

# AGENDA ITEM 8

## APPENDIX 6

# HABITAT REGULATIONS APPRAISAL

## Habitats Regulations Assessment consultation draft:

### Dinnet Hill Tracks

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016

2014/0232/DET

#### Introduction

This is a record of the assessment under regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) for the planning 2016/0067/DET | Maintenance and Upgrading Works to Existing Hill Tracks (Alteration of Private Ways Retrospective) | Forestry Land At Dinnet Moor, Dinnet, Aboyne AB34 5LX

There is no prescribed methodology within Scotland for HRAs for projects. The CNPA has based its methodology on those prepared by D Tyldesley Associates for the Welsh Assembly in conjunction with guidance from the EU. We have derived a 10 stage process, from the initial decision to assess a project.

#### Background to the assessment

The proposed development which is the subject of this assessment is for planning permission for a scheme which includes: Upgrading and maintenance on sections of track on Dinnet Moor. Section 6 follows the Red burn which is 2.7km upstream of the River Dee SAC and Muir of Dinnet SAC at Loch Davan. Sections 1 & 2 are close to the Glenfenzie Burn which flows into the Gairn Burn a tributary of the River Dee and all are part of the River Dee SAC.

The principal documents which have been taken into account for this assessment are:

- Planning application forms
- A3 location plan
- SNH Natura response
- Designated species report
- Method Statements for track sections
- Emergency Pollution Prevention Plan

**Table 1. Stages of Assessment**

<b>Stages of Assessment</b>	
<b>Stage 1</b>	Decide whether proposal is subject to HRA
<b>Stage 2</b>	Identify Natura Sites that should be considered and gather information

	about the Natura Sites
<b>Stage 3</b>	Consultation on the method and scope of the appraisal with SNH and others. Request additional information from applicant if required.
<b>Stage 4</b>	Screening the proposal for likely significant effects on Natura sites including mitigation measures included within the proposal
<b>Stage 5</b>	Screen for “in combination effects” with other plans or projects
<b>Stage 6</b>	Appropriate Assessment to determine effect upon conservation objectives. Preliminary conclusion about adverse effect upon the integrity of any site.
<b>Stage 7</b>	Consultation with SNH (and others if considered appropriate)
<b>Stage 8</b>	Apply additional mitigation measures, if required, via conditions or agreements to ensure that there is no adverse effect on site integrity
<b>Stage 9</b>	Conclusion on Integrity test
<b>Stage 10</b>	Regulation 49 derogation procedures. This only applies if adverse effects remain and Competent Authority still wishes to approve the application

## **Stages 1-5 describing the Natura sites and Screening**

The proposed development is not wholly concerned with the necessary management of a European site for nature conservation and requires planning permission and so the plans must be subject to assessment under the terms of Directive 92/43/EEC.

### **Stages 2: Identification of Natura Sites and gathering their details**

The list below is those sites that have been taken forward to screening for likely significant effects. See Appendix I for details on each site and its qualifying features.

- **Special Area of Conservation (SAC) River Dee**
- **Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Muir of Dinnet**

### **Stage 3: Discussions on the method and scope of the appraisal and requests for additional information**

Advice has been provided by SNH on Freshwater Pearl Mussel distribution within the River Dee SAC.

### **Stage 4: Screening the proposal for likely significant effects**

Screening of this application considers any possible effects that would arise from the upgrading and maintenance works on the track sections on Dinnet Moor, the four possible outcomes from the screening process are identified in Table 2.

The effects identified were:

- Impacts from construction activities which have the potential to disturb otter or reduce ability to hunting efficiency if water is cloudy from construction activities;
- During the construction phase there is a risk to Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Salmon and Otter from sedimentation and run-off from site.
- During the construction phase there is a risk from sedimentation and run-off to the clear water loch habitat at Loch Davan which has water quality identified as a pressure.

**Table 2. The four possible outcomes from the screening process**

<b>Screening outcome</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Stage of process outcome found</b>
No effect	There is no effect at all upon the qualifying interests	Stage 4
No likely significant effect in combination	There is an insignificant effect from the development itself and even in combination with other plans and projects, it does not amount to a significant effect.	Stage 5
Likely significant effect in combination	There is an insignificant effect from the development itself but in combination with the insignificant effects of other plans and projects, it becomes significant.	Stage 5
Likely significant effect alone	There is a possible significant effect from the development by itself. This may be direct or indirect.	Stage 4

**Table 3. Screening for LSE from upgrading and maintenance of hill tracks on Dinnet Moor**

<b>Name of Natura Site : River Dee SAC</b>					
<b>Qualifying Feature Affected</b>	<b>Possible effect of development</b>	<b>Likely significant effect</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Screening assessment</b>	<b>Screening outcome</b>
<b>OTTER</b>	Pollution of watercourses through run – off generated during construction: siltation during ground works & fuel spills.	Disturbance to foraging habitat leading to displacement	Temporary during construction	Otters require clean water to hunt effectively for prey including fish and amphibians. The release of silts and sediments during path works needs to be tightly controlled and measures put in place to stop silt laden run-off, oil or fuel spills from machinery and polluted run-off reaching the River Dee SAC.	<b>Likely Significant effect Alone</b>
	Open culverts and drains being left unsupervised on site during construction period	Otters becoming trapped in drains and culverts potentially leading to injury, stress or possibly death of individuals	Temporary during construction	It is known that Otter are in the area and that there is therefore a possibility that they will go through the construction areas. Pipes and culverts that are left open over night or while there is no construction activity present a risk of injury or death to individual animals. Depending on the animal and the time of year this might have a significant effect in the population of the local area.	<b>Likely Significant effect Alone</b>
<b>ATLANTIC SALMON</b>	Pollution of watercourses through run – off	Salmon require clean gravels to spawn and silts released during construction could	Temporary loss of suitable	The NBN Gateway shows the River Dee tributaries support salmon, excessive siltation especially during the sensitive breeding season	<b>Likely Significant effect Alone</b>

	during construction: siltation during ground excavation work or fuel run-off.	smother eggs and reduce the suitability of breeding sites.	spawning habitat but potential to have longer term effects if drainage solutions are inadequate or poorly designed and contribute to run-off	from November to April could have a detrimental impact on breeding success.	
<b>FRESHWATER PEARL MUSSEL</b>	Pollution of watercourses through run – off during construction: siltation during ground excavation work & fuel spills.	FWPM as filter feeders are very sensitive to levels of silt which can smother mussel beds. They are also sensitive to nutrient and metal pollution, a large release of which is often associated with a siltation event.	Temporary loss of suitable habitat during construction could have long-term impacts on mussel populations if drainage solutions are inadequate or poorly designed and contribute to run-off	There are thought to be small populations of FWPM within the Gairn Burn but none within the Glen Fenzie and Red Burns (information from SNH 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2016). There are mussels within the main stem of the River Dee which may be susceptible to a large pollution event.	<b>Likely Significant effect Alone</b>

<b>Name of Natura Site : Muir of Dinnet SAC</b>					
<b>Qualifying Feature Affected</b>	<b>Possible effect of development</b>	<b>Likely significant effect</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Screening assessment</b>	<b>Screening outcome</b>
<b>CLEARWATER LOCHS WITH AQUATIC VEGETATION</b>	Pollution of watercourses through run – off during construction: siltation during ground excavation work & fuel spills.	Aquatic vegetative communities can show a decline in diversity in response to increased nutrient levels which allows the domination of nutrient tolerant species and increased algal growth.	Temporary during construction but potential for longer term effects if drainage solutions are inadequate or poorly designed and contribute to run-off.	Water quality has been identified as a pressure on the status of Clearwater lochs supporting aquatic vegetation as it has seen a move from being classified as mesotrophic to eutrophic largely as a result of its agricultural catchment. Additional input of sediments especially if longer term will exacerbate a loss in aquatic macrophyte diversity.	<b>Likely Significant effect Alone</b>

## Stage 5: In-combination effects

Where Minor Residual Effects (MREs) are identified at the screening in stage 4 they must be assessed with other MREs from within the proposal or from other relevant projects or plans to see if in combination they are a likely significant effect. In this case no MREs were identified and consequently there are no possible in-combination effects.

## Stages 6–10 Assessment and Conclusions

### Stage 6: Appropriate Assessment

The proposals have been screened in Stages 4 and 5. It was found that for some Natura sites there were likely significant effects upon the qualifying interests. Consequently the following appropriate assessment is required to ascertain the implications for the conservation objectives for each site. The affected sites identified are:

- River Dee SAC
- Muir of Dinnet SAC

#### River Dee SAC

##### Qualifying species and conservation status

Freshwater pearl mussel – unfavourable, no change - 2003

Atlantic salmon - Unfavourable maintained - 2011

Otter - Favourable declining - 2012

##### Conservation objectives

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

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

- Population of the species, including range of genetic types for Salmon, as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within 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
- Distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel host species



**Is the operation likely to have a significant effect on the qualifying interest? Consider each qualifying interest in relation to the conservation objectives**

- **Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*)**  
FWPM are present within the main stem of the River Dee and within some of the major tributaries including the Gairn Burn. FWPM are very sensitive to increased silt levels which can smother colonies.
- **Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salmar*)**  
Atlantic Salmon use the upper tributaries of the Dee for spawning and as such as very sensitive to increased levels of nutrients and siltation which could arise from construction activities.
- **Otter (*Lutra lutra*)**  
Otter are present in the area, there is a risk that foraging habitat may be lost due to construction activities which result in pollution reaching the Glen Fenzie and Red Burns and River Dee.

**Will the development adversely affect the site's conservation objectives?**

In this assessment, the implications of the planning application for the site's conservation objectives are assessed in order to answer the question: "Can it be ascertained that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the site?"

The over-arching conservation objective of SAC is to avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species, or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the sites is maintained. This over-arching conservation objective can be broken down into the following detailed elements:

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

- Population of the species as a viable component of the sites  
Distribution of the species within sites
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species  
Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

**In-combination effects**

As described at Stage 5 (screening); identification of in-combination effects is required to identify where cumulative and synergistic effects are likely to be significant. There were no relevant in-combination effects for this Natura site.

**Assessment against the Conservation Objectives**

**Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FWPM)**

**I. Population of the FWPM as a viable component of the sites and distribution of the FWPM within the Special Area of Conservation**

- There are small populations of FWPM within the major tributaries of the River Dee which

would be very susceptible to changes in silt and nutrients.

- To prevent siltation and run-off during construction, the Construction Method Statement states that a Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP) will be produced. An Emergency Pollution Prevention Plan has been provided (20/06/16) to prevent accidental pollution of the water environment. The Construction Method Statement provides information on suitable drainage solutions for each of the track sections to prevent on-going siltation problems.

#### **Conclusion**

- Likely significant effect on the local FWPM population as the PPP has not been provided.

#### **2. Distribution and extent of habitats supporting FWPM and structure, function and supporting processes of habitat supporting FWPM**

- Increased nutrients and siltation resulting from run-off can render suitable habitat unsuitable for FWPM in a short period of time. To prevent siltation and run-off during construction, the Construction Method Statement states that a Pollution Prevention Plan will be produced and adhered to. An Emergency Pollution prevention Plan has been provided (20/06/16) to prevent accidental pollution of the water environment. The Construction Method Statement provides information on suitable drainage solutions for each of the track sections to prevent on-going siltation problems.

#### **Conclusion**

- Likely significant effect on the habitat supporting FWPM as the PPP has not been provided.

#### **3. No significant disturbance of FWPM**

- There are small populations of FWPM within the major tributaries of the River Dee which would be very susceptible to changes in silt and nutrients. To prevent siltation and run-off during construction, the Construction Method Statement states that a Pollution Prevention Plan will be produced and adhered to. An Emergency Pollution prevention Plan has been provided (20/06/16) to prevent accidental pollution of the water environment. The Construction Method Statement provides information on suitable drainage solutions for each of the track sections to prevent on-going siltation problems.

#### **Conclusion**

- Likely significant disturbance to FWPM as the PPP has not been provided.

#### **Overall Conclusion for FWPM**

- Likely significant effect upon the conservation objective for FWPM

#### **Atlantic Salmon**

##### **1. Population of the Atlantic Salmon as a viable component of the sites and distribution of the Atlantic Salmon within the Special Area of Conservation**

- Salmon require clean gravels to spawn in and are most sensitive to pollution from sedimentation or excessive nutrients during the spawning season (October – March). In places the track comes within 3m of the Red Burn which supports salmon. To prevent this,

the Construction Method Statement states that a Pollution Prevention Plan will be produced and adhered to. An Emergency Pollution prevention Plan has been provided (20/06/16) to prevent accidental pollution of the water environment. The Construction Method Statement provides information on suitable drainage solutions for each of the track sections to prevent on-going siltation problems.

#### **Conclusion**

- Likely significant effect on the local salmon population as the PPP has not been provided.

### **2. Distribution and extent of habitats supporting Atlantic Salmon**

#### **and structure, function and supporting processes of habitat supporting Atlantic Salmon**

- Salmon require clean gravels to spawn in and are most sensitive to pollution from sedimentation or excessive nutrients during the spawning season (October – March). In places the track comes within 3m of the Red Burn which supports salmon. To prevent siltation and run-off during construction, the Construction Method Statement states that a Pollution Prevention Plan will be produced and adhered to. An Emergency Pollution prevention Plan has been provided (20/06/16) to prevent accidental pollution of the water environment. The Construction Method Statement provides information on suitable drainage solutions for each of the track sections to prevent on-going siltation problems.

#### **Conclusion**

- Likely significant effect on habitat integrity as the PPP has not been provided.

### **3. No significant disturbance of Atlantic Salmon**

- In places the track comes within 3m of the Red Burn which supports salmon. To prevent siltation and run-off during construction, the Construction Method Statement states that a Pollution Prevention Plan will be produced and adhered to. An Emergency Pollution prevention Plan has been provided (20/06/16) to prevent accidental pollution of the water environment. The Construction Method Statement provides information on suitable drainage solutions for each of the track sections to prevent on-going siltation problems.

#### **Conclusion**

- Likely significant disturbance to salmon as the PPP has not been provided.

#### **Overall Conclusion for Atlantic Salmon**

- There is a likely significant effect upon the conservation objective for Atlantic Salmon

#### **Otter**

### **1. Population of the Otter as a viable component of the sites and distribution of the Otter within the Special Area of Conservation**

- There is a chance that any culverts or other drains, or unprotected excavations may be left open outside of work hours and that passing otters may become trapped. This may lead to injury, stress of individuals or even death. This would be for the duration of the construction only and would cease once this was completed. The effect could be short term but locally

significant. The Construction Method Statement includes a section on checking excavations and pipe work before work begins each day to prevent injury or death.

### **Conclusion**

- With the mitigation measures in place there will be no negative effect on the local otter population.

### **2. Distribution and extent of habitats supporting Otter and structure, function and supporting processes of habitat supporting Otter**

- Otters require clean water to hunt effectively for prey including fish and amphibians. The release of silts and sediments during construction needs to be tightly controlled and measures put in place to stop silt laden run-off, oil or fuel spills from machinery reaching the Red or Glen Fenzie Burns.
- To prevent siltation and run-off during construction, the Construction Method Statement states that a Pollution Prevention Plan will be produced and adhered to. An Emergency Pollution prevention Plan has been provided (20/06/16) to prevent accidental pollution of the water environment. The Construction Method Statement provides information on suitable drainage solutions for each of the track sections to prevent on-going siltation problems.

### **Conclusion**

- There is a likely significant effect on the habitat supporting otter as the PPP has not been produced.

### **3. No significant disturbance of Otter**

- Otters are active in the area. There is a chance that any culverts or other drains, or unprotected excavations may be left open outside of work hours and that passing otters may become trapped. This may lead to injury, stress of individuals or even death. This would be for the duration of the construction only and would cease once this was completed. The effect could be short term but locally significant. The Construction Method Statement includes a section on checking excavations and pipe work before work begins each day to prevent injury or death.

### **Conclusion**

- With the mitigation measures in place there is a no likely significant disturbance of otter

### **Overall Conclusion for otter**

- There is a likely significant effect upon the conservation objective for otter

### **Additional mitigation**

The Construction Method Statement is required to include a Pollution Prevention Plan which must be produced and agreed prior to works being undertaken to prevent siltation,

release of sediments or fuel spills reaching any watercourse.

**Likely insignificant effects**

none

**Conclusion on site integrity**

**There will not be an adverse effect upon the integrity of the River Dee SAC if a Pollution Prevention Plan is produced, agreed by CNPA and adhered to and the drainage solutions are created on site as specified within the Construction Method Statement for each track section.**

**Muir of Dinnet SAC**

**Qualifying species and conservation status**

Clearwater lochs with aquatic vegetation – favourable, maintained -2004  
Very wet mires – unfavourable, declining – 2008  
Raised bog – favourable, maintained -2000  
Dry heaths – unfavourable, declining – 2001  
Otter – favourable, maintained - 2012

**Conservation objectives**

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

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

- Population of the species, including range of genetic types for Salmon, as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within 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
- Distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel host species

**Is the operation likely to have a significant effect on the qualifying interest? Consider each qualifying interest in relation to the conservation objectives**

- Clearwater lochs with aquatic vegetation  
The proposal has the potential to generate significant quantities of silt which could reach Loch Davan

- Otter (*Lutra lutra*)  
Otter are present in the area, there is a risk that foraging habitat may be lost due to construction activities which result in pollution reaching the burns and lochs within which they forage.
- Very wet mires  
No effect
- Raised bog  
No effect
- Dry heaths  
No effect

**Will the development adversely affect the site’s conservation objectives?**

In this assessment, the implications of the planning application for the site’s conservation objectives are assessed in order to answer the question: “Can it be ascertained that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the site?”

The over-arching conservation objective of SAC is to avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species, or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the sites is maintained. This over-arching conservation objective can be broken down into the following detailed elements:

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

- Population of the species as a viable component of the sites  
Distribution of the species within sites
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species  
Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

**In-combination effects**

As described at Stage 5 (screening); identification of in-combination effects is required to identify where cumulative and synergistic effects are likely to be significant. There were no relevant in-combination effects for this Natura site.

**Assessment against the Conservation Objectives**

**Clearwater Lochs supporting aquatic vegetation**

**1. Population of the aquatic vegetation as a viable component of the sites and distribution of aquatic vegetation within the Special Area of Conservation**

- The aquatic vegetation communities within the Muir of Dinnet SAC have been identified as already being under pressure from increased nutrients from farming. An increase in nutrients has the effect of enhancing growth of a few dominant species resulting in the loss of more nutrient intolerant species with a resulting loss of species diversity.
- To prevent siltation and run-off during construction, the Construction Method Statement states that a Pollution Prevention Plan will be produced and adhered to. An Emergency Pollution Prevention Plan has been provided (20/06/16) to prevent accidental pollution of the water environment. The Construction Method Statement provides information on suitable drainage solutions for each of the track sections to prevent on-going siltation problems.

### **Conclusion**

- There is a likely negative impact on the population of aquatic vegetation as the PPP has not been provided.

### **2. Distribution and extent of habitats supporting aquatic vegetation and structure, function and supporting processes of habitat supporting aquatic vegetation**

- It is likely that the proposal will result in an increase in soil erosion and nutrients draining into the Muir of Dinnet lochs which will lead to a deterioration in habitat quality for aquatic plant communities.
- To prevent siltation and run-off during construction, the Construction Method Statement states that a Pollution Prevention Plan will be produced and adhered to. An Emergency Pollution prevention Plan has been provided (20/06/16) to prevent accidental pollution of the water environment. The Construction Method Statement provides information on suitable drainage solutions for each of the track sections to prevent on-going siltation problems.

### **Conclusion**

- There is a likely negative impact arising from this proposal on the water quality of Loch Davan as the PPP has not been provided.

### **Overall Conclusion**

- **There is a likely significant effect upon the conservation objective for aquatic plant communities**

### **Otter**

#### **1. Population of the Otter as a viable component of the sites and distribution of the Otter within the Special Area of Conservation**

- Otters are active in the area but no construction works will take place within the Muir of Dinnet SAC and so direct harm is not likely.

### **Conclusion**

- There will be no impact on Otter population.

## **2. Distribution and extent of habitats supporting Otter and structure, function and supporting processes of habitat supporting Otter**

- Otters require clean water to hunt effectively for prey including fish and amphibians. The release of silts and sediments during construction needs to be tightly controlled and measures put in place to stop silt laden run-off, oil or fuel spills from machinery reaching the Red or Glen Fenzie Burns.
- To prevent siltation and run-off during construction, the Construction Method Statement states that a Pollution Prevention Plan will be produced and adhered to. An Emergency Pollution prevention Plan has been provided (20/06/16) to prevent accidental pollution of the water environment. The Construction Method Statement provides information on suitable drainage solutions for each of the track sections to prevent on-going siltation problems.

### **Conclusion**

- There is a likely significant effect on the habitat supporting otter as the PPP has not been produced.

## **3. No significant disturbance of Otter**

- Otters are active in the area but no construction works will take place within the Muir of Dinnet SAC and so disturbance is not likely.

### **Conclusion**

- There will be no disturbance of otter.

### **Overall Conclusion**

- **There is a likely significant effect upon the conservation objective for otter**

### **Additional mitigation**

The Construction Method Statement is required to include a Pollution Prevention Plan which must be produced and agreed prior to works being undertaken to prevent siltation, release of sediments or fuel spills reaching any watercourse.

### **Likely insignificant effects**

None

### **Conclusion on site integrity**

**There will not be an adverse effect upon the integrity of the Muir of Dinnet SAC if the Pollution Prevention Plan is produced, agreed by CNPA and adhered to and the drainage solutions are created on site as specified within the Construction Method Statement for each track section.**



### **Stage 7: Consultation**

SNH will be consulted on this report prior to it being taken forward for decision.

### **Stage 8: Additional mitigation**

We require a Pollution Prevention Plan to be produced and to be agreed by CNPA prior to any works being undertaken on site.

### **Stage 9: Conclusion on the integrity test**

This assessment based upon the best available scientific evidence and advice offered from SNH and others has shown that with the additional mitigation measures identified within Stage 8 that there will be no likely significant effect from the proposed development upon the qualifying features or the conservation objectives for the following Natura sites:

- River Dee SAC
- Muir of Dinnet SAC

**We therefore conclude that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of any of these sites.**

### **Stage 10: Section 49 (derogation)**

The conclusion that there is no adverse effect upon the integrity of any of the Natura sites covered in this report means that regulation 49 is not relevant.

### **References**

- Council Directive 92/43/EEC “the Habitats Directive” EEC adopted 1992
- Managing Natura 2000 sites – EU communities 2000
- Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC - EC 2007
- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)
- Habitat Regulations Appraisal of Plans – Guidance for Plan Making Bodies in Scotland SNH/DTA August 2012 (Version 2.0)

## Appendix I

### Glossary of terms and abbreviations

<b>Appropriate Assessment (AA)</b>	The part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process that considers the effects of an aspect of a plan upon the conservation objectives for a Natura site.
<b>CNPA</b>	Cairngorms National Park Authority
<b>CNAP</b>	Cairngorms Nature Action Plan
<b>Competent Authority</b>	The decision making body required under the Habitats Directive to undertake HRA. This includes Scottish Government, National Park Authorities, SNH , SEPA or Local Authorities.
<b>CPP</b>	Core Paths Plan
<b>Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)</b>	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.
<b>CLDP</b>	Draft Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan
<b>Likely Significant Effect</b>	An adverse effect of the development upon a qualifying interest or conservation objective that is considered to be potentially severe enough as to threaten the integrity of the Natura site itself.
<b>Natura Sites</b>	Collective term for Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation
<b>Ramsar sites</b>	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 policy.
<b>Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</b>	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
<b>Special Protection Area (SPA)</b>	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