Cairngorms
NATIONAL PARK

Pàirc Nàiseanta a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh

MANAGEMENT PLANS

Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017

Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record

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Introduction

1. This document outlines the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) of the National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017 which is the National Park Plan for the Cairngorms National Park required under the section 11 of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000. It updates and replaces the Habitats Regulations Assessment Report that was published for consultation alongside the Draft Cairngorms National Park Plan 2012-2017 between 19 September and 9 December 2011.

2. Article 6(3) of the EC Habitats Directive requires that any plan (or project) which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site, but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to an 'appropriate assessment' of its implications for the European site in view of the site's conservation objectives. This procedure is applied in Scotland through The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended), and is known as the 'Habitats Regulations Appraisal' of plans.

3. European sites are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the EC Habitats Directive to protect particular habitats and non-bird species, and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the EC Birds Directive to protect wild birds. Ramsar Sites are identified under the International Convention on the Conservation of Wetlands of International Importance and Scottish Ministers require these sites to be subject to the same protection as European sites.

4. The Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017 can only be adopted if it can be ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

The Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017

5. The Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan is the statutory plan by which the Cairngorms National Park Authority delivers its role in ensuring the collective and co-ordinated delivery of the four National Park Aims. It is a strategic management plan for the National Park that is delivered by many public, private and voluntary organisations.

6. In order to make a plan that is effective and can be used by the many organisations needed, it needs to provide a clear framework for action and management, with flexibility in how it is delivered by different partners in different ways, places and times. This means that it necessarily leaves the detailed planning of programmes and projects to deliver it to the most appropriate organisations and partners.

7. The National Park Partnership Plan has a five-year time frame but includes a vision for the longer-term. In the Draft National Park Plan 2012-2017, this is supported by three long-term outcomes to provide a sense of direction for the five-year period; by a range of policy priorities that support delivery of those long-term outcomes; and ten five-year outcomes to focus delivery and action. The Plan also identifies work programmes and packages to focus the partners' activities in delivering the plan and that will be developed by those partners.

The HRA process

8. The Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) guidance 'Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans, Guidance for Plan-making Bodies in Scotland', August 2010, sets out guidance on the stages involved in an appraisal and the considerations that need to be taken into account. That guidance has been used to inform the HRA of the National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017.

9. The list below outlines the steps taken in the HRA of the National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017. The conclusion from screening was that the Plan would not adversely affect the integrity of any European site so no appropriate assessment was required.

    1. Decision that the Plan requires an HRA.
    2. Identification of European sites to be considered by the appraisal with SNH.
    3. Screening of outcomes, policies, and work packages to identify any likely significant effects alone on any European sites.
    4. Publication of HRA report and Draft National Park Plan for consultation.
    5. Review of consultation comments and development of Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017.
    6. Screening of outcomes, policies, and work packages to identify any likely significant effects alone on any European sites.
    7. Amendments applied to any outcomes, policies, and work packages that could affect a European site to avoid significant effects.
    8. Re-screening of the amended outcomes, policies, and work packages to identify any likely significant effects alone on any European sites.
    9. Screening for any 'in combination' effects on a European site of any outcomes, policies, and work packages together.
    10. Screening for 'in combination' effects on a European site of any outcomes, policies, and work packages individually or together, with other relevant plans and proposals.
    11. Updating HRA record to accompany Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017.

European sites potential affected by the Plan

10. A total of 42 European sites were considered in the assessment. They are listed in Table 1. Details of the sites are provided in Appendix 1.

Table 1. Summary of European sites within the Cairngorms National Park

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	Special Protection Areas (SPA)
1. Ballochbuie	1. Abernethy Forest
2. Beinn a Ghlo	2. Anagach Woods
3. Caenlochan	3. Ballochbuie
4. Cairngorms	4. Caenlochan
5. Coyles of Muick	5. Cairngorms
6. Creag Meagaidh	6. Cairngorms Massif
7. Creag nan Gamhainn	7. Craigmore Wood
8. Dinnet Oakwood	8. Creag Meagaidh
9. Drumochter Hills	9. Drumochter Hills
10. Glen Tanar	10. Forest of Clunie
11. Greenhill of Strathdon	11. Glen Tanar
12. Insh Marshes	12. Kinveachy Forest
13. Kinveachy Forest	13. Loch Vaa
14. Ladder Hills	14. Lochnagar
15. Monadliath	15. Muir of Dinnet
16. Morrone Birkwood	16. River Spey – Insh Marshes
17. Morven and Mullachdubh	
18. Muir of Dinnet	**Ramsar sites**
19. River Dee	1. Cairngorms Loch
20. River South Esk	2. Muir of Dinnet
21. River Spey	3. River Spey – Insh Marshes
22. River Tay	
23. The Maim	

Screening the Plan

Screening for likely significant effects on European sites

11. Screening was carried out to remove all elements of the Plan that are not likely to have a significant effect on a European site from the appraisal. The SNH guidance identifies three key steps:

    a) Screening step 1: screening out general policy statements;
    b) Screening step 2: screening out projects referred to in, but not proposed by, the plan;
    c) Screening step 3: screening out aspects of a plan 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 or projects.

Summary of initial screening results

12. Table 2, below, lists the outcomes, policies and work packages in the plan that were screened out because they would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site alone.

Table 2: Aspects of the Plan which would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site alone

	Relevant parts of the Plan
General policy statements.	• Vision • Long-term outcome 1 • Long-term outcome 2 • Long-term outcome 3 • Policy 3.2a • Policy 3.2c
Projects referred to in, but not proposed by the Plan.	• Policy 1.2c
Outcomes/policies/work packages which protect the natural environment, including biodiversity, or conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment.	• Five-year outcome 4 • Five-year outcome 5 • Five-year outcome 6 • Five-year outcome 7 • Policy 2.2 • Policy 2.3 • Policy 2.4 • Policy 2.5 • Policy 2.6 • Policy 2.7 • Policy 3.2b • Policy 3.3 • Work package 5d. Quality in design

Table 2: Aspects of the Plan which would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site alone	
	Relevant parts of the Plan
	• Work package 5e. Townscape enhancement • Work package 6a. Cairngorms Wildlife Partnership • Work package 6b. Cairngorms landscapes • Work package 6c. Designated sites management • Work package 7c. Wildlife Estates Scotland Initiative • Work package 7d. Catchment management • Work package 12c. Scotland's National Parks Mountain Paths Restoration Project
Outcomes/policies/work packages which will not lead to development or other change.	• Policy 2.8 • Policy 3.1 • Policy 3.4 • Work package 4a. Community action planning • Work package 4b. Community capacity building • Work package 4c. Cairngorms LEADER • Work package 5a. Planning the best development • Work package 5b. Delivering the most effective planning service • Work package 10a. Using National Parks in the curriculum • Work package 10b. Learning from the Park • Work package 10c. Volunteering to support nature • Work package 11a. Co-ordinating training and support for visitor managers/communicators • Work package 11b. Developing and delivering inspiring campaigns • Work package 11c. Community Heritage Project
Aspects of the Plan which make provision for change but which could have no conceivable effect on a European site, because there is no link or pathway between them and the qualifying interests, or any effect would be a positive effect or would not otherwise undermine the conservation objectives for the site.	• Work package 1b. Skills and training • Work package 1d. Growing the Cairngorms Business Partnership • Work package 7a. Land management training • Work package 7b. Advice and support services
Aspects of the Plan which make provision for change but which could have no significant effect on a European site, because any potential effects would be trivial, or 'de minimis' or so	• Work package 1c. Food and drink development • Work package 9b. Promoting active enjoyment • Work package 12a. Management of core paths and outdoor access • Work package 12b. Maintaining and improving high quality visitor facilities

Table 2: Aspects of the Plan which would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site alone	
	Relevant parts of the Plan
restricted that they would not undermine the conservation objectives for the site.	
Aspects which are too general so that it is not known, when or how the aspect of the Plan may be implemented, or where any potential effects may occur, or which European sites, if any may be affected.	• Five-year outcome 1 • Five-year outcome 2 • Five-year outcome 3 • Five-year outcome 8 • Five-year outcome 9 • Five-year outcome 10 • Policy 1.1 • Policy 1.2b • Policy 1.2d • Policy 1.2e • Policy 1.3b – 1.3d • Policy 1.4 • Work package 1a. Enterprise Forum, economic strategy development and implementation • Work package 2a. Improving IT and mobile communications connectivity • Work package 2b. Improving access to housing for local needs • Work package 3a. Renewable energy generation • Work package 3b. Low carbon living • Work package 3c. Low carbon land management • Work package 5c. Supporting the regeneration of Tomintoul and Glenlivet • Work package 8a. Implementing the Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism in the Cairngorms National Park • Work package 9a. Delivering and reviewing the Cairngorms National Park Outdoor Access Strategy • Work package 9c. Developing cycling • Work package 11d. National Nature Reserves

Amendments to Plan and Re-screening

13. Three policies and one work package were not 'screened out' in the initial draft of the National Park Partnership Plan as being unlikely to have a significant effect on one or more of the European sites identified in Table 1. Those policies and work package are listed in Table 3 along with the reasons for there being a likely significant effect.

14. The policies and work package were then amended so that they would not have a significant effect on a European site and re-screened to confirm that they would not

be likely to have a significant effect on any European sites. The amended statements are repeated in Table 4 and Table 5 summarises the results of re-screening. It was concluded from re-screening that there was no longer any likelihood of a significant effect on any European site from any part of the Plan alone.

Table 3: Aspects of the Plan which were not screened out at the first screening	
	Reason for possible effects
Policy 1.2a Enable sustainable patterns of settlement growth, infrastructure and communications by: a) consolidating the role of the existing main settlements of Aviemore, Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore, as well as a new community at An Camas Mòr, as the most sustainable places for future growth and the focus for housing land supply while maintaining the integrity of designated sites.	All the locations identified by the policy statement are within the catchments of either the river Spey SAC or the river Dee SAC. Although the policy does not identify exact locations for growth or housing land, or the scale or timing of any future development, both European sites could be affected by potential changes in water quality from water abstraction, changes in sewage discharges, effects of construction or other pollution.
Policy 1.3a Support development of a low carbon economy, with a particular focus on: a) increasing renewable energy generation, especially biomass and hydro, that is compatible with conserving the special qualities of the National Park, and maintaining the integrity of designated sites. Large-scale commercial wind turbines[1] are not compatible with the special qualities of the National Park and are not considered to be appropriate within the National Park or where outside the Park they affect its landscape setting.	The policy supports renewable energy generation in the Park and is intended to protect the special qualities of the Park. However, river systems are particularly sensitive to hydro generation and the rivers Dee, South Esk, Spey and Tay SACs extend throughout much of the Park so could be affected by hydro schemes. There is a chance that hydro power schemes could be considered compatible with the special qualities of the Park, yet have a significant effect on those European sites.
Policy 2.1 The management and use of land should deliver multiple benefits – delivering the best possible combination of the National Park Plan's long-term outcomes, always ensuring that the integrity of designated sites is maintained and that the special qualities are conserved and, where possible, enhanced. This will be supported by:	The policy supports the delivery of multiple benefits from the management and use of land. Although it is intended to protect and enhance natural heritage, it is also about delivering economic and social benefits. There is a chance that a combination of benefits could have a significant effect on any European site unless explicitly considered.

[1] Defined as more than one turbine and more than 30m in height

Table 3: Aspects of the Plan which were not screened out at the first screening	Reason for possible effects
a) a long-term planned approach by land-based businesses to delivering environmental, economic and social benefits; b) support for land managers to plan and deliver environmental and social benefits underpinned by sound economic businesses; c) research to support an ecosystems approach to management.	
Work Package 8b. Cairngorm, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Strategy Review, update and implement a strategy for the Cairngorm, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore area to improve the quality of visitor experience, sense of place and the environment as well as maintaining the integrity of designated sites.	The work package is about improving the quality of visitor experience, sense of place and the environment in an area that has multiple European and other designations. The work package would be improved by recognising more explicitly the need to maintain the integrity of the designated sites associated with it.

Table 4 Amended aspects of the Plan
Policy 1.2a Enable sustainable patterns of settlement growth, infrastructure and communications by: a) consolidating the role of the existing main settlements of Aviemore, Ballater, Grantown-on-Spey, Kingussie and Newtonmore, as well as the proposed new community of An Camus Mòr, as the most sustainable places for future growth and the focus for housing land supply while maintaining the integrity of designated sites.
Policy 1.3a Support development of a low carbon economy, with a particular focus on: a) increasing renewable energy generation, especially biomass and hydro, that is compatible with conserving the special qualities of the National Park and maintaining the integrity of designated sites. Large-scale commercial wind turbines[2] are not compatible with the special qualities of the National Park and are not considered to be appropriate within the National Park or where outside the Park they affect its landscape setting.

[2] Defined as more than one turbine and more than 30m in height

Policy 2.1
The management and use of land should deliver multiple benefits – delivering the best possible combination of the National Park Partnership Plan's long-term outcomes, always ensuring that the integrity of designated sites is maintained; and that the special qualities are conserved and, where possible, enhanced. This will be supported by:

a) a long-term planned approach by land-based businesses to delivering environmental, economic and social benefits;
b) support for land managers to plan and deliver environmental and social benefits underpinned by sound economic businesses;
c) research to support an ecosystems approach to management.

Work Package 8b. Cairngorm, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Strategy

- Review, update and implement a strategy for the Cairngorm, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore area to improve the quality of visitor experience, sense of place and the environment as well as the maintaining the integrity of designated sites.

Table 5 Aspects of the Plan which would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site alone after amendments

	Relevant parts of the Plan
General policy statements.	• Vision • Long-term outcome 1 • Long-term outcome 2 • Long-term outcome 3 • Policy 3.2a • Policy 3.2c
Projects referred to in, but not proposed by the Plan.	• Policy 1.2c
Outcomes/policies/work packages which protect the natural environment, including biodiversity, or conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment	• Five-year outcome 4 • Five-year outcome 5 • Five-year outcome 6 • Five-year outcome 7 • Policy 1.2a • Policy 1.3a • Policy 2.1 • Policy 2.2 • Policy 2.3 • Policy 2.4 • Policy 2.5 • Policy 2.6 • Policy 2.7 • Policy 3.2b • Policy 3.3 • Work package 5d. Quality in design • Work package 5e. Townscape enhancement • Work package 6a.Cairngorms Wildlife Partnership • Work package 6b. Cairngorms landscapes

Table 5 Aspects of the Plan which would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site alone after amendments	
	Relevant parts of the Plan
	• Work package 6c. Designated sites management • Work package 7c. Wildlife Estates Scotland Initiative • Work package 7d. Catchment management • Work package 8b. Cairngorm, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Strategy • Work package 12c. Scotland's National Parks Mountain Paths Restoration Project
Outcomes/policies/work packages which will not lead to development or other change.	• Policy 2.8 • Policy 3.1 • Policy 3.4 • Work package 4a. Community action planning • Work package 4b. Community capacity building • Work package 4c. Cairngorms LEADER • Work package 5a. Planning the best development • Work package 5b. Delivering the most effective planning service • Work package 10a. Using National Parks in the curriculum • Work package 10b. Learning from the Park • Work package 10c. Volunteering to support nature • Work package 11a. Co-ordinating training and support for visitor managers/communicators • Work package 11b. Developing and delivering inspiring campaigns • Work package 11c. Community Heritage Project
Aspects of the Plan which make provision for change but which could have no conceivable effect on a European site, because there is no link or pathway between them and the qualifying interests, or any effect would be a positive effect or would not otherwise undermine the conservation objectives for the site.	• Work package 1b. Skills and training • Work package 1d Growing the Cairngorms Business Partnership • Work package 7a. Land management training • Work package 7b. Advice and support services
Aspects of the Plan which make provision for change but which could have no significant effect on a European site, because any potential effects would be trivial, or 'de minimis' or so restricted that they would not	• Work package 1c. Food and drink development • Work package 9b. Delivering health walks • Work package 12a. Management of core paths and outdoor access • Work package 12b. Maintaining and improving high quality visitor facilities

Table 5 Aspects of the Plan which would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site alone after amendments	
	Relevant parts of the Plan
undermine the conservation objectives for the site.	
Aspects which are too general so that it is not known, when or how the aspect of the Plan may be implemented, or where any potential effects may occur, or which European sites, if any may be affected.	• Five-year outcome 1 • Five-year outcome 2 • Five-year outcome 3 • Five-year outcome 8 • Five-year outcome 9 • Five-year outcome 10 • Policy 1.1 • Policy 1.2b • Policy 1.2d • Policy 1.2e • Policy 1.3b – 1.3d • Policy 1.4 • Work package 1a. Enterprise Forum, economic strategy development and implementation • Work package 2a. Improving IT and mobile communications connectivity • Work package 2b. Improving access to housing for local needs • Work package 3a. Renewable energy generation • Work package 3b. Low carbon living • Work package 3c. Low carbon land management • Work Package 5c. Supporting the regeneration of Tomintoul and Glenlivet • Work Package 8a. Implementing the Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism in the Cairngorms National Park • Work Package 9a. Delivering and reviewing the Cairngorms National Park Outdoor Access Strategy • Work Package 9c. Developing cycling • Work Package 11d. National Nature Reserves

15. It was concluded from re-screening that there was no longer any likelihood of a significant effect on any European site from any part of the Plan alone.

Screening for 'in-combination' effects with other aspects of the Plan together

16. Each outcome, policy and work package in the Plan was assessed in combination with the other outcomes, policies and work packages in it to consider any possible cumulative effect. This was undertaken using a simple matrix to examine every outcome, policy and work package against every other and any combination of others.

This screening exercise concluded that there were no 'in combination' effects from outcomes, policies and work packages in the Plan that would have a significant effect on a European site.

Screening for 'in-combination' effects with other relevant plans and projects

17. Each outcome, policy and work package in the Plan was assessed in combination with the other outcomes, policies and work packages and 'in combination' with other relevant plans or projects. This extended the matrix used for the screening of 'in combination' effects from the plan alone. The other relevant plans and projects that were considered are listed in Table 6, below.

Table 6: Other relevant plans and projects considered for 'in combination' effects

- 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)
- Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- Scottish Biodiversity Strategy
- Scotland's Zero Waste Plan (2010)
- Scotland's National Transport Strategy 2006
- Transport Scotland Strategic Transport Projects Review
- 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 Transport Strategies
- Regional Economic Development Strategies
- Catchment Management Plans for rivers Dee, South Esk and Spey
- Aberdeen City & Shire Structure Plan 2009
- Aberdeen City & Shire Structure Plan NEST 2001
- Aberdeenshire Local Plan
- Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan
- Dundee and Angus Structure Plan 2002
- Angus Local Plan Review 2009
- Highland wide Local Development Plan
- Highland Structure Plan
- Moray Structure Plan
- Moray Local Plan
- Perth & Kinross Highland Area Local Plan
- TayPlan
- Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism in the Cairngorms National Park
- Cairngorms National Park Local Plan 2010

Table 6: Other relevant plans and projects considered for 'in combination' effects
• Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan • Cairngorms National Park Outdoor Access Strategy • Cairngorms National Park Core Paths Plan • Cairngorms National Park Deer Framework • Cairngorms National Park Forest and Woodland Framework

18. No additional likelihood of significant effects on any European site were identified from the outcomes, policies and work packages in the plan after being screened for 'in combination' effects with other plans and projects.

Conclusion

19. The Habitats Regulations Appraisal has followed the key stages in the SNH guidance of 2010. The appraisal process identified four minor amendments, identified in tables 3 and 4 of the record, to be made to the Plan to ensure it would not have a significant effect on any European site. With the incorporation of those amendments to the Plan it is concluded that the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017 will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site.

Future steps

20. The Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record will accompany the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-2017 that is sent to the Scottish Ministers for Approval. Any changes prior to submission of the Plan or arising from Ministerial approval will require consideration within the HRA process. The Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan cannot be adopted unless the final HRA concludes that the Plan will not adversely affect the integrity of any European sites.

Appendix 1

Information on European sites considered by the Habitats Regulations Appraisal

Site Type **Name of European site**	**Special area of Conservation** **Ballochbuie**
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. 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. To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • population of the species as a viable component of the site • distribution of the species within the site • distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • no significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying species	• otter (Lutra lutra)
Site condition	• 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	• grazing • burning
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• land management changes

Site Type **Name of European Site**	**Special Area of Conservation** **Beinn a Ghlo**
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. 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	• recreation • Burning • grazing
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• recreational pressures from hill walking 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

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Area of Conservation** **Caenlochan**
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. 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 condition	• acidic scree, 2006, favourable, 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	• burning • grazing
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• wind turbines could impact on young golden eagles, given their mobility • recreational pressure may effect the notified features

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Area of Conservation** **Cairngorms**
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. 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. To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • population of the species as a viable component of the site • distribution of the species within the site • distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • no significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying species	• green shield-moss (Buxbaumia viridis) • otter (Lutra lutra)
Site condition	• acid peat-stained lakes and ponds, 2004, favourable, maintained • acidic scree, 2007, favourable maintained • alpine 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	• grazing • burning • recreation • trampling • invasive species
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• recreational disturbance to species • relevant settlements: An Camus Mòr, Boat of Garten – also developing, or extension, of existing, recreational facilities • wind turbines could impact on young golden eagles, given their mobility

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Area of Conservation** **Coyles of Muick**
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. 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	none identified
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	no specific vulnerabilities identified

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Area of Conservation** **Creag Meagaidh**
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. 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 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	• burning • grazing • game or fisheries management
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• land management changes

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Area of Conservation** **Creag nan Gamhainn**
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. 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	none identified
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	no specific vulnerabilities identified

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Area of Conservation** **Dinnet Oakwood**
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. 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	none identified
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	no specific vulnerabilities identified

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Area of Conservation** **Drumochter Hills**
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. 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 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	• grazing • burning • trampling • recreational disturbance
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• land management changes • changes to recreational patterns

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Area of Conservation Glen Tanar**
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. 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)
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. To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • population of the species as a viable component of the site • distribution of the species within the site • distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • no significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying species	• otter (Lutra lutra)
Site condition	• 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	• burning
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• land management changes

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Area of Conservation Greenhill of Strathdon**
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. 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	none identified
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	no specific vulnerabilities identified

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Area of Conservation** **Insh Marshes**
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. 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. To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term:

	• population of the species as a viable component of the site • distribution of the species within the site • distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • no significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying species	• otter (Lutra lutra)
Site condition	• alder woodland on floodplains* , 2009, unfavourable, recovering • clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, 2005, favourable, maintained • very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface, 2005, favourable, maintained • otter (Lutra lutra), 2007, favourable, maintained
Factors currently influencing site	• grazing • potential impacts from new development due to additional nutrient loading.
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• land management changes • effects on water quality including sewerage treatment, release of minerals, contamination or other waste • eelevant settlements: Kingussie, Newtonmore, Insh

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Area of Conservation** **Kinveachy Forest**
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. 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 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	• grazing

	• burning • Game or fisheries management
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• land management changes • recreational disturbance • relevant settlements: Boat of Garten

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Area of Conservation** **Ladder Hills**
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. 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	• grazing • burning • recreational disturbance
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• potential effects from development in the neighbouring Lecht Ski Centre • land management changes

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Area of Conservation** **Monadhliath**
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. 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	• grazing • trampling • recreational disturbance
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• land management changes • changes in recreational patterns

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Area of Conservation** **Morrone Birkwood**
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. 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, infavourable, declining
Factors currently influencing site	• grazing • burning • invasive species • recreational disturbance
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• land management changes • changes in recreation patterns

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Area of Conservation** **Morven and Mullachdubh**
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. 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	• grazing • burning
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• land management changes

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Area of Conversation** **Muir of Dinnet**
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. 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 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	• agricultural operations • water quality • game or fisheries management • invasive species
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• land management changes • potential effects on water quality • potential for recreational disturbance • relevant settlement: Dinnet

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Area of Conservation** **River Dee**
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. 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	• development
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

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Area of Conservation** **River South Esk**
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. 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	• grazing

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

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special area of Conservation** **River Spey**
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. 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	none identified
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 Camas Mòr, Aviemore, Inverdruie, Kincraig, Insh, Boat of Garten, Carr-Bridge, Dulnain Bridge, Nethy Bridge, Grantown-on-Spey, Cromdale

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Area of Conservation River Tay**
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. 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	none identified
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

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Area of Conservation** **The Maim**
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	• burning
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• land management changes

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Protection Area** **Abernethy Forest**
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. To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • population of the species as a viable component of the site • distribution of the species within the site • distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • no significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying species	• capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus) • osprey (Pandion haliaetus) • Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica)
Site condition	• capercaillie, breeding, monitored, 2009, favourable, maintained • Osprey, breeding, monitored 2007, favourable, maintained • Scottish crossbill, not monitored
Factors currently influencing site	• grazing • burning

	• recreational disturbance
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• relevant settlements: Boat of Garten, Nethy Bridge • land management changes • recreational disturbance

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Protection Area** **Anagach Woods**
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. To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • population of the species as a viable component of the site • distribution of the species within the site • distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • no significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying species	• capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus)
Site condition	• breeding capercaillie, not monitored to date
Factors currently influencing site	• Impact from disturbance from adjacent village and footpaths within the wood
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• relevant settlements: Grantown-on-Spey • recreational disturbance

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Protection Area** **Ballochbuie**
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. To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • population of the species as a viable component of the site • distribution of the species within the site • distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • no significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying species	• capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus) • Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica)
Site condition	• bog woodland, 2002, unfavourable, declining • Caledonian forest, 2002, unfavourable, declining • Otter, 2004, favourable, maintained • plants in crevices in acid rocks, 2008, favourable, maintained

	• other features not yet monitored
Factors currently influencing site	• grazing • burning
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• land management changes

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Protection Area** **Caenlochan**
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. 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, favourable, 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	• burning • grazing
Vulnerabilities to change/potential	• wind turbines could impact on young golden eagles, given their

effects of the Plan	mobility. • Recreational pressure may effect the notified features.

Site Type **Name of European Site**	**Special Protection Area** **Cairngorms**
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. To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • population of the species as a viable component of the site • distribution of the species within the site • distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • no significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying species	• capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus) • dotterel (Charadrius moninellus) • golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos) • merlin (Falco columbarius) • osprey (Panion haliaetus) • peregrine (Falco peregrinus) • Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica)
Site condition	• acid peat-stained lakes and ponds, 2004, favourable, maintained • acidic scree, 2007, favourable, maintained • alpine 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	• grazing • burning • recreation • trampling • invasive species
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• recreational disturbance to species • relevant settlements: An Camas Mòr, Boat of Garten – also developing, or extension, of existing recreational facilities • wind turbines could impact on young golden eagles, given their mobility

Site Type **Name of European Site**	**Special Protection Area** **Cairngorms Massif**
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. To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • population of the species as a viable component of the site • distribution of the species within the site • distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • no significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying species	• golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)
Site condition	• golden eagle, not monitored to date
Factors currently influencing site	none identified
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	no specific vulnerabilities identified

Site Type **Name of European Site**	**Special Protection Area** **Craigmore Wood**
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. To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained

	in the long-term: • population of the species as a viable component of the site • distribution of the species within the site • distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • no significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying species	• capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus)
Site condition	• capercaille, 2009, unfavourable, no change
Factors currently influencing site	none identified
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• recreational disturbance • relevant settlements: Boat of Garten, Nethy Bridge
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, unfavouralbe, 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	• burning • grazing • game or fisheries management
Vulnerabilities to change/potential	• land management changes

effects of the Plan	

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Protection Area** **Creag Meadaidh**
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. 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	• burning • grazing • game or fisheries management
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• land management changes

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Protection Area** **Drumochter Hills**
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. To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained

	in the long-term: • population of the species as a viable component of the site • distribution of the species within the site • distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • no significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying species	• dotterel (Charadrius moninellus) • merlin (Falco columbarius)
Site condition	• acidic scree, 2006, favourable, maintained • alpine and subalpine heaths, 2006, unfavourable, no change • blanket bog, 2006, unfavourable, no change • dry heaths, 2006, unfavourable, no change • montane acid grasslands, 2006, unfavourable, no change • mountain willow scrub, 2006, unfavourable, no change • plants in crevices on acid rocks, 2006, unfavourable, no change • species-rich grasslands with mat-grass in upland areas, 2006, unfavourable, no change • tall herb communities, 2006, unfavourable, recovering • wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, 2006, unfavourable, no change • dotterel, 2004, favourable, maintained • merlin, 2004, unfavourable, no change
Factors currently influencing site	• grazing • burning • trampling • recreational disturbance
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• land management changes • changes to recreational patterns

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Protection Area Forest of Clunie**
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. To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • population of the species as a viable component of the site • distribution of the species within the site • distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • no significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying species	• hen harrier (circus cyaneus), breeding

	• merlin (Falco columbarius), breeding • osprey (Pandion haliatus), breeding • short-eared owl (Asio flammeus), breeding
Site condition	• hen harrier (circus cyaneus), breeding, 2010, unfavourable, declining • merlin (Falco columbarius), breeding, 2009, unfavourable, declining • osprey (Pandion haliatus), breeding, 2011, favourable, declining • short-eared owl (Asio flammeus), breeding, 2009, unfavourable, declining
Factors currently influencing site	• burning • grazing
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• land management changes • development of wind turbines within connectivity distance of the site has the potential to damage the features

Site Type Name of European site	**Special Protection Area Glen Tanar**
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. 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	• burning

influencing site	
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• land management changes

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Protection Area** **Kinveachy Forest**
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. 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	• grazing • burning • game or fisheries management
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• land management changes • recreational disturbance • relevant settlements: Boat of Garten

Site Type Name of European Site	**Special Protection Area** **Loch Vaa**
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. 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	• recreational disturbance
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• effects on water quality including sewerage treatment, release of minerals, contamination or other waste • changes in recreation patterns

Site Type **Name of European Site**	**Special Protection Area** **Lochnagar**
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. To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • population of the species as a viable component of the site • distribution of the species within the site • distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • no significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying species	• dotterel (Charadrius morinellus)
Site Condition	• dotterel (Charadrius morinellus), 2005, favourable, maintained
Factors currently influencing site	none identified
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	no specific vulnerabilities identified

Site Type **Name of European site**	**Special Protection Area** **Muir of Dinnet**
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. 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 • fry 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	• agricultural operations • water quality • game or fisheries management • invasive species
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• land management changes • potential effects on water quality • potential for recreational disturbance • relevant settlement: Dinnet

Site Type **Name of European Site**	**Special Protection Area** **River Spey-Insh Marshes**
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. 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
	• mesotropic loch
	• tropic range river/stream
	• whooper swan (Cygnus Cygnus)
Site description	The River Spey-Insh Marshes site is a mosaic of freshwater wetland habitats. The River Spey is considered to be a unique example in Britain of a large, high altitude, but slow flowing river. Loch Insh is, however, noted for its exceptionally rapid water turnover and is an excellent example of a mesotrophic loch, an uncommon type in Britain. The Insh Marshes form the largest, most northerly, single-unit flood-plain mire of the poor fen type in Great Britain. The boundaries of the Ramsar site are coincident with those of the River Spey-Insh Marshes SSSI.
Site Condition	• hen harrier (Circus cyaneus), 2010, favourable, maintained • osprey (Pandion haliaetus), 2009, favourable, maintained • spotted crake (Porzana porzana), 2005, favourable, maintained • whooper swan (Cygnus Cygnus), 2010, favourable, maintained • wigeon (Anus Penelope), 2010, unfavourable, no change • woodsandpiper (Tringa galeola), 2005, unfavourable, declining • breeding bird assemblage, 2005, favourable, maintained • floodplain fen, 2005, favourable, maintained • mesotrophic loch, 2005, favourable, maintained • tropic range river/stream, 2005, favourable, maintained
Factors currently influencing site	• development leading to potential additional nutrient loading • recreational disturbance • forestry operations
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• land management changes • 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