI	River Dee SAC	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction

				Run-off
Carr-Bridge	Kinveachy Forest SPA	Disturbance to QI	River Spey SAC	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off
Cromdale and Advie	Anagach Wood SPA	Disturbance to QI	River Spey SAC	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off
	Craigmore Wood SPA	In-combination disturbance to QI		
Dalwhinnie			River Spey SAC	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off
Dinnet			River Dee SAC	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off
			Muir of Dinnet Ramsar	Disturbance to QI

Dulnain Bridge	Craigmore Wood SPA	In-combination disturbance to QI	River Spey SAC	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off
Grantown-on-Spey	Anagach Wood SPA	Disturbance to QI	River Spey SAC	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off
	Craigmore Wood SPA	In-combination disturbance to QI		
Killiecrankie			River Tay SAC	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off
Kincraig and Vicinity	River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA Ramsar site	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off	Insh Marshes SAC/ Ramsar	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off
			River Spey SAC	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW

				Water abstraction Run-off
Kingussie	River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA Ramsar site	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off	River Spey SAC	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off
			Insh Marshes SAC/ Ramsar	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off
Nethy Bridge	Abernethy Forest SPA	Disturbance to QI	River Spey SAC	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off
	Craigmore Wood SPA	Disturbance to QI		
Newtonmore	River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA Ramsar site	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off	Insh Marshes SAC/ Ramsar	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off

			River Spey SAC	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off
Tomintoul			River Spey SAC	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off
Highburnside candidate CP	Kinveachy Forest SPA	Disturbance to QI		

3.4.19 The following settlements in the LDP have been screened out because no housing or economic development allocations are proposed (and therefore any effect is too general to identify), or because no effect is predicted because they are sufficiently remote from any Natura site:

Angus Glens	Glenshee
Bruar and Pitagowan	Insh
Calvine	Inverdruie and Coylumbridge
Glenlivet	Laggan
Glenmore	Strathdon and vicinity

Stage 5 Step 4: In-combination effects

3.4.20 Some policies or proposals may have effects that are either neutral or slightly negative, but that are not likely to be significant effects in their own right. These are known as minor residual effects (MRE). The last step of Stage 5 is to assess whether any combination of MREs may result in an LSE. This includes any combination of policies and projects with MREs within the LDP itself and also the combination of the MREs of other plans, policies or projects covering the area of the National Park. These are called 'in-combination effects' but are sometimes referred to as cumulative effects.

3.4.21 The matrices in Appendix 3 show for each Natura site where there are combinations of MREs and where these become significant. If they do, mitigation will be applied where possible and if this does not reduce the likely significant effect, they will be subject to an appropriate assessment.

In-combination effects within the Plan

3.4.22 The general policy statements and Supplementary Guidance have been screened out for a variety of reasons and no LSEs or MREs have been identified. Therefore there are no in-combination effects resulting from them.

3.4.23 Screening has identified a number of MREs from other aspects of the LDP. These are set out in the matrices in Appendix 3 for each Natura site. The combination of these has been considered to see if they result in an LSE. Where effects are likely to be significant they are taken forward into an appropriate assessment.

In-combination effects with other plans or projects

3.4.24 The policies, plans and strategies in Table 5 have been searched for any MREs that may combine with those identified from aspects of the LDP. Two plans and policies were found to have MREs on Natura sites: the National Transport Strategy; and the Strategic Transport Projects Review. In both cases the potential effects are from the dualling of the A9 on the Drumochter Hills SAC and River Spey SAC. These effects have been included in the in-combination effects matrices and considered alongside the in-plan MREs.

Table 5: Other Plans, Policies and Strategies

Policy Plan or Project	Aspect	MRE
National Planning Framework for Scotland 2 (2009)		
Scotland River Basin Management Plan		
Land Use Strategy for Scotland		
Scottish Forestry Strategy		
Scotland Rural Development Programme		
Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2009)		
Scottish Biodiversity Strategy		
Scotland's Zero Waste Plan (2010)		
Scotland's National Transport Strategy 2006	A9 widening	Drumochter Hills SAC River Spey SAC
Transport Scotland Strategic Transport Projects Review	A9 widening	Drumochter Hills SAC River Spey SAC
Scottish Tourism: The Next Decade – a Tourism Framework for Change (2006)		
Local Housing Strategies (prepared by local authorities as housing authorities for each council area)		
Regional Economic Development Strategies		
Catchment Management Plans for Rivers Dee, South Esk and Spey		
Aberdeen City & Shire Structure Plan 2009		
Aberdeenshire LDP 2012		
Angus Local Plan Review 2009		
Highland Structure Plan		
Highland wide Local Development Plan		
Moray Structure Plan		
Moray Local Plan		

TayPlan		
Perth and Kinross Local Development Plan		
Perth & Kinross Highland Area LP		
Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism in the Cairngorms		
Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017		
Cairngorms Nature Action Plan 2013-2017		
Cairngorms National Park Outdoor Access Strategy		
Cairngorms National Park Deer Framework		
Cairngorms Forest and Woodland Framework		
Speyside Way Long Distance Route – report to Scottish Government proposing extension from Aviemore to Newtonmore		

4. Stage 6: Mitigation measures

4.1 Where LSEs have **not** be screened out during Stage 5 it may be possible to incorporate measures into the Plan that will mitigate these effects. Such mitigation must reduce the effects identified to a level where they are not likely to be significant and will have no adverse effect on the integrity of any Natura site.

Stage 6 immediately follows screening. At this point mitigation may be applied by deleting an aspect of the Plan or modifying it in some way; for example by relocating it, changing the time of delivery, or by making changes that avoid effects or reduce scale. Where this is done the mitigated aspect is then re-screened to see if LSEs remain.

Once mitigation measures have been applied in Stage 6, Stage 7 re-screens the Plan to determine whether significant effects are still likely. If they are, an appropriate assessment is undertaken (stage 8), through which further mitigation measures are identified.

4.1 Having considered the LSEs identified in Stage 5 and summarised above, Stage 6 identifies six mitigation measures that are straightforward and can be applied to the Plan immediately after screening to address specific LSEs. These are:

4.1.1 Mitigation measure 1: Removal from the Plan

Effect: Ballochbuie footpath has not been screened out because there is no current path and the proposed route would run through Ballochbuie SAC and SPA. It may result in disturbance to qualifying species (otter and capercaillie) and loss of qualifying

habitat. This is an LSE and it cannot be ascertained at this point that it will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Natura sites.

Mitigation required: Ballochbuie footpath should be removed from the CPP.

4.1.2 Mitigation measure 2: Core Path management

Effect: The Thieves' Road is an existing footpath and is well promoted and used by approximately 5,500 people *per annum*. It is likely that designation will result in track improvement and signage. These may encourage more users to the path. The path runs close to capercaillie lek sites and through key habitat for this bird. There is therefore an increased sensitivity attached to this route. The effects arise from the potential increased use of the path and not the core path designation *per se*.

Mitigation required: The path may be designated as a core path within the CPP, however the track improvements and signage must not take place until it can be demonstrated that there will be no adverse effect upon the integrity of the Natura site.

Required provision within LDP: the Core Paths SG must ensure that work to the Thieves' Road will not commence until it can be ascertained that there will be no adverse effect upon the Cairngorms SPA. It should include the wording:

Signage and track improvement to the Thieves Road could have a likely significant effect on the Cairngorms SPA. Before these works commence information must be supplied that will allow the Access Authority to carry out an Appropriate Assessment which will inform the final consent. To be in accordance with this Plan, and for consent to be granted, such work must not adversely affect the integrity of the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

4.1.3 Mitigation measure 3: Water abstraction

Effect: Water for developments will be supplied from public or private systems. The increase in water abstraction associated with increased development may reduce water levels in protected water courses thus affecting site integrity.

Mitigation required: The water supply must be available for the development from known sources and these must have a demonstrable capacity to supply the required water without adverse effects upon the integrity of Natura sites. If the capacity has not been demonstrated then development should be prohibited until it is in place. Demand for water should be reduced within all developments by using the best methods for efficient water use. Compliance with sustainable design guidance is required to ensure minimum use of water.

Required provision within LDP: The LDP must ensure that developments brought forward through the Plan will comply with current best practice to achieve the required mitigation. It must ensure mandatory compliance through the following wording:

Developments which would have a likely significant effect on (named European designated sites) through the additional abstraction of water must supply as part of the planning application the necessary information to allow the Planning Authority to carry out an Appropriate Assessment which will inform the decision on the application. It must be demonstrated that water usage has been minimised through the design of the development. It must be demonstrated to the planning authority that the capacity for water supply is in place and that this will not adversely affect the integrity of the site, either alone or in combination. Development may be prohibited until capacity for supply is in place.

4.1.4 Mitigation measure 4: Disturbance to otter

Effect: Otters may be disturbed by construction activity, noise, lighting and other features of the development's design or by post-construction activity.

Mitigation required: A full survey is undertaken in accordance with standard methodologies to determine if there are otters in the vicinity of the development. An appraisal will be required of the construction activity, design and use of the development to see if there would be any effect upon otters. Any identified effects must be eliminated through modifications to proposals and detailed within a species protection plan (SPP). Survey, appraisal and SPP must be submitted with planning application.

Required provision within LDP: The LDP must ensure that developments brought forward through the Plan will comply with current best practice to achieve the required mitigation. It must ensure mandatory compliance through the following wording:

Developments which would have a likely significant effect on (named European designated sites) must supply as part of the planning application a survey for otters and assessment of impacts upon this qualifying feature in accordance to accepted standards. This will allow the Planning Authority to carry out an Appropriate Assessment which will inform the decision on the application. To be in accordance with this Plan, and for planning permission to be granted, such developments must not adversely affect the integrity of the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

4.1.5 Mitigation measure 5: Pollution and siltation from construction sites

Effect: Contamination of protected watercourses by chemical pollutants or particles washed into it from construction sites.

Mitigation required: That site operations are managed in a way that the likelihood is removed. This can be achieved through safe handling of potential pollutants and provision of interceptor drains, filters and other measures on site. These measures must be set out in a Construction Method Statement (CMS) and this must follow recognised guidelines and best practice. Where required through statute, Controlled Activity Regulations (CAR) must be complied with.

Required provision within LDP: The LDP must ensure that developments brought forward through the Plan will comply with current best practice to achieve the required mitigation. It must ensure mandatory compliance through the following wording:

Developments which would have a likely significant effect on (named European designated sites) must supply as part of the planning application a construction method statement (CMS) to allow the Planning Authority to carry out an Appropriate Assessment which will inform the final decision on the application. The CMS must clearly demonstrate that risks to watercourses and ground water are eliminated through application of good site management in accordance with accepted best practice and guidelines. Development may not commence until it has been demonstrated to the planning authority that the measures in the CMS have been adopted for onsite management. To be in accordance with this Plan and for planning permission to be granted, such developments must not adversely affect the integrity of the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

4.1.6 Mitigation measure 6: Requirement for SUDS

Effect: The use of hard impervious surfaces within development is likely to increase the speed with which rainfall enters watercourses. This can increase flood events causing damage to river habitats. This rainfall may also bring particles from these surfaces which may cloud water and reduce its quality.

Mitigation required: A Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme (SUDS) must be implemented that will intercept water and either increase infiltration rates by using porous surfaces or slow run-off rates through storage mechanisms.

Required provision within LDP: The LDP must ensure that developments brought forward through the plan will comply with current best practice to achieve the required mitigation. It must ensure mandatory compliance through the following wording:

Developments which would have a likely significant effect on (named European designated sites) must supply as part of the planning application a Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme (SUDS) to allow the Planning Authority to carry out an Appropriate Assessment which will inform the final decision on the application. To be in accordance with this Plan and for planning permission to be granted, such developments must not adversely affect the integrity of the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

5. Stage 7: Re-screen the LDP and determine the need for an Appropriate Assessment

5.1 Following application of the mitigation measures in Stage 6, this stage re-screens the plan to identify LSEs that remain. Table 6 summarises all the LSEs initially identified through screening and deletes those that have been removed as a result of applying the mitigation measures in Stage 6. The remaining LSEs are therefore taken forward into an appropriate assessment at Stage 8.

Table 6: Aspects of LDP and CPP to be taken forward to Appropriate Assessment

Aspect of LDP or CPP	SPA	Likely Significant Effect	SAC/Ramsar	Likely Significant Effect
An Camas Mòr	Abernethy Forest SPA	Disturbance to QI	River Spey SAC	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW ~~Water abstraction~~ ~~Run-off~~
	Cairngorms SPA	Disturbance to QI	Cairngorms SAC	Distribution of qualifying habitats
	Kinveachy Forest SPA	Disturbance to QI		
Aviemore and vicinity	Abernethy Forest SPA	Disturbance to QI	River Spey SAC	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW ~~Water abstraction~~ ~~Run-off~~
	Cairngorms SPA	Disturbance to QI		
	Kinveachy Forest SPA	Disturbance to QI		
Ballater			River Dee SAC	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW ~~Water abstraction~~

				~~Run-off~~
Blair Atholl			River Tay SAC	Disturbance to QI Pollution and siltation Pollution from WW Water abstraction Run-off
Boat of Garten	Abernethy SPA	Disturbance to QI	River Spey SAC	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW ~~Water abstraction~~ ~~Run-off~~
	Cairngorms SPA	Disturbance to QI		
	Craigmore Wood SPA	Disturbance to QI		
	Kinveachy Forest SPA	Disturbance to QI		
Braemar	Ballochbuie SPA	Disturbance to QI	River Dee SAC	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW ~~Water abstraction~~ ~~Run-off~~
Carr-Bridge	Kinveachy Forest SPA	Disturbance to QI	River Spey SAC	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW ~~Water abstraction~~

				~~Run-off~~
Cromdale and Advie	*Anagach Wood SPA*	*Disturbance to QI*	*River Spey SAC*	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW ~~Water abstraction~~ ~~Run-off~~
	Craigmore Wood SPA	In-combination disturbance to QI		
Dalwhinnie			River Spey SAC	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW ~~Water abstraction~~ ~~Run-off~~
Dinnet			River Dee SAC	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW ~~Water abstraction~~ ~~Run-off~~
			Muir of Dinnet Ramsar	Disturbance to QI
Dulnain Bridge	Craigmore Wood SPA	In-combination disturbance to QI	River Spey SAC	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW ~~Water abstraction~~ ~~Run-off~~

Grantown-on-Spey	Anagach Wood SPA	Disturbance to QI	River Spey SAC	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW ~~Water abstraction~~ ~~Run-off~~
	Craigmore Wood SPA	In-combination disturbance to QI		
Killiecrankie			River Tay SAC	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW ~~Water abstraction~~ ~~Run-off~~
Kincraig and vicinity	River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA Ramsar site	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW ~~Water abstraction~~ ~~Run-off~~	Insh Marshes SAC/ Ramsar	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW ~~Water abstraction~~ ~~Run-off~~
			River Spey SAC	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW ~~Water abstraction~~ ~~Run-off~~
Kingussie	River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA Ramsar site	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW	River Spey SAC	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW

		~~Water abstraction~~ ~~Run-off~~		~~Water abstraction~~ ~~Run-off~~
			Insh Marshes SAC/ Ramsar	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW ~~Water abstraction~~ ~~Run-off~~
Nethy Bridge	Abernethy Forest SPA	Disturbance to QI	River Spey SAC	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW ~~Water abstraction~~ ~~Run-off~~
	Craigmore Wood SPA	Disturbance to QI		
Newtonmore	River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA Ramsar site	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW ~~Water abstraction~~ ~~Run-off~~	Insh Marshes SAC/ Ramsar	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW ~~Water abstraction~~ ~~Run-off~~
			River Spey SAC	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW ~~Water abstraction~~ ~~Run-off~~

Tomintoul			River Spey SAC	~~Disturbance to QI~~ ~~Pollution and siltation~~ Pollution from WW ~~Water abstraction~~ ~~Run-off~~
Highburnside candidate CP	Kinveachy Forest SPA	Disturbance to QI		

6. Stages 8 and 9: Appropriate Assessment and amending the Plan

6.1 The Appropriate Assessment (AA) determines whether the aspects of the Plan for which LSEs remain will adversely affect the integrity of Natura sites. The assessment identifies the potential impacts for each aspect and provides the information to allow the CNPA, as competent authority, to apply mitigation measures to the LDP to avoid any adverse impacts. The assessment applies the precautionary approach in the case of all potential issues identified.

6.2 Where MREs are found following mitigations to LSEs they will be reassessed for in-combination effects with other MREs. If these combinations are then assessed to have LSEs these will be reincorporated into the AA for additional mitigation. This iteration process will continue until no further LSEs are found.

The appropriate assessment is structured by each Natura site.

6.3 Stage 8: Appropriate Assessment

(See tables overleaf)

Abernethy Forest SPA

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

- Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus)
- Osprey (Pandion haliaetus)
- Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica)

Effect on conservation objectives and necessary mitigation measures

There is no likely significant effect on osprey and Scottish crossbill because of the locations of osprey nests in relation to the proposed developments, while Scottish crossbill is not considered to be sensitive to disturbance by people.

However, there is potential for increased impact on capercaillie, an endangered ground-nesting species sensitive to human-related disturbance. Three settlements could not be screened out for likely significant effects:

Allocation sites

- **An Camas Mor:** 1500 houses located at 2-5 km means there is a likelihood of a significant effect.
- **Boat of Garten:** 30 houses located within 2 km means there is a likelihood of a significant effect.
- **Nethy Bridge:** 40 houses located within 2 km means there is a likelihood of a significant effect.

Consented Sites

- **Aviemore:** 336 houses located at 5-10 km (travel distance) means there is a likelihood of a significant effect.

In combination effect: Dulnain Bridge, Grantown-on-Spey and Carr-Bridge

There are potential minor residual effects from two settlements which must be assessed in combination. Dulnain Bridge, with allocations for 30 houses located at 5-10km away (travel distance), Carr-Bridge, with allocations for 117 houses located at 5-10km away (travel distance) and Grantown-on-Spey, with allocations for 78 houses located at 5-10km, are each likely to have only minor residual effects. The threshold allocation size for likely significant effects at 5-10 km is 300. In combination, however, these settlements represent 140 houses and would continue to have only minor residual effects.

Mitigation

The LDP should include the wording: *Developments which would have a likely significant effect on Abernethy Forest SPA must supply, as part of the planning application, all necessary information to allow the planning authority to carry out an Appropriate Assessment. Required mitigation will include a Recreational Management Plan (RMP), to comply with the criteria set out in this Plan. To be in accordance with this Plan, and for planning permission to be granted, such developments must not adversely affect the integrity of the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects*.
Minor residual effects Following mitigation, there are no minor residual effects from An Camas Mor, Aviemore, Boat of Garten and Nethy Bridge. However, minor residual effects remain from the combination of Dulnain Bridge, Carr-Bridge and Grantown-on-Spey.
Conclusion on site integrity Implementing these proposals will not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of this European Site, either alone or in combination.

Anagach Woods SPA

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

- Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus)

Effect on conservation objectives

There is potential for increased impact on the qualifying species, an endangered ground-nesting species sensitive to human-related disturbance. Two settlements could not be screened out for likely significant effects:

Allocated Sites

- **Grantown-on-Spey:** 78 houses located within 2 km means there is a likelihood of a significant effect.
- **Cromdale:** 30 houses located within 2 km (travel distance) means there is likelihood, with consented sites, of a significant effect.

Consented Sites

- **Cromdale:** 12 houses located within 2 km (travel distance) means there is a likelihood, with allocated sites, of a significant effect

In combination effect

There are no potential minor residual effects identified from any settlements, therefore there are no in-combination effects.

Mitigation

The LDP should include the wording:

Developments which would have a likely significant effect on Anagach Woods SPA must supply, as part of the planning application, all necessary information to allow the planning authority to carry out an Appropriate Assessment. Required mitigation will include a Recreational Management Plan (RMP), to comply with the criteria set out in this Plan. To be in accordance with this Plan, and for planning permission to be granted, such developments must not adversely affect the integrity of the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Minor residual effects

Following mitigation, there are no minor residual effects from Grantown-on-Spey and Cromdale.

Conclusion on site integrity

Implementing these proposals will not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of this European

Site, alone or in combination.

Ballochbuie SPA

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

- Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus)
- Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica)

Effect on conservation objectives

There is no likely significant effect on Scottish crossbill because it is not considered to be sensitive to disturbance by people.

However, there is potential for increased impact on capercaillie, an endangered ground-nesting species sensitive to human-related disturbance. One settlement could not be screened out for likely significant effects:

Allocated sites

- **Braemar:** 4 houses located within 2 km means there is likelihood, with consented sites, of a significant effect.

Consented Sites

- **Braemar:** 58 houses located within 2 km means there is likelihood, with allocated sites, of a significant effect.

In combination effect

No residual effects have been identified from general polices within the LDP. There are no potential minor residual effects identified from any settlements, therefore there are no in-combination effects.

Mitigation

The LDP should include the wording:

Developments which would have a likely significant effect on Ballochbuie SPA must supply, as part of the planning application, all necessary information to allow the planning authority to carry out an Appropriate Assessment. Required mitigation will include a Recreational Management Plan (RMP), to comply with the criteria set out in this Plan. To be in accordance with this Plan, and for planning permission to be granted, such developments must not adversely affect the integrity of the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Minor residual effects

Following mitigation, there are no minor residual effects from Braemar.

Conclusion on site integrity
Implementing these proposals will not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of this European Site, alone or in combination.

Cairngorms SPA

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
- Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus)
- Dotterel (Charadrius moninellus)
- Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)
- Merlin (Falco columbarius)
- Osprey (Pandion haliaetus)
- Peregrine (Falco peregrinus)
- Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica)

Effect on conservation objectives
There is no likely significant effect on ospreys because their nests are well monitored and any recreational impacts are managed. Likewise there is no likely significant effect on dotterel as they nest a considerable distance away and are not considered particularly susceptible to recreational disturbance. Merlin and peregrine settle in areas of their choice each year and are not considered to be subject to significant casual disturbance within the SPA. The Scottish crossbill is not considered to be sensitive to disturbance by people. For golden eagle, disturbance is unlikely because of distance and nature of the upland terrain. Furthermore, nesting sites on the western side of the SPA already have a line of sight to footpaths so that birds are used to recreational usage.

However, there is potential for increased impact on capercaillie, an endangered ground-nesting species sensitive to human-related disturbance. Two settlements could not be screened out for likely significant effects:

Allocated Sites
- **An Camas Mor:** There is potential for a significant effect through the reduction in the area of suitable habitat for some species through compensatory habitat measures in lieu of the allocation, eg reafforesting open hill ground which could affect open-ground species such as merlin, peregrine and golden eagle. However, compensatory reafforestation of open ground may be beneficial for woodland qualifying features, such as capercaillie, by increasing their required habitat type. 1500 houses located within 2 km means there is a likelihood of a significant effect on capercaillie through recreational disturbance.

- **Boat of Garten:** 30 houses located at 2-5 km means there is a likelihood of a significant

effect.

Consented sites

- **Aviemore:** 336 houses located at 2-5 km means there is a likelihood of a significant effect on capercaillie through recreational disturbance.

In combination effect There are minor residual effects identified from only one settlement, Kincraig, therefore there are no in-combination effects.
Mitigation The LDP should include the wording: Developments which would have a likely significant effect on Cairngorms SPA must supply, as part of the planning application, all necessary information to allow the planning authority to carry out an Appropriate Assessment. Required mitigation will include a Recreational Management Plan (RMP), to comply with the criteria set out in this Plan. To be in accordance with this Plan, and for planning permission to be granted, such developments must not adversely affect the integrity of the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
Minor residual effects The loss over several years of open ground to low-density native trees and montane scrub would represent a modification to the SPA of around 0.15 per cent of its area. However, the new woodland will be of sufficient height and/or openness to continue to support usage by open ground raptors, eg golden eagle, peregrine and merlin, and so there would be no residual effects on these qualifying features. Following mitigation of potential impacts on capercaillie, there are no minor residual effects from An Camas Mor, Boat of Garten and Aviemore.
Conclusion on site integrity Implementing these proposals will not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of this European Site, alone or in combination.

Cairngorms SAC

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

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 extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

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)

Qualifying species

- Green shield-moss (Buxbaumia viridis)
- Otter (Lutra lutra)

Effect on conservation objectives

There is potential for an effect by the reduction in the area of some qualifying habitats through compensatory habitat measures in lieu of the allocation, eg reafforesting open hill ground. An identified 78ha compensation area represents 0.1per cent of the area of the Cairngorms SAC. Native tree and shrub planting will increase the coverage of some of the other qualifying features eg mountain willow scrub. The green shield-moss as a woodland species would not be affected by this habitat modification. One settlement could not be screened out for likely significant effects:

Allocated Sites

- **An Camas Mor:** Identified compensatory habitat creation measures arising from the allocation will occur in the SAC.

In combination effect

No residual effects have been identified from general polices within the LDP. There are no potential minor residual effects identified from any settlements, therefore there are no in-combination effects.

Mitigation

The LDP should include the wording:

Detailed habitat mapping of compensation areas is required to inform where planting could occur without adversely impacting upon qualifying habitats. Planting should avoid areas of scarcer qualifying features, eg

blanket bog and wet heath.
Minor residual effects Following mitigation, there are no minor residual effects from An Camas Mor.
Conclusion on site integrity Implementing these proposals will not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of this European Site, alone or in combination.

Cairngorms Massif SPA
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 • Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)
Effect on conservation objectives There is a potential increase in disturbance from an increase in recreational usage of more remote areas. However, volumes are likely to be low given the distance and nature of the terrain. Furthermore, nesting sites on the western side of the SPA already have a line of sight to footpaths so that birds are used to recreational usage. Such small increases in recreational use mean that there is no likelihood from any settlement of a significant effect.
In combination effect: An Camas Mor, Aviemore, Ballater, Braemar, Killiecrankie, Nethy Bridge, Tomintoul Minor residual effects have been identified from several settlements but in combination these were not considered likely to be significant.
Mitigation None needed.
Minor residual effects Minor residual effects remain from the combination of An Camas Mor, Aviemore, Ballater, Braemar, Killiecrankie, Nethy Bridge, and Tomintoul.
Conclusion on site integrity Implementing these proposals will not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of this European Site, alone or in combination.

Craigmore Wood SPA

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

- Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus)

Effect on conservation objectives and necessary mitigation measures

There is potential for increased impact on capercaillie, an endangered ground-nesting species sensitive to human-related disturbance. One settlement could not be screened out for likely significant effects:

Allocated Sites

- **Boat of Garten:** 30 houses located at 2-5 km means there is a likelihood of a significant effect.

- **Nethy Bridge:** 40 houses located within 2 km means there is a likelihood of a significant effect.

In combination effect: Cromdale, Dulnain Bridge and Grantown-on-Spey

There are potential minor residual effects from three settlements which must be assessed in combination. Cromdale with 42 allocations at 5-10 km; Dulnain Bridge, with allocations for 42 houses located at 5-10 km away (travel distance), and Grantown-on-Spey, with allocations for 78 houses located at 2-5 km, are each likely to have only minor residual effects. However, the threshold allocation size for likely significant effects at 2-5 km is 100, a figure which Grantown-on-Spey in combination with the two further away settlements there is a likelihood of a significant effect.

Mitigation

The LDP should include the wording:

Developments which would have a likely significant effect on Craigmore Wood SPA must supply, as part of the planning application, all necessary information to allow the planning authority to carry out an Appropriate Assessment. Required mitigation will include a Recreational Management Plan (RMP), to comply with the criteria set out in this Plan. To be in accordance with this Plan, and for planning permission to be granted, such developments must not adversely affect the integrity of the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Minor residual effects

Following mitigation, there are no minor residual effects from Boat of Garten and Nethy Bridge or from the combination of Cromdale, Dulnain Bridge and Grantown-on-Spey.

Conclusion on site integrity

Implementing these proposals will not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of this European Site, either alone or in combination.

Insh Marshes SAC

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

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 extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

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)

Qualifying species

- Otter (Lutra lutra)

Effect on conservation objectives
There is potential for an effect on the qualifying clear-water lochs habitat through increased nutrients brought about by increased volumes of wastewater effluent. Three settlements could not be screened out for likely significant effects:

Allocated sites

- **Kincraig:** 50 houses located within 2 km means there is a likelihood of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater
- **Newtonmore:** 120 houses located within 2 km means there is a likelihood of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.

Consented sites

- **Kingussie:** 300 houses located within 2 km means there is a likelihood of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.
- **Newtonmore:** 101 houses located within 2 km means there is a likelihood of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.

In combination effect
There are no potential minor residual effects identified from any settlements, therefore there are no in-combination effects.

Mitigation
The LDP should include the wording:

Developments which would have a likely significant effect on Insh Marshes SAC must supply as part of the planning application the necessary information to allow the Planning Authority to carry out an Appropriate Assessment which will inform the final decision on the application. To be in accordance with this Plan and for planning permission to be granted, such developments must not adversely affect the integrity of the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Development may not commence until it has been demonstrated to the planning authority that there is sufficient capacity in local waste water treatment works in terms of capacity and ability to remove pollutants to recommended standards at the time of approval.

Minor residual effects
Following mitigation, there are no minor residual effects from Kincraig, Kingussie and Newtonmore.

Conclusion on site integrity
Implementing these proposals will not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of this European Site, alone or in combination.

Kinveachy Forest SPA

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

- Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus)
- Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica)

Effect on conservation objectives and necessary mitigation measures

There is no likely significant effect on Scottish crossbill because it is not considered to be sensitive to disturbance by people.

However, there is potential for increased impact on capercaillie, an endangered ground-nesting species sensitive to human-related disturbance. Three settlements could not be screened out for likely significant effects:

Allocated Sites

- **An Camas Mor:** 1500 houses located at 2-5 km means there is a likelihood of a significant effect.
- **Boat of Garten:** 30 houses located within 2 km means there is a likelihood of a significant effect.
- **Carr-bridge:** 94 houses located within 2 km means there is a likelihood, with consented sites, of a significant effect.

Consented sites

- **Aviemore:** 336 houses located within 2 km means there is a likelihood of a significant effect.
- **Carr-bridge:** 23 houses located within 2 km means there is a likelihood, with allocated sites, of a significant effect.

Core Paths

- Highburnside core path will have improvements which may mean an increase in users to the SPA

In-combination effect

There are no potential minor residual effects identified from any settlements, therefore there are no in-combination effects.

Mitigation

The LDP should include the wording:

Developments which would have a likely significant effect on Kinveachy Forest SPA must supply, as part of the planning application, all necessary information to allow the planning authority to carry out an Appropriate Assessment. Required mitigation will include a Recreational Management Plan (RMP), to comply with the criteria set out in this Plan. To be in accordance with this Plan, and for planning permission to be granted, such developments must not adversely affect the integrity of the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Improvements and signage to the Highburnside Core Path which would have a likely significant effect on Kinveachy Forest SPA must supply, as part of the consent process, all necessary information to allow the access authority to carry out an Appropriate Assessment. Required mitigation will include a Recreational Management Plan (RMP), to comply with the criteria set out in this Plan. To be in accordance with this Plan and for planning permission to be granted, such improvements or signage must not adversely affect the integrity of the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Minor residual effects
Following mitigation, there are no minor residual effects from An Camas Mor, Aviemore, Boat of Garten and Carr- Bridge.

Conclusion on site integrity
Implementing these proposals will not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of this European Site, either alone or in combination.

River Dee SAC

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 (Salmo salar)
- Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera)
- Otter (Lutra lutra)

Effect on conservation objectives

There is also potential for an effect on Atlantic salmon and freshwater pearl mussel through increased nutrients brought about by increased volumes of wastewater effluent. Water abstraction for domestic and commercial use could create an effect on qualifying features by reducing water levels in the river. Three settlements could not be screened out for likely significant effects:

Allocated Sites

- **Ballater:** 258 houses located within 2 km means there is a likelihood of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.
- **Braemar:** 4 houses located within 2 km means there is a likelihood, with consented sites, of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.
- **Dinnet:** 19 houses located within 2 km means there is a likelihood of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.

Consented Sites

- **Braemar:** 58 houses located within 2 km means there is a likelihood, with allocated sites, of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.

In combination effect

No residual effects have been identified from general polices within the LDP. There are no potential minor residual effects identified from any settlements, therefore there are no in-combination effects.

Mitigation

The LDP should include the wording:

Developments which would have a likely significant effect on the River Dee SAC must supply as part of the

planning application the necessary information to allow the Planning Authority to carry out an Appropriate Assessment which will inform the final decision on the application. To be in accordance with this Plan and for planning permission to be granted, such developments must not adversely affect the integrity of the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. *Development may not commence until it has been demonstrated to the planning authority that there is sufficient capacity in local waste water treatment works in terms of volume and ability to remove pollutants to recommended standards at the time of approval.*
Minor residual effects Following mitigation, there are no minor residual effects from Ballater, Braemar, and Dinnet.
Conclusion on site integrity Implementing these proposals will not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of this European Site, alone or in combination.

River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA and Ramsar site

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 features (SPA)

- Hen harrier (Circus cyaneus)
- Osprey (Pandion haliaetus)
- Spotted crake (Porzana porzana)
- Whooper swan (Cygnus cygnus)
- Wigeon (Anas penelope)
- Wood sandpiper (Tringa galeola)

Qualifying features (Ramsar)

- Breeding bird assemblage
- Flood-plain fen
- Mesotrophic loch
- Trophic range river/stream
- Whooper swan (Cygnus cygnus)

Effect on conservation objectives

There is potential for an effect on qualifying habitat features of the Ramsar site through increased nutrients brought about by increased volumes of wastewater effluent. Three settlements could not be screened out for likely significant effects:

Allocated sites

- **Kincraig:** 50 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.
- **Newtonmore:** 120 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood, with consented sites, of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.

Consented sites

- **Kingussie:** 300 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.
- **Newtonmore:** 101 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood, with allocated sites, of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.

In combination effect

There are no likely significant effects arising from in combination of MREs

Mitigation
The LDP should include the wording:

Developments which would have a likely significant effect on the River Spey – Insh Marshes SPA and Ramsar site must supply as part of the planning application the necessary information to allow the Planning Authority to carry out an Appropriate Assessment which will inform the final decision on the application. To be in accordance with this Plan and for planning permission to be granted, such developments must not adversely affect the integrity of the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Development may not commence until it has been demonstrated to the planning authority that there is sufficient capacity in local waste water treatment works in terms of volume and ability to remove pollutants to recommended standards at the time of approval.

Minor residual effects
Following mitigation, there are no minor residual effects from Kincraig, Kingussie and Newtonmore.

Conclusion on site integrity
Implementing these proposals will not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of this European Site, alone or in combination.

River Spey SAC

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 the 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 (Salmo salar)
- Freshwater pearl mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera)
- Otter (Lutra lutra)
- Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus)

Effect on conservation objectives

There is potential for an effect on Atlantic salmon and freshwater pearl mussel through increased nutrients brought about by increased volumes of wastewater effluent. Sea Lamprey migration can be disturbed by lighting on the river. Thirteen settlements could not be screened out for likely significant effects:

Allocated Sites

- **An Camas Mor:** 1500 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater. Bridge crossings mean there is a risk of disturbance to Sea Lamprey from lighting.
- **Boat of Garten:** houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.
- **Carr-Bridge:** 94 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood, with consented sites, of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.
- **Cromdale:** 30 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood, with consented sites, of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.
- **Dalwhinnie:** 11 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood, with consented sites, of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.
- **Dulnain Bridge:** 30 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood, with consented sites, of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.
- **Grantown-on-Spey:** 78 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater. Burn crossings may mean there is a risk of disturbance to Sea Lamprey from lighting.
- **Kincraig:** 50 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.

- **Nethy Bridge:** 40 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.
- **Newtonmore:** 120 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood, with consented sites, of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.
- **Tomintoul:** 23 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood, with consented sites, of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.

Consented Sites

- **Aviemore:** 336 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.
- **Carr-Bridge:** 23 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood, with allocated sites, of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.
- **Cromdale:** 12 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood, with allocated sites, of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.
- **Dalwhinnie:** 5 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood, with allocated sites, of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.
- **Dulnain Bridge:** 12 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood, with allocated sites, of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.
- **Kingussie:** 300 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.
- **Newtonmore:** 101 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood, with allocated sites, of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.
- **Tomintoul:** 3 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood, with allocated sites, of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.

In combination effect

There are no likely significant effects arising from in combination of MREs

Mitigation

The LDP should include the wording:

Developments which would have a likely significant effect on the River Spey SAC must supply as part of the planning application the necessary information to allow the Planning Authority to carry out an Appropriate Assessment which will inform the final decision on the application. To be in accordance with this Plan and for planning permission to be granted, such developments must not adversely affect the integrity of the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Development may not commence until it has been demonstrated to the planning authority that there is sufficient capacity in local waste water treatment works in terms of volume and ability to remove pollutants to recommended standards at the time of approval.

Minor residual effects

Following mitigation, there are no minor residual effects from An Camas Mor, Aviemore, Boat of Garten, Carr-bridge, Cromdale, Dalwhinnie, Dulnain Bridge, Grantown-on-Spey, Kincraig, Kingussie, Nethy Bridge, Newtonmore, and Tomintoul.

Conclusion on site integrity

Implementing these proposals will not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of this European Site, alone or in combination.

River Tay SAC

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 features

- Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar)
- Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri)
- River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis)
- Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus)
- Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels.
- Otter (Lutra lutra)

Effect on conservation objectives

There is potential for an effect on Atlantic salmon and freshwater pearl mussel through increased nutrients brought about by increased volumes of wastewater effluent. Two settlements could not be screened out for likely significant effects:

Allocated Sites

- **Blair Atholl:** an economic development allocation close to, and upstream of, part of the site means there is a likelihood of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.

- **Killiecrankie:** 12 houses located close to and upstream of the site means there is a likelihood of a significant effect from pollution from wastewater.

In combination effect

No residual effects have been identified from general polices within the LDP. There are no potential minor residual effects identified from any settlements, therefore there are no in-combination effects.

Mitigation

The LDP should include the wording:

Developments which would have a likely significant effect on the River Tay SAC must supply as part of the planning application the necessary information to allow the Planning Authority to carry out an Appropriate Assessment which will inform the final decision on the application. To be in accordance with this Plan and for planning permission to be granted, such developments must not adversely affect the integrity of the site,

either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. *Development may not commence until it has been demonstrated to the planning authority that there is sufficient capacity in local waste water treatment works in terms of volume and ability to remove pollutants to recommended standards at the time of approval.*
Minor residual effects Following mitigation, there are no minor residual effects from Blair Atholl and Killiecrankie.
Conclusion on site integrity Implementing these proposals will not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of this European Site, alone or in combination.

6.4 Stage 9: Amending the Plan - Mitigation at Appropriate Assessment Stage

6.4.1 The appropriate assessment identifies a range of mitigations which, if implemented, will result in no adverse effect on the integrity of the relevant designated sites. The appropriate assessment sets out how the mitigation should be incorporated into the LDP, and through Stage 9, those changes have been made to the LDP so that the necessary mitigation is included in the Proposed Local Development Plan.

The Community Information section of the plan identifies, where relevant, the Natura sites that could be affected by the allocations and specifies the mitigation that must be included in proposals. Guidance on the mitigation is provided in the Natural Heritage Supplementary Guidance.

As a result of the HRA, the Local Development Plan requires mitigation to address the following effects where relevant:

- Water abstraction
- Pollution and siltation from construction sites
- Run-off/Requirement for SUDS
- Pollution from wastewater
- Disturbance to otters
- Disturbance to capercaillie
- Distribution of qualifying habitats

The appropriate assessment identifies two requirements for mitigation that are common to several Natura sites: disturbance to capercaillie and pollution from wastewater. The detailed approach to implementing mitigation for these effects has therefore been considered in order to apply it to a number of sites where relevant. Further explanation of the required mitigation is given below.

Disturbance to capercaillie

6.4.2 The screening process identified a number of aspects that have LSEs on the SPAs for which capercaillie is a qualifying feature. The AA puts forward mitigation to address the issues raised by possible increased recreational disturbance. The mitigation sets a number of 'tests' as criteria which must be used for all developments where an HRA identifies LSEs. They must be incorporated into the LDP to ensure that the provisions are applied to planning applications. It must ensure mandatory compliance through the following wording:

Developments which would have a likely significant effect on (named European designated sites) must supply, as part of the planning application, all necessary information to allow the planning authority to carry out an Appropriate Assessment. Required mitigation will include a Recreational Management Plan (RMP) to comply with the criteria set out in this Plan. To be in accordance with this Plan, and for planning permission to be granted, such developments must not adversely affect the integrity of the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

6.4.3 In addition, the policy on Natural Heritage should include wording to ensure that development complies with these criteria and that tension within the Plan is not created. For example 'Development would not accord with the policy if the criteria cannot be met'.

Criteria for mitigation to capercaillie disturbance

Criterion 1 - Current and estimated recreational use and provision. The mitigation proposals must be based on a detailed and evidence-based understanding of current recreational use of the area, (both spatially and over time) in terms of type, numbers, distribution, and behaviour and take account of the predicted future recreation demand arising from the proposed development.

Criterion 2 - Capercaillie population and site issues. The mitigation proposals must be based on a detailed and evidence-based understanding of current capercaillie population around the affected sites. It must also have detailed information on site condition and any specific issues that may affect the way the species uses the sites.

Criterion 3 - Best practice. The mitigation proposals must be built on best practice as agreed with the planning authority and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Criterion 4 - Deliver targeted site-specific mitigation**.** Development proposals must put forward a detailed package of mitigation that addresses the issues raised in these criteria. They must clearly demonstrate that the combination of mitigation measures will ensure that there is no adverse effect upon the integrity of a Natura site, and no MREs will remain. The measures for mitigation are likely to include:

- Awareness-raising through ranger activity, leaflets, signage and media communications
- Provision of alternative footpaths, other routes, or green space
- Path removal to increase core capercaillie refuge areas
- Habitat improvement
- Habitat expansion
- Screening within woodland areas
- Specific measures for increased dog control

Criterion 5 - Community engagement and support. The proposals must demonstrate effective engagement with the community and recreational users and a sufficient degree of support to ensure the proposals will be effective.

Criterion 6 - Practical enforcement. The mitigation proposals must demonstrate that the measures will be practically enforceable and maintained for the lifetime of the development.

Criterion 7 - Phasing. For developments of more than 50 units a phased approach must be adopted. The approval of phases will be conditional upon the successful delivery of mitigation proposals for the previous phases. The measures for success will be part of the Appropriate Assessment and attached to any approval.

Criterion 8 - Monitoring, review and adaptive management. The mitigation and management measures must be monitored and reviewed in a manner agreed with the planning authority and Scottish Natural Heritage to ensure effectiveness for the lifetime of the development. A mechanism must be put in place to take further management measures to reduce disturbance if necessary.

Criterion 9 - Co-ordinated action. Mitigation measures must demonstrate awareness of other developments and projects that could affect the same designated sites and to ensure that in-combination effects are considered. These must include developments that have been proposed, submitted for permission, or approved but not yet built. Any conflicts in effectiveness or delivery must be managed within the mitigation measures to ensure no adverse effect upon any site's integrity.

Criterion 10 - Proportionality. The evidence base and subsequent mitigation measures must be proportionate to the level of potential effect and the size of the development.

6.4.4 The package of measures referred to in Criterion 5, and all the information required to meet all ten criteria, are called the Recreational Management Plan. It is not necessary at this level to prescribe which mitigations will be applied because these will have to be determined prior to an application when the full detail of the site and development can be known. This will be assessed through a further AA.

Pollution from wastewater

6.4.5 Effect: Wastewater from development can contain chemicals that could pollute water courses. Soluble phosphorous is harmful to freshwater pearl mussel at levels above 0.03mg/l.

Mitigation required: All wastewater from developments must be treated at wastewater treatment works to remove harmful levels of pollutants. There must be capacity within water treatment works for the volume of material generated by developments and the facilities needed to reduce pollutants to a level where there will be no adverse effects upon the integrity of Natura sites. SNH advise that current work is underway to assess tolerance levels of juvenile fresh water pearl mussels and mitigation will be required to comply with any resulting standards.

Required provision within LDP: The LDP must ensure that developments brought forward through it will comply with current best practice to achieve the required mitigation. It must ensure mandatory compliance through the following wording:

Developments which would have a likely significant effect on (named European designated sites) must supply as part of the planning application the necessary information to allow the Planning Authority to carry out an Appropriate Assessment which will inform the final decision on the application. To be in accordance with this Plan and for planning permission to be granted, such developments must not adversely affect the integrity of the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Development may not commence until it has been demonstrated to the planning authority that there is sufficient capacity in local wastewater treatment works in terms of capacity and ability to remove pollutants to recommended standards at the time of approval.

7. Stage 10: Conclusions of draft HRA record

7.1 This HRA has identified a wide range of Likely Significant Effects and Minor Residual Effects on the Natura sites within the Cairngorms National Park arising from the LDP. It has also identified a range of mitigation measures that must be included within the LDP and implemented through its delivery. At this stage of the planning process, without the fine detail of specific projects, the proper resolution of the effects has been put forward at an appropriate level, together with clear indications of how and when mitigation will be implemented at future stages. This approach follows the opinion of the Advocate General in the ECJ case C-6/04.

7.2 Following stages 1 to 10 of the appraisal we conclude that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity or the qualifying features of any Natura site within the Cairngorms National Park through the provisions of the Proposed LDP, implemented in accordance with the identified mitigation.

7.3 This report forms a draft record of the HRA process (Stage 10). The report will be published alongside the Proposed Local Development Plan for consultation. The responses to the consultation and any amendments to the Plan will be considered through stages 11 and 12 of the HRA process, before a final HRA record is published prior to adoption of the Local Development Plan.

References

Habitat Regulations Appraisal of Plans – Guidance for Plan Making Bodies in Scotland. SNH/DTA August 2012 (Version 2.0)

Appendix 1 - Details of Natura 2000 sites within, or adjacent to, the Cairngorms National Park

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 extent 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, 2009. Favourable maintained. • Osprey, breeding, 2007. Favourable maintained. • Scottish crossbill, not monitored to date.
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 extent 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 extent 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 extent 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 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 extent 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 extent 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 Mòr, 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 extent 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 extent 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. Unfavourable no change. • Plants in crevices on acid rocks, 2005. Favourable maintained. • Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks, 2010. Favourable 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 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) • 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 extent 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 extent 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 extent 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 extent 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 extent 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	• Recreational disturbance from development in neighbouring areas • Relevant settlements: Boat of Garten

of the Plan	

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 extent 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 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	• 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 extent 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 extent 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 area 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 extent 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
	• Mesotrohpic 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 Mòr, Aviemore, Inverdruie, Kincraig, Insh, Boat of Garten, Carr-Bridge, Dulnain Bridge, Nethy Bridge, Grantown-on-Spey, Cromdale

Name of European Site	River Tay
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed

Objectives	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

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

Name of European Site	Tulach Hill and Glen Fender Meadows
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)	• Geyer's whorl snail (Vertigo geyeri) • Round-mouthed whorl snail • Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone • Limestone pavements • Dry heaths • Base-rich fens
Site Condition	• Geyer's whorl snail (Vertigo geyeri). Favourable maintained. • Round-mouthed whorl snail. Favourable maintained. • Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone. Unfavourable no change. • Limestone pavements. Favourable maintained. • Dry heaths. Unfavourable declining. • Base-rich fens. Unfavourable declining.
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Appendix 2
HRA Screening Matrix

Appendix 3
Matrix for in-combination effects

The screening exercises have identified a number of minor residual effects from the aspects Local Development Plan (LDP) and other Plans, Projects and Strategies. These are set out in the matrices below for each Natura site where these effects have been identified. The combination of these has been considered to see if they result in an effect that is likely to be significant. Where these likely significant effects (LSE) have been identified an appropriate assessment will be necessary to detail these further and set out what, if any, mitigation is possible.

When determining whether there is a likely significant affect the level and source of the residual effects are considered. The level of effect is a combination of the potential population increase from individual settlements and the distance to the designated site. A scale of low, negligible or none is used and it is a matter of judgement as to what the level is most likely to be. The terms medium or high are not used to avoid confusion with LSE for Appropriate Assessments (AAs). When determining if the combination is likely to be significant, a judgement is made considering the number of 'low' effects, total potential population increase within the catchment and other circumstances which are described in the matrix.

Natura Site: Abernethy SPA							
Aspect of plan (source)	Description of source of effect	Qualifying feature potentially effected	Nature of effect: Recreational disturbance	Nature of effect: Pollution of water course	Nature of effect: Siltation of water course	Nature of effect: Loss of habitat	Nature of effect: Loss of supporting habitat
Carr-Bridge	117 houses 7.0km Recreational disturbance from long distance walkers or those arriving by car	Capercaillie	Numbers are likely to be very low from here, similar resources are found around settlement.				
Dulnain Bridge	42houses 4.8 km	Capercaillie	Numbers are likely				

	Recreational disturbance from long distance walkers or those arriving by car		to be negligible.				
Grantown-on-Spey	78 houses 7.8km Recreational disturbance from long distance walkers or those arriving by car	Capercaillie	Numbers are likely to be very low from here, similar resources are found around settlement.				
Is combination likely to be a significant effect? Why?			No; the number and distance from site means a very low combined effect .				
Conclusion: is an Appropriate Assessment required?			**No**				

Natura Site: Anagach Woods SPA							
Aspect of plan (Source)	Description of source of effect	Qualifying feature potentially effected	Nature of effect: Recreational disturbance	Nature of effect: Pollution of water course	Nature of effect: Siltation of water course	Nature of effect: Loss of habitat	Nature of effect: Loss of supporting habitat
Dulnain Bridge	42houses 4.3 km Recreational disturbance from long distance walkers or those arriving by car	Capercaillie	Not an obvious walking destination from this settlement, numbers will be very low.				
Nethy Bridge	40 houses 7.0 km Recreational disturbance from long distance walkers or those arriving by car	Capercaillie	Not an obvious walking destination from this settlement, numbers will be very low.				
Is combination likely to be a significant effect? Why?			No; the number and distance from site means a very low combined effect .				
Conclusion: is an Appropriate Assessment required?			**No**				

Natura Site: Cairngorms SPA							
Aspect of plan (Source)	Description of source of effect	Qualifying feature potentially effected	Nature of effect: Recreational disturbance	Nature of effect: Pollution of water course	Nature of effect: Siltation of water course	Nature of effect: Loss of habitat	Nature of effect: Loss of supporting habitat
Kincraig and vicinity	46 houses Recreational disturbance from walkers	Capercaillie	Number from allocated development is low.				
Is combination likely to be a significant effect? Why?			No single MRE, no combination.				
Conclusion: is an Appropriate Assessment required?			**No**				

Natura Site: Cairngorms Massif SPA							
Aspect of plan (Source)	Description of source of effect	Qualifying feature potentially effected	Nature of effect: Recreational disturbance	Nature of effect: Pollution of water course	Nature of effect: Siltation of water course	Nature of effect: Loss of habitat	Nature of effect: Loss of supporting habitat
An Camas Mòr	1500 houses Recreational disturbance on from long distance walkers	Golden Eagle	Though the site is remote there may be some small effect.				
Aviemore and Vicinity	336 houses Recreational disturbance from long distance walkers	Golden Eagle	Though the site is remote there may be some small effect.				
Ballater	258 houses Recreational disturbance from long distance walkers	Golden Eagle	Though the site is remote there may be some small effect.				
Braemar	79 Houses Recreational disturbance from long distance walkers	Golden Eagle	Though the site is remote there may be some small effect.				
Killiecrankie	12 Houses Recreational disturbance from	Golden Eagle	Negligible effect from small number of houses and size of				

	long distance walkers		SPA.				
Nethy Bridge	54 houses Recreational disturbance from long distance walkers	Golden Eagle	Negligible effect from small number of houses and size of SPA.				
Tomintoul	26 houses Recreational disturbance from long distance walkers	Golden Eagle	Negligible effect from small number of houses and size of SPA.				
Is combination likely to be a significant effect? Why?			Yes; from the number of increase users on all sides of the SPA.				
Conclusion: is an Appropriate Assessment required?		**Yes**					

Natura Site: Craigmore Wood SPA							
Aspect of plan (Source)	Description of source of effect	Qualifying feature potentially effected	Nature of effect: Recreational disturbance	Nature of effect: Pollution of water course	Nature of effect: Siltation of water course	Nature of effect: Loss of habitat	Nature of effect: Loss of supporting habitat
Cromdale	42 houses 7.3 km Recreational disturbance from long distance walkers or those arriving by car	Capercaillie	This is not a popular walking destination, numbers from this settlement will be very low.				
Dulnain Bridge	42 houses 6.0km Recreational disturbance from long distance walkers or those arriving by car	Capercaillie	This is not a popular walking destination, numbers from this settlement will be very low.				
Grantown-on-Spey	78 houses 3.6 km Recreational disturbance from long distance walkers or those arriving by car	Capercaillie	This is not a popular walking destination, numbers from this settlement will be very low.				
Is combination likely to be a significant effect? Why?			No; the number and distance from site means a very low combined effect .				

Conclusion: is an Appropriate Assessment required?	**No**

Natura Site: Loch Vaa SPA							
Aspect of plan (Source)	Description of source of effect	Qualifying feature potentially effected	Nature of effect: Recreational disturbance	Nature of effect: Pollution of water course	Nature of effect: Siltation of water course	Nature of effect: Loss of habitat	Nature of effect: Loss of supporting habitat
An Camas Mòr	1500 houses Recreational disturbance on from long distance walkers	Slavonian Grebe	Site not used by Grebes and no action to improve conservation status. No effect.				
Aviemore and Vicinity	336 houses Recreational disturbance from long distance walkers	Slavonian Grebe	Site not used by Grebes and no action to improve conservation status. No effect.				
Carr-Bridge	117 houses 3.9 km Recreational disturbance from long distance walkers or those arriving by car	Slavonian Grebe	Site not used by Grebes and no action to improve conservation status. No effect.				

Boat of Garten Main Issue Report Boat of Garten Appropriate Assessment did not find any MRE	30 houses 2.3km Recreational disturbance from long distance walkers or those arriving by car	Slavonian Grebe	Site not used by Grebes and no action to improve conservation status. No effect.				
Is combination likely to be a significant effect? Why?			There would be no disturbance because birds have not used the site in recent year. Reasons for this are national and not affected by ocal conditions.				
Conclusion: is an Appropriate Assessment required?			**No**				

Natura Site: Muir of Dinnet SPA/Ramsar							
Aspect of plan (Source)	Description of source of effect	Qualifying feature potentially effected	Nature of effect: Recreational disturbance	Nature of effect: Pollution of water course	Nature of effect: Siltation of water course	Nature of effect: Loss of habitat	Nature of effect: Loss of supporting habitat
Dinnet	19 houses 2.1km Disturbance from walkers	Greylag goose waterfowl assemblage	Unlikely due to species –roosting on water over night and loch large enough to provide refuges.				
Is combination likely to be a significant effect? Why?			No combination.				
Conclusion: is an Appropriate Assessment required?			**No: there is only a single MRE therefore no in-combination effects**				

Natura Site: River Spey Insh Marshes SPA							
Aspect of plan (Source)	Description of source of effect	Qualifying feature potentially effected	Nature of effect: Recreational disturbance	Nature of effect: Pollution of water course	Nature of effect: Siltation of water course	Nature of effect: Loss of habitat	Nature of effect: Loss of supporting habitat
Kincraig and vicinity	46 houses Recreational disturbance from walkers	Osprey	Osprey have nested in open view and are habituated to high levels of activity. Addition from LDP will be unnoticed				
Kingussie	304 houses 300m away Recreational Disturbance	Hen Harrier, osprey, spotted crake, whooper swan, widgeon, wood sandpiper	Mainly walkers however access to the site is very difficult due to boggy nature. Also controlled viewing is available from hides on reserve				
Newtonmore	220 houses 200m away Recreational Disturbance	As above	Birds likely to be only feeding if they are in this part of site, disturbance will not be significant				
Is combination likely to be a significant effect? Why?			No, the nature of the effects is diffuse				

	and on less critical aspects of bird occupation of site				
Conclusion: is an Appropriate Assessment required?	**No**				

Natura Site: River Spey SAC							
Aspect of plan (Source)	Description of source of effect	Qualifying feature potentially effected	Nature of effect: Recreational disturbance	Nature of effect: Pollution of water course	Nature of effect: Siltation of water course	Nature of effect: Loss of habitat	Nature of effect: Loss of supporting habitat
A9 widening – Project not within LDP	General effect listed in project HRA	Fresh water Pearl Mussel, Atlantic Salmon, Sea Lamprey		From construction activity	From construction activity	From new structures	
Is combination likely to be a significant effect? Why?				Single effect	Single effect	Single effect	
Conclusion: is an Appropriate Assessment required?			**No – only source of MRE is from project not within LDP**				

Appendix 3

Glossary of terms and abbreviations

Appropriate Assessment (AA)	The part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process that considers the effects of an aspect of a plan upon a Natura Site.
CNPA	Cairngorms National Park Authority
Competent Authority	The decision making body required under the Habitats Directive to undertake HRA. This includes Scottish Government, National Park Authorities or Local Authorities.
CPP	Core Paths Plan
Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA)	The whole appraisal process for determining effects upon Natura Sites. It includes Appropriate Assessments. It is a requirement by the Habitats Directive that competent authorities carry out HRAs where a plan or project affects a Natura site.
LDP	Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan
LSE	Likely Significant Effect – a level of an adverse effect from an aspect of the plan that may affect the integrity of a Natura site.
MRE	Minor Residual Effect – a level of effect from an aspect of the plan that is adverse to a Natura site but will not affect its integrity.
Natura Sites	Collective term for Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation
Ramsar sites	Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention 1971. Not technically Natura sites they are however usually also SPAs. They are included within the HRA process by convention.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	An area designated for the protection of habitats and species. Authorised under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (commonly called the "Habitats Directive"). One of three designation to be considered in a HRA
Special Protection Area (SPA)	An area designation for the protection of birds. Authorised by the Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (commonly called the "Birds Directive"). One of three designation to be considered in a HRA