Cairngorms NATIONAL PARK

Cairngorms National Park Local Development Plan

Main Issues Report

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Published by the Cairngorms National Park Authority
MIR/11/07

Contents

1. Introduction

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

This report sets out the screening process and preliminary appropriate assessment undertaken to inform the preparation of the Main Issues Report. It is not a record of a full Habitats Regulations Assessment, which will be carried out when preparing the Proposed Local Development Plan. At that stage, it will be possible to assess with more certainty the proposed policies and site proposals.

However, it is important that the Main Issues Report considers likely effects on Natura sites when setting out options. The report should not set out options that are likely to result in an adverse impact on the integrity of Natura sites, as these would not be reasonable options. The screening and assessment or allocation options have been carried out by the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) having consulted Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

2. Summary of Natura 2000 Sites Within the Cairngorms National Park

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

Special Protection Areas (SPA)
Abernethy Forest
Anagach Woods
Ballochbuie
Caenlochan
Cairngorms
Cairngorms Massif
Craigmore Wood
Creag Meagaidh
Drumochter Hills
Forest of Clunie
Glen Tanar
Kinveachy Forest
Loch Vaa
Lochnagar
Muir of Dinnet
River Spey-Insh Marshes

Ramsar sites
Cairngorms Loch
Muir of Dinnet
River Spey-Insh Marshes

3. Details of Natura 2000 Sites Within the Cairngorms National Park and Potential Vulnerabilities Relevant to the Main Issues Report

Name of European Site	Abernethy Forest
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus) • Osprey (Pandion haliaetus) • Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica)
Site Condition	• Capercaillie, breeding, 2009, favourable maintained • Osprey, breeding, 2007, favourable maintained • Scottish crossbill, not monitored to date
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, no factors currently influencing site
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• Disturbance from construction and recreation arising from neighbouring development • Relevant settlements: Boat of Garten, Nethy Bridge

Name of European Site	Anagach Woods
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus)
Site Condition	• Breeding capercaillie, not monitored to date

Factors currently influencing site	• Impact from disturbance from adjacent village and footpaths within the wood
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• Disturbance from construction and recreation arising from neighbouring development • Relevant settlements: Grantown-on-Spey

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

Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus) • Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica)
Site Condition	• Bog woodland, 2002, unfavourable declining • Caledonian forest, 2002, unfavourable declining • Otter 2004, favourable maintained • Plants in crevices in acid rocks, 2008, favourable maintained • Other features not yet monitored
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Beinn a Ghlo
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Qualifying habitat	• Acidic scree • Apline and subalpine heaths • Base-rich fens • Blanket bog • Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone

	• Dry heaths • Geyer's whorl snail (Vertego geyeri) • Hard-water springs depositing lime • High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage • Montane acid grasslands • Plants in crevices on acid rocks • Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks • Round-mouthed whorl snail (Vertego genesii) • Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas
Site Condition	• Species-rich grassland with mat-grass, 2005, unfavourable no change • Dry heaths, 2005, unfavourable no change • Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks, 2005, unfavourable no change • Plants in crevices on acid rocks, 2005, unfavourable no change • Acidic scree, 2005, favourable maintained • Alpine and subalpine heaths, 2005, unfavourable no change • Montane acid grasslands, 2005, unfavourable no change • Base-rich fens, 2005, unfavourable no change • High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage, 2005, unfavourable no change • Hard-water springs depositing lime, 2005, unfavourable no change • Blanket bog, 2005, unfavourable no change • Round-mouthed whorl snail (Vertigo genesii), 2005, favourable maintained • Geyer's whorl snail (Vertigo geyeri), 2005, favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• Recreational pressures from hillwalking may impact upon features although most popular routes are historical and were in place before classification of the site. • Renewables development would be difficult to accommodate in the habitat mosaics present

Name of European Site	Caenlochan
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Qualifying Habitats	• Acidic scree • Alpine and subalpine heaths • Base-rich fens • Base-rich scree • Blanket bog* • Dry heaths • Grasslands on soils in heavy metals • High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage* • Montane acid grasslands • Mountain willow scrub • Plants in crevices on acid rocks • Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks • Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas* • Tall herb communities (*indicates priority habitat)
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Dotterel (Charadrius moninellus) • Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)

Site Condition	• Acidic scree, 2006, avourble maintained • Alpine and sub-alpine heaths, 2006, unfavourable no change • Base rich fens, 2006, unfavourable no change • Base-rich scree, 2006, favourable maintained • Blanket bog, 2006, unfavourable no change • Dry heath, 2006, unfavourable no change • Grassland on soils rich in heavy metals, 2006, favourable maintained • High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage, 2006, unfavourable no change • Montane acid grasslands, 2006, unfavourable no change • Mountain willow scrub, 2006, unfavourable no change • Plants in crevices in acid rocks, 2006, favourable maintained • Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks, 2006, favourable maintained • Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas, 2006, unfavourable no change • Tall herb communities, 2006, favourable maintained • Dotterel, 1999, favourable maintained • Golden eagle, 2009, favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• Wind farms could impact on young golden eagles, given their mobility • Recreational pressure may affect the notified features

Name of European Site	Cairngorms
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Qualifying Habitats	• Acid peat-strained lakes and ponds • Acidic scree • Alpine and subalpine heaths • Blanket bog* • Bog Woodland*

	• Caledonian forest* • Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels • Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone • Dry heaths • Hard-water springs depositing lime* • High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage* • Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands • Montane acid grasslands • Mountain willow scrub • Plants in crevices on acid rocks • Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks • Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas* • Tall herb communities • Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface • Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath (*indicates priority habitat)
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Green shield-moss (Buxbaumia viridis) • Otter (Lutra lutra)
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species

Qualifying Species	• Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus) • Dotterel (Charadrius moninellus) • Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos) • Merlin (Falco columbarius) • Osprey (Panion haliaetus) • Peregrine (Falco peregrinus) • Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica)
Site Condition	• Acid peat-stained lakes and ponds, 2004, favourable maintained • Acidic scree, 2007, favourable maintained • 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	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• Recreational disturbance to species from neighbouring development • Relevant settlements: An Camus Mor, Boat of Garten – also developing of, or extension of existing, recreational facilities • Wind farms could impact on young golden eagles, given their mobility

Name of European Site	Cairngorms Massif
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)
Site Condition	• Golden eagle – not monitored to date
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Coyles of Muick
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Qualifying Habitat	• Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals
Site Condition	• Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals, 2006, favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Craigmore Wood
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus)
Site Condition	• Capercaille, 2009, unfavourable no change
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• Recreational disturbance from development in neighbouring areas • Relevant settlements: Boat of Garten, Nethy Bridge

Name of European Site	Creag Meagaidh
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Qualifying Habitat	• Acidic scree • Alpine and subalpine heaths • Blanket bog* • Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels • Dry heaths • Montane acid grasslands • Mountain willow scrub

	• Plants in crevices on acid rocks • Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks • Tall herb communities • Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath (*indicates priority habitat)
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Dotterel (Charadrius morinellus)
Site Condition	• Acidic scree, 2005, unfavourable no change • Alpine and subalpine heaths, 2005, unfavourable no change • Blanket bog, 2005, unfavourable no change • Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, 2004, favourable maintained • Dry heaths, 2005, unfavourable no change • Montane acid grasslands, 2005, unfavourable no change • Mountain willow scrub, 2005, unfavourable no change • Plants in crevices on acid rocks, 2005, favourable maintained • Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks, 2010, favourable maintained • Tall herb communities, 2005, unfavourable no change • Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, 2005, unfavourable no change • Dotterel, 2001, favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Creag nan Gamhainn
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Qualifying Habitat	• Hard-water springs depositing lime* (*indicates priority habitat)
Site Condition	• Hard-water springs depositing lime, 2002, favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Dinnet Oakwood
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long- term: • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Qualifying Habitat	• Western acidic oak woodland
Site Condition	• Western acidic oak woodland, 2002, favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present

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

Name of European Site	Drumochter Hills
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Qualifying Habitats	• Acidic scree • Alpine and subalpine heaths • Blanket bog* • Dry heaths • Montane acid grasslands • Mountain willow scrub • Plants in crevices on acid rocks • Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas* • Tall herb communities • Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath (*indicates priority habitat)
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Dotterel (Charadrius moninellus) • Merlin (Falco columbarius)
Site Condition	• Acidic scree, 2006, favourable maintained

	• Alpine and subalpine heaths, 2006, unfavourable no change • Blanket bog, 2006, unfavourable no change • Dry heaths, 2006, unfavourable no change • Montane acid grasslands, 2006, unfavourable no change • Mountain willow scrub, 2006, unfavourable no change • Plants in crevices on acid rocks, 2006, unfavourable no change • Species-rich grasslands with mat-grass in upland areas, 2006, unfavourable no change • Tall herb communities, 2006, unfavourable recovering • Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, 2006, unfavourable no change • Dotterel, 2004, favourable maintained • Merlin, 2004, unfavourable no change
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Forest of Clunie
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Hen harrier (circus cyaneus), breeding • Merlin (Falco columbarius), breeding • Osprey (Pandion haliatus), breeding • Short-eared owl (Asio flammeus), breeding
Site Condition	• Hen harrier (circus cyaneus), breeding, 2010, unfavourable declining • Merlin (Falco columbarius), breeding, 2009, unfavourable declining • Osprey (Pandion haliatus), breeding, 2011, favourable declining • Short-eared owl (Asio flammeus), breeding, 2009, unfavourable declining

Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• Development of wind renewables within connectivity distance of the site has the potential to damage the features.

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

	that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus) • Hen Harrier (Circus cyaneus) • Osprey (Pandion halietus) • Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica)
Site Condition	• Blanket bog* 2007, favourable maintained • Caledonian forest* 2005, favourable maintained • Dry heaths 2005, favourable maintained • Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath 2005, favourable maintained • Otter (Lutra lutra) 2007, favourable maintained • Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus) 2005, unfavourable declining • Hen Harrier (Circus cyaneus) 2005, favourable maintained • Osprey (Pandion halietus), favourable maintained • Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica), not monitored to date
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Greenhill of Strathdon
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

Qualifying Habitat	• Dry heaths • Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals • Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands
Site Condition	• Dry heaths, 2009, favourable maintained • Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals, 2009, favourable maintained • Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands, 2005, favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Insh Marshes
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Qualifying Habitats	• Alder woodland on floodplains* • Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels • Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface (* indicates priority habitat)
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site

	• Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Otter (Lutra lutra)
Site Condition	• Alder woodland on floodplains* ,2009, unfavourable recovering • Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, 2005, favourable maintained • Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface, 2005, favourable maintained • Otter (Lutra lutra), 2007, favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	• Potential impacts from new development due to additional nutrient loading
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• Effects on water quality including sewerage treatment, release of minerals, contamination or other waste • Relevant settlements: Kingussie, Newtonmore, Insh

Name of European Site	Kinveachy Forest
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Qualifying Habitats	• Bog woodland* • Caledonian forest* (* indicates priority habitat)
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species

	• Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus) • Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica)
Site Condition	• Bog woodland*, 2009, unfavourable recovering • Caledonian forest*, 2009, unfavourable recovering • Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus), 2009, favourable maintained • Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica), not monitored to date
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• Recreational disturbance from development in neighbouring areas • Relevant settlements: Boat of Garten

Name of European Site	Ladder Hills
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Qualifying Habitats	• Alpine and subalpine heaths • Blanket bog* • Dry heaths (*indicates priority habitat)
Site Condition	• Alpine and sub-alpine heaths, 1999, favourable maintained • Blanket bog, 1999, favourable maintained • Dry heaths, 2007, unfavourable declining
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• Potential effects from development in the neighbouring Lecht Ski Centre • No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Loch Vaa
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying species	• Slavonian grebe (Podiceps auritus)
Site Condition	• Slavonian grebe (Podiceps auritus), 2010, unfavourable no change
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• Effects on water quality including sewerage treatment, release of minerals, contamination or other waste

Name of European Site	Lochnagar
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Dotterel (Charadrius morinellus)
Site Condition	• Dotterel (Charadrius morinellus), 2005, favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Monadhliath
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Qualifying Habitat	• Blanket bog* (* indicates priority habitat)
Site Condition	• Blanket bog*, 2005, unfavourable no change
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Morrone Birkwood
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Qualifying Habitats	• Alpine and subalpine heaths • Base-rich fens • Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone • Hard-water springs depositing lime*

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

Name of European Site	Morven and Mullachdubh
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Qualifying Habitat	• Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands
Site Condition	• Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands, 2011, favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

Name of European Site	Muir of Dinnet
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Qualifying Habitats	• Clear water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels • Degraded raised bogs • Dry heaths • Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Otter (Lutra lutra)
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extend of habitats supporting the species

	• Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Greylag goose (Anser anser) • Waterfowl assemblage
Site Type	**Ramsar Site**
Feature	• Greylag goose (Anser anser)
Site Description	The Muir of Dinnet Ramsar Site comprises two neighbouring freshwater lochs (Davan and Kinord) in the Deeside are of Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The entire area of the SPA falls within Muir of Dinnet SSSI and NNR.
Site Condition	• Clear water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, 2005, favourable maintained • Degraded raised bogs, 2005, favourable maintained • Dry heaths, 2005, unfavourable declining • Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface, 2005, unfavourable no change • Otter (Lutra lutra), 2007, favourable maintained • Greylag goose (Anser anser), 2005, favourable maintained • Waterfowl assemblage, 2005, unfavourable declining
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• Potential effects on water quality from neighbouring developments • Potential for recreational disturbance from neighbouring areas • Relevant settlement: Dinnet

Name of European Site	River Dee
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance to the species

	• Distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel host species
Qualifying Interest(s)	• Atlantic salmon • Freshwater pearl mussel • Otter
Site Condition	• Atlantic salmon, 2007, favourable maintained • Freshwater pearl mussel, 2005, unfavourable no change • Otter, 2007, favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• Effects on water quality including sewerage treatment, release of minerals, contamination or other waste • Functioning of flood plains and the river system • Water abstraction • Micro-hydro schemes • River engineering • Rainbow trout fisheries • Relevant settlements: Braemar, Ballater, Dinnet

Name of European Site	River South Esk
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance to the species • Distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel host species
Qualifying Species	• Atlantic salmon • Freshwater pearl mussel
Site Condition	• Atlantic salmon, 2007, unfavourable recovering • Freshwater pearl mussel, 2005, unfavourable declining

Factors currently influencing site	• Diffuse pollution from agricultural operations • Illegal collection of freshwater pearl mussels • Morphological alterations to river channel.
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• Effects on water quality including sewerage treatment, release of minerals, sedimentation, contamination or other waste • Functioning of flood plains and the river system • Changes to natural river morphology

Name of European Site	River Spey-Insh Marshes
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and 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) • Wood sandpiper (Tringa galeola)
Site Type	**Ramsar Site**
Feature	• Breeding bird assemblage
	• Flood-plain fen
	• Mesotropic loch
	• Tropic range river/stream
	• Whooper swan (Cygnus Cygnus)
Site description	The River Spey-Insh Marshes site is a mosaic of freshwater wetland habitats. The River Spey is considered to be a unique example in Britain of a large, high altitude, but slow flowing river. Loch Insh is, however, noted for its exceptionally rapid water turnover and is an excellent example of a mesotrophic loch, an uncommon type in Britain. The Insh Marshes form the largest, most northerly, single-unit flood-plain mire of the poor fen type in Great Britain. The boundaries of the Ramsar site are coincident with those of the River Spey-Insh Marshes SSSI.
Site Condition	• Hen harrier (Circus cyaneus), 2010, favourable maintained • Osprey (Pandion haliaetus), 2009, favourable maintained

	• Spotted crake (Porzana porzana), 2005, favourable maintained • Whooper swan (Cygnus Cygnus), 2010, favourable maintained • Wigeon (Anus Penelope), 2010, unfavourable no change • Woodsandpiper (Tringa galeola), 2005, unfavourable declining • Breeding bird assemblage, 2005, favourable maintained • Floodplain fen, 2005, favourable maintained • Mesotrophic loch, 2005, favourable maintained • Trophic range river/stream, 2005, favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	• Potential impacts from new development due to additional nutrient loading
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• Recreational disturbance from development in neighbouring areas • Effects on water quality including sewerage treatment, release of minerals, contamination or other waste • Functioning of flood plains and the river system • Relevant settlements: Kingussie, Newtonmore, Insh

Name of European Site	River Spey
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance to the species • Distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel host species
Qualifying Interest(s)	• Atlantic salmon • Freshwater pearl mussel • Otter • Sea lamprey

Site Condition	• Atlantic salmon, 2005, unfavourable recovering • Freshwater pearl mussel, 2005, unfavourable recovering • Otter, 2007, favourable maintained • Sea lamprey, 2007, favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• Effects on water quality including sewerage treatment, release of minerals, contamination or other pollution and waste • Functioning of flood plains and the river system • Abstraction of water • Relevant settlements: Dalwhinnie, Newtonmore, Kingussie, An Camus Mor, Aviemore, Inverdruie, Kincraig, Insh, Boat of Garten, Carrbridge, Dulnain Bridge, Nethy Bridge, Grantown-on-Spey, Cromdale

Name of European Site	River Tay
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance to the species • Distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel host species
Qualifying interests	• Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) • Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) • Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels • Otter (Lutra lutra) • River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) • Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus)

Site Condition	• Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar), 2007, favourable maintained • Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri), 2010, favourable maintained • Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, 2005, favourable maintained • Otter (Lutra lutra), 2007, favourable maintained • River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis), 2010, favourable maintained • Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus), 2010, favourable maintained
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	• Effects on water quality including sewerage treatment, release of minerals, contamination or other waste • Functioning of flood plains and the river system • Relevant settlements: Blair Atholl

Name of European Site	The Maim
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within site • Structure and function of the habitat • Processes supporting the habitat • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Qualifying Interest(s)	• Dry heaths
Site Condition	• Dry heaths, 2010, unfavourable no change
Factors currently influencing site	In terms of development, none at present
Vulnerabilities to change/potential effects of the Plan	No specific vulnerabilities identified

4. Screening of the Main Issues Report

The following aspects of the Main Issues Report would not be likely to have a significant effect alone on a European site for the reasons given:

General policy statements	• Vision
Proposals excluded from this appraisal because they are not proposals generated by this Plan	• Aviemore – 4 sites with existing permission • Newtonmore – portion of H1site with permission pending completion of legal agreement • Kingussie – 1 site with existing permission and 1 site with permission pending completion of legal agreement • Braemar – 2 sites with existing permission and 2 sites with permission pending completion of legal agreement • Carr-Bridge – site (comprising 3 sections) with existing permission • Cromdale – site with existing permission • Dalwhinnie – site with existing permission • Dulnain Bridge – site with existing permission • Nethy Bridge – 2 sites (comprising 3 sections) with existing permission • Tomintoul – 3 sites with existing permission
Aspects which are too general so that it is not known where, when or how the aspect of the plan may be implemented, or where potential effects may occur, or which European sites, if any, may be affected	• Issue 1 Special Qualities • Issue 2 Resources • Issue 3 Sustainable Communities • Issue 4 Housing/Affordable Housing • Issue 6 Support for Rural Areas • Issue 7 Connectivity and Communications • Other issues proposed

Given that it is not possible to assess the issues and options proposed because they are too general, it is also not possible to assess the likely cumulative effects of potential policy approaches at this stage. Assessment of proposed policies will be carried out when developing the Proposed Local Development Plan.

The exception is Issue 5 Settlement Strategy, in which the specific options for allocations in the Main Issues Report can be assessed.

Considering the potential vulnerabilities of the Natura sites and relevant settlements identified in Section 3, likely effects on Natura sites arising from development in the following settlements cannot be excluded:

Settlement	**Relevant Natura site**
An Camas Mòr	River Spey SAC
Aviemore	River Spey SAC
Ballater	River Dee SAC
Grantown on Spey	Anagach Woods SPA, River Spey SAC
Kingussie	River Spey SAC, Insh Marshes SAC, River Spey-Insh Marshes SPA
Newtonmore	River Spey SAC, Insh Marshes SAC, River Spey-Insh Marshes SPA
Blair Atholl	River Tay SAC
Boat of Garten	Kinveachy Forest SPA Abernethy SPA Craigmore Wood SPA Cairngorms SPA
Braemar	River Dee SAC
Carr-Bridge	River Spey SAC
Cromdale	River Spey SAC
Dalwhinnie	River Spey SAC
Dinnet	River Dee SAC, Muir of Dinnet SPA
Dulnain Bridge	River Spey SAC
Kincraig	River Spey SAC River Spey-Insh Marshes SPA
Nethy Bridge	River Spey SAC, Abernethy SPA Craigmore Wood SPA

Therefore the following options for housing and economic development allocations identified in the Main Issues Report (Issue 5) would be likely to have a significant effect, either alone or in combination, on the following Natura sites. These options should therefore be subject to appropriate assessment.

Option	**Natura site and qualifying interest**
An Camas Mòr	River Spey SAC
Aviemore ED 1 and 2	River Spey SAC
Ballater H1	River Dee SAC
Ballater ED1	River Dee SAC
Grantown-on-Spey H1	Anagach Woods SPA

	River Spey SAC
Grantown-on-Spey ED1 (Woodlands Industrial Estate)	River Spey SAC
Grantown-on-Spey ED2 (Achnagonalin Industrial Estate)	River Spey SAC
Kingussie ED1 and ED2	River Spey SAC
Newtonmore H1 and H2	River Spey SAC Insh Marshes SAC River Spey-Insh Marshes SPA
Newtonmore ED1 and ED2	River Spey SAC
Blair Atholl	River Tay SAC
Boat of Garten	Kinveachy Forest SPA Abernethy SPA Craigmore Wood SPA Cairngorms SPA
Braemar	River Dee SAC
Carr-Bridge ED1	River Spey SAC
Cromdale	River Spey SAC
Dalwhinnie H1 and H3	River Spey SAC
Dinnet	River Dee SAC, Muir of Dinnet SAC/SPA
Dulnain Bridge	River Spey SAC
Kincraig H1 and ED1	River Spey SAC River Spey and Insh Marshes SPA
Nethy Bridge	River Spey SAC Abernethy SPA Craigmore Wood SPA

5. Preliminary Appropriate Assessment

This is a preliminary appropriate assessment, carried out to inform the identification of options in the Main Issues Report. A full Habitats Regulations Assessment will be carried out and recorded when developing the Proposed Local Development Plan, in which proposed sites (as well as policies) will be clearly identified. Given the relevance of multiple settlements to each Natura site, the assessment is set out by Natura site.

Name of European Site	Abernethy Forest
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus) • Osprey (Pandion haliaetus) • Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica)
Settlement Assessment	**Effect on conservation objectives**
Boat of Garten	The Main Issues Report proposes two options, identifying four potential new housing allocations and one existing economic development allocation. In theory, the proposals could result in increased disturbance to capercaillie as a result of increased recreational use of the Boat of Garten woods. However, the most intensive daily use is generally on paths close to houses and in areas of woodland that are already well used. The scale and varied location of the allocations through the village are therefore unlikely to result in a significant impact. The site adjacent to the woodland has greatest potential for impact, but well-considered access provision into areas of woodland currently well used would reduce effects to the extent that the proposals would be unlikely to negatively affect capercaillie within Boat of Garten Wood sufficiently to affect the maintenance of the populations as a viable component of the Natura sites, or their distribution within the Natura sites.
Nethy Bridge	The Main Issues Report proposes no allocations in Nethy Bridge. These proposals will therefore not detract from meeting the site's conservation objectives.
Conclusion on Site Integrity	Implementing proposals will not detract from meeting the conservation objectives and thus site integrity will not be adversely affected.

Name of European Site	Anagach Woods
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus)
Settlement Assessment	**Effect on conservation objectives**
Grantown-on-Spey	Development at H1 could, in theory, lead to an increase in numbers of people using the network of paths within Anagach Woods SPA and potentially disturbing capercaillie. This network of paths is currently popular with both locals and visitors. However, significant additional disturbance is not likely in practice for two reasons: 1. A substantial increase in recreational use of Anagach Woods is not likely because the site proposed for new housing lies on the opposite (NW) side of the town. The new houses would thus be closer to the network of promoted paths in the area around Dreggie and the former railway line, than they would be to the paths in Anagach Woods. People living in the houses would be generally more likely to walk on the local path network, with only a smaller proportion crossing town to walk in Anagach Woods. 2. Even if there was an increase in the number of people walking in Anagach Woods, it is most likely that they would follow the existing popular promoted routes which are well managed and maintained. This management includes providing advice for people on avoiding disturbance to capercaillie at sensitive times of year. Habitual recreational use of well-designed track networks is not thought to significantly disturb capercaillie. These proposals will therefore not detract from meeting the site's conservation objectives.
Conclusion on Site Integrity	Implementing proposals will not detract from meeting the conservation objectives and thus site integrity will not be adversely affected.

Name of European Site	Cairngorms
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus) • Dotterel (Charadrius moninellus) • Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos) • Merlin (Falco columbarius) • Osprey (Panion haliaetus) • Peregrine (Falco peregrinus) • Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica)
	The Cairngorms SPA qualified under Article 4.1 by supporting an internally important population of Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica) – an estimated 60 individuals, representing in the order of 10% of the total world population of this species; and nationally important populations of: Golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos) – 12 pairs, 3% of GB Peregrine (Falco peregrines) – 12 pairs, 1% of GB Merlin (Falco columbarius) – 14 pairs, 1% of GB Osprey (Panion haliaetus) – 2 pairs, 2% of GB Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus) – at least 130 individuals, 12% of GB Dotterel (Charadrius moninellus) – 240 pairs, 28% GB The SPA is also important for dotterel as a gathering ground during the spring and autumn passage periods for individuals that breed elsewhere in Scotland and Europe.
Settlement Assessment	**Effect on conservation objectives**
Boat of Garten	The Main Issues Report proposes two options, identifying four potential new housing allocations and one existing economic development allocation. In theory, the proposals could result in increased disturbance to capercaillie as a result of increased recreational use of the Boat of Garten woods. However, the most intensive daily use is generally on paths close to houses and in areas of woodland that are already well used. The scale and varied location of the allocations through the village are therefore unlikely to result in a significant impact. The site adjacent to the woodland has greatest potential for impact, but well-considered access provision into areas of woodland currently well-

	used would reduce effects to the extent that the proposals would be unlikely to negatively affect capercaillie within Boat of Garten Wood sufficiently to affect the maintenance of the populations as a viable component of the Natura sites, or their distribution within the Natura sites.
Conclusion on Site Integrity	Implementing proposals will not detract from meeting the conservation objectives and thus site integrity will not be adversely affected.

Name of European Site	Craigmore Wood
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus)
Settlement Assessment	**Effect on conservation objectives**
Boat of Garten	The Main Issues Report proposes two options, identifying four potential new housing allocations and one existing economic development allocation. In theory, the proposals could result in increased disturbance to capercaillie as a result of increased recreational use of the Boat of Garten woods. However, the most intensive daily use is generally on paths close to houses and in areas of woodland that are already well used. The scale and varied location of the allocations through the village are therefore unlikely to result in a significant impact. The site adjacent to the woodland has greatest potential for impact, but well-considered access provision into areas of woodland currently well used would reduce effects to the extent that the proposals would be unlikely to negatively affect capercaillie within Boat of Garten Wood sufficiently to affect the maintenance of the populations as a viable component of the Natura sites, or their distribution within the Natura sites.
Nethy Bridge	The Main Issues Report proposes no allocations in Nethy Bridge.
Conclusion on Site Integrity	Implementing proposals will not detract from meeting the conservation objectives and thus site integrity will not be adversely affected.

Name of European Site	Insh Marshes
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Qualifying Habitats	• Alder woodland on floodplains* • Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels • Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface (* indicates priority habitat)
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Otter (Lutra lutra)
Settlement Assessment	**Effect on conservation objectives**
Kingussie	The Main Issues Report proposes no new allocations for housing and retention of the existing allocation for economic development in Kingussie. In theory, development in line with the proposals in Kingussie could lead to impacts on the qualifying habitats, the qualifying species or the supporting habitats within the site if, during construction, physical or chemical contaminants were released into watercourses that flow into Insh Marshes. Mitigation could require that for applications that involve ground disturbance

	near to watercourses, identifying appropriate guidance for developers to follow to avoid releases of sediment or chemicals into watercourses during construction. Hence implementation of these proposals will not detract from meeting the site's conservation objectives.
Newtonmore	The Main Issues Report proposes an option for a housing allocation for the long term and retention of two existing economic development allocations. In theory development in line with the proposals in Newtonmore could lead to impacts on the qualifying habitats, the qualifying species or the supporting habitats within this site if, during construction, physical or chemical contaminants were released into watercourses that flow into Insh Marshes. Mitigation could require that for applications that involve ground disturbance near to watercourses, identifying appropriate guidance for developers to follow to avoid releases of sediment or chemicals into watercourses during construction. Hence implementation of these proposals will not detract from meeting the site's conservation objectives.
Conclusion on Site Integrity	Implementing the recommended mitigation will not detract from meeting the conservation objectives and thus site integrity will not be adversely affected.

Name of European Site	Kinveachy Forest
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Capercaillie (Tetrao urogallus) • Scottish crossbill (Loxia scotica)
Settlement Assessment	**Effect on conservation objectives**
Boat of Garten	The Main Issues Report proposes two options, identifying four potential new housing allocations and one existing economic development allocation. In theory the proposals could result in increased disturbance to capercaillie as a result of increased recreational use of the Boat of Garten woods. However, the most intensive daily use is generally on paths close to

	houses and in areas of woodland that are already well used. The scale and varied location of the allocations through the village are therefore unlikely to result in a significant impact. The site adjacent to the woodland has greatest potential for impact, but well-considered access provision into areas of woodland currently well used would reduce effects to the extent that the proposals would be unlikely to negatively affect capercaillie within Boat of Garten Wood sufficiently to affect the maintenance of the populations as a viable component of the Natura sites, or their distribution within the Natura sites.
Conclusion on Site Integrity	Implementing proposals will not detract from meeting the conservation objectives and thus site integrity will not be adversely affected.

Name of European Site	Muir of Dinnet
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within the site • Structure and function of the habitat • Process supporting the site • Distribution of typical species of the habitat • Viability of typical species as components of the habitat • No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat
Qualifying Habitats	• Clear water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels • Degraded raised bogs • Dry heaths • Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species

	• Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Otter (Lutra lutra)
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Species	• Greylag goose (Anser anser) • Waterfowl assemblage
Settlement Assessment	**Effect on conservation objectives**
Dinnet	The Main Issues Report identifies options for two housing allocations and two economic development allocations in Dinnet. In theory these proposals could affect water quality and increase disturbance from recreation. However the scale and location of the proposals are unlikely to result in adverse effect on the conservation objectives. Mitigation could require that for applications that involve ground disturbance near to watercourses, identifying appropriate guidance for developers to follow to avoid releases of sediment or chemicals into watercourses during construction. Hence implementation of these proposals will not detract from meeting the site's conservation objectives.
Conclusion on Site Integrity	Implementing proposals will not detract from meeting the conservation objectives and thus site integrity will not be adversely affected.

Name of European Site	River Dee
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term:

	• Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance to the species • Distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel host species
Qualifying Interest(s)	• Atlantic salmon • Freshwater pearl mussel • Otter
Settlement Assessment	**Effect on conservation objectives**
Braemar	The Main Issues Report identifies options for housing allocations in the medium and long term. In theory, development in line with the proposals in Braemar could lead to impacts on the qualifying species or their supporting habitats within this site if, during construction, physical or chemical contaminants were released into watercourses that flow into the River Dee. In addition, C1 and H2 are within the 1 in 200 year flood risk area identified by SEPA, and any flood mitigation works required in order to develop these sites could also lead to impacts on the qualifying species or their supporting habitats. In practice, however, all development proposals will have to comply with policies to protect Natura sites in accordance with the Conservation (Natural Heritage etc) Regulations1994 (as amended). One of the ways this would be achieved is, for applications that involve ground disturbance near to watercourses, identifying appropriate guidance for developers to follow to avoid releases of sediment or chemicals into watercourses during construction. Construction and development could also cause in theory cause disturbance to otter, and surveys should be required where relevant. Hence implementation of these proposals will not detract from meeting the site's conservation objectives.
Ballater	The Main Issues Report proposes one site for phased housing development. In theory development in line with the proposals in Ballater could lead to impacts on the qualifying species or their supporting habitats within this site if, during construction, physical or chemical contaminants were released into watercourses that flow into the River Dee. This is a particular risk for development on sites ED1, which is adjacent to the SAC. In practice, however, all development proposals will have to comply with policies which protect Natura sites in accordance with the Conservation (Natural Heritage etc) Regulations1994 (as amended). One of the ways this

	would be achieved is, for applications that involve ground disturbance near to watercourses, identifying appropriate guidance for developers to follow to avoid releases of sediment or chemicals into watercourses during construction. Hence implementation of these proposals will not detract from meeting the site's conservation objectives.
Dinnet	The Main Issues Report proposes two allocations for housing and two allocations for economic development. In theory development in line with the proposals in Dinnet could lead to impacts on the qualifying species or their supporting habitats within this site if, during construction, physical or chemical contaminants were released into watercourses that flow into the River Dee. In practice, however, all development proposals will have to comply with policies which protects Natura sites in accordance with the Conservation (Natural Heritage etc) Regulations1994 (as amended). One of the ways this would be achieved is, for applications that involve ground disturbance near to watercourses, identifying appropriate guidance for developers to follow to avoid releases of sediment or chemicals into watercourses during construction. Hence implementation of these proposals will not detract from meeting the site's conservation objectives.
Conclusion on site integrity	Provided that policies to protect Natura sites are included in the Local Development Plan and implemented rigorously as described above, implementing the proposals will not detract from meeting the conservation objectives and thus site integrity will not be adversely affected.

Name of European Site	River Spey-Insh Marshes
Site Type	**Special Protection Area**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within the site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species
Qualifying Interest(s)	• Hen harrier (Circus cyaneus) • Osprey (Pandion haliaetus) • Spotted crake (Porzana porzana) • Whooper swan (Cygnus Cygnus)

	• Wigeon (Anus Penelope) • Woodsandpiper (Tringa galeola)
Site Type	**Ramsar Site**
Feature	• Breeding bird assemblage
	• Flood-plain fen
	• Mesotropic loch
	• Trophic 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.
Settlement Assessment	**Effect on conservation objectives**
Kingussie	The Main Issues Report proposes no new allocations for housing and retention of the existing allocation for economic development in Kingussie. In theory, development in line with the proposals in Kingussie could lead to impacts on the structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the qualifying species within this site if, during construction, physical or chemical contaminants were released into watercourses that flow into Insh Marshes, or into the Spey and thence to Insh Marshes. In practice, however, all development proposals will have to comply with Policy 2, which protects Natura sites in accordance with the Conservation (Natural Heritage etc) Regulations1994 (as amended). One of the ways this would be achieved is, for applications that involve ground disturbance near to watercourses, identifying appropriate guidance for developers to follow to avoid releases of sediment or chemicals into watercourses during construction. Hence implementation of these proposals will not detract from meeting the site's conservation objectives.
Newtonmore	The Main Issues Report proposes an option for a housing allocation for the long-term and retention of two existing economic development allocations. In theory, development in line with the proposals in Newtonmore could lead to impacts on the structure, function and supporting process of habitats supporting the qualifying species within this site if, during construction, physical or chemical contaminants were released into watercourses that flow into Insh Marshes, or into the Spey and thence to Insh Marshes. In practice, however, all development proposals will have to comply with policies which protect Natura sites in accordance

	with the Conservation (Natural Heritage etc) Regulations1994 (as amended). One of the ways this would be achieved is, for applications that involve ground disturbance near to watercourses, identifying appropriate guidance for developers to follow to avoid releases of sediment or chemicals into watercourses during construction. Hence implementation of these proposals will not detract from meeting the site's conservation objectives.
Conclusion on Site Integrity	Provided that policies to protect Natura sites are included in the Local Development Plan and implemented rigorously as described above, implementing the proposals will not detract from meeting the conservation objectives and thus site integrity will not be adversely affected.

Name of European Site	River Spey
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance to the species • Distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel host species
Qualifying Interest(s)	• Atlantic salmon • Freshwater pearl mussel • Otter • Sea lamprey
Settlement Assessment	**Effect on conservation objectives**
An Camas Mòr	In theory, development in line with the proposals in An Camas Mòr could lead to impacts on the qualifying species or their supporting habitats within this site if, during construction or subsequently, physical or chemical contaminants were released into the River Spey. Construction and development could also cause disturbance to otter.

	In practice, however, all development proposals will have to comply with policies which protect Natura sites in accordance with the Conservation (Natural Heritage etc) Regulations1994 (as amended). One of the ways this would be achieved is, for applications that involve ground disturbance near to watercourses, identifying appropriate guidance for developers to follow to avoid releases of sediment or chemicals into watercourses during construction; to ensure that there is no potential for otter to become entangled in construction materials (for example overnight); and requiring otter surveys prior to submission of planning applications and designing developments to avoid damaging holts or disturbing these animals. Hence implementation of these proposals will not detract from meeting the site's conservation objectives.
Aviemore	The Main Issues Report proposes no new allocations for housing and retention of three existing economic development allocations in Aviemore. In theory, development in line with the proposals in Aviemore could lead to impacts on the qualifying species or their supporting habitats within this site if, during construction or subsequently, physical or chemical contaminants were released into the River Spey. Developments on ED3 have the greatest potential to cause such impacts as a result of their proximity to the Spey and its tributaries. Construction on ED3 could also cause disturbance to otter. In practice, however, all development proposals will have to comply with policies which protect Natura sites in accordance with the Conservation (Natural Heritage etc) Regulations1994 (as amended). One of the ways this would be achieved is, for applications that involve ground disturbance near to watercourses, identifying appropriate guidance for developers to follow to avoid releases of sediment or chemicals into watercourses during construction; and to ensure that there is no potential for otter to become entangled in construction materials (for example overnight). In addition, otter surveys could be required prior to submission of planning applications on site ED3, and the results used to design developments to avoid damaging holts or disturbing these animals. Hence implementation of these proposals will not detract from meeting the site's conservation objectives.
Kingussie	The Main Issues Report proposes no new allocations for housing and retention of the existing allocation for economic development in Kingussie. In theory development in line with the proposals in Kingussie could lead to impacts on the qualifying species or their supporting habitats within this site if, during construction or subsequently, physical or chemical contaminants were released into the River Spey. In practice, however, all development proposals will have to comply with policies which protect Natura sites in accordance

	with the Conservation (Natural Heritage etc) Regulations1994 (as amended). One of the ways this would be achieved is, for applications that involve ground disturbance near to watercourses, identifying appropriate guidance for developers to follow to avoid releases of sediment or chemicals into watercourses during construction. Hence implementation of these proposals will not detract from meeting the site's conservation objectives.
Newtonmore	The Main Issues Report proposes an option for a housing allocation for the long term and retention of two existing economic development allocations. In theory, development in line with the proposals in Newtonmore could lead to impacts on the qualifying species or their supporting habitats within this site if, during construction or subsequently, physical or chemical contaminants were released into the River Spey. In practice, however, all development proposals will have to comply with policies which protect Natura sites in accordance with the Conservation (Natural Heritage etc) Regulations1994 (as amended). One of the ways this would be achieved is, for applications that involve ground disturbance near to watercourses, identifying appropriate guidance for developers to follow to avoid releases of sediment or chemicals into watercourses during construction; and to ensure that there is no potential for otter to become entangled in construction materials (for example overnight).
Boat of Garten	In theory, development in line with the proposals in Boat of Garten could lead to impacts on the qualifying species or their supporting habitats within this site if, during construction or subsequently, physical or chemical contaminants were released into the River Spey. In practice, however, all development proposals will have to comply with policies which protect Natura sites in accordance with the Conservation (Natural Heritage etc) Regulations1994 (as amended). One of the ways this would be achieved is, for applications that involve ground disturbance near to watercourses, identifying appropriate guidance for developers to follow to avoid releases of sediment or chemicals into watercourses during construction. Hence implementation of these proposals will not detract from meeting the site's conservation objectives.
Carr-Bridge	The Main Issues Report proposes no allocations for housing and retention of two existing economic development allocations in Carr-Bridge. In theory, development in line with the proposals in Carr-Bridge could lead to impacts on the qualifying species or their supporting habitats within this site if, during construction or subsequently, physical or chemical contaminants were released into the River Spey. Construction could also cause disturbance to otter. Development on sites ED1 and ED2 have the potential to

	cause such impacts as a result of their proximity to the Spey. In addition, part of ED 2 appears to be within the 1 in 200 year flood risk area identified by SEPA, and any flood mitigation works required in order to develop this site could also lead to impacts on the qualifying species or their supporting habitats. In practice, however, all development proposals will have to comply with policies which protect Natura sites in accordance with the Conservation (Natural Heritage etc) Regulations1994 (as amended). One of the ways this would be achieved is, for applications that involve ground disturbance near to watercourses, identifying appropriate guidance for developers to follow to avoid releases of sediment or chemicals into watercourses during construction; and to ensure that there is no potential for otter to become entangled in construction materials (for example overnight). Hence implementation of these proposals will not detract from meeting the site's conservation objectives.
Cromdale	The Main Issues Report proposes a new phased allocation for housing in Cromdale and retention of the existing economic development allocation. In theory, development in line with the proposals in Cromdale could lead to impacts on the qualifying species or their supporting habitats within this site if, during construction or subsequently, physical or chemical contaminants were released into the River Spey. Construction could also cause disturbance to otter. Development on site ED1 has the greatest potential to cause such impacts as a result of its adjacency to the Spey, and part of the site appears to be within the 1 in 200 year flood risk area identified by SEPA. Any flood mitigation works required in order to develop this site could also lead to impacts on the qualifying species or their supporting habitats. Development on site ED1 could also cause disturbance to otter. In practice, however, all development proposals will have to comply with policies which protect Natura sites in accordance with the Conservation (Natural Heritage etc) Regulations1994 (as amended). One of the ways this would be achieved is, for applications that involve ground disturbance near to watercourses, identifying appropriate guidance for developers to follow to avoid releases of sediment or chemicals into watercourses during construction; and to ensure that there is no potential for otter to become entangled in construction materials (for example overnight). In addition, otter surveys could be required prior to submission of planning applications on site ED1, and the results used to design developments to avoid damaging holts or disturbing these animals. Hence implementation of these proposals will not detract from meeting the site's conservation objectives.
Dalwhinnie	The Main Issues Report proposes retention of two existing housing allocations and one existing economic development allocation. In theory, development in line with the proposals in

	Dalwhinnie could lead to impacts on the qualifying species or their supporting habitats within this site if, during construction or subsequently, physical or chemical contaminants were released into the River Spey. Construction could also cause disturbance to otter. In practice, however, all development proposals will have to comply with policies which protect Natura sites in accordance with the Conservation (Natural Heritage etc) Regulations1994 (as amended). One of the ways this would be achieved is, for applications that involve ground disturbance near to watercourses, identifying appropriate guidance for developers to follow to avoid releases of sediment or chemicals into watercourses during construction; and to ensure that there is no potential for otter to become entangled in construction materials (for example overnight). In addition, otter surveys could be required prior to submission of planning applications on site ED1, and the results used to design developments to avoid damaging holts or disturbing these animals. Hence implementation of these proposals will not detract from meeting the site's conservation objectives.
Dulnain Bridge	The Main Issues Report proposes using the site with existing permission as a housing allocation and retention of the existing economic development allocation. In theory, development in line with the proposals in Dulnain Bridge could lead to impacts on the qualifying species or their supporting habitats within this site if, during construction or subsequently, physical or chemical contaminants were released into the River Spey. Construction could also cause disturbance to otter. In practice, however, all development proposals will have to comply with policies which protect Natura sites in accordance with the Conservation (Natural Heritage etc) Regulations1994 (as amended). One of the ways this would be achieved is, for applications that involve ground disturbance near to watercourses, identifying appropriate guidance for developers to follow to avoid releases of sediment or chemicals into watercourses during construction; and to ensure that there is no potential for otter to become entangled in construction materials (for example overnight). Hence implementation of these proposals will not detract from meeting the site's conservation objectives.
Kincraig	The Main Issues Report proposes retaining the existing housing and economic development allocations in Kincraig. In theory, development in line with the proposals in Kincraig could lead to impacts on the qualifying species or their supporting habitats within this site if, during construction or subsequently, physical or chemical contaminants were released into the River Spey. In practice, however, all development proposals will have to comply with policies which protect Natura sites in accordance with the Conservation (Natural Heritage etc) Regulations1994 (as

	amended). One of the ways this would be achieved is, for applications that involve ground disturbance near to watercourses, identifying appropriate guidance for developers to follow to avoid releases of sediment or chemicals into watercourses during construction. Hence implementation of these proposals will not detract from meeting the site's conservation objectives.
Nethy Bridge	The Main Issues Report proposes no allocations for housing or economic development in Nethy Bridge.
Conclusion on site integrity	Provided that policies to protect Natura sites are included in the Local Development Plan and implemented rigorously, the proposals will not detract from meeting the conservation objectives and thus site integrity will not be adversely affected.

Name of European Site	River Tay
Site Type	**Special Area of Conservation**
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long-term: • Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance to the species • Distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel host species
Qualifying interests	• Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) • Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) • Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels. • Otter (Lutra lutra) • River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) • Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus)
Settlement Assessment	**Effect on conservation objectives**
Blair Atholl	The Main Issues Report proposes options to include one housing allocation or retain housing allocations in existing Cairngorms National Park Local Plan, and to retain economic development

	allocations in the existing local plan. In theory, development in line with the proposals in Blair Atholl could lead to impacts on the qualifying species or their supporting habitats within this site if, during construction or subsequently, physical or chemical contaminants were released into the River Tay. In practice, however, all development proposals will have to comply with policies which protect Natura sites in accordance with the Conservation (Natural Heritage etc) Regulations1994 (as amended). One of the ways this would be achieved is, for applications that involve ground disturbance near to watercourses, identifying appropriate guidance for developers to follow to avoid releases of sediment or chemicals into watercourses during construction. Hence implementation of these proposals will not detract from meeting the site's conservation objectives.
Conclusion on Site Integrity	Provided that policies to protect Natura sites are included in the Local Development Plan and implemented rigorously the proposals will not detract from meeting the conservation objectives and thus site integrity will not be adversely affected.

6. Conclusions

This is a preliminary assessment to inform the selection of options in the Main Issues Report. The policy issues addressed in the report are too general at this stage of the plan development process to assess, and these will be assessed at the stage of the Proposed Development Plan. The site allocation options set out in the Main Issues Report have been assessed and, subject to adequate protection policies being included in the Local Development Plan and the mitigation identified in Section 5, would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of relevant Natura sites.

This assessment, including the mitigation and policy needs identified will be used to inform preparation of the Proposed Local Development Plan, taking into account any further information received during the public consultation on the Main Issues Report.

Preliminary Assessment completed: 25 July 2011

Cairngorms
NATIONAL PARK

For a large print version of this publication, please contact the Cairngorms National Park Authority at the Grantown-on-Spey office or telephone 01479 873535.

Cairngorms National Park Authority
14 The Square
Grantown-on-Spey
Moray
PH26 3HG
(t) 01479 873535
(f) 01479 873527
enquiries@cairngorms.co.uk

Planning and Development Management
Albert Memorial Hall
Station Square
Ballater, Aberdeenshire
AB35 5QB
(t) 013397 53601
(f) 013397 55334
localplan@cairngorms.co.uk

www.cairngorms.co.uk

Published by Cairngorms National Park Authority

Printed on 100% virgin fibre from managed trees and totally chlorine free.

Photography by David Gowans

natural scotland
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT