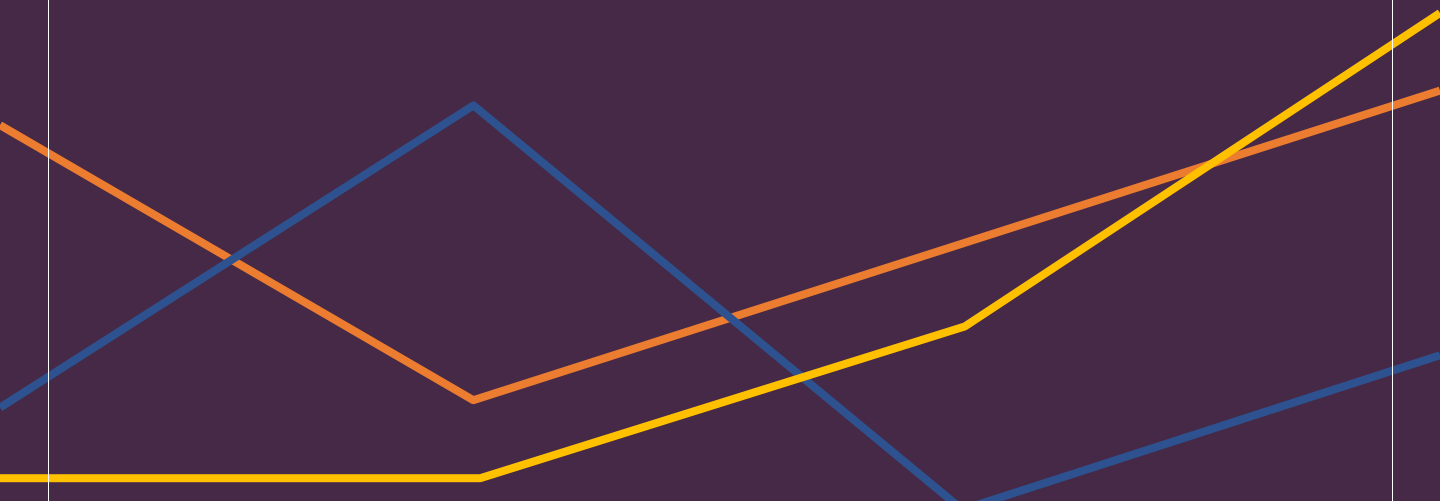




ABERDEEN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT



Aberdeen Local Development Plan SEA Environmental Report

PART 1

To Sea.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

PART 2

An SEA Environmental Report is attached for the plan entitled

Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023

The Responsible Authority is:

Aberdeen City Council

PART 3

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Date

14 December 2022

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Non-Technical Summary

This Non-Technical Summary introduces Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and summarises the contents of the full technical report, which begins on page 10.

Purpose of this Environmental Report and Key Stages

We (Aberdeen City Council) have written this environmental report (“the report”) for the Aberdeen Local Development Plan (LDP) under the Environmental Assessment [Scotland] Act 2005. The process taken to write this report is called Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The reason for undertaking SEA is to address all the effects that the LDP will have on the environment. The overall aim of the process is to protect the environment. Throughout this SEA process we have taken the views of others into account before coming to final decisions.

SEA should be applied to plans, programmes and strategies (PPS) produced by public bodies, including local authorities. The key stages of this SEA are pre-screening, screening, scoping, environmental report and post-adoption statement. An explanation of these stages can be found below:

[Pre-screening]

Pre-screening of a PPS is done to show that a plan is not likely to have any effect on the environment, or if it has any effects at all, they will be minimal. After a pre-screening, the PPS will not be subject to any further SEA. This stage does not apply to the Local Development Plan.

Screening

We screen the plan to determine whether we should be doing an SEA for the plan. When a plan is likely to have significant (i.e. very bad, damaging, large or long-lasting) effects on the environment, we will do an SEA. (If the effect is not significant, no further action is taken and a pre-screening report would be prepared).

Scoping

At the scoping stage, we set out how much information should be in the actual Environmental Report, how we plan to assess the effects of the different aspects of the plan, and how long we will consult with others on the report. We then consult with Key Agencies on the contents of the Scoping Report, and their recommendations help us to improve our approach. In this case, the environmental effects of the LDP are likely to be significant, so the SEA process skipped the screening stage and started from the scoping stage.

Environmental Report

In the Environmental Report, we assess the effects of a plan on the environment and explain how we could address those effects through a process called mitigation. We also describe how we will monitor any significant effects of the plan on the environment. In March 2019 we published an *Interim Environmental Report* alongside the Main

Issues Report. This assessed the environmental effects of the options and alternatives included in the Main Issues Report. The Main Issues Report contained 12 main issues and 633 bids for sites that were assessed. The Environmental Report was revised and updated to take into account the full content and detail of the Proposed Local Development Plan, as well as the outcome of the public consultation on the Interim Environmental Report and was consulted on as part of the formal public consultation on the Proposed Local Development Plan 2020. The SEA has been revised to take into account the modifications made by the Reporters' into the Examination in Public of the Proposed Plan. This report is the Environmental Report which goes alongside the Proposed Local Development Plan as modified, which is intended to be adopted as the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023.

Post-adoption Statement

Once we have addressed and resolved the representations received through consultation, we will adopt the plan and inform everyone about what difference the SEA process and their views have made to the final plan. We do this through a Post-adoption Statement as the last stage.

Section 3 of the main report shows all of the SEA activities we have carried out to date. A summary of the comments we have received from other people, and how we have made changes to the report to take these into account is set out in Appendix 2, 3 and 12.

Description of the Plan

The Plan forms Aberdeen City Council's settled view on the content of the 2023 LDP. The 2017 LDP allocates land for housing and employment over two phases in line with the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan (2014). The Strategic Development Plan (2014) has now been replaced by the Strategic Development Plan (2020), which asks the 2023 LDP to allocate a limited amount of housing land. These allocations should take place on brownfield sites and utilise the current "constrained" supply in the first instance. Therefore, the amount of land we need to allocate has changed. Most of the policies and some of the land allocations included in the 2017 LDP are carried forward to the 2023 Plan.

Section 4 of the main report contains a detailed description of the content of the Plan, and the different options and alternatives we considered while we were writing it.

Context of the Plan

To guide and help us deliver what we plan to do in the LDP and other related strategies, like the Local Housing Strategy and the Local Transport Strategy, we have made use of high-level documents and statements. These documents and statements include the Strategic Development Plan vision, Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan (2019) and the Housing Needs and Demand Assessment for Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire (HNDA, 2017).

This Environmental Report covers the key issues, outcomes, topics and processes of the SEA process listed at paragraph 1-9 of Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act. We have used many different documents or pieces of legislation to influence how we have written this strategy, which affects Aberdeen, the North East, Scotland or Europe. These documents cover:

Climate and water

Plant and animal life on the land and in the water

Noise

Town centres

Old buildings

How we use energy

How we throw away waste

How we travel, walk and cycle

Exercise and health

Section 5.1 of the main report contains a list of all the relevant plans, programmes, strategies and policies which have a bearing on the Local Development Plan. Appendix 4 contains a more detailed description of these.

State of the Environment in Aberdeen

We have collected information on the key characteristics of the environment in Aberdeen and have gathered statistics which give an up-to-date picture of the state of the environment in Aberdeen. We have also identified a number of environmental problems in Aberdeen, what might happen if the LDP did not exist, and what the role of the LDP might be in addressing these problems.

These issues show the challenges we must deal with through this Plan:

We have serious air quality problems in Aberdeen. The increasing number of cars, trucks and vehicles that pass through the City worsens this.

We burn a lot of fuel to heat our homes and to drive our cars. This is releasing more CO₂ into the air and causing our carbon and ecological footprints to rise.

Future climate change will affect how much water we will have and how stable our soils will be.

Petrol stations, factories, and other industries have all affected how good or bad our soil and water is.

How we deal with waste also affects our soils, water and climate.

Pressure from all new development on the River Dee as a result of water abstraction.

Aberdeen is rich in cultural heritage and landscape, but the houses we have built in the past are putting pressure on these resources.

New buildings are putting pressure on animal and plant life (biodiversity).

When we have good parks or open spaces, people will want to build and live around them.

Increasing house prices.

The make up of the population is an issue that needs to be considered for future development. For example, there are a range of ages living in Aberdeen, but because we are living longer there will be an increased proportion of older people,

and there is an increase in people coming to live here from other parts of the UK, Europe and the world.

Section 5.2 and **5.3** of the main report describe the state of the environment in Aberdeen in more detail. Appendix 5 contains environmental statistics, targets and trends for Aberdeen on a wide range of topics. Appendix 6 contains map-based information.

Assessment of Effects

The main part of the SEA is assessing the effect of the strategy and policies on the environment. A summary of our findings can be found on the table below. **Section 6** of the main report describes in more detail how we approached the assessment of environmental effects. Appendices 6 – 9 contain summaries of the detailed assessments for each aspect of the plan.

Table A: Assessment of Effects

SEA Issue	Plan Impact
Air and Climatic factors	We found that the effects of the plan on the environment are mixed (i.e. positive, negative & neutral). Building new homes and workplaces will mean more vehicles on the roads which emit greenhouse gases. On the other hand, the plan also includes policies to help promote sustainable modes of transport such as walking and cycling. Development on existing green space may also increase surface water run-off and increase vulnerability to flooding.
Water	The overall effects of the plan on water are negative, because all new development requires more water be taken from the River Dee. Some developments also physically impact on watercourses themselves and may result in pollution of streams and burns. On the other hand, the plan includes policies to promote water-saving technologies in buildings.
Soil	When we build houses, shops, places of work and roads, the soil on which we put these buildings up can be damaged. Increased waste will lead to more landfill, which pollutes the soil. However, the development of contaminated sites will benefit soil because it will have to clean up the pollution.
Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	The overall effects of the plan on plants and animals are neutral, because if we develop 700 new houses in Aberdeen, almost all of these will be on brownfield sites. Some of the sites being carried forward are on greenfield sites. Development on greenfield sites may destroy the places where plants and animals are found. The River Dee is the home to special fish and animals and development may

	harm them.
Population and Health	The overall effects of the plan on people are positive, because it provides for attractive, warm and affordable homes in pleasant places for people to live, and also encourages the development of new employment opportunities. However, traffic from new development and other polluting uses make air quality worse and it may have a negative affect on human health.
Cultural Heritage	We found that the effects of the plan on special or old buildings are mixed (i.e. positive, negative & neutral). Policy protects these buildings from damage or loss in all but the most exceptional circumstances, meaning negative effects are likely to be very small. Design policies will help to make the impact small.
Landscape	The overall effects of the plan on our surroundings are mixed – some positive and others negative. Development that can be seen from lots of places can have negative affects on views and scenery.
Material Assets	The overall effect of the plan on the creation of new buildings, facilities, infrastructure and equipment is very good.

Mitigation Measures

Where an aspect of the plan will have negative effects on the environment, we have identified ‘mitigation measures’ to compensate for this. A summary of the broad measures which will be taken to help mitigate the negative (or enhance the positive) effects of the preferred options can be found in the table below. **Section 7** of the main report contains a detailed description of the significant negative effects of each aspect of the plan and what mitigation measures we have identified to address them.

Table B: Mitigation Measures

SEA Issue	Mitigation Measures
Air and Climatic factors	We will seek to enhance (i.e. add value to) the positive impacts as we work with our partners. We will look to reduce car dependence and provide people with choice on how they travel. We will have a mix of houses, jobs, shops and schools close together so that the buildings will not damage our climate and air. We will avoid building on land which floods. We will make sure buildings need less heat and electricity.
Water	We will work with Scottish Water to make sure that the

	houses built will have sufficient water. We will work with builders to ensure that the buildings will not use too much water. We will require soft structures (called 'SuDS') to be built and maintained to manage surface water from the new development. We will make sure that areas which flood when it rains will be avoided or zoned as an open space.
Soil	We will require new developments to clean up harmful pollution where appropriate. We will recycle more waste and reduce waste going to landfill.
Biodiversity (flora and fauna)	When we are building SuDS to take surface water from urban areas, we will make sure that they can encourage biodiversity (i.e. some plant and animal life) to live and grow within the SuDS system. We will also encourage the provision of open spaces, including wildlife areas, in new developments. We will also protect special areas where we find plants and animals (small and large). We will keep areas for animals to move from place to place.
Population and Health	We will encourage the provision of services, jobs, houses and facilities that cater for all sectors of society, old and young. We will avoid building where there are risks to health like areas of bad air quality or smell.
Cultural Heritage	We will look to protect our most valued features wherever possible and encourage good design in new developments so they do not affect the setting of existing special buildings.
Landscape	We will look to protect our most valued landscapes and landscape features and encourage good master planning and design. We will not build on the areas that are easily seen from lots of different places.
Material Assets	We will make sure that roads, schools, hospitals, utilities and jobs required for new developments are put in place. We would make sure that the plan supports all of this.

Monitoring

We will monitor the significant negative and positive affects of the plan through the monitoring plan that we have set out in the environmental report. We have stated what actions we must carry out, who must carry out each of the actions and when we must carry them out.

Section 8 of the main report contains a detailed description of all the things we will monitor, how we will do this and how often.

Environmental Report

1 Introduction

The purpose of the Environmental Report is to address all the effects that the Aberdeen Local Development Plan (LDP) will have on the environment. The Plan is the Council's settled view on the content of the 2023 LDP. The report has been written in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

The SEA assesses the impact of each of the different aspects of the Plan, including the overall vision and strategy, land-use policies and specific sites identified for development. It also assesses the reasonable alternatives we considered when we were writing the Plan. Therefore, the SEA has helped us to make decisions about and improve the content of the Plan.

In the course of producing an LDP, there is a requirement to publish at least three documents throughout the process. The first stage is the publication of the Main Issues Report, for which we prepared an Interim Environmental Report. The Main Issues Report identified preferred options and alternatives for land allocations and also policy provision to address other planning issues.

Following analysis of comments on the Main Issues Report and Interim Environmental Report, we prepared the Proposed Plan. For the Proposed Plan, we revised the Environmental Report. The has been further revised following the modifications issued by the Reporters'. This Environmental Report is structured to follow the format of the Plan and provide an assessment of its content. The assessment of options and alternatives discussed with Main Issues Report are still contained in this assessment, but the LDP only presents the preferred option. The assessments have been updated from the Interim Environmental Report to take into account comments from the consultation authorities and the public.

Section 2 sets out the key facts about the LDP.

Section 3 describes the SEA process to date.

Section 4 offers a brief description of the content of the Plan, including its vision and objectives, policies and site allocations.

Section 5 outlines the context for the Plan, including other relevant plans, policies and strategies (PPS) and environmental protection objectives, baseline data describing the current state of the environment and environmental problems in Aberdeen.

Section 6 describes the scope and level of the assessment and explains the assessment framework that was used. It contains an assessment of the cumulative effects of the plan on the environment.

Section 7 provides an overview of the mitigation measures proposed to address the negative effects of the plan on the environment;

Section 8 sets out how we intend to monitor these effects; and

Section 9 sets out the 'next steps' for the SEA process.

Section 10 contains appendices setting out the baseline and description of relevant PPS, and full SEA assessments for sites, policies and supplementary guidance.

2 Key Facts and Description of PPS Content

Table 2.1: Key Facts relating to the Local Development Plan

Name of Responsible Authority	Aberdeen City Council
Title of the PPS	Aberdeen Local Development Plan
What Prompted the PPS	Planning & etc. (Scotland) Act 2006
Subject	Land Use
Period Covered by the PPS	To 2031
Frequency of Updates	Every five years
Area covered by the PPS	Aberdeen City
Purpose and/or objectives of the PPS	To set the framework for the development of land in Aberdeen City
Contact Point	Andrew Brownrigg Team Leader (Development Plan) Strategic Place Planning Aberdeen City Council Business Hub 4 Marischal College Broad Street Aberdeen AB10 1AB

3 SEA Activities to Date

Table 3.1 – SEA Activities to Date summarises the SEA activities to date in relation to the Environmental Report for the Aberdeen City Local Development Plan.

Table 3.1: SEA Activities to Date

SEA Action/Activity	Date	Notes
Scoping the consultation periods and the level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report for the Main Issues Report	Scoping Report: May 2018	Feedback from SEPA, SNH and HES considered; assessment methodology with objectives and questions implemented.
Environmental baseline established		
Outline and objectives of the PPS	Draft Interim Environmental Report: December 2018	
Relationship with other PPS and environmental objectives		
Environmental problems identified		
Assessment of future of area without the PPS		
Alternatives considered		
Environmental assessment methods established		
Selection of PPS alternatives to be included in the environmental assessment		
Identification of environmental problems that may persist after implementation and measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects		
Monitoring methods proposed		
Preparation and Consultation on the Environmental Report for the Main	Main Issues Report	Feedback from SEPA, SNH and HES considered and

Issues Report	Consultation March- May 2019	taken into account.
Taking account of the consultation outcome in the revised Environmental Report for the Proposed Plan	Preparation of Proposed Plan. Final Environmental Report prepared March 2020	
Agreeing on the alternatives and options to be used in the final environmental report		
Assessing the effects of the LDP, mitigating effects, firming monitoring measures and strategic flood risk assessment.		
Public consultation on the Proposed Plan and Environmental Report. Notification/publicity action.	Consultation May -August 2020	Feedback from SEPA, Nature Scot, HES and the general public considered and taken into account.
Examination, Modification and Adoption of LDP 2022, Post-Adoption Statement	Examination of Proposed Plan November 2021 – September 2022, Modifications of the Proposed Plan September – November 2022, Adoption of the Plan expected January 2023	Reassesses in light of Reporters' modifications.

4 Description of PPS – Content of Aberdeen Local Development Plan

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that the Environmental Report includes “an outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme”. The purpose of this section is to explain the nature, contents and timescale of the LDP.

The LDP is made up of 4 key parts:

1. The Vision;
2. The Spatial Strategy (including site-specific allocations);
3. Land Use Policies; and
4. Supplementary Guidance documents

The Aberdeen Local Development Plan is the Council’s settled view on the content of the next Local Development Plan.

It should be noted from the outset that the Strategic Development Plan (2020) does not contain significant changes to the spatial strategy introduced in the Strategic Development Plan (2014) to which the current LDP conforms. The LDP takes a long term view to the identification of land for future development, and therefore many aspects are proposed to be ‘carried forward’ with no change.

The LDP has considered anticipated changes to the planning system that are expected to come forward as part of the Planning Bill. Therefore, there are some changes to 2017 LDP policy as well as some new policies and land allocations. The LDP now includes one Supplementary Guidance – Developer Obligations. Supplementary Guidance that were part of the 2017 LDP will be taken forward as non-statutory planning guidance entitled ‘Aberdeen Planning Guidance’.

Vision and Objectives

The vision for the ALDP has been taken from the Strategic Development Plan vision. It states:

“By 2040 Aberdeen City and Shire will have grown and evolved to become an even more attractive, prosperous, resilient and sustainable European city region. It will be an excellent place to live, visit and do business. We will be recognised for:

- our enterprise and inventiveness in the knowledge economy and high value markets – with a particular focus on energy, biopharmaceuticals, tourism, food and drink, fishing and the primary industries; and,
- the City Region’s unique built, historic and natural environment, which will be protected and, where appropriate, enhanced as key asset in underpinning a high quality of life and place.

Decision makers will have acted confidently and taken courageous decisions necessary to further develop a robust and diversified economy.

Both Councils will have taken a proactive approach towards development that ensures the sustainable use of natural resources, the ability to live within the area’s environmental capacity, can deal with climate change, and creates a more open, inclusive society.”

Spatial Strategy

The Spatial Strategy is the first main section of the LDP. The Spatial Strategy deals with land use allocations and the way in which these will be delivered. It is split into three main areas:

The city centre;
Brownfield development; and
Greenfield development.

The LDP also includes policies dedicated to delivering the Spatial Strategy:

Land Release and Phasing
Delivering Mixed Communities

A summary of the preferred and alternative options for the Spatial Strategy is in Table 4.2. This table presents the elements of the 2017 LDP which will be carried forward, as well as a description of any changes in italics.

The LDP seeks to identify development allocations to 2040, as required by the Strategic Development Plan, within the city centre, brownfield sites and greenfield sites. Table 4.1 shows these allowances.

Table 4.1 Strategic Development Plan 2020 Housing and Employment Land Figures

Housing Allowances			Employment Land Allocations	Employment Land: Strategic Reserve
2020-32	2033-35	2036-40	To 2026	2033-40
2107	4500	4002	105 hectares	70 hectares

City Centre

The city centre plays a major role in the commercial, economic, social, civic and cultural life of Aberdeen and the wider north east. It is an important regional centre providing for employment and business interaction, it offers access to a wide range of goods and services, and it is a place where many people meet socially and choose to live and visit. The LDP reinforces the role of the city centre as a regional centre, and the city centre as the preferred location for new retail, commercial, leisure and other city centre uses.

Brownfield Development

There is great support for brownfield development because these sites avoid the need to increase land take for development, they are located in the most sustainable locations and their reuse assists regeneration and supports existing services and facilities. The LDP identifies brownfield sites to meet the requirements of the Strategic Development Plan allowances for development on brownfield land.

The LDP seeks to deliver and identifies several brownfield sites to meet the Strategic Development Plan housing allowances. The LDP includes brownfield opportunities to be 'rolled forward' from the 2017 LDP, as well as several new opportunities from 2018 development bids (Appendix 7-8). Some of the new development bids were classed as alternatives because they are constrained by significant planning or environmental factors. Where a site is preferred, but it would likely have a significant negative impact on the environment, mitigation measures have been identified.

Greenfield Development

Due to the scale of the future development required in Aberdeen City, some development on greenfield sites is accepted as inevitable. The LDP identifies greenfield sites to meet the requirements of the Strategic Development Plan allowances for housing and employment, as well as some other uses.

These greenfield sites include allocations to be 'rolled forward' from the existing LDP, as well as a small number of new preferred sites from 2018 and 2019 development bids (Appendix 7-8). There is a commitment to the development of sites contained in the 2017 LDP, and in general the alternative options identified in the Main Issues Report would have provided a land supply over and above the Strategic Development Plan requirements.

Seven greenfield sites across the city (OP4 North Denmore [30 homes], OP11 Balgownie Area 4 [15 homes], OP26 Old Skene Road [14 homes], OP89 Kaimhill Outdoor Centre [35 homes], OP76 Former Raeden Centre [1.48ha], OP54 Craigton [10 homes]. OP46 Royal Devenick Park [150 homes]) and OP114 Milltimber South [mixed use of 60 dwellings and 1,225 square metres of ancillary retail / office space] have been identified as opportunities for housing in the Plan. Additional greenfield sites have been identified for other uses (e.g. mixed use and new community sites and facilities). Where a site is preferred, but it would have significant negative impacts on the environment, mitigation measures have been identified.

The following policies in the LDP are aimed at delivering the Spatial Strategy:

Land Release Policy

The greenfield land allocations have been phased in line with Strategic Development Plan housing allowances. A significant amount of land has already been released by the existing LDP 2017. The LDP includes policy to allow the further release of land identified for the period 2020-2032 (now 'Phase 1') whilst safeguarding some land for future growth for the period 2033-2040 (now 'Phase 2'). Sites released by the 2017 LDP are in various stages of development and those not yet completed will still be carried forward into the LDP. The land release policy has been assessed in Appendix 9.

Delivering Mixed Communities

The LDP aims to deliver sustainable development and to assist meeting this aim, it requires a mix of housing and employment to be delivered on the larger allocations. The alternative to this approach is to do nothing to encourage mixed communities, and simply provide separate allocations for housing and employment.

Table 4.2: Spatial Strategy Options

Policy	Options
City Centre	<p>Preferred Option This option promotes the sequential approach to city centre development, promoting the city centre as a major regional centre for retail, commercial and leisure development with preference for major retail development in the retail core. It gives protection to retail uses against change of use in the West End Shops and Cafes area. Future development and regeneration of the city centre will be proposed through the City Centre Masterplan and Delivery Programme. The implementation will be public-sector led with involvement and support from the private sector. <i>Remove Union Street Frontages policy – encourage mix of uses with active frontages in union street. Modify city centre boundary. Encourage residential uses in the city centre.</i></p> <p>Alternative Option (as per 2017LDP) Keep City Centre policy as per existing 2017 LDP and maintaining the city centre boundary. Keep Union Street Frontages policy as existing.</p>
Greenfield Sites	<p>Preferred Option Identify: Existing allocations in the adopted LDP which are proposed to be carried forward into the next LDP. A limited number of new greenfield allocations which have been identified from the new Development Bids submitted during the pre-Main Issues Report and Main Issues Report consultations in March 2018 and March 2019 respectively.</p> <p>Alternative Option The alternatives are new development bids that have been rejected. It may also be argued that these bids are beyond the capacity of the Strategic Development Plan to deliver in terms of the supporting infrastructure, environmental resources (e.g. water), environmental safeguards, mitigating and monitoring measures. For this reason, the allocations are likely to have significant adverse effects on the environment cumulatively.</p>
Brownfield Sites	<p>Preferred Option Identify: Existing allocations in the 2017 LDP which are proposed to be carried forward into the next LDP. A number of new brownfield allocations which have been identified from the new development bids submitted during the pre-Main Issues Report and Main Issues Report consultation in March 2018 and March 2019 respectively.</p> <p>Alternative Option These are new development bids that have been rejected in 2019 because of their adverse effects on the environment and other planning constraints to their</p>

		development.
Land Release Policy and Phasing	Preferred Option	A significant amount of land has already been released by the LDP 2017. The LDP includes policy to allow the further release of land identified for the period 2022-2032 ('Phase 1'), whilst still safeguarding some land for future growth in the period 2033-2040 ('Phase 2'). Sites released by the 2017 LDP are in various stages of development and those not yet completed will still be carried forward into the LDP. This option is a logical continuation of the phasing strategy set by the existing LDP.
	Alternative Option	The alternative option is for the LDP to release all of the land identified for both phases 1 and 2 at the same time.
Delivery of Mixed Communities	Preferred Option	The LDP promotes sustainable patterns of development, which can be achieved through a mix of uses to promote walking and cycling and reduce travel between work, home, shopping and leisure. LDP strategy promotes a mix of both housing and employment to be delivered on the larger allocations, along with local facilities.
	Alternative Option	The alternative is to allocate separate sites exclusively for housing and employment uses.

Land Use Policies

Land use policies play a vital role in the assessment of planning applications and seek to ensure that developments identified in the Spatial Strategy are developed in a way that helps to achieve the vision, and minimise the negative environmental, social and economic impacts. The table below shows each policy section, describing the content of the 2017 LDP and any changes proposed through the 2023 Plan. It also shows the alternatives that were considered during the Main Issues Report stage.

Table 4.3: Land Use Policies & Supplementary Guidance Options

Policy	Objectives
Health and Wellbeing	<p>Preferred Option This section addresses requirements for health impact assessments to enhance health benefits in developments, requirements for specialist care facilities and publicly accessible changing places toilets. Developments should not have a detrimental impact on air quality and noise.</p>
	<p>Alternative Option 1 (as per Main Issues Report) In the Main Issues Report, we considered restricting residential care facilities to H1 areas only, or within opportunity sites, where transport links and adjacent uses would likely be most satisfactory.</p>
	<p>Alternative Option 2 The alternative would be to have no health and wellbeing section in the plan.</p>
Infrastructure, Transport and Accessibility	<p>Preferred Option Policy provides for developer contributions towards infrastructure requirements. New developments are required to demonstrate that sufficient measures have been taken to minimise traffic generation and promote sustainable and active travel. Land is also safeguarded for identified strategic transport projects. Infrastructure requirements for new developments are based on 7 masterplan zones. The masterplan for each individual area will set out the detailed requirements for developments in the area and the contribution will be commensurate with the scale of development.</p> <p><i>This section now includes the principle of ‘zero parking’ in the city centre, low and no car development in the inner-city areas, and a requirement for electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Other policies have been subject to minor word changes to improve clarity and strength. We have reduced the number of masterplan zones from 8 to 7. The zone at Friarsfield has been removed because it is almost completed. Policies on Air Quality and Noise have been moved to the Health and Well-being section of the Plan.</i></p>

	<p>Alternative Option Keep policy as in the 2017 LDP. The alternative would be to make the assessment of infrastructure requirements on an application-by-application, ad-hoc basis.</p>
Quality Placemaking	<p>Design policy states that new development must be of a high quality in terms of architecture and place-making, and ensure that it benefits from appropriate amenity. The policy encourages the retention of traditional granite buildings, and ensures designated built heritage is protected from inappropriate development. Proposals must also consider landscape design and their impact on landscape. <i>Policy on Windows and Doors, and Shop fronts have been included – these have been incorporated from SG. There is also a policy on Amenity, and Landscape Design.</i></p>
	<p>Alternative Option Keep policy as in 2017 LDP.</p>
Supporting Business & Industrial Development	<p>Business and Industrial policy sets out what types of uses are appropriate in the different zonings. The policy addresses issues relating to the operation and development of Aberdeen International Airport and the Harbour including its expansion at Bay of Nigg, and a Energy Transition Zone. Pipelines and Major Accident Hazards are also covered. <i>Policies have been subject to minor wording changes to improve clarity and strength. The West End Office Area policy is now 'The West End' and sits within the Vibrant City section. Policy on Energy Transition Zones has been included.</i></p>
	<p>Alternative Option 1 (as per Main Issues Report) In the main issues report, we considered a return to only residential uses in the West End Office Area as an alternative option.</p>
	<p>Alternative Option 2 Keep policy as in the 2017 LDP.</p>
Housing and Community	<p>LDP policy seeks to meet housing needs and create sustainable communities by setting out requirements for density, mix and affordable housing in new developments. It explains what factors development proposals must consider in residential areas, mixed use areas and those which are close to the airport. Policy provides guidance on new Gypsy and Traveller Sites and existing and new community facilities. <i>We have included policy on student accommodation developments and houses in multiple occupation and overprovision. Other policies have been subject to minor word changes to improve clarity and strength.</i></p>
	<p>Alternative Option 1 In the Main Issues Report, alternative options were to restrict student accommodation development to H1 areas only, or within opportunity sites, where transport links and adjacent uses would likely be most satisfactory. An alternative option for houses in multiple occupation was to have an</p>

	<p>overprovision policy which restricts HMOs to specific areas within walking distance radius of higher education facilities.</p> <p>Alternative Option 2 Keep policy as in the 2017 LDP.</p>
The Vibrant City	<p>Vibrant City policy outlines the sequential testing approach which will be applied to all retail, commercial and leisure proposals according to the hierarchy of retail centres. It addresses proposals in out-of-town centres, local shops and new development areas.</p> <p><i>This section now includes The West End policy which promotes a mix of uses in the area. This was previously in the Business and Industrial Development section of the LDP. It also includes three new policies: Vibrant City, Tourism and Culture, City Centre Living. These policies support development and facilities that encourage vibrancy and vitality in the city centre, as well as the retention and conversion of upper floors to residential development. The policies have been subject to minor word changes to improve clarity and strength.</i></p> <p>Alternative Option 1 (as per Main Issues Report) In the Main Issues Report the alternative option was to have no policy on city centre living or use existing policy NC1: City Centre Regional Centre to support new developments and tourist and visitor attractions in the city centre.</p> <p>Alternative Option 2 Keep policy as in the 2017 LDP.</p>
Natural Environment	<p>This section addresses appropriate uses in the green belt, as well as the position on green space network, urban green space policy zonings and requirements for open space in new development. Other policies seek to protect trees, the coast and natural heritage from inappropriate development. It also addresses flooding and drainage, and access and recreation issues. <i>Existing policies NE1: Green Space Network, NE3: Urban Green Space, NE4: Open Space Provision and NE9: Access and Informal Recreation have been amalgamated to become policy NE2: Green & Blue Infrastructure. Other policies have been subject to minor word changes to improve clarity and strength.</i></p> <p>Alternative Option Keep policy as in 2017 LDP.</p>
Resources	<p>Resources policy relates to the development of mineral resources and also sets out planning policies for new waste management facilities and requirements.</p> <p><i>Policy R4: Sites for New Waste Management Facilities has been amalgamated into existing policy R3: New Waste Management Facilities. The policies have been subject to minor word changes to improve clarity and strength.</i></p>

	<p>Alternative Option Keep policy as in the 2017 LDP.</p>
<p>Low and Zero Carbon Buildings, and Water Efficiency</p>	<p>Policies address standards for low and zero carbon buildings and new energy developments for renewable and low carbon energy developments. <i>New policy supporting the development of heat networks across the city has been included. Other policies have been subject to minor word changes to improve clarity and strength. Targets set out in existing Supplementary Guidance: Resources for New Developments have been incorporated into policy R7.</i></p>
	<p>Alternative Option (as per Main Issues Report) In the Main Issues Report the alternative was to increase the levels of expected carbon reduction with regards to low and zero carbon buildings. The alternative with regards to heat networks was to include a policy requiring all new development within the city to connect to, or develop a new heat network.</p>
	<p>Alternative Option 2 Keep policy as in the 2017 LDP.</p>

Plan, Programme or Strategy Context

Relationship with other PPS and Environmental Objectives

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that the Environmental Report includes an outline of how the LDP is influenced by other relevant plan, programmes and strategies (PPS) and how environmental protection objectives have been taken into account in the LDP's preparation. This section covers these issues and describes the policy context within which the LDP operates, and the constraints and targets that this context imposes on the LDP. Table 5.1 lists the relevant PPS to the LDP. Appendix 4 shows a more detailed analysis of each relevant PPS and its implications for the LDP.

Table 5.1: Relevant PPS & environmental protective objectives of the LDP

Name of Plan, Programme, Strategy or Environmental Protection Strategy	
International Level	
Nature Conservation	
	The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC
	The Birds Directive 2009/147/EC
	European Biodiversity Framework
Water	
	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC
	Nitrate Directive 91/43/EC
Waste	
	The Landfill Directive 99/31/EC
	The Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC
	Taking Sustainable Use of Resources Forward: A Thematic Strategy on the Prevention and Recycling of Waste (2005)
Climate Change	
	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
	The Second European Climate Change Programme (currently in preparation)
National Level	
Overarching Planning Policy	
	Planning (Scotland) Act 2019
	National Planning Framework for Scotland 3 (NPF3) (2014)
	Scottish Planning Policy 2014
Cross- Sectoral	
	Transport (Scotland) Act 2019
	National Transport Strategy 2 (2020)
	Strategic Transport Projects Review (2009)
	The Government's Economic Strategy (2007)
	Choosing Our Future: Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)
	Natural Resource Productivity (2009)

	Name of Plan, Programme, Strategy or Environmental Protection Strategy
	Getting the Best from our Land: A Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2016-2021
	Building a Better Scotland Infrastructure Investment Plan: Investing in the Future of Scotland (2005)
Air and Climate Change	
	Environment Act 1995
	Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019
	Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP) Progress Report 2018
	Climate Change Plan: Third Report on Proposals and Policies 2018-2032 (RPP3)
	Scottish Climate Change Delivery Plan (2009)
	Scottish Energy Strategy 2017
	The Heat Policy Statement: Towards Decarbonising Heat: Maximising the Opportunities for Scotland
	UK Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland - Volume 1 (2011)
	Clean Air Scotland – The Road to a Healthier Future (2015)
	A Low Carbon Economic Strategy for Scotland (2010)
	Planning Advice Note 84 Reducing Carbon Emissions in New Development (2008)
Heritage, Design and Regeneration	
	The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1997
	Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS 2019)
	Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland (2014)
	Creating Places - A policy statement on architecture and place for Scotland (2013)
	Designing Streets: A Policy Statement for Scotland (2010)
	People and Place: Regeneration Policy Statement (2006)
	Green Infrastructure: Design and Placemaking (2011)
Soil and Landscape	
	The Scottish Soil Framework (2009)
	Scottish Landscape Forum: Scotland's Living Landscape (2007)
	Fitting Landscapes
Homes, Population and Health	
	Homes Fit for the 21 st Century: The Scottish Government's Strategy and Action Plan for Housing in the Next Decade 2011-2020 (2011)
	All Our Futures: Planning for a Scotland with an Ageing Population (2007)
	Reaching Higher- Building on the Success of Sport 21 (2007) (Scotland's Sport Strategy)
	Let's Make Scotland More Active: A Strategy for Physical Activity (2003)
	Let's Get Scotland Walking – The National Strategy
	Cycling Action Plan for Scotland 2017-2020
	A Long-Term Vision for Active Travel in Scotland 2030
	Equality Act 2010
	Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 and 2005
	Community Empowerment Act 2015
Natural Conservation	
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
	The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
	Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy- It's in your hands (2004)
	2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity - A Strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland (2013)

	Name of Plan, Programme, Strategy or Environmental Protection Strategy
	The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)
	The Conservation (Natural Habitats) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2007
	Making the Links: Greenspace for a More Successful and Sustainable Scotland (2009)
Water	
	Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011, as amended
	Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003
	Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005
	Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009
	The River Basin Management Plan for the Scotland River Basin District: 2015–2027 (2015)
	Scottish Water Strategic Asset and Capacity Development Plan (2012)
	SEPA Groundwater Protection Policy for Scotland v3: Environmental Policy 19 (SEPA)
	Action Programme for Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (Scotland) Regulations 2008)
Waste	
	Scotland's Zero Waste Plan (2010)
	SEPA Guidelines for Thermal Treatment of Municipal Waste
	The Landfill Directive 99/31/EC
	The Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC
	Taking Sustainable Use of Resources Forward: A Thematic Strategy on the Prevention and Recycling of Waste (2005)
Marine and Coastal	
	SEAS The Opportunity: A Strategy for the Long Term Sustainability of Scotland's Coasts and Seas (2005)
	Marine (Scotland) Act 2010
	UK Marine Policy Statement
	Our Seas- A Shared Resource. High Level Marine Objectives (2009)
Cross- Sector Guidance	
	PAN 60: Planning for Natural Heritage
	PAN 61: Planning and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
	Planning and Waste Management Advice (2015)
	PAN 65: Planning and Open Space
	PAN 75: Transport and Planning
	PAN 76: New Residential Streets
	PAN 77: Designing Safer Places
	PAN 78: Inclusive Design
Regional Level	
Overarching Planning Policy	
	Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2020
Cross- Sectoral	
	Regional Economic Strategy – Securing the Future of the North East 2015
	The Economic Action Plan for Aberdeen City and Shire to 2025
	NESTRANS Regional Transport Strategy Refresh (2013)
	Building on our Strengths 2013-2020: Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Tourism Strategy
Nature Conservation	

	Name of Plan, Programme, Strategy or Environmental Protection Strategy
	North East of Scotland Biodiversity Partnership - Action Plan 2014 - 2017
	Forestry and Woodlands Strategy 2017
	River Dee Catchment Management Plan (2007)
Local Level	
	Draft Aberdeen Local Housing Strategy 2018-2023
	Aberdeen City Local Transport Strategy 2016 - 2021
	Aberdeen City Air Quality Action Plan
	Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26
	Aberdeen City Centre Masterplan and Delivery Programme 2015
	Aberdeen Nature Conservation Strategy 2010-2015
	Forestry Commission Scotland Management Plans: Aberdeen Woods and Dyce Woods
	Open Space Audit and Strategy 2011-2016
	Aberdeen City Core Paths Plan
	Landscape Character Assessment of Aberdeen
	Contaminated Land Strategy
	Aberdeen City Waste Strategy 2014-25
	Powering Aberdeen – Aberdeen Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2016

From the analysis of the relevant environmental protection objectives contained in these plans, programmes and strategies, the key points arising from this analysis are that the Local Development Plan should:

Avoid adverse impacts on both statutory and non-statutory protected sites for natural heritage interests i.e. habitats, species, earth science interests and landscape interests including:

Internationally important Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the terms of the Conservation Regulations 1994

Nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) notified under the terms of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Nationally important areas for landscape and visual amenity e.g. Designed Landscapes

Locally important wildlife sites e.g. Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and Local Nature Conservation Sites.

Ensure compliance with statutory provisions for statutory protected species and with regional biodiversity plans e.g.

EPS (e.g. otters and bats), Wildlife and Countryside Act schedule 1 species (e.g. golden eagle),

Wildlife and Countryside Act schedule 5 species (e.g. red squirrel and water vole),

the Protection of Badgers Act, and with objectives of North East Scotland Biodiversity Action Plan (e.g. aspen hover fly and wych elm)

Promote biodiversity, maintain and restore natural habitats and habitat networks.

Maintain and support landscape character and local distinctiveness.

Promote the provision of access links to adjacent access routes e.g. core path network, or existing footpaths.

Promote sustainable use of water and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts;
 Support strategies that help to limit or reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases;
 Encourage increased use of renewable energy resources and more efficient use of energy and water
 Support strategies that help to limit or reduce the emissions of pollutants;
 Protect wildlife from disturbance, injury or intentional destruction;
 Promote good design, safe environment, clean environment and good quality services;
 Promote sustainable alternatives to car and reduce congestion traffic pollution through walking, cycling and the location of sports facilities;
 Promote economic growth, social inclusion, environmental improvement, health and safety;
 Promote strategies that do not degrade the coastal environment;
 Promote the economy, support the community and the public service;
 Set the framework for development consents for major sport facilities development;
 Help to promote, protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment;
 Seek to promote watercourses as valuable landscape features and wildlife habitats;
 Ensure that the water quality and good ecological status of the water framework directive are maintained;
 Avoid introduction or spread of non-native species; and
 Ensure terrestrial and marine spatial planning is integrated.

Current State of the Environment and Characteristics of Areas Likely to be Significantly Affected

The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 Schedule 3 requires that the Environmental Report includes a description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment. This section describes the environmental context within which the LDP operates and the constraints and targets that this context imposes on the PPS. A detailed analysis of the baseline data is presented in Appendix 5. The analysis of the baseline information indicates that the LDP is likely to have more significant effects on certain areas than others. This is due to the sensitivity of those areas in terms of international, national and local designation. Although other areas may not be designated, the effects on those sites from the plan could be cumulative.

Environmental Problems, Likely Evolution of the Environment Without the LDP and Possible Role of the LDP

The Environmental Report is required to identify the environmental issues, trends or problems in Aberdeen City, the likely evolution of the environment without the LDP, and the potential role of the LDP in addressing these. Environmental problems that affect the PPS were identified through discussions with sustainability officers, sports and culture officers; analysis of baseline data relevant to Aberdeen City and previous SEAs. Some of the problems relating to the City are taken up in the Core Paths Plan and Draft Aberdeen Local Housing Strategy.

It is important to clarify that this completes the review of the 2017 LDP adopted in January 2017 and that without review the 2017 LDP would remain. With this in mind the likely evolution of the environment without the LDP is likely to focus on anything that is likely to change between the plans. There are also other local and regional PPS listed in Table 5.1, for example the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2020, Local Transport Strategy, the Draft Local Housing Strategy and the Core Paths Plan, which will involve physical development which will have environmental consequences; both positive and negative. It is envisaged that future changes to the environment are inevitable due to natural processes, but also due to human interventions that are unconnected with the LDP. The existing environmental problems described in the previous section would likely persist in the absence of an LDP.

Table 5.2 describes the environmental problems in Aberdeen, their likely evolution without the LDP and the possible role of the LDP.

Table 5.2: Potential Environmental Changes without the LDP

SEA Topic	Issues/Trends/Environmental Problems	Likely Evolution Without the LDP	Possible role of LDP
<p>Biodiversity, flora & fauna</p>	<p>Potential disturbance to protected species from new development. Potential loss of green space to develop housing and employment areas. Disturbance to species from new development. Potential loss of green linkages and wildlife corridors. Pressure on the River Dee SAC from abstraction. Pressure on Local Nature Conservation Sites. Pressure on Protected Species from new development through disturbance or loss of resting places and habitats. Loss of biodiversity action plan species and habitats as a result of new development. Potential loss, fragmentation or inadequate supply of green networks and wildlife corridors as a result of new development. Alteration in the management of green space as a result of new development. Introduction of alien species of animals or plants as a result of new development.</p>	<p>The effects on biodiversity predicted due to the plan would not occur and adverse effects on biodiversity caused by other activities would remain. This includes the loss and fragmentation of habitats caused by unplanned development not promoted by the Strategic Development Plan and Local Development Plan.</p>	<p>The Local Development Plan should protect biodiversity through minimising the impact on protected and non-protected designations and provide opportunities to enhance biodiversity.</p>
<p>Air Quality & Climatic Factors</p>	<p>Temporary release of particulate matter in constructing new development. Substantial energy consumption in new developments and in transport.</p>	<p>A lack of development opportunities in the city could force development further away and increase commuting, contributing to</p>	<p>The Local Development Plan should encourage the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures in buildings. It should also</p>

	<p>Lack of renewable energy use in new developments.</p> <p>Continuing car dependence with high CO2 emissions.</p> <p>Energy consumption with respect to transport – including consideration of alternative fuels to petrol & diesel.</p> <p>Energy consumption of new development – including consideration of district heating.</p>	<p>greenhouse gases, air pollution and nuisance. The implementation of the PPS will continue to affect air and climatic factors.</p>	<p>encourage consideration of district heating in new developments, and alternative fuels to petrol and diesel for vehicles.</p> <p>The implementation of the strategy should minimise car dependence, air pollution and nuisance.</p>
Water	<p>Potential pollution from new developments, especially industrial areas.</p> <p>Disturbance to qualifying features in River Dee from new development, including as a result of water abstraction.</p> <p>Increased need to abstract water during the construction of, and servicing new development.</p> <p>Flooding events are predicted to increase in frequency and severity due to the effects of climate change; consequently, any future development below 5m datum is liable to flooding.</p>	<p>Adverse effects on water quality would remain in the absence of the strategy. There is the opportunity to further refine policies on water to minimise the environmental impact.</p> <p>Construction associated with other plans would still occur and agricultural run-off would continue to cause pollution of water bodies.</p>	<p>The Local Development Plan should minimise water pollution and avoid disturbance to qualifying features of the River Dee.</p> <p>The implementation of the Local Development Plan should avoid the risk of flooding.</p> <p>The implementation of the Local Development Plan should improve water quality and ensure sustainable use of water.</p>
Soil	<p>Impact of run-off from hard surfaces and new development.</p> <p>Soil sealing and compaction arising from new development.</p> <p>Substances used in construction, cleaning and redevelopment could potentially contaminate the soil.</p> <p>Increase in the amount of waste arising from new development.</p>	<p>Impacts on soil caused by the development of the strategy may not necessarily occur. Those impacts on soils and agricultural land associated with proposals within other plans and human activities would remain.</p>	<p>The Local Development Plan should ensure that SuDS are delivered in new development.</p> <p>The implementation of developments should avoid soil contamination. The waste hierarchy should be promoted.</p>

	There is only a limited amount of carbon- rich soil in Aberdeen and it is not considered to be a significant environmental factor.		
Landscape	<p>New development reducing public open space and green space in the city.</p> <p>New development harming the landscape setting of the city.</p> <p>New developments harming landscape features.</p> <p>New development resulting in coalescence and urban sprawl.</p>	Impacts on landscape character resulting from the plan are not expected to be significantly changed as the major greenfield allocations made in the 2017 Local Development Plan are being carried forward. Also, most of the allocations in the Plan are on brownfield land. There would be a greater risk of unplanned sporadic development affecting landscape character without an up-to-date Local Development Plan. Those impacts associated with proposals within other plans and human activities would remain.	<p>The Local Development Plan must ensure that playing fields and public open spaces are protected.</p> <p>The Local Development Plan must take into account landscape setting when setting the allocations.</p> <p>The Local Development Plan should safeguard character.</p>
Cultural Heritage	<p>New development can potentially impact on historical features.</p> <p>Development activities can damage historical features.</p>	The effects on the historic environment resulting from the plan may not occur. There may be opportunities to enhance the policies on design and cultural heritage that would be lost without reviewing the Local Development Plan.	The Local Development Plan should protect and where appropriate enhance the historical environment. It should manage the conflict between modern requirements and historic buildings.
Population & Human Health	Development activities around certain parts of the city, declared air quality	Without development, the city's population could decline, resulting in	The Local Development Plan must recognise air quality management

	<p>management areas, affecting people's health.</p> <p>Inadequate provision of open space and sporting facilities.</p> <p>Severance of links between residential areas and recreational sites limiting healthy sporting activities.</p> <p>Lack of spaces for food growing.</p> <p>Lack of family housing leading to a decline in the number of younger people.</p> <p>Changing demographics – loss of population and ageing population</p> <p>Lack of affordable housing.</p> <p>Energy and consumption with respect to transport – including consideration of alternative fuels to petrol & diesel.</p> <p>Energy consumption of new development – including consideration of district heating.</p>	<p>falling demand for schools and other facilities.</p>	<p>areas.</p> <p>The Local Development Plan should provide adequate sport facilities, open spaces, affordable housing and family housing.</p> <p>The Local Development Plan should support food growing spaces.</p> <p>The Local Development Plan should take into account the needs of all sectors of society.</p>
<p>Material Assets</p>	<p>Lack of adequate housing land, employment land and community facilities to meet the needs of people in Aberdeen city.</p> <p>Lack of adequate infrastructure to accommodate the scale of housing proposed for the city.</p> <p>Limited use of recycled building materials.</p> <p>New infrastructure / major developments require improvements.</p> <p>Major development not identified in the development plan.</p> <p>Impacts on River Dee and the water environment due to infrastructure.</p>	<p>Other PPS being implemented in the city, such as the Aberdeen Housing Strategy are likely to affect material assets.</p>	<p>The Local Development Plan should promote the development requirements of the Strategic Development Plan. It should support regular maintenance and improvement of key infrastructure projects including rainwater and waste water infrastructure, while at the same time protecting key water environments.</p>

	Public water supply requirements on the River Dee. Rainwater and waste water infrastructure including impacts on water environment.		
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Assessment

Scoping in of SEA Issues

We scoped in the whole of the LDP, in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. This was because we knew the LDP is likely to have a significant effect on all the environmental issues.

Preferred Options and Alternatives

As part of the consultation and background work on the LDP, we considered many different options for the strategic, policy and site-specific aspects of the plan (see Tables 4.2 and 4.3 for a summary of the options we considered). All the preferred options and the alternatives we considered have been subject to an SEA assessment to determine their suitability for the LDP.

Assessment of Environmental Effects

We have assessed all of the options in the LDP against SEA topics or 'indicators'. We have predicted whether the effects of the LDP will be negative, positive, uncertain, or neutral. We also considered the reversibility or irreversibility of the effects, risks, the duration of the impact (permanent, temporary, long-term, short-term and medium-term) and the cumulative impact (direct, indirect, secondary and synergistic) of the different aspects of the plan working together. Where a strategic option scored badly against SEA indicators, it was rejected unless there are other overriding planning considerations.

SEA and Decision-making

The LDP allocates brownfield and greenfield sites as opportunities for development. The following sections explain the assessment process for the land allocations and how the SEA assessment has informed decision making for the LDP.

Greenfield Sites

Overall, there is a requirement to identify greenfield sites to accommodate a significant amount of new homes and employment uses, and there will be an inevitable environmental effect resulting from this. The limited preferred greenfield site options have been selected as a result of the environmental assessment, planning assessment and public consultation on the Main Issues Report. They fit with the spatial strategy in the Strategic Development Plan and minimise the overall impact on the environment, as informed by the SEA. Where preferred site options result in a likely significant environmental effect, a requirement for mitigation has been highlighted.

We will be carrying forward the greenfield sites allocated in the 2017 LDP. The SDP requires us to identify further land for housing. The vast majority of new development bids have been identified as alternative sites. In some cases, the alternative sites would have a significant impact on the environment or do not fit with the spatial strategy, or would be beyond the capacity of the SDP to deliver in terms of the

supporting infrastructure, environmental resources (e.g. water), environmental safeguards, mitigation and monitoring measures. For this reason, the alternative allocations are likely to have significant adverse effects on the environment cumulatively, if allowed. However, the LDP identifies a limited number of preferred greenfield options for other uses: housing, a stadium and community facilities.

Brownfield Sites

Many of the brownfield site allocations from the 2017 LDP have been carried forward into the LDP with no change (we have removed those that have been developed, or no longer have a realistic prospect of being so). We have also identified some preferred options from new development bids. There is broad support in the strategy for brownfield development because these sites avoid the need to increase land take for development and they are located in the most sustainable locations, and their reuse assists regeneration and supports existing services and facilities. Identifying new brownfield opportunities for housing, employment or other uses is consistent with the SDP. However, through the SEA assessment process, some brownfield proposals have been identified as having a more significant impact on particular environmental indicators. These have not been taken forward into the LDP. In general, however, brownfield development is a more sustainable option than greenfield development, and the Strategic Development Plan Spatial Strategy requires the LDP to identify a significant amount of brownfield land for development. Where a site is preferred, but there are still constraints to its development, mitigation measures have been identified.

Land Use Policy and Supplementary and Non-Statutory Guidance Options

The LDP contains the policies against which all planning applications will be assessed. Some policies promote development, and some ensure that development takes place in the right way and does not have a negative impact on the environment. The majority of policy in the 2017 LDP have been carried forward into the LDP with only minor changes to provide extra clarification, further detail, corrections or technical updates. Some other policies have been subject to more significant change and there are also a small number of brand new policies. Each individual policy has been fully reassessed for the LDP.

While the 2017 LDP included supplementary guidance, for the 2023 LDP existing supplementary guidance will be taken forward as non-statutory planning guidance titled 'Aberdeen Planning Guidance'. This is with the exception of Developer Obligations which will be taken forward as supplementary guidance.

All of the policies and the SG contained in the Plan have been assessed against SEA indicators. The SEA process has also been used to refine these policies and supplementary guidance to minimise negative impact on the environment and maximise the positive benefits. The summaries of the assessments of policies and supplementary guidance are contained in Appendix 9 and 10.

Masterplans

The LDP requires masterplans to be produced for the larger development areas. Masterplans will improve the quality of the development, and often play a key role in mitigating the impact of a development on the environment. Many of the sites

identified in the LDP already have adopted masterplans which are subject to individual SEA screening, and any future masterplans or development frameworks produced will also be subject to SEA screening.

Framework for Assessing Environmental Effects

We have assessed the policies and allocations considered as part of the LDP against SEA topics. We have predicted whether these effects are negative, positive, uncertain, mixed or neutral effects. We have further evaluated their significance on the receptors in relation to reversibility or irreversibility of effects, risks and duration (permanent, temporary, long-term, short-term and medium-term). We have also assessed cumulative effects in a separate table.

Comments from the Consultation Authorities (SNH, SEPA and Historic Environment Scotland) have been taken into account regarding the methods, scope and level of detail in this Environmental Report. To help the assessment process and ensure consistency we set questions based on the SEA topics; the objectives and questions we used are set out in Table 6.1: Environmental Objectives and Questions.

Table 6.1: Environmental Objectives and Questions

Site assessment question	Objective/ Related SEA topic if applicable	Does the development ...
<p>Water Promote sustainable use of water and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts. Ensure that the water quality and good ecological status of the water framework directive are maintained. Maintain water abstraction, run-off and recharge within carrying capacity.</p>		
<p>Could the option result in a change of status of a water body or significantly affect a designated water body as identified in the Scotland River Basin Management Plan?</p>	<p>Water</p>	<p>Increase development that physically impacts on a watercourse or the coastline? Result in the release of water-borne pollution into watercourses, groundwater or reservoirs during construction or longer term? Increase the amount of surface water run-off into water bodies?</p>
<p>Could the option have a direct impact on the water environment (for example result in the need for watercourse crossings or a large-scale abstraction or allow the de-culverting of a watercourse)?</p>		<p>Increase the need to abstract water during the construction of, and servicing new development? Result in the release of water-borne pollution into watercourses, groundwater or reservoirs during construction or longer term? Increase the area at risk from flooding, or result in increased flooding in other areas? Increase the area vulnerable to the effects of changes in climate, including increased rainfall and extreme weather events?</p>
<p>Can the option connect to the public foul sewer?</p>		<p>Allow or encourage connection to the public sewerage system?</p>
<p>Does the option avoid impact on Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTEs) i.e. are there any wetlands and boggy areas on the site?</p>	<p>Water and Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora</p>	<p>Does the development harm any existing wetlands/boggy areas?</p>
<p>For large scale developments are there any private or public water supplies within 250m of the site which may be affected?</p>	<p>Water and Human Health</p>	<p>Will the development be connected to the public/private water supplies? Is there capacity?</p>

Site assessment question	Objective/ Related SEA topic if applicable	Does the development ...
<p><i>Flood Risk</i></p> <p>Is the site thought to be at risk of flooding or could its development result in additional flood risk elsewhere?</p> <p>Could the development of the site help alleviate any existing flooding problems in the area?</p>	<p>Water, Climatic Factors and Human Health</p>	<p>Increase the area at risk from flooding, or result in increased flooding in other areas?</p> <p>Increase the area vulnerable to the effects of changes in climate, including increased rainfall and extreme weather events?</p> <p>Locate development in areas at risk from flooding?</p> <p>Ensure adequate space is provided for surface water drainage including SUDS to be implemented?</p>
<p>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</p> <p>Conserve, protect and enhance the diversity of species and habitats and natural heritage of Aberdeen.</p> <p>Maintain and enhance the populations of protected species, including European Protected Species, including protection of their resting places or roosts.</p> <p>Maintain or enhance existing green networks and improve connectivity/function and create new links where needed.</p>		
<p>To what extent will the proposal affect biodiversity, flora and fauna interests? In particular:</p> <p><i>International designation (SAC/SPA)</i></p> <p><i>Other designation (SSSI, NNR and LNRs)</i></p> <p><i>Non-designated (TPOs, hedges, woodlands, species rich grasslands)</i></p> <p><i>Habitat connectivity, wildlife corridors</i></p> <p>To what extent will the proposal affect protected species? – e.g. bats, otters, etc.</p>	<p>Bio flora and fauna</p>	<p>Protect, provide and improve habitats to enhance biodiversity?</p> <p>Affect the conservation objectives of any international, national or locally designated site? If yes, HRA required.</p> <p>Result in any negative impacts or place pressure on the conservation objectives of the River Dee SAC? If yes, HRA required.</p> <p>Protect and enhance areas of existing trees, woodland and hedges?</p> <p>Affect populations of any protected species, their habitats and resting places or roosts?</p> <p>(Protected species include Otters, Bats, Red Squirrels, Water Vole, Badgers and species in the North East Scotland Biodiversity Action Plan)</p>

Site assessment question	Objective/ Related SEA topic if applicable	Does the development ...
Are there any local geodiversity sites or wider geodiversity interests that could be affected by the proposal?		Geodiversity sites include Bay of Nigg (Balnagask to Cove).
Climate Change mitigation Limit or reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases and promote the production of renewable energy. Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change.		
What is the proposal overall impact in terms of carbon emissions (using SPACE - Spatial Planning Assessment of Climate Emissions)?	Climatic Factors	Promote sustainable and active travel? Significantly increase energy consumption (proposed use and volume of users compared to existing)? Significantly increase production of waste? Promote the use of renewable energy and the efficient use of energy and water? Result in the development of peat rich soils?
Air Quality Limit or reduce the emissions of pollutants		
Could the option lead to Local Air Quality Management thresholds being breached in Aberdeen's existing Air Quality Management Areas?	Air	Impact on or be affected by the Air Quality Management Areas (City Centre, Anderson Drive, Wellington Road)?
Could the option lead to the designation of a new Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)?		Result in the temporary release of particulate matter in constructing new development? Increase vehicle traffic increasing carbon footprint and negatively impacting on air quality?
Will the option lead to a sensitive use being located close to a site regulated for emissions to air by SEPA?	Air and Human Health	Is it in close proximity to a landfill site, factory, waste water treatment works, MERF, energy from waste site?

Site assessment question	Objective/ Related SEA topic if applicable	Does the development ...
<p>Service Infrastructure</p> <p>Protect and enhance outdoor access opportunities and access rights. Protect and enhance human health. Promote economic growth, social inclusion, environmental improvement, health and safety.</p>		
<p>Education capacity - Secondary School Catchment Area/ Primary school catchment area Health provision</p>	<p>Population and human health or material assets</p>	<p>What is the capacity? Is there enough capacity? Is there a GP surgery nearby?</p>
<p>To what extent will the proposal affect the quality and quantity of open space and connectivity and accessibility to open space or result in a loss of open space?</p>		<p>Reduce public open space and green space in the city? Improve and make provision of open space and sporting facilities? Result in the severance of links between residential areas and recreational sites, limiting healthy sporting activities?</p>
<p>To what extent will the proposal affect core path links or other key access networks such as cycle paths, coastal paths and rights of way?</p>		<p>Are these things present? Remove or sever any core path or right of way? Provide improved access to natural and built assets?</p>
<p>Will the proposal have the opportunity to enhance the green network through for example the green infrastructure on site?</p>		<p>Remove or sever existing green network in or around the development? Improve existing green networks?</p>
<p>Soils</p> <p>Reduce contamination, safeguard soil quantity and quality</p>		
<p>Is the option on greenfield or brownfield land?</p>	<p>Material Assets and Soils</p>	<p>Is it greenfield or brownfield land? Does it result in soil sealing and compaction?</p>

Site assessment question	Objective/ Related SEA topic if applicable	Does the development ...
Are there any contaminated soils issues on the site and if so, will the option reduce contamination?		<p>Result in the release of substances during construction, cleaning or redevelopment that could potentially contaminate the soil?</p> <p>Ensure that possible contamination will be properly remediated and not impact upon sensitive receptors such as human health or the water environment?</p>
Is the proposal on peatland and could the development of the site lead to a loss of peat?	Climatic Factors and Soils	Result in the development of peat rich soils?
Does the proposal result in the loss of the best quality agricultural land?	Soils	Check Land Capacity for Agricultural Data
<p>Deliverability/sustainability constraints</p> <p>Promote good design, safe environment, clean environment and good quality services. Protect and enhance outdoor access opportunities and access rights.</p>		
<p>Will the site be delivered within the LDP timeframe?</p> <p>Other site servicing constraints, e.g. electricity pylons, underground gas pipelines etc.</p>	Material assets	<p>Provide adequate housing land, employment land and community facilities to meet the needs of people in Aberdeen City within the Plan timeline?</p> <p>Is there a connection to existing utilities?</p>
Site aspect – does the site make best use of solar gain? Is the site protected from prevailing winds?	Climatic factors	<p>Is the site north facing, east or west facing or south-west, south, south-east facing?</p> <p>Does the site have shelter from northerly winds through topography, vegetation and/or presence of frost pockets likely to occur?</p> <p>Does any part of the site have steep slopes or undulations?</p>
Vehicular Access constraints or opportunities - Road network capable of accommodating traffic generated?	Material assets and climatic factors	Can the road network cope?

Site assessment question	Objective/ Related SEA topic if applicable	Does the development ...
<p>Is the site close to a range of facilities? Can these be accessed by public transport?</p>	<p>Climatic factors and human health</p>	<p>Proximity to bus/rail network (400m) Proximity to car clubs Shopping, health or recreation spaces (800m) Proximity to significant employment opportunities (1.6km) Promote the provision of safe pedestrian access links? Remove or sever any core path or right of way?</p>
<p>Landscape Designated sites Maintain and support landscape character and local distinctiveness.</p>		
<p>Non-designated landscape features and key landscape interests Does the proposal ensure that development does not exceed the capacity of the landscape to accommodate it? Such as current settlement boundaries, existing townscape and character of surrounding area?</p>	<p>Landscape</p>	<p>Detract from or harm the landscape setting of the city? Result in coalescence of settlements or urban sprawl?</p>
<p>To what extent will the proposal affect features of landscape interest, including the distinctive character of the landscape and the qualities of wild land?</p>		<p>Impact Valleys, Coasts, Hills? Detract from or harm the landscape setting of the city? Impact on any landscape or geological features? Degrade the coastal environment? Impact on any landscape or geological features?</p>
<p>Material assets Minimise waste.</p>		

Site assessment question	Objective/ Related SEA topic if applicable	Does the development ...
Will the option minimise demand on primary resources e.g. does the development re-use an existing structure or recycle or recover existing on-site materials / resources?	Material Assets	<p>Is it a brownfield site?</p> <p>Are materials being reused/converted?</p> <p>Allow for the sustainable use of resources including waste and energy?</p>
Is the option in the vicinity of a waste management site and could therefore compromise the waste handling operation?	Material Assets and Human Health	<p>Direct waste to the MERF and Energy from Waste Plant operational in Aberdeen?</p> <p>Promote more sustainable waste facilities to divert it away from landfill?</p> <p>Ensure adequate space for kerbside collection or recycling facilities in new development?</p>
For potential waste management activity sites (includes allocation for employment, industrial or storage and distribution uses) - does the proposal comply with the locational criteria set out in Scottish Planning Policy – Planning for Zero Waste?	Material Assets	Does the proposal comply with Scottish Planning Policy (pg41-44)?
<p>Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Promote protect and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment.</p>		
Will the option affect any archaeological sites, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, Conservation Areas (will it result in the demolition of any buildings), inventory historic battlefields, world heritage sites or their setting?	Cultural heritage, incl architectural and archaeological heritage (and links with landscape)	<p>Conserve and enhance historic buildings, archaeological sites, conservation areas?</p> <p>Impact on the landscape setting of Aberdeen or any historic features or sites listed on GIS or the Canmore Database https://canmore.org.uk/ ?</p>

Site assessment question	Objective/ Related SEA topic if applicable	Does the development ...
Will the option affect any Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape?	Cultural heritage, incl links with landscape	Affect Duthie Park?
To what extent will the proposal result in the opportunity to enhance or improve access to the historic environment?	Cultural heritage, incl architectural and archaeological heritage and links with landscape	Does the proposal enhance or improve access to the historic environment?
Population Promote economic growth, social Inclusion, environmental improvement, health and safety.		
Promote economic growth, social Inclusion, environmental improvement, health and safety;	Population	Provide a range of house types and sizes to support identified population needs? Support an ageing population by providing appropriate type and location of housing, facilities and public transport? Deliver affordable housing?
Human health Protect and enhance human health.		
Protect and enhance human health	Human health and air quality	Allow development activities around certain parts of the city that are declared air quality management areas, resulting in a negative effect on people's health?

Note on the assessment of Water

We frequently refer to the water abstraction levels of the River Dee in the various assessments. It is accepted that the plan will increase water abstraction levels from the River Dee in order to support additional development. However, all water abstractions are licenced and all engineering works in or near rivers and lochs must make sure the appropriate authorisations are in place before work begins. Scottish Water have confirmed that the levels of development proposed by the Strategic Development Plan and therefore this Proposed Local Development Plan fall within current licence levels. Decisions regarding acceptable water abstraction levels from the River Dee may be discussed between Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Water and NatureScot. The Habitats Regulations also has a bearing on this issue. The license for abstraction for the public water supply from the River Dee is held by Scottish Water and SEPA is the principal regulator of that abstraction license. covers this issue.

Cumulative Effect Assessment

Paragraph 6 (e) of Schedule 3, of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that we assess the likely significant effects on the environment, including secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects. As such we have assessed the likely significant effects that all the components of the plan will have on the environment. In the cumulative effects assessment, we have assessed direct/indirect/secondary, time crowding, time lag, space crowding, cross-boundary, nibbling and synergistic effects. This is presented in Appendix 11 - Cumulative, Synergistic and Secondary Environmental Effects. The key points of the cumulative assessment are:

- Impacts on short term air quality;
- Long term irreversible impacts on biodiversity as a result of significant greenfield development;
- Mixed impact on climate as development will increase use of resources, but new developments will be more efficient;
- New development will impact negatively on water quality and will increase water abstraction;
- Negative impacts on landscape as a result of significant greenfield development;
- Mixed impacts on cultural heritage as a result of development and the policies to protect the historic and cultural environment contained in the plan; and
- Development will result in long term positive effects on population, human health and material assets.

Mitigation Measures

The SEA Directive requires that through mitigation measures, recommendations will be made to prevent, reduce or compensate for the negative effects of implementing the strategy. The proposed framework to be adopted to mitigate common significant environmental effects is set out on Table 7.1. The individual assessments of the sites, policies and supplementary guidance also describe case-specific mitigation measures where relevant. Site-specific mitigation measures for individual sites have also been included as an appendix to the LDP to ensure they are taken account of in lower-level decisions on planning applications.

Table 7.1 Significant Effects of Plan and Mitigation Measures

SEA Issue	Plan Impact (++)	Mitigation Measures	When should mitigation be considered?	Who is responsible for undertaking the mitigation?
General	Owing to the very significant scale of development on both greenfield and brownfield sites released and supported by this plan, there is likely to be a very significant impact on all of the indicators.	The LDP ensures that development is phased in accordance with policies LR1 and LR2 Land Release, so the effects of development can be managed over time. Development is also programmed, for example through masterplanning, to ensure development does not proceed unless required infrastructure is in place.		

Biodiversity	<p>Impact on European sites Development may have a negative impact on the qualifying interests of a European site, including the River Dee SAC but also the Moray Firth SAC, Ythan Estuary, Sans of Forvie & Meikle Loch and Loch of Skene. Development sites, especially greenfield sites that are on a direct pathway to the site (e.g. a tributary) may have a negative impact on the conservation objectives and biodiversity of the site due to pathway effects of pollution (--).</p> <p>Greenfield development across the whole city will increase demand for water which is likely to be abstracted from the River Dee, which may have effects on the conservation objectives of the SAC (--).</p>	<p>Policy NE3 Natural Heritage includes a statement requiring an HRA Appropriate Assessment where a proposal is likely to affect European sites. Where necessary, each Appropriate Assessment will outline site-specific mitigation measures.</p> <p>Appropriate Assessment will also trigger a requirement for EIA to further address any negative impacts arising from a specific project.</p> <p>Policy NE3 also allows for Construction Environmental Management Plans to be required, to address the environmental impact of construction on the environment.</p> <p>Policy R6 Low and Zero Carbon Buildings and Water Efficiency requires all new developments to install water saving technologies to help minimise abstraction from the River Dee which will help to minimise any negative effects.</p> <p>These measures are consistent with the mitigation identified by the SDP (EIA and HRA will be required through policy and conditions as appropriate).</p>	<p>When producing LDP policy and Aberdeen Planning Guidance</p> <p>Through the Development Management process, including EIA and HRA as appropriate</p> <p>HRA of the LDP</p> <p>Masterplanning</p>	<p>LDP Team</p> <p>Environmental Planners</p> <p>Development Management Team;</p> <p>Developers</p> <p>Masterplanning, Design and Conservation Team</p>
	<p>Impact Designated Sites and Protected Species Development is likely to have a negative effect on any designated nature conservation sites or populations of protected species which may be present, or their habitats and resting places (--).</p>	<p>Policy NE3 Natural Heritage requires Ecological Assessments to be completed where a development is likely to affect a designated site or protected species, with specific mitigation measures identified where necessary.</p> <p>Bat surveys will also be required where there is sufficient likelihood that bats will be present and in accordance with relevant Aberdeen Planning Guidance.</p> <p>Policy NE3 also states that all developments should seek to enhance biodiversity in general.</p> <p>Appropriate buffer zones are required to be incorporated into major transport projects, for example new roads.</p> <p>These measures are consistent with the mitigation identified by the SDP (LDP will have policies protecting the natural environment).</p>		

<p>Severance of Habitat Networks In developing some sites, particularly greenfield sites, barriers to species movement will be created and existing networks lost resulting in habitat fragmentation (--).</p> <p>However, the masterplanning, design and development of greenfield sites provides an opportunity to enhance green networks and habitat networks where these were previously absent or poor quality. This may also be especially the case for brownfield sites (++).</p>	<p>The LDP identifies and protects a large network of green space network, comprising sites of important natural habitat and links between these.</p> <p>Policy NE2 Green & Blue Infrastructure states that masterplanning of new developments will determine the location, configuration and extent of GSN in these areas, which provide connection between habitats. GSN aspect of this policy will be applied so that proposals ensure habitat links are maintained and enhanced.</p> <p>These measures are consistent with the mitigation identified by the SDP (LDP will consider the need to protect or enhance existing green networks).</p>		
<p>Impact on Watercourse and Waterbodies Where watercourses are present on a site, proposals may physically impact upon the channels and result in the release of waterborne pollution, which may affect biodiversity and water quality (--).</p>	<p>Policy NE4 Our Water Environment states that watercourses will be maintained as naturalised channels with riparian buffer strips, and not subject to excessive engineering work or unnecessary culverting. It also notes that where there are existing culverts, opportunities to reinstate them as open watercourses will be explored, which would enhance their biodiversity value.</p>		
<p>Impact on Trees and Woodlands Development of greenfield areas may result in the loss of trees or woodland, including ancient woodlands of particular biodiversity importance and hedgerows (--).</p>	<p>Some trees and woodlands are protected by law (TPO, Conservation Areas) and the LDP policies reflect and support our statutory duties.</p> <p>Important areas of woodland are zoned as NE2 Blue and Green Infrastructure (Green Space Network).</p> <p>Policy NE5 Trees & Woodlands states a policy presumption against all development that will lead to the loss or damage of established trees and woodland, including ancient woodland. It also requires a Tree Protection Plan to be agreed before development commences to ensure no damage is inflicted against established trees.</p>		
<p>Bay of Nigg The development of a new harbour at</p>	<p>A Development Framework has been developed for the harbour development and the wider area. This addresses opportunities to</p>		

	<p>Bay of Nigg will have a significant temporary and permanent impact on part of the Balnagask to Cove Local Nature Conservation Site. Part of the bay is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest, mainly due to its geological interest, although the built proposals do not include this area. Building and dredging operations could affect bottlenose dolphins and Atlantic salmon. These are qualifying species for the Moray Firth SAC and the River Dee SAC respectively. There is also the potential for development to have an adverse impact on the extent, quality and use of green space in the vicinity. There may also be an impact on habitats and species of biodiversity value (--).</p>	<p>open space and green networks.</p> <p>Policy NE3 Natural Heritage includes a statement requiring an HRA Appropriate Assessment where a proposal is likely to affect European sites. Where necessary, each Appropriate Assessment will outline site-specific mitigation measures.</p> <p>Appropriate Assessment will also trigger a requirement for EIA to further address any negative impacts arising from a specific project.</p> <p>Policy NE3 also allows for Construction Environmental Management Plans to be required, to address the environmental impact of construction on the environment.</p>		
Air	<p>Air Pollution</p> <p>Development of a greenfield site is likely to increase traffic into the built up area and therefore have a long term impact negatively on air quality through vehicle emissions (--).</p> <p>Additional traffic generated by new development, especially in the city centre or at the harbour, may have a negative impact on existing Air Quality Management Areas, where present which may lead to the AQMA being extended (--).</p>	<p>Policy WB2 Air Quality states that planning applications which have the potential to have a detrimental impact on air quality will not be permitted unless measures to mitigate the impact of air pollutants can be agreed.</p> <p>Policy T2 promotes sustainable and active travel, including public transport provision, and walking and cycling routes which will reduce the level of air-polluting vehicles on the roads.</p> <p>Developer contributions will be sought towards public transport and roads infrastructure improvements to help mitigate the traffic impact.</p> <p>A Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) has been prepared for the city centre to promote more sustainable modes of transport, reduce congestion and improve air quality in the city centre. This is being delivered as part of the City Centre Masterplan and Delivery Programme. There is also a Low Emission Zone being prepared in the city centre. This will help to further improve air quality in the city centre.</p>	<p>When producing LDP policy and Aberdeen Planning Guidance</p> <p>Through the DM and Planning Agreements processes</p> <p>Masterplanning</p> <p>When producing the Local Transport Strategy, SUMP</p>	<p>LDP Team</p> <p>Development Management Team</p> <p>Transport Team</p> <p>Developers</p> <p>Projects Team (City Centre Masterplan and Delivery Programme)</p>

Climate	<p>Increased resource use The operation and management of new buildings will also increase resource use and energy consumption, although may also promote renewable energy and efficient use of energy and water. The cumulative impact is significant considering the allocations that are promoted are both greenfield and brownfield (--).</p>	<p>Policy R6 Low and Zero Carbon Buildings and Water Efficiency requires all new buildings to install low and zero carbon generating technologies. It also requires all new buildings to use water-saving technologies and techniques.</p>	<p>When producing LDP policy and Aberdeen Planning Guidance</p> <p>Through the DM and Planning Agreements processes</p>	<p>LDP Team</p> <p>Development Management Team</p> <p>Transport Team</p> <p>Developers</p>
	<p>Flood Risk There are areas around Aberdeen that are at risk from flooding and there are smaller watercourses that could result in a flood risk. As more land is developed in Aberdeen, there is greater pressure to build on sites that may be affected by flooding. Development in these areas will increase vulnerability to climate change and will reduce ability to introduce flood prevention measures, particularly upstream (--).</p> <p>Sites close to areas currently identified as being at risk of flooding on SEPA's flood maps may be vulnerable to the effects of future changes in climate, for example increased rainfall or more extreme weather events (-).</p>	<p>Development will not be permitted in areas at risk of flooding or where it would increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. Through masterplanning, any parts of sites at risk of flooding will be maintained as green space network, with watercourses maintained as naturalised channels with riparian buffer strips.</p> <p>Policy NE4 Our Water Environment requires Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment, to help planning officers assess flood risk and which identify mitigation measures as appropriate.</p> <p>Aberdeen Planning Guidance will identify and protect land for regional SuDS, which will take the form of catchment-scale upstream storage to help protect against flooding downstream and reduce flood risk for the city centre.</p> <p>These measures are consistent with the mitigation identified in the SDP (LDP should have policies on flooding and drainage and Aberdeen Planning Guidance on SuDS, DIA and Buffer Strips).</p>	<p>Masterplanning</p> <p>Through the production of Local Transport Strategy and SUMP</p>	<p>Building Standards</p> <p>Flooding Team</p>
	<p>Increased Surface Water Run-off Development on green space may also increase surface water run-off, and increase vulnerability to flooding (-).</p>	<p>Policy NE4 Our Water Environment requires a Drainage Impact Assessment to be submitted for proposals of 5 or more homes or over 250m² non-residential floorspace. It also requires SuDS to be incorporated into all new development to help manage surface water run-off sustainably, helping to reduce the impact of new development on flood risk.</p>		

	<p>Increased Greenhouse Gas Emissions The scale of the housing and employment proposals in the LDP are likely to lead to an increase in traffic movements, which will result in increased greenhouse gas emissions. The cumulative impact is significant considering the allocations that are promoted are both greenfield and brownfield (--).</p>	<p>Policy T2 Sustainable Transport helps to encourage modal shift away from private car transport, by requiring that new developments are accessible by walking, cycling and public transport. It also encourages alternative fuel vehicles i.e. electric and hydrogen.</p> <p>Policy LR2 Delivery of Mixed Use Communities aims to deliver mixed communities where people can live, work and access shopping and services within their communities, reducing the need to travel long distances.</p> <p>Policy H3 Density also requires a minimum of 50 dwellings per hectare, in the interests of efficient use of land and reducing urban sprawl, helping to reduce the need to travel.</p> <p>These measures are consistent with the mitigation identified in the SDP (LDP will work to ensure sustainable mixed communities and higher densities).</p>		
	<p>Promotion of Renewable Energy Developments Some developments and policies, e.g. Ness Solar Farm, will directly promote the generation and use of renewable energy, thus significantly reducing the climatic impact of greenhouse gases and other pollutants. Others direct waste away from landfill, reducing methane emissions (++).</p>	<p>In principle, the LDP supports the development of renewable heat and energy-generating facilities (Policy R7 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments).</p> <p>Policy R4 supports the principle of Energy from Waste Developments which reduces the amount of waste going to landfill, reducing methane emissions.</p> <p>OP site has been identified and will be safeguarded specifically for an Energy from Waste facility.</p>		
Soil	<p>Ground Contamination It is likely that soil quality, structure and morphology will be damaged by development. Redevelopment of a brownfield site may also have a positive effect on soil quality through remediation or decontamination works undertaken prior to development (++). However, development may also result</p>	<p>Policy R2 Degraded and Contaminated Land states that all land which is degraded or contaminated will be restored or remediated to a level suitable for its proposed use. Where contamination is suspected, a site investigation will be carried out and any contamination remediated as appropriate.</p> <p>With regards to Ness Solar Farm and any future development on the landfill site, these facilities will be subject to strict environmental health/building standards regulations; therefore, this is not a matter for planning.</p>	<p>Through the Development Management process</p> <p>EIA and other investigations required as appropriate</p>	<p>Development Management Team</p> <p>Contaminated Land Officer</p> <p>Developers</p>

<p>in the release of substances during construction that could potentially contaminate the soil (--).</p> <p>Use of and spills of chemicals at the proposed Ness Solar Farm present the risk of contamination. There may also be contamination risks associated with development on the former landfill site (--).</p>			
<p>Waste Directed from Landfill More development will also lead to increased waste generation (including construction waste), some of which is likely to be sent to landfill which pollutes the soil (-).</p> <p>Some developments will promote modern waste management facilities which will direct waste away from landfill, which will have a long-term positive effect on soil quality in these areas (++).</p>	<p>Policy R5 Waste Management Requirements for New Developments requires the provision of recycling facilities to help reduce waste going to landfill. Site Waste Management Plans may also be required to demonstrate recycling and reuse of materials.</p> <p>The next LDP identifies sites for modern waste management facilities, which have been identified as necessary by the Council to deal efficiently with Aberdeen's waste.</p> <p>This measure is consistent with mitigation identified in the SDP (LDP will have a spatial framework for new waste facilities and should have policies to make use of construction waste).</p>		
<p>Peat Soils It is possible that some development may take place on peat soils, even though these are very limited in extent in Aberdeen. This would have the negative effect of releasing greenhouse gas into the atmosphere (-).</p>	<p>Policy NE3 Our Natural Heritage states that development will not be permitted if it would result in the development of peatland or carbon-rich soils.</p>		

	<p>Soil Sealing, Compaction and Erosion Very large developments, including tall and bulky buildings, will have a significant impact on soil sealing, erosion and compaction; some large developments also require significant underground infrastructure (--).</p>	<p>Policy D3 Big Buildings directs these types of development to the most appropriate city centre locations, which are likely to be brownfield sites. LDP policies on waste, and policy NE3 Our Natural Heritage requires Construction Environmental Management Plans to be submitted with planning applications will also help to mitigate any impact on soil.</p>		
Water	<p>Pollution of Watercourses The development of a greenfield site is likely to release water borne pollution into watercourses, groundwater and reservoirs, particularly during the construction phase, if present (--). Sites at risk of flooding will have a negative effect on water quality in the event of a flood (--).</p>	<p>The Council will liaise with SEPA where there is the potential for the pollution of the water environment. Policy NE3 Our Natural Heritage requires watercourses to be maintained as naturalised channels, and for riparian buffer strips to help protect watercourses from pollution. Policy NE4 Our Water Environment states that drainage solutions on all sites must be the most appropriate in terms of SuDS, which are highly beneficial to water quality. This measure is consistent with the mitigation identified by the SDP (future plans should have policies to improve the ecological status of water).</p>	<p>When producing LDP policy and Aberdeen Planning Guidance Through the DM and Planning Agreements processes Masterplanning</p>	<p>LDP Team Development Management Team Transport Team Developers Building Standards Flooding Team SEPA</p>
	<p>Water Abstraction from the Dee (--). New development may increase the need for Scottish Water to abstract water from the River Dee for the public supply, with water abstraction licence requirements set by SEPA (-)</p>	<p>Acceptable rates of water abstraction from the Dee are agreed between SEPA and Scottish Water. Policy R6 Low and Zero Carbon Buildings, and Water Efficiency states that all new development is required to install or utilise water saving technologies or techniques to help minimise the requirement for water abstraction to serve the city.</p>		

<p>Physical Impacts on Watercourses & Coastline In some instances, watercourses or coastlines may be physically impacted through the development of a site; this is highlighted in the general assessments (--). Aberdeen Harbour expansion will have</p>	<p>Policy NE4 Our Water Environment includes a presumption against excessive engineering or culverting, with natural treatment preferred where possible. There is also a presumption against developments which would require new or strengthened flood defences. LDP includes two zonings for the coast, developed and undeveloped, with a presumption against new development in the undeveloped coast.</p>		
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	an impact on the local coastal water environment (-).			
Landscape	<p>Intrusion onto the Landscape Setting of the City It is likely that development of a general greenfield site, especially for very large structures or those in prominent locations within the context of the whole city, will have a permanent and negative affect on the landscape setting of the city or would negatively affect the aspect from local beauty spots (--).</p>	<p>Landscape impact will be mitigated through screening or sensitive siting, design and layout of buildings within the site. Policy D4 Landscape states that new development should not adversely affect the character of landscapes and seascapes which are important for the setting of the city.</p>	<p>When producing LDP policy and Aberdeen Planning Guidance Through the DM Process Liaison with Conservation Officer</p>	<p>LDP Team Masterplanning, Design and Conservation Team</p>
	<p>Impact on Landscape Features Greenfield development is likely to have a negative effect on important landscape features, setting and character, including any geological features which may be present (--).</p>	<p>Policy D5 Landscape Design expects development to ensure a sense of place is maintained and enhanced through an assessment of place and consideration of its surrounding landscape/seascape/townscape character. Developments must also mitigate any negative landscape and visual impacts.</p>	<p>Masterplanning Process</p>	
	<p>Coalescence and Urban Sprawl In general, greenfield development has the potential to result in coalescence of settlements and/or urban sprawl (--).</p>	<p>Policy NE1 exists to protect areas of open and green space around Aberdeen and settlements around the city to protect against gradual infilling, coalescence and sprawl. Several policies, including LR2 Mixed Communities and H2 Density also aim to promote communities where people can live, work, shop and access services, discouraging sprawling single-use developments.</p>		
	<p>Restoration of Derelict Sites Redevelopment of brownfield sites that were previously derelict or poor quality is likely to have a significant positive effect if development is sensitive and of high quality design (++)</p>	<p>The principle of brownfield redevelopment is strongly encouraged by the LDP Spatial Strategy. Policy R2 Degraded and Contaminated Land requires that all land that is degraded, including visually, is restored or remediated to a level suitable for its proposed use.</p>		

Population	<p>Affordable Housing and Housing Choice LDP has the potential to impact positively on population by providing affordable housing and greater choice of housing types and sizes, as well as employment opportunities and community facilities (++).</p> <p>Support Regeneration Redevelopment of certain sites will support regeneration of Regeneration Areas, including Tillydrone, Northfield and Torry (++).</p> <p>Meeting Retail Needs The plan also identifies sites specifically for retail use to help meet the additional floorspace needs identified by the Aberdeen City and Shire Retail Study 2019 (++).</p> <p>Facilities for the Population Sites for the development of dedicated new services and facilities for the population, such as the football stadium at Kingsford, will have a positive effect for the population (+).</p>	<p>Policy H2 Mixed Use Areas requires large developments to accommodate an appropriate mix of house types and sizes to provide choice and flexibility in meeting needs and demands.</p> <p>Policy H5 Affordable Housing requires the equivalent of 25% affordable housing in every new development. It provides flexibility in how these are delivered, to ensure greater overall delivery.</p> <p>Policy H7 Student Accommodation Developments supports proposals for student accommodation.</p> <p>Policy WB4 Specialist Care Facilities supports proposals for residential care facilities.</p>	<p>When producing LDP policy and Aberdeen Planning Guidance</p> <p>Through the DM and Planning Agreements Process</p>	<p>LDP, DM and Developer Obligations Teams</p> <p>Environmental Policy Team</p>
	<p>Open Space There is the potential for the loss of open green space, including parkland or playing pitches, as a result of some developments (--).</p> <p>In some cases, adopted and aspirational Core Paths may also be</p>	<p>Policy NE2 Green and Blue Infrastructure states that development will not be permitted that would result in the loss of green space or playing pitches, unless replacement pitches/green space can be laid out in an equally accessible location nearby.</p> <p>Core paths and aspirational core paths are protected through LDP Policy T2 Sustainable Transport and NE2 Green and Blue Infrastructure which state that Core Paths and rights of way should be protected and enhanced.</p>		

	lost or severed (--)	This measure is consistent with the mitigation identified in the SPD (LDP should have policies protecting open space).		
	Residential Amenity Residential development close to Aberdeen International Airport where noise levels are high could create an unacceptable environment where health is affected (--).	Policy B3 Aberdeen International Airport states that residential development within the airport exclusion zone, or within certain noise levels, will not be permitted.		
Human Health	Health and Well-being Development of certain sites will have a positive impact on health and well-being of the population (++).	Policy WB1 Health Developments requires national and major proposals to provide healthy environments, reduce environmental stresses, facilitate physical activity and promote mental well-being. Policy WB2 Air Quality does not permit developments that will have a detrimental impact on air quality unless measures to mitigate the impacts are proposed and agreed with the Planning Authority. Policy WB3 Noise has a presumption against noise generating developments and requires Noise Impact Assessments where there will be significant exposure to noise. Policy WB5 Changing Places requires major developments open to the public to provide free publicly accessible changing places toilets.	When producing LDP policy and Aberdeen Planning Guidance Through the DM and Planning Agreements Process	LDP, DM and Developer Obligations Teams Environment Policy Team to provide advice
	Urban Green Space and Open Space There is the potential for the loss of urban green space and open space as a result of development (--).	Policy NE2 Green and Blue Infrastructure states that development will not be permitted that would result in the loss of green space or playing pitches, unless replacement pitches/green space can be laid out in an equally accessible location nearby. Policy WB1 Health Developments requires national and major proposals to provide healthy environments, reduce environmental stresses, facilitate physical activity and promote mental well-being.	Masterplanning	
	Amenity Residential development close to Aberdeen International Airport where noise levels are high could create an unacceptable environment where health is affected (--).	Policy B3 Aberdeen International Airport states that residential development within the airport exclusion zone, or within certain noise levels, will not be permitted.		

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>Built and Cultural Heritage Assets Development may affect the historic environment. There could be long-term and permanent negative effects on the site/setting of designated heritage assets such as scheduled monuments, listed buildings, Conservation Areas, Designed Landscapes and archaeological sites. These effects may weaken the sense of place, the identity of existing settlements and landscape character in places (--). However, if the design of developments is sensitive and high quality there could be a significant positive impact on the condition, site and setting of heritage assets (++).</p>	<p>Proposals affecting Conservation Areas or Listed Buildings require prior consent. These will only be permitted where they comply with policies protecting the historic environment, cultural heritage and archaeological sites including policies D6 Historic Environment, D7 Our Granite Heritage and D8 Windows and Doors. Conservation Area Character Appraisals and Management Plans are already adopted as Council documents, highlighting the most important characteristics of conservation areas and how to protect them, including area-specific policies where relevant.</p>	<p>When producing LDP policy and Aberdeen Planning Guidance Through the DM and Planning Agreements Process Masterplanning</p>	<p>LDP, DM Masterplanning, Design and Conservation Teams; Conservation Officer Tree Officers</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Material Assets</p>	<p>Impact on Existing Infrastructure There is likely to be an impact on existing infrastructure such as schools, medical facilities, open spaces of recreational value, roads, sewerage and other utilities. This impact is likely to be negative, in terms of placing strain on capacity (--). In the case of schools, there may also be an impact upon school rolls associated with new residential development. This may be positive in terms of supporting schools with low rolls (++). Vulnerability to Flood Risk On sites which are identified as being at risk of flooding there is likely to be a significant negative impact on material</p>	<p>Where there will be a negative impact on existing infrastructure, developer contributions will be required as appropriate to mitigate this impact and contribute to the expansion or upgrading of provision. This is set out in Policy I1 Infrastructure Delivery and Planning Obligations. Flood Risk Assessment will be required for sites at risk of flooding in accordance with Policy NE4 Our Water Environment. Policy T1 Land for Transport safeguards land for transport proposals which have been identified as being of strategic importance to the city. The LDP supports the principle of modern new facilities, including waste management, energy generation, telecommunication facilities and new schools. Where appropriate land is safeguarded for these purposes.</p>	<p>When producing LDP policy, Developer Obligations Supplementary Guidance and Aberdeen Planning Guidance Through the DM and Planning Agreements Process Masterplanning</p>	<p>LDP, DM and Developer Obligations Teams</p>

<p>assets through the loss or damage of buildings, property and infrastructure (-).</p> <p>Strategic Infrastructure Improvements Some developments, particularly those identified under Land for Transport, will provide strategic infrastructure improvements which will have direct positive impact on congestion for the whole city (++).</p> <p>Modern New Facilities Some developments will create significant new material assets in the form of modern and high technology facilities, e.g. waste management and energy generation (++).</p>			
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Monitoring

Aberdeen City Council is required to monitor the significant environmental effects when the plan is implemented. A monitoring report will be prepared to constantly monitor the significant effects. The framework for monitoring significant effect of the implementation of the plan is shown on Table 8.1. The monitoring data will be incorporated into future reviews of the LDP.

Table 8.1: Monitoring Plan

Effects	What sort of information is required? (Indicators)	Where will information be obtained from?	Are there gaps in the existing information and how can it be resolved?	When should the remedial action be considered?	Who is responsible for undertaking the monitoring?	How should the results be presented?	What remedial actions could be taken?
Biodiversity	Impact on the qualifying features of the River Dee SAC, and impact on its water quality	Dee Catchment Management Plan; Scotland's Environment statistics	None	Remedial action should be considered if water quality deteriorates or there is a decrease in water resource.	Aberdeen City Council Environment Policy Team, SNH, SEPA, Dee Catchment Partnership, North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership	Annually	A review of land allocations through the Local Development Plan Process Review of Aberdeen Planning Guidance on Natural Heritage should a quicker response be required

Effects	What sort of information is required? (Indicators)	Where will information be obtained from?	Are there gaps in the existing information and how can it be resolved?	When should the remedial action be considered?	Who is responsible for undertaking the monitoring?	How should the results be presented?	What remedial actions could be taken?
	Rate and scale of habitat fragmentation	Open Space Strategy and Greenspace Network reviews Number of applications approved which include GSN		When Local Nature Conservation Strategy and/or consultee advice indicates a negative impact on habitats and species as a result of development pressure	Aberdeen City Council Environment Team, SNH, SEPA, Dee Catchment Partnership, North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership	Open Space Strategy Annual Monitoring	Review of Aberdeen Planning Guidance on open space and greenspace network
	Number and land area of sites designated for conservation purposes Number of biodiversity action plan species and habitats	Local Nature Conservation Strategy North East Scotland Biodiversity Action Plan Scotland's Environment Statistics		When Local Nature Conservation Strategy and/or consultee advice indicates a negative impact on habitats and species as a result of development pressure	Aberdeen City Council Environment Policy Team, SNH, SEPA, Dee Catchment Partnership, North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership	Annually	Review of Aberdeen Planning Guidance on Natural Heritage
Air	Nitrogen dioxide emissions Air quality (PM ₁₀)	Aberdeen City Council Local Air Quality Management: Progress Reports		When new Air Quality Management Areas are declared. Planning Applications Review of Aberdeen Planning Guidance on Air Quality	Environmental Health	As part of the Air Quality Action Plan or as and when is necessary	Review Aberdeen Planning Guidance on Air Quality

Effects	What sort of information is required? (Indicators)	Where will information be obtained from?	Are there gaps in the existing information and how can it be resolved?	When should the remedial action be considered?	Who is responsible for undertaking the monitoring?	How should the results be presented?	What remedial actions could be taken?
Climatic factors	Increase in resource use from new development, carbon footprint	Monitoring of new development emissions, Building Standards Sustainability labels	Currently limited information on the overall global footprint of Aberdeen	When planning applications are being approved contrary to policies.	LDP Team, Building Standards and Development Management	Annually	Review of Aberdeen Planning Guidance if developments are not achieving desired outcomes
	Increase in car use and energy consumption in new developments	Local Transport Strategy Monitoring of modal shift in transport modes		When transport monitoring shows increases in congestion and a modal shift is not occurring, i.e. use of the car is increasing.	LDP Team and Transportation	Annual monitoring report	
	Area at risk from flooding and new developments at risk from flooding	Flood Risk Management Plans	This is currently in preparation and is not available.	If the areas at risk from flooding change there is a need to review the spatial strategy	Aberdeen City, Council, SEPA	In a finalised Flood Risk Management Plan	Review allocations and flooding policies and the need for flood defences through the review of the Local Development Plan
Soil	Contaminated land Meeting landfill allowance targets Soil erosion	Contaminated Land Strategy Aberdeen City Council Waste Strategy Flood monitoring data from SEPA.		If the number of contaminated sites/land increases If the level of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill increases When flood events increase	Contaminated Land Unit, SEPA	As and when	Prepare or revise Aberdeen Planning Guidance.

Effects	What sort of information is required? (Indicators)	Where will information be obtained from?	Are there gaps in the existing information and how can it be resolved?	When should the remedial action be considered?	Who is responsible for undertaking the monitoring?	How should the results be presented?	What remedial actions could be taken?
Water	<p>Impact on water quality of River Dee SAC</p> <p>Impact of development on Flooding</p> <p>Impact of development on water pollution</p> <p>Physical impact of development on water bodies and the coast</p> <p>Impact of policy on water usage on the River Dee</p>	<p>Dee catchment management plan</p> <p>SEPA flood monitoring and local authority flood monitoring data</p> <p>SNH on the impact on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC</p> <p>Scottish Water abstraction figures and SEPA's monitoring results</p>		<p>When data from SEPA and SNH indicate potential pollution in the Dee</p> <p>When data indicates that there has been an increase in flood incidents action should be taken</p>	SEPA, SNH and Aberdeen City Council	As and when flood risk and pollution increases	<p>Review the action programme of the local development plan</p> <p>Review Aberdeen Planning Guidance on flooding and drainage</p>
Landscape	<p>Impact of development on visually prominent areas</p> <p>Development adversely affecting the landscape and townscape setting</p>	<p>Landscape appraisal</p> <p>Public complaints</p>		<p>When landscape appraisal indicates a negative impact on landscape and townscape setting</p> <p>When there is a large amount of opposition to development</p>	Development Management and developers	Annually	Review land allocations and/or prepare Aberdeen Planning Guidance

Effects	What sort of information is required? (Indicators)	Where will information be obtained from?	Are there gaps in the existing information and how can it be resolved?	When should the remedial action be considered?	Who is responsible for undertaking the monitoring?	How should the results be presented?	What remedial actions could be taken?
	Loss of trees and landscape features	Information will be gained through the consultation responses to planning applications by the Council's Environment Policy Team.	There is not currently any statistical data collected. This would not necessarily provide a good picture as replacement planting schemes will often be agreed.	If there is difficulty in implementing the policy to protect trees and landscape features then a review should be undertaken.	LDP Team and Environment Policy Team	Local Development Plan Monitoring Statement	Review policy position or provide further advice or training for case officers and elected members.
Population	Increase in the range of house types and tenures	Housing land audit		When the plan is reviewed	LDP Team	Annually	Review policies and allocations in ALDP, Supplementary Guidance and Aberdeen Planning Guidance
	Increase in the number of care homes built	Monitoring of planning applications		When the plan is reviewed	LDP Team	Annually	Review policies and allocations in ALDP

Effects	What sort of information is required? (Indicators)	Where will information be obtained from?	Are there gaps in the existing information and how can it be resolved?	When should the remedial action be considered?	Who is responsible for undertaking the monitoring?	How should the results be presented?	What remedial actions could be taken?
Cultural Heritage	<p>Impact on archaeological remains on greenfield sites</p> <p>Reduced numbers of historic buildings registered as 'at risk'</p> <p>The impact of development on listed buildings and conservation areas</p>	<p>Archaeology – number of excavations and remains found on sites</p> <p>Scottish Civic Trust Buildings at risk register for Scotland</p>		<p>When there is an increase in archaeological remains being discovered</p> <p>When the number of buildings on the 'at risk' register remains static or increases</p>	Scottish Civic Trust and LDP Team, Archaeology and developers	Annually	Review/ prepare Aberdeen Planning Guidance and revise land allocations
Material Assets	School capacities	School Roll Forecasts		Remedial action will have to be taken through the application process to take account of changes	Education, Development Management	Annually in School Roll Forecasts	Changes made to the requirements for infrastructure
	Quantity and quality of open space	Open Space Audit annual monitoring		Remedial action should be taken where there is a significant loss of open space as a result of new development	Environment Policy Team	Annually in Open Space Audit Monitoring	Review Aberdeen Planning Guidance on open space

Next Steps

Table 9.1 shows the remaining steps needed for the SEA of Aberdeen Local Development Plan and how these steps would be carried out and described in the final environmental report.

Table 9.1: Proposed consultation timescale and methods

Expected time frame	Milestone	Comments
35 days	Consulting on the Scoping Report	Complete
3 weeks	Collating views on the Consultation and take the appropriate action on the Scoping Report and the plan as the result of the consultations	Complete
4 weeks	Finalise the Environmental Report	Complete
10 weeks	Consulting on the Environmental Report and the Main Issues Report	Complete
3 weeks	Collating views on the Consultation	Complete
3 weeks	Take the appropriate action on the environmental report and the plan as the result of the consultations	
14 weeks	Consult on Proposed Plan and Revised Environmental Report	Complete
2 weeks	Finalise the Revised Environmental Report following examination	2022
2 weeks	Publish Revised Environmental Report	2022
2 weeks	Take post-adoption measures	2022 onwards

10 SEA Appendices

Please see page 143 onwards for SEA Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Analysis of Consultation at Scoping Stage
- Appendix 2 – Analysis of Consultation at Interim Environmental Report Stage
- Appendix 3 – Analysis of Consultation at Finalised Environmental Report Stage
- Appendix 4 – Links to other PPS & Environmental Protection Objectives
- Appendix 5 – Baseline Data, Targets and Trends
- Appendix 6 – Maps
- Appendix 7 – Strategic Environmental Assessment: Desirable Sites
- Appendix 8 – Strategic Environmental Assessment: Undesirable Sites
- Appendix 9 – Strategic Environmental Assessment: Policies
- Appendix 10 – Strategic Environmental Assessment: Supplementary Guidance
- Appendix 11 - Cumulative, Synergistic and Secondary Environmental Effects
- Appendix 12 – Analysis of Modifications sought by Reporters' Report

**Habitats
Regulation
Appraisal Record
for Aberdeen
Local
Development Plan
as Modified**

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1 Introduction and Background to Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA)

Under Article 6 (3 & 4) of the European Habitats' Directive, any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 / European site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall undergo an assessment to determine its implications for the site.

The competent authority can only agree to the plan or project after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned. In exceptional circumstances, a plan or project may still be allowed to go ahead, in spite of a negative assessment, provided there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project is considered to be of overriding public interest. In such cases the Member State must take appropriate compensatory measures to ensure that the overall coherence of the Network is protected.

The sites are a network of protected sites of international importance. They are referred to as European sites, and are required to be considered through the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) process. These sites are Special Protection Areas (SPA), classified under the Birds Directive, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), designated under the EC Habitats Directive 1992, and 'candidate' Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC). The parts of SPAs, SACs and cSACs which lie below Mean High Water Spring tide are also referred to as 'European Marine Sites', and those in the offshore marine area are also called 'European Offshore Marine Sites' (EOMS). It is Scottish Government policy to treat proposed SPAs (pSPAs) and proposed SACs (pSACs) as if they are fully designated European sites, and therefore for ease these are often referred to as European sites.

Under Article 6 (3 & 4) of the European Habitats' Directive, any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall undergo an Appropriate Assessment to determine its implications for the site. The competent authority can only agree to the plan or project after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned (Article 6.3). In exceptional circumstances, a plan or project may still be allowed to go ahead, in spite of a negative assessment, provided there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project is considered to be of overriding public interest. In such cases the Member State must take appropriate compensatory measures to ensure that the overall coherence of the Network is protected (Article 6.4).

Appraisal of the effects of Scottish 'land use plans' on European sites is required by Part IVA (regulations 85A – 85E) of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended SSI 2007/80). These Regulations transpose into domestic legislation the requirements of the EC Habitats Directive. Part IVA covers Strategic Development Plans, Local Development Plans and Supplementary Guidance, as provided for under Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended.

This document comprises an HRA for the Aberdeen Local Development Plan (ALDP) 2023 to analyse the implications of the Plan on affected European Sites formally Natura 2000 sites¹.

¹ After the UK leaves the European Union, Scotland's Natura sites will be known as the 'UK site Network in Scotland', but they will continue to have the same protections they had when the UK was a member state of the European Union.

2 The Aberdeen Local Development Plan (ALDP)

Aberdeen is Scotland's third largest city and, together with the rest of the North East, plays an important role in many aspects of the life of the country. The ALDP outlines a vision for the spatial development of Aberdeen City to 2040. It identifies sites for future development, supported by planning policies and supplementary guidance/local planning advice.

2.1 Vision

We want to make Aberdeen a place where all people can prosper. This supports the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan (SDP) vision for the area, so that 'by 2040, Aberdeen City and Shire will have grown and evolved to become an even more attractive, prosperous, resilient and sustainable European City Region. It will be an excellent place to live, visit and do business.' The Aberdeen Local Development Plan provides a land use framework within which we can work towards this vision.

The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 no longer enables Planning Authorities to produce statutory Supplementary Guidance. Because of this many policy aspects of SG have been brought into the Plan. It is anticipated that the remaining policy and guidance will be adopted by the Council as Aberdeen Planning Guidance. This HRA will appraise the policies and opportunity sites identified in the Plan.

2.2 Proposed Policies

The policies to be included in the LDP, and which will therefore require to be considered regarding the likelihood of significant effects, are listed in Table 2.2 below.

Table 2.2 Policies in the Proposed Local Development Plan

Policies	Description
The Spatial Strategy	
LR1 Land Release Policy	Provides for a phased release of land for housing and employment developments.
LR2 Delivery of Mixed Use Communities	Ensures larger sites include a mix of housing, employment and other uses.
Design	
D1 Quality Placemaking	Requires new development to have a strong and distinctive sense of place, demonstrating the six essential qualities of successful placemaking.
D2 Residential Amenity	Ensures new development avoids adverse impacts on the amenity of neighbouring properties.
D3 Big Buildings	Big buildings must be a high quality design which complements or improves the existing site context.
D4 Landscape	Ensures that development does not adversely impact on surrounding landscape elements which contribute to a distinct sense of place.
D5 Landscape Design	Requires new development to improve and enhance the setting and visual impact of new development.
D6 Historic Environment	Ensures that development protects, preserves and where appropriate conserves the historic environment
D7 Our Granite Heritage	Seeks the retention and appropriate re-use, conversion and adaptation of all granite features, structures and buildings.

D8 Shopfronts	Protects historic shopfronts and their features
D9 Windows and Doors	Protects historic windows and doors
Network of Centres	
VC1 Vibrant City	Encourages a mix of use to ensure the city centre is vibrant and multi functioning
VC2 Tourism and Culture	Supports new visitor attractions and extensions to existing visitor attractions within the city centre
VC3 Network of Centres	All significant footfall-generating uses appropriate to town centres should be located in accordance with the hierarchy and sequential approach.
VC4 City Centre and Retail Core	The City Centre Retail Core is the preferred location for all major retail developments. Protects existing retail in the City Centre from change of use.
VC5 City Centre Living	Ensures new development does not adversely impact on the amenity of existing city centre residential areas
VC6 West End Area	Promotes a mix of uses in the West End area of the City with regard to conservation status.
VC7 West End Shops and Cafes	Protects the West End Shops and Cafes from change of use that would damage the character of the area.
VC8 Town, District, Neighbourhood and Commercial Centres	Promotes retail as the preferred use within these designated centres, however a mix of uses is desirable.
VC9 Out of Centre Proposals	Discourages significant footfall-generating uses from locating outwith designated centres.
VC10 Local Shop Units	Protects local shop units outwith centres from change of use.
VC11 Beach and Leisure	Sets out what types of development are appropriate to the Beach and Leisure area, with a presumption against large-scale retail.
VC12 Retail Development Serving New Development Areas	Masterplans for sites allocated for major greenfield residential development should allocate land for retail and related uses at an appropriate scale to serve the convenience shopping needs of the expanded local community.
Infrastructure Delivery & Transport	
I1 Infrastructure Delivery and Planning Obligations	Development must be accompanied by the infrastructure, services and facilities required to support new or expanded communities and the scale and type of development proposed.
T1 Land for Transport	Safeguards land for strategic transport projects
T2 Sustainable Transport	Requires that new developments demonstrate sufficient measures to minimise traffic generated and to maximise opportunities for sustainable and active travel.
T3 Parking	Applies the principle of zero parking within the city centre for all new development and promotes low car developments, alternative fuel vehicle infrastructure and cycle parking.
Business & Industrial Development	
B1 Business and Industrial Land	Retains B1 land for business and industrial uses only, with directly supporting facilities, and safeguards it from conflicting development types. New business and industrial developments must safeguard existing residential amenity.
B2 Business Zones	Retains B2 land for high-quality office development only, with directly supporting facilities.
B3 Aberdeen International Airport and Perwinnes Radar	Safeguards Aberdeen Airport for airport-related uses and ensures that development across the city does not compromise the safety or operations of the airport or associated radars.
B4 Aberdeen Harbours	Safeguards Aberdeen Harbour areas for harbour-related uses and other compatible uses.
B5 Energy Transition Zone	Supports the development, production, assembly, storage and/or distribution of infrastructure required to support low-carbon and renewable-energy related industries on land zoned for the energy transition zone.
B6 Pipelines, Major Hazards and	States that the Council will take account of advice from the HSE in

Explosives Storage Sites	determining planning applications within consultation zones for pipelines, hazards and explosives storage sites
Housing & Community Needs	
H1 Residential Areas	Safeguards existing residential areas from inappropriate or conflicting development types that would negatively affect residential amenity.
H2 Mixed Use Areas	Ensures that applications within Mixed Use areas take into account the existing uses and character of the surrounding area and avoid undue conflict with adjacent land uses and amenity.
H3 Density	Seeks an appropriate density of development on all housing allocations and windfall sites, with a minimum of 50 dwellings per hectare.
H4 Housing Mix and Need	Housing developments of more than 50 units are required to achieve an appropriate mix of dwelling types and sizes reflecting accommodation needs of specific groups.
H5 Affordable Housing	Housing developments of five units or more are expected to contribute the equivalent of 25% of the total number of units as affordable housing.
H6 Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites	Requires certain LDP allocations to make contributions towards the provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers.
H7 Student Accommodation Developments	Stipulates criteria where new student accommodation developments will be supported.
H8 Houses in Multiple Occupation and Overprovision	Stipulates criteria where a planning application for Houses in Multiple Occupation will be supported.
Community Facilities	
CF1 Existing Community Sites and Facilities	Protects existing community sites and facilities for that purpose and supports extensions to community sites and facilities in principle.
CF2 New Community Facilities	Proposals for new community facilities will be supported in principle provided they are convenient and readily accessible.
Natural Environment	
NE1 Green Belt	Identifies and protects land around Aberdeen from development.
NE2 Green and Blue Infrastructure	Protects areas identified for their biodiversity, habitat and natural heritage value from development. Also sets out open space requirements in new developments.
NE3 Our Natural Heritage	Protects sites, habitats, eco-systems and species protected by law, sites designated for their geodiversity value, areas of peatland/carbon rich soils and trees and woodlands from detrimental effects of development.
NE4 Our Water Environment	Presumption against development that increases the risk of current or future flooding. Protects the undeveloped coast from inappropriate development.
Using Resources Sustainably	
R1 Minerals	States that mineral extraction proposals are acceptable in principle, subject to strict criteria regarding impacts on amenity and the environment. Minerals sites are safeguarded from sterilising development.
R2 Degraded and Contaminated Land	Requires that all degraded or contaminated land is either restored, reclaimed or remediated to a level suitable for its proposed use.
R3 New Waste Management Facilities	Proposals for waste management facilities must comply with the waste hierarchy. Proposals for waste management facilities will be supported provided they meet certain criteria, and existing facilities will be safeguarded from developments that compromise their operation.
R4 Energy from Waste	States that applications for energy from waste facilities should be accompanied by EIA and should consider connection to the electricity grid and ability to provide heat and power.
R5 Waste Management Requirements for New Development	All new developments should have sufficient space for the storage of general waste, recyclable materials and compostable waste where appropriate. Also requires Site Waste Management Plans in some cases.
R6 Low and Zero Carbon Buildings and Water Efficiency	All new buildings must install low and zero-carbon generating technology (LZCGT) to reduce predicted carbon dioxide emissions by at least 20% below 2007 building standards. Also requires new buildings to use water saving technologies and techniques.

R7 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments	Development of renewable and low carbon energy developments will be supported in principle if the technology can operate efficiently and the environmental and cumulative impacts can be satisfactorily addressed. Wind energy developments will also be required to meet stringent environmental and amenity standards.
R8 Heat Networks	Supports and encourages heat networks. Stipulates the requirements that new developments must meet with regard to heat network zones.
Communications Infrastructure	
CI1 Digital Infrastructure	All new residential and commercial development will be expected to have access to modern, up-to-date and high-speed communications infrastructure.
CI2 Telecommunications Infrastructure	Proposals for telecommunications infrastructure will be permitted provided they comply with PAN62 in relation to appearance and the environment.
Health and Wellbeing	
WB1 Health Impact Assessments	Sets out when developments would be expected to undertake a Health Impact Assessment.
WB2 Air Quality	Proposals which may have a detrimental impact on air quality will not be permitted unless measures to mitigate the impact of air pollutants are in place.
WB3 Noise	Presumption against noise-generating developments being located next to sensitive developments such as housing. Protects Noise Management Areas and Quiet Areas from noise.
WB4 Residential Care Facilities	Requires new specialist care facilities to meet design and amenity standards.
WB5 Changing Places	Requires major developments that are open to the public to provide free publicly accessible changing places toilets.

The ALDP allocates land for development in order to meet the requirements of the SDP. A list of the sites is provided in Table 2.3 below. This is based upon “Appendix 2 Opportunity Sites” in the ALDP. As well as the list of ALDP policies in Table 2.2 above, these proposals, or Opportunity Sites, also need to be considered regarding their potential to raise likely significant effects. It is worth noting that the fifth column in the table below highlights those Opportunity Sites which we consider need to be subject to Project Level (i.e. application stage) Habitats Regulations Appraisal. But this is explained further in the Appropriate Assessment section (Section 6).

Table 2.3 Plan Opportunity Sites (table taken from the LDP Appendix 2)

Site	Site Name	Site Size	Policy	HRA Required	Other Factors
Bridge of Don & Grandhome					
OP1	Murcar	27.8ha	Land Release Policy and Green Space Network		Strategic Reserve Employment Land for the period 2033-40. This site may be at risk of flooding. Flood Risk Assessment required to accompany development proposals. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP2	Cloverhill	24.8ha	Residential and Green Space Network		Opportunity for 550 homes on former employment land. Primary and secondary education and health capacity issues need to be addressed. Flood Risk Assessment required to accompany future development proposals.
OP45	Berryhill	43.7ha	Business and Industry and Green Space Network		Development Framework approved in 2008 covers this site and land to the north. Land available for development of Use Class 4, 5 and 6. Flood Risk Assessment required to accompany future development proposals. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP3	Findlay Farm, Murcar	16.4ha	Business and Industrial Land		Opportunity to extend the Aberdeen Energy Park. A flood risk assessment will be required. A Drainage Impact Assessment will be required. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP4	North Denmore	1.7ha	Residential		Residential opportunity for up to 30 houses on an unused Council owned site.
OP5	Balgownie Centre, Bridge of Don	2.25ha	Residential		Former Aberdeen College building now cleared. Planning Brief available.

OP6	WTR Site at Dubford	0.57ha	Residential and Green Space Network		Brownfield opportunity for residential development that should look to integrate with the neighbouring development at Dubford. A flood risk assessment will be required. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP7	Aberdeen College Gordon Centre	3.1ha	Mixed Use and Green Space Network		Location suitable for residential or mixed-use development. The woodland on site, particularly along the site's boundaries, should be retained. A Drainage Impact Assessment will be required.
OP8	East Woodcroft North	2.2ha	Residential		Council owned site identified for 60 homes. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP9	Grandhome	323ha	Land Release Policy/ Green Space Network		Privately owned site in single ownership identified for 7000 homes and 5 hectares of employment land (Use Class 4 uses). Town Centre identified for Phase 2 of this site. Developers will be required to provide a Flood Risk Assessment in support of any development proposals for this site. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP10	Dubford	4.2ha	Residential and Green Space Network		This is the undeveloped part of the 550 home Dubford development. Any proposal here must comply with the Dubford Development Framework. This site may be at risk of flooding. A Flood Risk Assessment will be required to accompany any future development proposals for this site.
OP11	Balgownie Area 4	0.5ha	Residential		Opportunity for residential development of up to 15 houses. A flood risk assessment will be required.
OP12	Silverburn House	4.0ha	Residential		Opportunity for 100 homes on former employment land. Primary and secondary education and health capacity issues need to be addressed. Needs to link into OP2 and OP13 – the AECC site. A flood risk assessment will be required. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP13	AECC Bridge of Don	18.4ha	Mixed Use		Redevelopment opportunity for mixed use development. Masterplan approved. The site will be required to accommodate an expansion of the Park and Choose to 999 spaces and a household waste recycling centre to replace the facility at Scotstown Road. Any residential elements would need to address school capacity issues in the area. This site may be at risk of flooding. A Flood Risk Assessment will be required in order to assess its suitability for redevelopment. Development should respect the landscape setting and amenity

					of the course of the Royal Aberdeen Golf Club. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP75	Denmore Road	4.56ha	Commercial Centre		Opportunity for bulky goods retailing. Pitches lost should be replaced in Bridge of Don by new or upgraded pitches which are of comparable or greater benefit. Drainage Impact Assessment accompanying development proposals should address any surface water flooding issues. A flood risk assessment will be required. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
Dyce, Bucksburn and Woodside					
OP14	Former Cordyce School	7.9ha	Mixed Use and Green Space Network		Site suitable for a number of uses including housing, a garden centre and health and fitness village. Development should avoid harmful impacts on the community orchard. A Flood Risk Assessment is required. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP15	Former Carden School	0.37ha	Residential		Part of Dyce Primary School deemed surplus to requirements.
OP16	Davidsons Papermill, Mugiemoos Road, Bucksburn	29.5ha	Mixed Use		Former paper mill site and adjoining land. Development Framework and Phase 1 Masterplan approved. A Flood Risk Assessment will be required to accompany any future development proposals for this site. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP17	Former Bucksburn Primary School	0.94ha	Residential		Former primary school suitable for residential or other uses compatible with a residential area. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required. A flood risk assessment will be required.
OP18	Craibstone North and Walton Farm	20.0ha	Land Release Policy/ Green Space Network		Opportunity for development of 1.5ha of employment and 18.5 hectares of Strategic Reserve employment land or a higher education and research institute in the 2033-40 period. Masterplan required. A Flood Risk Assessment will be required to accompany any future development proposals for this site. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP19	Rowett North	63.9ha	Business Zone/Green Space Network/Airport Public Safety		Site for The Event Complex Aberdeen and complimentary employment uses. Masterplan approved. This site may be at risk of flooding. A Flood Risk Assessment will be required to accompany any future development proposals for this site. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.

			Zone		
OP20	Craibstone South	42.6ha	Land Release Policy/ Green Space Network		Opportunity for 1000 homes. Part of approved Newhills Development Framework. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required. A flood risk assessment will be required.
OP21	Rowett South	106.85ha	Land Release Policy/ Green Space Network/ Residential		Opportunity for 1940 homes of which 240 homes are phased in the period beyond 2032. Part of approved Newhills Development Framework. Town Centre identified for this site comprising of approx. 7,500 square metres total floorspace (4,000 square metres supermarket, 3,500 square metres other comparison and local shops and retail services.) Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required. A flood risk assessment will be required.
OP22	Greenferns Landward	69.6ha	Land Release Policy		Opportunity for 1500 homes on Council owned land, of which 500 homes are phased for the period beyond 2032. Part of approved Newhills Development Framework. Burnbrae Moss District Wildlife Site lies adjacent to the southern boundary of this site. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required. A flood risk assessment will be required.
OP23	Dyce Drive	65ha	Business and Industrial Land /Green Space Network		This site may be at risk of flooding. A Flood Risk Assessment will be required to accompany any future development proposals for this site. The site lies within a pipeline notification zone. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP24	Central Park, Dyce	0.71ha	New Community Sites and Facilities		Site reserved for a new medical centre. Urban Green Space developed here should be replaced through the demolition of the existing medical centre north of Dyce shopping centre. Pedestrian access to the shopping centre car park should be provided. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP25	Woodside	19.1ha	Residential/Green Space Network/ Green Belt		Site capable of accommodating up to 300 homes, including affordable housing as per Persley Den/Woodside Masterplan. Parts of the site may have a risk of flooding and development will have to be avoided in those areas. A Flood Risk Assessment will be required to support any development proposals for the site. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP86	Dyce Railway Station	1.1ha	Land for Transport		Opportunity Site for an expanded car park with associated SuDS and landscaping. Access to the Formartine Buchan Way should be retained and enhanced. Drainage Impact Assessment accompanying development proposals should address any surface water flooding issues.

Kingswells & Greenferns					
OP26	Old Skene Road	1.2ha	Residential	✓	Residential opportunity for 14 houses. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions.
OP27	Greenfern Infant School	0.91ha	Residential	✓	Brownfield residential opportunity. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions.
OP28	Greenferns	13.6ha	Residential		This is an opportunity to provide 120 homes. Joint Development Framework with OP33 Greenferns approved. Site may be at risk of flooding. Flood Risk Assessment required to accompany future development proposals. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP29	Prime Four Business Park	50.0ha	Business Zone/Green Space Network	✓	Opportunity for development of business land which will attract high quality businesses or be suitable for company headquarters. Masterplans and Development Framework prepared. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. A flood risk assessment will be required. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP63	Prime Four Business Park Phase 5 Extension	12.7ha	Business Zone	✓	Expansion to existing allocation. Masterplan approved. A Traffic Impact Assessment will be required. The site lies within a pipeline notification zone. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP30	Kingsford	24.5ha	Green Belt	✓	New stadium and training facilities. This development proposal

					will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP31	Maidencraig South East	29.8ha	Residential/Green Space Network	✓	Opportunity for development of 450 homes. Joint masterplan approved for this site and OP32 Maidencraig North East. This site may be at risk of flooding. Flood Risk Assessment required to accompany development proposals. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP32	Maidencraig North East	22.8ha	Residential/Green Space Network	✓	Opportunity for development of 300 homes. Joint masterplan approved for this site and OP31 Maidencraig South East. Drainage Impact Assessment accompanying development proposals should address any surface water flooding issues. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP33	Greenferns	60.4ha	Land Release Policy/ Green Space Network		Opportunity for development of 1350 homes and 10ha of employment land on a Council owned site. 400 of the homes are phased for the period beyond 2032. Joint Development Framework with OP28 Greenferns approved. This site may be at risk of flooding. A flood risk assessment will be required to accompany any future development proposals for this site. Proposals for an extension to Enermec and a new NHS health centre will need to be accommodated on site. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP34	East Arnhall	1.0ha	Land Release Policy	✓	An opportunity for development of 1 hectares of employment land. A masterplan with Aberdeenshire Council involvement would be desirable given that the site borders the Local Authority boundaries. Site may be at risk of flooding. A Flood Risk Assessment will be required to accompany future

					development proposals Site lies within a pipeline notification zone. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP111	Skene Road, Maidencraig	0.9ha	Residential and Green Space Network	✓	Site capable of accommodating around 15 homes. A Flood Risk Assessment will be required to accompany any future development proposals for this site. Development should seek to avoid any adverse impacts on the Den of Maidencraig Local Nature Conservation Site. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
Countresswells					
OP38	Countesswells	165.1ha	Land Release Policy/ Green Space Network	✓	An opportunity for development of 3000 homes and 10 hectares of employment land. Development Framework and Phase 1 Masterplan approved. Site may be at risk of flooding. Flood Risk Assessment required to accompany future development proposals. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
Deeside					
OP39	Braeside Infant School	1.04ha	Residential	✓	Former school site with potential to be redeveloped for residential use in future. Development will have to respect residential amenity within and surrounding the area. The Council will seek the retention of the playpark in its current location to the south of site OP39. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning

					conditions.
OP40	Cults Pumping Station	0.69ha	Urban Green Space	✓	Brownfield residential opportunity. Development will have to respect green linkages to the west of the site and the retention of the allotments to the east of the site. Development should seek to avoid any adverse impacts on the Cults Den Local Nature Conservation Site. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. A flood risk assessment will be required. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP41	Friarsfield	5.6ha	Residential and Green Space Network	✓	This is the undeveloped part of the 280 home Friarsfield development. Development Framework approved. This site may be at risk of flooding. A Flood Risk Assessment will be required to accompany any future development proposals for this site. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP42	Hotel and Equestrian Centre at Hazlehead	9.2ha	Green Belt and Green Space Network	✓	Planning permission granted for a hotel and equestrian centre. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP43	Milltimber Primary School	1.85ha	Residential	✓	Milltimber Primary School is likely to become available in the future due to the development at Oldfold providing a new school. Site may be at risk of flooding. Flood Risk Assessment required to accompany future development proposals. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions.

OP44	North Lasts Quarry	8.01ha	Green Belt	✓	Ongoing mineral extraction. Planning Permission granted in February 2017 to continue hard rock extraction. The site lies within a pipeline consultation zone and all development should conform to the terms of Policy B6 – Pipelines, Major Hazards and Explosives Storage Sites. Site may be at risk of flooding. Flood Risk Assessment required to accompany any future development proposals. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP47	Edgehill	4.4ha	Residential/Green Space Network	✓	Opportunity for development of 5 homes. Site may be at risk of flooding. A flood risk assessment may be required. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP48	Oldfold	48.9ha	Land Release Policy	✓	Opportunity for development of 550 homes and 5 hectares of employment land. A Development Framework and Masterplan have been approved. Site may be at risk of flooding. Flood Risk Assessment required to accompany future development proposals. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP49	Grove Nursery, Hazlehead	5.9ha	New Community Facilities	✓	Following a Council resolution this site is identified for social enterprises specialising in nursery, horticulture and/or allotments and other associated uses. Site may be at risk of flooding. A flood risk assessment may be required. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed

					subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP50	Skene Road, Hazlehead	49.7ha	Green Belt/ Green Space Network	✓	Land reserved for a phased cemetery development. Site may be at risk of flooding. A flood risk assessment may be required. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP51	Peterculter Burn	7.4ha	Residential and Green Space Network	✓	Site capable of accommodating 19 homes, a hydro-electric scheme, fish pass, football pitch, changing facilities and car parking for Culter Youth Football Club and a new pathway opening up access to existing woodland. A Flood Risk Assessment will be required together with a masterplan giving details of access and setting out timescales for implementation of the different stages of the overall development. These matters will be reflected in any grant of planning permission. A planning brief will be required for OP51 setting out specific measures needed to avoid damage to, and enhance the Local Nature Conservation Site. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. The proposal should demonstrate that the Culter Burn is protected. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP52	Malcolm Road Peterculter	1.5ha	Residential	✓	Opportunity for 8 houses. Scots Pine trees on western boundary to be retained. Site (or part of) may be at risk of flooding. Flood Risk Assessment may be required in support of any development proposals for this site. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Supporting ecological survey information, including details of the habitats and protected species present and how these will be safeguarded, will also be required.

					Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP54	Craigton, Peterculter	2.45ha	Residential	✓	Housing opportunity for 10 houses. Flood Risk Assessment required. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP109	Woodend Peterculter	2ha	Residential	✓	Opportunity for 19 houses. Drainage Impact Assessment required to consider protection of potential wet habitats/woodlands adjacent to the site and the potential requirement for a buffer to prevent any increase in drainage of wet habitats/woodlands. Ancient Woodland to the south of the site is to be protected. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Supporting ecological survey information, including details of the habitats and protected species present and how these will be safeguarded, will also be required. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP112	West of Contlaw Road	12.5ha	Residential	✓	Opportunity for 10 houses. Arboricultural and ecological implications studies required. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. A flood risk assessment may be required. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP113	Culter House Road	2.4ha	Residential	✓	Opportunity for 8 houses. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects

					on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP114	Milltimber South	11.5ha	Mixed Use and Green Space Network	✓	Mixed use opportunity with an indicative allocation of 60 dwellings and 1225 square metres of ancillary retail/office space. A Flood Risk Assessment and/or Drainage Impact Assessment may be required. Development proposals will require to take account of links to the green network, effects on landscape and presence of features listed on the Sites and Monuments Record. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions.
Loirston & Cove					
OP46	Royal Devenick Park	8.36ha	Residential	✓	Housing opportunity for 150 houses. Flood Risk Assessment required. A masterplan is required and proposals should address: i) the definition of the developable area in order to protect woodland, including native woodland, and address the nature conservation interests of the site including the future protection and management of those interests; ii) native planting to establish a new green belt boundary and to reinforce the natural feature of the Leggart Burn; and iii) the detail of how safe and sustainable access and public transport linkages are to be achieved. Ecological surveys will be necessary for this site, including any required mitigation measures relative to the proposals. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions.
OP55	Blackhills Quarry, Cove	32.76ha	Green Belt		Planning permission granted in 2013 to continue hard rock extraction and processing. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP56	St Fittick's Park	18.2ha	Energy Transition Zone, Green Space Network	✓	Energy Transition Zone. This site, along with OP61, will support renewable energy transition related industries in association with Aberdeen South Harbour. Any development at this site must have a functional association with the South Harbour which precludes it being located elsewhere, such as the size of the infrastructure preventing transport from other locations or requiring 'roll on / roll off' level access to the South Harbour. Appropriate environmental assessments will be required,

					<p>including a Habitats Regulations Appraisal to accompany development proposals in order to avoid adverse effects on the qualifying interests of a range of European sites. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. A Flood Risk Assessment is also required. Other issues which need to be addressed include water quality and habitats associated with the East Tullos Burn, heritage impacts, recreational access, habitat connectivity, compensatory planting and landscape buffering with residential areas." Joint Masterplan needed for OP56, OP61 and OP62. The joint masterplan for OP56, OP61 and OP62 should consider the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent of the developable area within the B5 Energy Transition Zone zoning; • Areas which should remain undeveloped and the extent of any buffer zones; • Mitigation measures to ensure the continued viability of linear habitats including the East Tullos Burn, recreation and core path network; • Options for the use of the wastewater treatment plant; • Measures to avoid, minimise, mitigate, and compensate potential impacts on biodiversity / greenspace that will ensure at least no net-loss of biodiversity across the masterplan area." Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP57	Craighill Primary School, Kincorth	0.86ha	Residential	✓	<p>Vacant Primary School. Forms part of the Strategic Infrastructure Plan Affordable Housing Programme. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions.</p>
OP58	Stationfields, Cove	9.8ha	Residential and Green Space Network		<p>Opportunity for 150 homes. Masterplan required. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.</p>
OP59	Loirston	119.2ha	Land Release Policy/ Green Space Network	✓	<p>Opportunity for development of 1500 homes and 11 hectares of employment land. Potential to accommodate supermarket in a new district centre to meet convenience shopping deficiencies in south Aberdeen.</p> <p>Site may be at risk of flooding. Flood Risk Assessment required to accompany future development proposals. Development</p>

					<p>Framework approved.</p> <p>Ecological surveys will be necessary for this site, including any required mitigation measures relative to the proposals. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.</p>
OP60	Charleston	20.5ha	Land Release Policy and Green Space Network	✓	<p>Opportunity for development of 20.5 hectares of employment land for the period 2033-40. Site may be at risk of flooding. Flood Risk Assessment required to accompany future development proposals. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions.</p>
OP61	Doonies	16.3ha	Energy Transition Zone, Green Space Network	✓	<p>Energy Transition Zone. This area along with OP56 will support renewable energy transition related industries in association with Aberdeen South Harbour. Appropriate environmental assessments will be required, including a Habitats Regulations Appraisal to accompany development proposals in order to avoid adverse effects on the qualifying interests of a range of European sites. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Other issues which need to be addressed include landscape impact of development, recreational access and habitat connectivity. Joint Masterplan needed for OP56, OP61 and OP62. A flood risk assessment may be required. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.</p>
OP62	Bay of Nigg	55ha	Aberdeen Harbour, Energy Transition Zone, Green Belt and Green Space	✓	<p>Aberdeen Harbour expansion. Bay of Nigg Development Framework approved. Requires Flood Risk Assessment and full Transport Assessment. Appropriate environmental assessments will be required including a Habitats Regulations Appraisal to accompany development proposals in order to avoid adverse effects on the qualifying interests of a range of European sites.</p>

			Network		This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Other issues to be addressed include re-instatement of the coastal path and recreational access. Joint Masterplan needed for OP56, OP61 and OP62.
OP64	Former Ness Tip	20.5ha	Green Belt and Green Space Network	✓	Solar Farm. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP103	Former Torry Nursery School	0.53ha	Residential	✓	Council owned site surplus to requirements. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions.
OP105	Kincorth Academy	3.94ha	Residential	✓	Forms part of the Strategic Infrastructure Plan Affordable Housing Programme. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP107	East Tullos Gas Holder	3.12ha	Business and Industrial		Former gas holder site and Council owned recycling centre suitable for an energy from waste facility. Drainage Impact Assessment accompanying development proposals should address any surface water flooding issues.
OP115	34-40 Abbotswell Road	1.03ha	Mixed Use	✓	Suitable for residential use. A noise impact assessment will be required. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.

City Centre & Urban Areas					
OP35	Summerfield House, Eday Road	1.1ha	Residential	✓	Brownfield residential opportunity. Drainage Impact Assessment required. School capacity issues would need to be addressed. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP36	Charlie House	1.5ha	Urban Green Space and Green Space Network	✓	Site identified for children's respite centre and interactive garden area. A Flood Risk Assessment is required for this site. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP37	Woodend Hospital	7.1ha	Existing Community Sites and Facilities and Green Space Network	✓	Brownfield residential opportunity on part of the hospital site. Site includes listed buildings, trees and open space which require sensitive treatment. Flood Risk Assessment required. School capacity issues will need to be addressed. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP65	Haudagain Triangle, Middlefield	4.0ha	Mixed use and Land for Transport		Vacant land made available as part of the Haudagain improvements. Site should accommodate a mix of residential, retail, commercial and community uses to support the regeneration of the area. A flood risk assessment will be required.
OP66	Granitehill	4.8ha	Residential		Brownfield opportunity for up to 300 homes which should include a wide range of houses and flats. School capacity issues will need to be addressed. A Drainage Impact Assessment will be required. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP68	1 Western Road	0.07ha	Residential		Capacity for approximately 22 residential units.
OP69	152 Don Street,	0.63ha	Residential		Residential opportunity on brownfield site in Old Aberdeen

	Old Aberdeen				Conservation Area. Drainage Impact Assessment required. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP70	Denburn Valley – City Centre Masterplan Intervention Area	6.5ha	Mixed Use, Urban Green Space, Green Space Network and City Centre Retail Core	✓	<p>New ground floor uses including Use Class 1 (Retail); Use Class 2 (Financial, Professional and other services), Use Class 3 (Food and Drink and Use Class 11 (Assembly and Leisure).</p> <p>New upper floor uses – Use Class 9 (houses) – suitable for apartments.</p> <p>Refurbishment of former Woolmanhill hospital buildings for Pavilion, Use Class 7 (Hotels and Hostels) or Use Class 9 (Houses). Other remaining buildings suitable for Use Class 9 (Houses). A Flood Risk Assessment will be required in order to assess its suitability for redevelopment.</p> <p>Refurbishment of Denburn Court.</p> <p>Upgrade and expansion of Union Terrace Gardens including outdoor amphitheatre, new soft landscaping and high level bridge access.</p> <p>This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions.</p>
OP72	Aberdon House	0.64ha	Residential		Cleared site which forms part of the Strategic Infrastructure Plan Affordable Housing Programme. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP73	Balgownie Machine Centre	0.2ha	Mixed Use		Land reserved partially for Berryden Road Improvements. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP74	Broadford Works, Maberley Street	3.6ha	Mixed Use	✓	Consent granted for residential and other uses subject to legal agreement. Site may be at risk of flooding. Flood Risk Assessment required to accompany future development proposals. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP76	Former Raeden Centre	1.48ha	Residential and Green Space	✓	The presence of mature trees means that only a small part of the previously developed area may be suitable for sensitive

			Network		residential redevelopment. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP77	Cornhill Hospital	6.04ha	Existing Community Sites and Facilities	✓	Former hospital site with substantial granite buildings in Rosemount Conservation Area. Redevelopment for mix of uses, residential, office/ business (Use Class 4), community uses. Development underway. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP78	Frederick Street	0.1ha	Mixed Use		Small brownfield opportunity. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP79	Crown House	0.04ha	Mixed Use	✓	City centre location suitable for residential use. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions.
OP80	Mastrick Clinic	0.12ha	Neighbourhood Centre	✓	Uses that would support the Mastrick neighbourhood centre. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions.
OP81	Queen's Square – City Centre Masterplan Intervention Area	5.4ha	Mixed Use		Refurbishment of the eastern annex of Marischal College for Use Class 4 (Offices) and class 11 (Assembly and Leisure). Refurbishment of Greyfriars John Knox Church – appropriate uses include Use Class 3 (Food and Drink); Use Class 4 (Business); Use Class 7 (Hotels and Hostels); Use Class 10 (Non-residential Institutions); Use Class 11 (Assembly and Leisure).

					<p>New ground floor uses could include Use Class 1 (Retail); Use Class 2 (Financial, Professional and other services) and Use Class 3 (Food and Drink).</p> <p>New upper floor uses could include Use Class 9 (Houses) – suitable for apartments. A Drainage Impact Assessment will be required.</p>
OP82	Dunbar Halls of Residence, Don Street	1.64ha	Residential		<p>Residential or student accommodation opportunity in Old Aberdeen Conservation Area.</p> <p>Ecological surveys will be necessary for this site, including any required mitigation measures relative to the proposals. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.</p>
OP83	Urquhart Building, City Hospital	0.28ha	Existing Community Sites and Facilities		Residential opportunity would allow the re-use of this listed building.
OP84	Resource Centre, City Hospital	0.16ha	Existing Community Sites and Facilities		Small scale retail, commercial or office use.
OP85	King Street/ Beach Esplanade	2.0ha	New Community Facilities		Site is identified by Council resolution for a Mosque, community facilities and open space. Until proposals for these uses are progressed, or if a decision is made not to pursue them, the existing open space use will be protected by Policy NE2 Green and Blue Infrastructure (Urban Green Space). Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP87	Pittodrie Park	6.00ha	Residential		Proposed residential development. School capacity issues will need to be addressed. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP88	Shore Porters Warehouse	0.02ha	Mixed Use		Redundant warehouse. Residential will only be considered if suitable amenity can be demonstrated. Noise Impact Assessment required.
OP89	Kaimhill Outdoor Centre	1.5ha	Residential and Green Space Network	✓	Proposal for 35 houses. Play park area should be retained and compensatory recreational provision made in the local community. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions.

OP90	St Machar Primary School	1.01ha	Residential		Suitable for education use and/or affordable housing. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP91	Union Street West City Centre Masterplan Intervention Area	15.3ha	City Centre Retail Core, Mixed Use and West End Shops and Cafés	✓	New Aberdeen City Rooms for ground floor cafe, multi-purpose foyer and gallery (Use Class 11) with offices (Use Class 4) above and rooftop restaurant (Use Class 3). Refurbishment of Golden Square. Refurbishment of Bon Accord Square. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. A Drainage Impact Assessment will be required.
OP92	St Peter's Nursery, Spital	0.09ha	Mixed Use	✓	Sensitive residential redevelopment - within a Conservation Area. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP93	Former Summerhill Academy	3.3ha	Residential		Residential development. A Habitats Regulations Appraisal is required to accompany development proposals in order to avoid adverse effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process it is likely a Construction Environmental Management Plan will also be required.
OP94	Tillydrone Primary School	2.11ha	Residential		Site of former Tillydrone Primary School. Site will be used for a new primary school. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP95	Station Gateway City Centre Masterplan Intervention Area	4.0ha	City Centre Retail Core, Mixed Use and Land for Transport	✓	Expanded station concourse across two levels to include Use Class 1 (Retail) and Use Class 3 (Food and Drink). New station hotel above concourse. New Trinity Centre entrance and bridge links. Hotel/serviced apartments on Atholl House site – Use Class 7 (Hotels and Hostels). To promote enhanced pedestrian and other linkages to Union

					Street and the wider City Centre in order to support the objectives of the Aberdeen City Centre Masterplan and Delivery Programme.. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. A flood risk assessment will be required.
OP96	Castlegate and Castlehill City Centre Masterplan Intervention Area	2.6ha	City Centre Retail Core, Mixed Use and Residential		<p>Refurbishment of properties on Castlegate and Justice Street. Appropriate ground floor uses include Use Class 1 (retail); Use Class 3 (Food and Drink); and Use Class 11 (Assembly and Leisure).</p> <p>Appropriate upper floor uses include Use Class 4 (Offices), Use Class 7 (Hotels and Hostels) and Use Class 9 (residential).</p> <p>Refurbishment of Marischal and Virginia Court (Use Class 9) Houses; potential for Use Class 1 (Retail); Use Class 3 (Food and Drink) and Use Class 11 (Assembly and Leisure) at street level.</p> <p>New Residential development of approximately 46 apartments.</p> <p>To promote streetscape improvements at Castlegate and Justice Street in order to support the objectives of the Aberdeen City Centre Masterplan and Delivery Programme.</p>
OP97	Victoria Road Primary School	0.67ha	Mixed Use		Former Primary School. The site would be suited for sensitive redevelopment. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP98	VSA Gallowgate	0.08ha	Mixed Use		Residential/Mixed use. Listed building. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP99	Old Torry	6.6ha	Mixed Use		Mixed use development. See also Old Torry Masterplan Study. This site may be at risk of flooding. A Flood Risk Assessment will be required in order to assess its suitability for redevelopment. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.
OP100	North Dee City Centre Masterplan	12.7ha	Business Zone, Mixed Use, Urban Green	✓	New Urban Quarter with a high quality and imaginative approach to the public realm, creating permeable pedestrian linkages between the city centre and the River

	Intervention Area		Space, Green Space Network and Land for Transport		<p>Dee.</p> <p>Masterplan required showing an appropriate mix of compatible new uses, including Use Class 1 (Retail), Use Class 2 (Financial, Professional and other services), Use Class 3 (Food and Drink), Use Class 4 (Business, including new office development and a Global Energy Hub if required), and Use Class 9 (Residential).</p> <p>Refurbishment of the listed smoke houses.</p> <p>Pedestrian bridge linking into OP106 Torry Waterfront</p> <p>This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. A flood risk assessment may be required.</p>
OP101	Woodside Congregational Church	0.07ha	Residential		Vacant church building.
OP102	George Street / Crooked Lane	0.96ha	City Centre Retail Core	✓	<p>Opportunity for retail development, enhance George Street, link to John Lewis / extend Bon Accord Centre, address accessibility issues through the centre and address public realm issues. Some Listed Buildings.</p> <p>Existing traditional granite buildings on the St Andrew Street and George Street frontages, and upper floor residential uses, to be retained. This site may be at risk of flooding. A Flood Risk Assessment will be required in order to assess its suitability for redevelopment. This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. Ecological surveys to assess the presence of and effects on protected habitats and species will be required.</p>
OP106	Torry Waterfront City Centre Masterplan Intervention Area	5.0ha	Mixed Use, Urban Green Space and Green Space Network.	✓	<p>New residential development.</p> <p>New ground floor uses including Use Class 1 (Retail) and Use Class 3 (Food and Drink), Hotel Academy (Use Class 7).</p> <p>Pedestrian bridge linking into OP100 North Dee.</p> <p>Consider improvements to the riverside park and promenade.</p> <p>This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats</p>

					Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. A flood risk assessment may be required.
OP110	Heart of the City – City Centre Masterplan Intervention Area	5.4ha	City Centre Retail Core, Urban Green Space, Green Space Network, Existing Community Sites and Facilities and Mixed Use.	✓	<p>Refurbishment and remodelling of buildings on Union Street. Negligible increase in overall accommodation but increased utilisation of existing floor space. Appropriate uses for ground floors include Use Class 1 (Retail), Use Class 2 (Financial, Professional and other services), and Use Class 3 (Food and Drink). Appropriate uses for upper and lower floors include Use Class 4 (Business); Use Class 7 (Hotels and Hostels); Use class 9 (Houses); Use Class 10 (Non-residential Institutions); Use class 11 (Assembly and Leisure).</p> <p>Remodelling of the St Nicholas Centre. Negligible increase in retail floor space but potential for expansion of office accommodation.</p> <p>Refurbishment of Mither Kirk including Use Class 10 (Non-residential Institution) and Use Class 11 (Assembly and Leisure).</p> <p>Redevelopment of Aberdeen Indoor Market for appropriate uses such as Use Class 1 (Retail), Use Class 3 (Food and Drink) and Use Class 11 (Assembly and Leisure), Use Class 9 (Houses) and Use Class 7 (Hotels and Hostels).</p> <p>This development proposal will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) in order to consider potential effects on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC. As part of this process an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) may be required although it is possible that this may be addressed subject to planning conditions. A flood risk assessment may be required.</p>
OP116	Froghall Terrace	1.7ha	Mixed Use		Cleared depot. Suitable for residential accommodation. A Drainage Impact Assessment will be required.

HRA Methodology

The methodology used for the appraisal of the ALDP has primarily arisen by following guidance issued by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) in 2015 (Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans – Guidance for Plan-Making Bodies In Scotland). The process outlined below also takes into account the 2019 SNH Guidance Note (The handling of mitigation in Habitats Regulations Appraisal – The People Over Wind CJEU Judgement).

Step 1 – Determine if an HRA is required

Step 2 – Identify European sites that should be considered in the appraisal

Step 3 – Gather baseline information about those European sites including qualifying interests, conservation objectives and site condition using SNH's online 'Sitelink'

Step 4 – Undertake discretionary discussions with SNH on the method and scope of the appraisal

Step 5 – Undertake screening (this includes screening the plan for likely significant effects, screening general policy statements and any projects referred to within the plan but not proposed by the plan)

Step 6 – Carry out the Appropriate Assessment looking at site integrity, conservation objectives, consideration of in-combination effects and the precautionary principle

Step 7 - Propose mitigation measures, where applicable and assess effectiveness of proposed mitigation

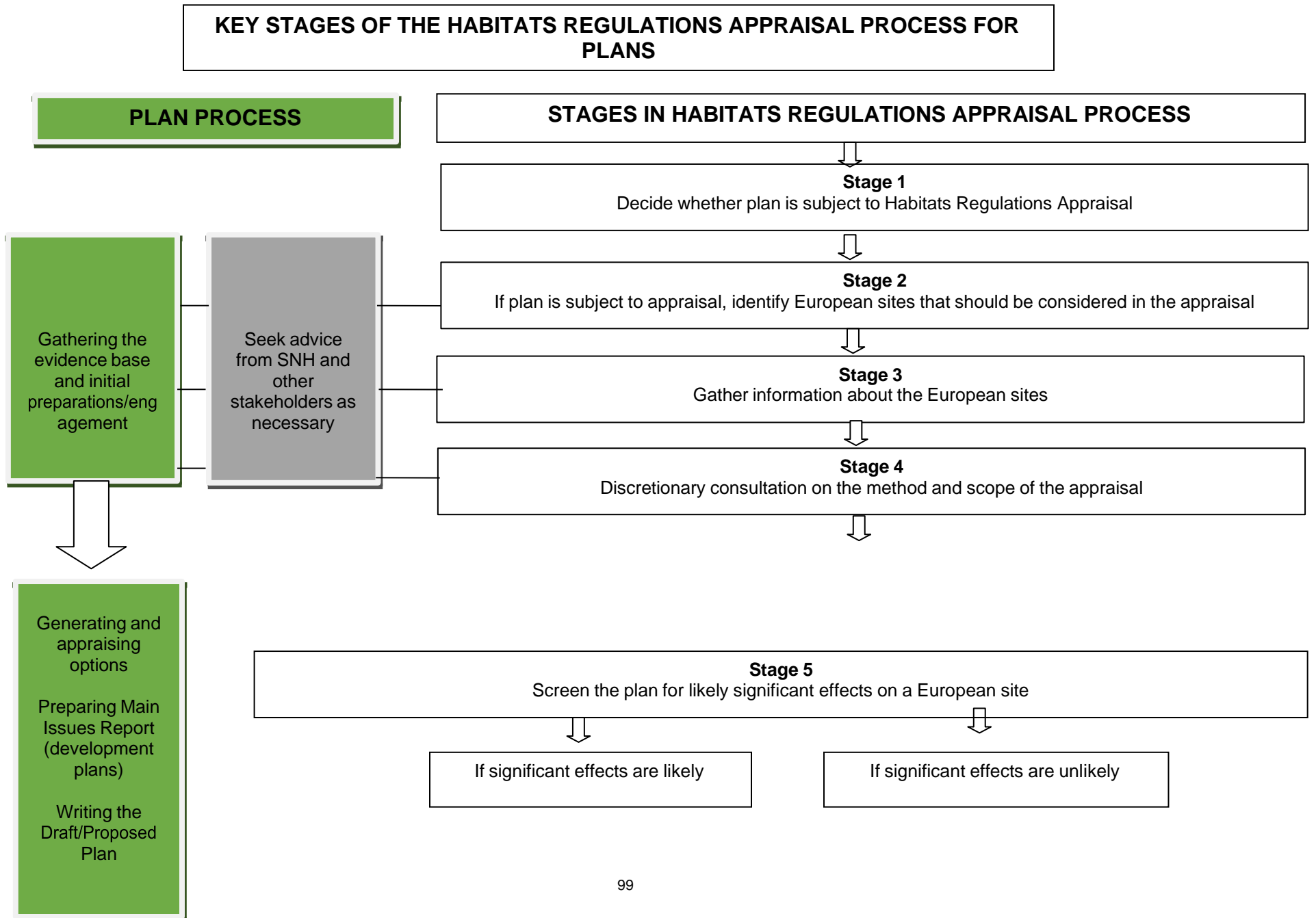
Step 8 – Prepare draft record of HRA

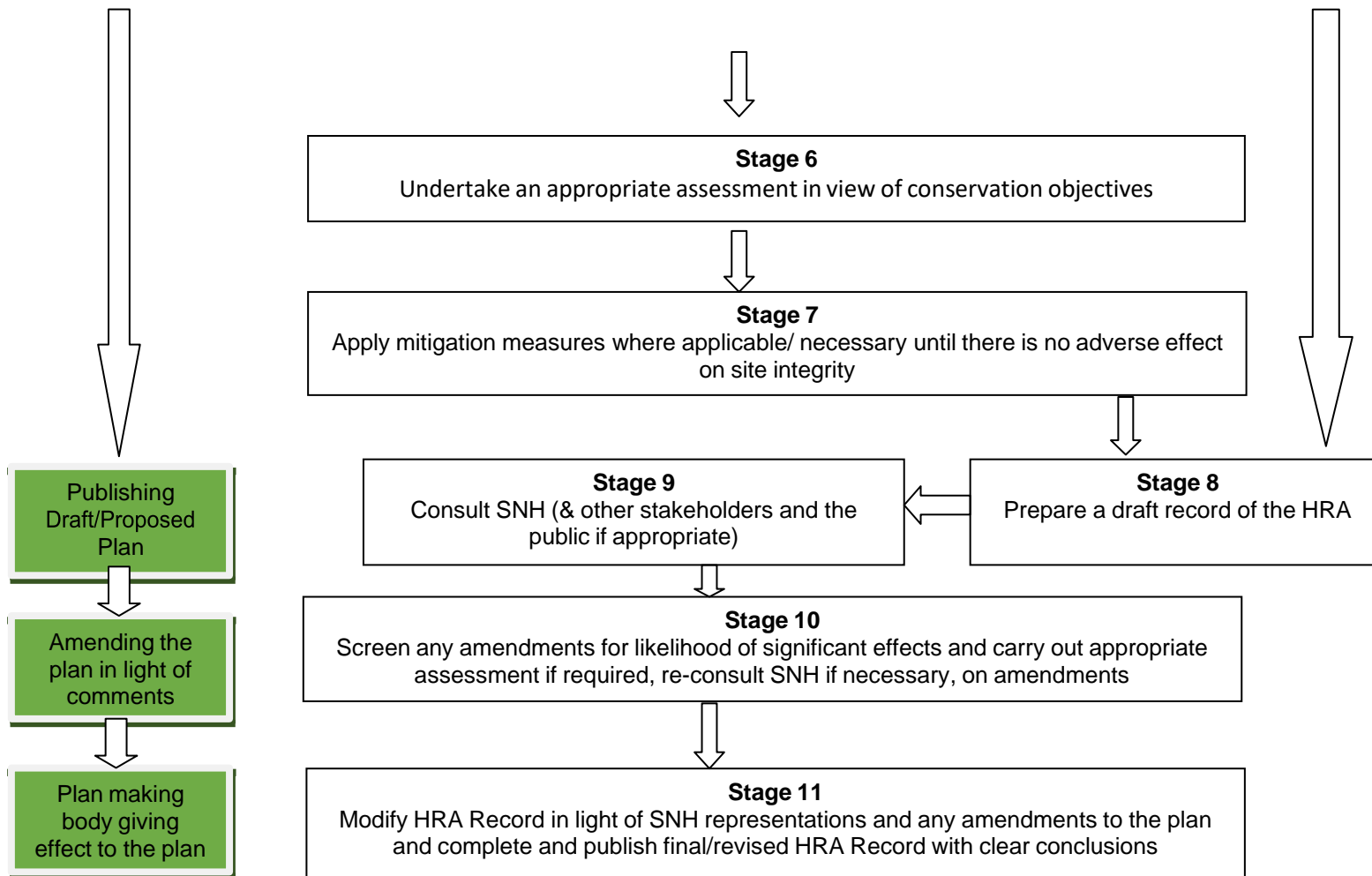
Step 9 – Formally consult with SNH and other appropriate stakeholders and the public

Step 10 – Screen any amendments for likelihood of significant effects (carry out appropriate assessment if required) and re-consult with SNH

Step 11 – Modify HRA Record in light of SNH representations and any amendments to the plan and complete and publish final HRA Record

Figure 3.1 Flowchart of HRA Process





3 Identification of European Sites and Baseline Information

It has been determined that the following European sites (listed in table 4.1) have the potential to be significantly affected by policies or proposals within the ALDP. These sites have been identified, firstly by looking geographically at the area in and around Aberdeen. If a European site falls within the plan area or near the boundary it has been included in order to ensure a precautionary approach. Secondly, a wider review of sites further from the plan area has been undertaken taking into consideration any connectivity between the potential impacts of the LDP and the qualifying features of other European sites outside the plan area. Given the nature of the qualifying features of other sites, this included consideration of effects on aquatic environments,

mobile species, coastal supporting habitats, how vulnerable sites are to increases in recreational pressure, and how sites could be affected in other ways by increases in development. The following European sites have been identified as requiring consideration as part of this HRA.

Table 4.1: List of European sites that may be affected

	European sites	Within LDP area²	Effect on aquatic environment	Effect on mobile species	Vulnerable to recreational pressure	Affected by increase in amount of development	Effect on supporting coastal habitats
1	River Dee SAC	√	√		√	√	
2	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle loch SPA			√	√	√	√
2A	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Local SPA (Proposed Extension)		√	√	√	√	√
3	Loch of skene SPA SPA			√		√	
4	Moray Firth SPA		√	√		√	
5	Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC			√			
6	Isle of May SAC			√			
7	Montrose Basin SPA			√	√		
8	Fowlsheugh SPA			√			

In Table 4.2 below these sites are analysed in terms of their conservation objectives, qualifying interests and the condition of the sites. There is also some discussion in the final column about whether / how the plan may be likely to significantly the qualifying interests of these European sites. The discussion in that final column informs the later stage of the process regarding whether particular aspects of the plan have been 'screened in' as having a likely significant effect on these sites / qualifying interests.

² Section 3 of SNH's 'HRA of Plans: Guidance for Plan-Making Bodies in Scotland' (Jan 2015) has been followed to identify the European sites that should be considered in the appraisal, both those within the LDP area and beyond

Table 4.2: Baseline Information

Site & Conservation Objectives	Conservation Objectives	Qualifying Interest	Assessed Condition	Vulnerability to change
<p>1. River Dee SAC (2334.48 ha) designated on 17 March 2005</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species 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</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <p>Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site</p> <p>Distribution of the species within site</p> <p>Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species</p> <p>Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species</p> <p>No significant disturbance of the species</p> <p>Distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel host species</p>	<p>Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i></p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (21 July 2011)</p>	<p>Atlantic salmon and freshwater pearl mussels are sensitive to disturbance to their river habitat. This includes silt and sediment entering the watercourse, as well as other forms of pollution. Silt in particular can smother habitat. The greatest risk of pollution from development is usually at construction stage, especially if there is a clear connection between the development site and the river.</p> <p>Salmon and freshwater pearl mussels may also be adversely affected by abstraction which, if substantial enough, may expose and dry out available habitat, increase water temperatures, and reduce dilution of pollution.</p> <p>These qualifying interests are also potentially vulnerable to direct impacts, e.g. arising through river engineering works. These kind of changes might destroy or</p>
		<p>Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i></p>	<p>Favourable Declining (06 October 2012)</p>	
		<p>Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i></p>	<p>Unfavourable No change (07 August 2003)</p>	

	<p>Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting freshwater pearl mussel host species</p>		<p>degrade habitat or can directly damage or stress the salmon or pearl mussels.</p> <p>Given the potential effects of construction-related pollution, and abstraction, the plan therefore has potential to affect the River Dee SAC.</p> <p>In relation to the Opportunity Sites, it is important to know that any construction related impacts can be appropriately managed (e.g. by the use of site-specific Construction Environment Management Plans), and that the cumulative effect of any development-related abstraction from the River Dee SAC is at a level that won't adversely affect site integrity.</p> <p>Declines of fresh water pearl mussels have been linked to diffuse and point source pollution, degraded habitat and pearl fishing, and it is likely that a combination of these factors were collectively responsible for the SAC population's unfavourable status. The River Basin Management Plan supporting document on the River Dee identified abstraction as a potential contributing</p>
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				<p>factor.</p> <p>The River Dee SAC estuary is located at the existing Aberdeen Harbour and lies to the north of the Aberdeen South Harbour/ proposed Energy Transition Zone area. It is possible that salmon might be impacted by construction related underwater noise for example. While freshwater pearl mussel will not be present within Aberdeen Harbour or Nigg Bay, any impact upon migrating salmon through the existing harbour or Nigg Bay could theoretically in turn affect mussels and otters present in the Dee.</p>
<p>2. Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA (1014.62 ha) designated on 30 March 1998</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species 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:</p> <p>Population of the species as a viable component of the site</p> <p>Distribution of the species within site</p> <p>Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species</p> <p>Structure, function and</p>	<p>Little tern, breeding <i>Sterna albifrons</i></p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (01 August 2012)</p>	<p>The existing Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA covers a complex area of sand dunes, shingle, saltmarsh, mudflats, sandbanks and other coastal habitats.</p> <p>Sandwich tern and little tern nest in the dune systems at the Sands of Forvie and on the beach at the mouth of the Ythan. Breeding sandwich tern and little tern are particularly vulnerable to disturbance. However, given the distance</p>
		<p>Sandwich tern, breeding <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i></p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (01 August 2012)</p>	
		<p>Lapwing, non-breeding <i>Vanellus vanellus</i></p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (18 August 2012)</p>	
		<p>Eider, non-breeding <i>Somateria mollissima</i></p>	<p>Favourable Declining (21 August 2012)</p>	
		<p>Redshank, non-breeding <i>Tringa totanus</i></p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (19 October 2012)</p>	
		<p>Common tern, breeding <i>Sterna hirundo</i></p>	<p>Unfavourable No Change (01 August 2012)</p>	
		<p>Pink-footed goose, non-breeding <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i></p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (06 November 2012)</p>	
		<p>Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding</p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (19 October 2012)</p>	

	<p>supporting processes of habitats supporting the species</p> <p>No significant disturbance of the species</p>			<p>between SPA nesting sites and the Plan area, it is unlikely there would be disturbance to nesting terns, or loss or deterioration of tern nesting habitats.</p> <p>The city boundary is within the foraging range (20km) of SPA pink footed geese, and it is theoretically possible that proposed LDP allocations could result in some loss of foraging ground. Loss of foraging land to development could be either from the direct footprint of a development or from related increases in disturbance (e.g. construction, recreation).</p> <p>The potential for an adverse effect on the SPA goose population can be appraised by considering foraging distribution data alongside information on the location of proposed allocations and also taking account of any available alternative foraging habitat and the combined effect which allocations in other plans may have (the most relevant other plan being the Aberdeenshire LDP).</p> <p>For the Aberdeen Harbour Expansion Project SNH</p>
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				<p>had carried out a theoretical apportioning of the eider in Nigg Bay from different SPAs, indicating upwards of 97% are from the breeding population at the Ythan estuary and will form part of the wintering population of that SPA. It is possible that some aspects of development at Nigg Bay could affect SPA eider, although experience from other developments indicates that eider habituate and tolerate a reasonable level of human activity, even whilst moulting. Habitat loss (feeding and shelter) is generally considered to have a greater impact on eider populations than disturbance, but that is not to dismiss the potential for disturbance related impacts.</p>
<p>2A. Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA Proposed Extension (6051.39 ha) at consultation stage</p>	<p>This marine extension has been specifically selected to protect: - foraging habitat used by Sandwich tern and little tern breeding at the Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA. The conservation objectives are:</p> <p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, subject to natural change, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained in the long-term and it continues to make an appropriate contribution to</p>	<p>Little Tern (breeding)</p>		<p>The linear coast immediately north of Aberdeen is intersected by the rivers Don and Ythan. The Ythan has a long, narrow estuary with the Sands of Forvie lying on the north bank. The proposed extension to the Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA takes in the seas off the existing SPA's coastline. It encompasses the marine waters within three</p>
		<p>Sandwich Tern (breeding)</p>		

	<p>achieving the aims of the Birds Directive for each of the qualifying species.</p>			<p>kilometres of the coast, stretching from Aberdeen harbour northwards to Cruden Bay.</p> <p>The proposed extension encompasses coastal waters important as foraging habitat for the SPA breeding tern populations. Coastal development adjacent to the SPA could theoretically disturb terns, effectively causing some loss of foraging habitat, however the location and nature of proposed Opportunity Sites suggests there is not potential for a significant level of disturbance to the tern foraging habitat.</p> <p>Policy B5 Energy Transition Zone supports renewable energy related development in principle at Aberdeen South Harbour. Theoretically this may have some potential to affect the tern foraging habitat, perhaps by increasing operational disturbance in the SPA extension area. However given the extent of the SPA extension and the potentially minimal impact of this (or any other plan policies upon that area), the issue can be screened out.</p>
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3. Loch of Skene SPA SPA (121.76 ha) designated on 01 October 1986	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species 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 site Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species No significant disturbance of the species	Greylag goose, non-breeding <i>Anser anser</i>	Unfavourable Declining (01 March 2014)	Greylag geese are now present on the SPA in very low numbers. This decline follows a national trend and is not connected with site management or development pressures. The city boundary is within the foraging range (20km) of SPA greylag geese, and it is theoretically possible that proposed LDP allocations could result in some loss of foraging ground. Loss of foraging land to development could be either from the direct footprint of a development or from related increases in disturbance (e.g. construction, recreation). The potential for an adverse effect on the SPA goose population can be appraised by considering foraging distribution data alongside information on the location of proposed allocations and also taking account of any available alternative foraging habitat as well as
		Goosander, non-breeding <i>Mergus merganser</i>	Unfavourable Declining (01 March 2014)	
		Goldeneye, non-breeding <i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Favourable Maintained (01 March 2014)	

				<p>the combined effect which allocations in other plans may have (the most relevant other plan being the Aberdeenshire LDP).</p> <p>Goosander and goldeneye are also qualifying features of the SPA. We have little information on in-winter movements of goosander in Scotland. Goosander only use Loch of Skene as a roost and there has been a strong decline in their numbers at the loch. Only three were observed in 2018 counts. However numbers on the Dee and the Don remain healthy, and it is unlikely that development would have a significant effect on the SPA goosander and goldeneye populations.</p>
<p>4. Moray Firth SAC (151273.98 ha) designated on 17 March 2005</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat 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</p>	<p>Subtidal sandbanks</p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (12 August 2004)</p>	<p>Bottlenose dolphin are vulnerable to disturbance, harassment, contamination, reduction of food availability, traumatic death and injury.</p> <p>An accreditation scheme</p>

	<p>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 as components of the habitat No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat</p>	<p>Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i></p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (21 September 2016)</p>	<p>is used for dolphin-watching cruise boats. There are codes of conduct for recreational pleasure craft. A strategy for dumping and dredging activities is also being developed to address these very localised activities adjacent to the coastline.</p> <p>The dolphins can be affected by coastal or marine developments generating significant underwater noise. The dolphins occur regularly in Aberdeen harbour and along the coast. Piling activities can take place for onshore as well as offshore works and generate underwater noise. Underwater noise (mainly from blasting) was a key issue considered for Aberdeen harbour expansion project, currently under construction.</p>
<p>5. Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC (65226.12ha) designated on 17 March 2005</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species 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:</p>	<p>Grey Seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i></p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (19 November 2014)</p>	<p>Potential vulnerabilities to consider are: sub-acoustic noise from construction with potential to result in disturbance, injury and death; vessel movements causing disturbance and possible risk of injury from collision; reduction in water quality which could be directly harmful to seals or impair their foraging; impacts upon</p>

	<p>Population of the species 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 of the species</p>			<p>the seals' prey species.</p> <p>However previous seal telemetry analysis (for Aberdeen harbour expansion in 2016) showed that although grey seals tagged at the Isle of May SAC and Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC used Nigg Bay, the connectivity was <i>not</i> of a sufficient strength to warrant further assessment of the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC population.</p> <p>Consequently there is little possibility of the Proposed ALDP impacting this SAC qualifying interest.</p>
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<p>6. Isle of May SAC (356.64ha) designated on 17 March 2005</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species 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 site Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species No significant disturbance of the species</p>	<p>Grey Seal</p>	<p>Favourable Maintained (24 November 2014)</p>	<p>Potential vulnerabilities to consider are: sub-acoustic noise from construction with potential to result in disturbance, injury and death; vessel movements causing disturbance and possible risk of injury from collision; reduction in water quality which could be directly harmful to seals or impair their foraging; and impacts upon the seals' prey species.</p> <p>Previous seal telemetry analysis (for Aberdeen harbour expansion in 2016) showed that although grey seals tagged at the Isle of May SAC and Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC used Nigg Bay. The degree of connectivity was only of a sufficient strength to warrant further assessment of the Isle of May SAC grey seal population (but not the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC population).</p>
<p>7. Montrose Basin SPA (981.19ha) designated on 03 February 1995</p>	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species 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</p>	<p>Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i></p> <p>Eider</p> <p>Greylag goose</p> <p>Knot</p>	<p>Not Assessed</p> <p>Favourable Declining (31 March 2008)</p> <p>Unfavourable No Change (31 March 2008)</p> <p>Unfavourable Declining (1</p>	<p>Montrose Basin, at the mouth of the River South Esk, is one of the finest examples of an enclosed estuarine basin in the UK. It is shallow and drains almost completely at low water, exposing a large</p>

<p>the long term: Population of the species 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 of the species</p>	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	March 2014)	<p>area of mud and sand flats. 88% of the basin is inter-tidal.</p> <p>The key development-related issue affecting the site interest would be the potential loss of land used by SAC pink-footed geese to forage.</p> <p>However Aberdeen City is more than 20 km from Montrose Basin (i.e. beyond typical goose foraging range), so there is a very low probability that the plan allocations will be in areas that geese would commute to from Montrose Basin.</p> <p>Nigg Bay, site of the Aberdeen harbour expansion project hosts hundreds of moulting male eiders in late summer. SNH did an apportioning exercise which indicated that 93% of the eider in Nigg Bay breed at the Ythan and 3% breed at Montrose. These will be part of the breeding population (a SSSI feature) and form a component of the much larger Montrose Basin SPA non-breeding population. So there is theoretical connectivity, but it will be for a very small proportion of the SPA non-breeding population. The potential</p>
	Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Favourable Maintained (31 March 2008)	
	Pink-footed goose	Favourable Maintained (1 March 2014)	
	Redshank	Favourable Maintained (1 March 2014)	
	Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	Favourable Maintained (31 March 2008)	
	Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Not Assessed	
	Waterfowl Assemblage	Favourable Maintained (1 March 2014)	

				for an effect on eider could be screened out on this basis.
8. Fowlsheugh SPA (1303.23ha) designated on 25 September 2009	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species 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 site Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species No significant disturbance of the species	Fulmar <i>Fulmaris glacialis</i>	Favourable Maintained (18 June 1999)	There are no significant threats to the qualifying interests at present but it faces long-term threats from fisheries and climate change. The site is managed as a nature reserve by the present owners, the RSPB, who have upgraded the public footpath which runs along the clifftop for the benefit of visitors to the colony, and provided information boards. Possible vulnerabilities include tourism impacts, and development might also theoretically effect mobile species. However given that the plan area is some 17km from the SPA, it is unlikely that Aberdeen LDP policies or opportunity sites will affect this SPA.
		Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i>	Favourable Maintained (11 June 1999)	
		Herring gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>	Unfavourable Declining (18 June 1999)	
		Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Favourable Maintained (11 June 1999)	
		Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i>	Favourable Maintained (11 June 1999)	
		Seabird Assemblage	Favourable Maintained (18 June 1999)	

4 Screening

The purpose of screening is to determine whether any part of the ALDP, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on the European sites listed in Table 4.2 above. In doing so, those aspects of the plan which would be unlikely to have a significant effect are eliminated from further consideration.

The test for a likely significant effect is a precautionary one, and a 'likely' effect is one that cannot be ruled-out based on objective information. This has been established in CJEU case law (The 'Waddenzee' case, C127/02) and further clarified in additional case law including the CJEU 'Sweetman' case (C258/11, Opinion of the Court), where the Advocate General said, "the question is simply whether the plan or project concerned is capable of having an effect. It is in that sense that the English 'likely to' should be understood".

CJEU case law has also established that the test of 'significance' concerns situations where a plan or project could undermine a site's conservation objectives.

4.1 Screening the Policies and Sites

Aspects of the Plan are screened out (both alone and in combination) on the basis of the following considerations³:

- They are general policy statements;
- It is not possible to identify effects on any particular European site because proposals are too general;
- Projects are referred to in, but not proposed by, the ALDP;
- They are elements of the ALDP that are intended to protect the natural environment,
- They are elements of the ALDP which will not in themselves lead to development or other change;
- They are elements of the ALDP which make provision for change but which could have no conceivable effect because of the absence of a link or pathway between the plan and European sites;
- They are elements of the ALDP which make provision for change but effects are likely to be minimal (a 'minor residual effect'); and
- They are elements of the ALDP that may have a minor residual effect but could have no likely significant effect on a site, in combination with other aspects of the same plan, or with other plans or projects

The following table (5.1) details aspects of the plan which are not likely to have a significant effect *alone* on a European site for the reasons given.

³ The list of considerations has been summarised from Section 4 of SNH's 'HRA of Plans: Guidance for Plan-Making Bodies in Scotland' (Jan 2015) which provides detailed reasoning and caveats for each of the criterion

Table 5.1 Screening of Policies & Opportunity Sites

Aspects of the plan which would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site alone	Relevant parts of the plan
General policy statements	Policy B6 – Pipelines, Major Hazards and Explosive Storage Sites Policy C11 – Digital Infrastructure Policy WB1 – Health Impact Assessments Policy WB5 – Changing Places Policy D1 – Quality Placemaking Policy D2 – Residential Amenity Policy D3 – Big Buildings Policy D8 – Shopfronts Policy D9 – Windows and Doors Policy VC5 – City Centre Living Policy VC7 – West End Shops and Cafes Policy VC9 – Out of Centre Proposals Policy VC10 – Local Shop Units Policy R5 – Waste Management Requirements for New Development Policy C12 – Telecommunications Infrastructure Policy H1 – Residential Areas Policy H4 – Housing Mix and Need Policy WB4 – Residential Care Facilities Policy H5 – Affordable Housing Policy H8 – Houses in Multiple Occupation and Overprovision Policy R4 – Energy From Waste
Aspects excluded from the appraisal because they are not proposals generated by this plan	
Aspects which protect the natural environment, including biodiversity, or conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment	Policy D4 – Landscape Policy D5 – Landscape Design Policy D6 – Historic Environment Policy D7 – Our Granite Heritage

	<p>Policy T2 – Sustainable Transport Policy T3 - Parking Policy WB2 – Air Quality Policy WB3 – Noise Policy NE1 – Green Belt Policy NE2 – Green and Blue Infrastructure Policy NE3 – Our Natural Heritage Policy NE4 – Water Environment Policy NE5 - Trees and Woodland Policy R2 – Degraded and Contaminated Land Policy R6 - Low and Zero Carbon Buildings and Water Efficiency</p>
Aspects which will not lead to development or other change	
Aspects which make provision for change but which could have no conceivable effect on a European site, because there is no link or pathway between them and the qualifying interests, or any effect would be a positive effect, or would not otherwise undermine the conservation objectives for the site	Policy B3 Aberdeen International Airport and Perwinnes Radar
Aspects which make provision for change but which could have no significant effect on a European site (minor residual effects) because any potential effects would be so restricted that they would not undermine the conservation objectives for the site	
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 any potential effects may occur, or which European sites, if any, may be affected	<p>Policy VC8 – Town, District, Neighbourhood and Commercial Centres Policy VC12 – Retail Developments Serving New Development Areas Policy H2 – Mixed Use Areas Policy H7 – Student Accommodation Developments Policy R3 – New Waste Management Facilities Policy R7 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments Policy R8 – Heat Networks</p>

Noting those policies which have been screened out on the above basis, the following policies are screened in. These in one form another all support the principle of development.

- LR1 Land Release Policy
- LR2 Delivery of Mixed Use Communities
- R1 Minerals
- H3 Density
- H6 Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites
- CF1 Existing Community Sites and Facilities
- CF2 New Community Facilities
- VC1 Vibrant City
- VC2 Tourism and Culture
- VC3 Network of Centres
- VC4 City Centre and Retail Core
- VC6 West End Area
- VC11 Beach and Leisure
- I1 Infrastructure Delivery and Planning Obligations
- T1 Land for Transport
- B1 Business and Industrial Land
- B2 Business Zones
- B4 Aberdeen Harbours
- B5 Energy Transition Zone

A requirement of the Habitats Directive is to undertake an Appropriate Assessment of a plan if it would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site “either individually or in combination with other plans or projects”. This is about addressing cumulative effects. Elements of a plan that have been screened out because any effects of change are likely to be ‘minor residual’ are also required to be assessed ‘in combination’, but no elements of the plan have been screened out under this category. Table 5.2 below details all aspects of the plan which will be taken through to the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Table 5.2 Aspects of the Plan that require Appropriate Assessment (Screened In)

European Site and its Qualifying Interest	Aspects of the Plan likely to have significant effect	Summary of likely significant effect
River Dee SAC Atlantic salmon Otter Freshwater pearl mussel	LR1 Land Release Policy LR2 Delivery of Mixed Use Communities I1 Infrastructure Delivery and Planning Obligations VC1 Vibrant City VC2 Tourism and Culture VC3 Network of Centres VC4 City Centre and Retail Core VC6 West End Area VC11 Beach and Leisure T1 Land for Transport B1 Business and Industrial Land B2 Business Zones B4 Aberdeen Harbours B5 Energy Transition Zone H3 Density H6 Gypsy and Traveller Sites CF1 Existing Community Sites and Facilities	<p>Atlantic salmon and freshwater pearl mussels are sensitive to disturbance to their river habitat. This includes silt and sediment entering the watercourse, as well as other forms of pollution. The greatest risk of pollution from development is usually at construction stage, especially if there is a clear connection between the development site and the river.</p> <p>Salmon and freshwater pearl mussels may also be adversely affected by abstraction which, if substantial enough, may expose and dry out available habitat, increase water temperatures, and reduce dilution of pollution. The qualifying interests are also potentially vulnerable to direct impacts, e.g. arising through river</p>

	<p>CF2 New Community Facilities R1 Minerals</p> <p>And all Opportunity Sites (i.e. OP1 – OP116, noting that there are no Opportunity Sites numbered 71, 67, 108, 114, 117, 118, 119)</p>	<p>engineering works. These kind of changes might destroy or degrade habitat or can directly damage or stress the salmon or pearl mussels.</p> <p>All the Opportunity Sites are screened in on the basis that they all may affect abstraction from the River Dee. A subset of these lie in the River Dee SAC catchment are additionally screened in because of the potential for construction related pollution to affect the River Dee.</p> <p>The River Dee SAC estuary is at the existing Aberdeen Harbour and lies to the north of the Aberdeen South Harbour/ Energy Transition Zone area. While freshwater pearl mussel will not be present within Nigg Bay, any impact upon migrating salmon through the existing harbour or through Nigg Bay could in turn affect mussels and otters present in the Dee.</p> <p>Policies B4 Aberdeen Harbours and B5 Energy Transition Zone provide a presumption in favour of certain types of development within these harbour areas, and depending on the specific nature of the development projects coming forward</p>
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		<p>under such policy support, there may be an impact on qualifying interests for the River Dee SAC. For this reason screen in Policy B4 and Policy B5.</p> <p>A range of other policies are screened in on a more general basis that in one form or another support the principle of development in the plan area and may potentially impact the River Dee SAC via abstraction or construction pollution impacts.</p>
<p>Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA Little tern, breeding Sandwich tern, breeding Lapwing, non-breeding Elder, non-breeding Redshank, non-breeding Pink-footed goose, non-breeding Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding</p>	<p>LR1 Land Release Policy B5 Energy Transition Zone</p> <p>Screen in all Opportunity Sites (i.e. OP1 – OP116, noting that there are no Opportunity Sites numbered 71, 67, 108, 114). This is on the precautionary basis that theoretically they might collectively affect pink-footed goose through loss of foraging habitat. OP62 Nigg Bay screened in regarding potential impacts on SPA eider.</p>	<p>Breeding sandwich tern and little tern are particularly vulnerable to disturbance. However, given the distance from SPA nesting sites, it is unlikely there would be disturbance to nesting terms, or loss or deterioration of nesting their habitats arising from development promoted by the Plan.</p> <p>The city boundary is within the foraging range (20km) of SPA pink-footed geese, and it is theoretically possible that proposed LDP allocations could result in some loss of foraging ground. Loss of foraging land to development could be either from the direct footprint of a</p>

		<p>development or related increased disturbance (e.g. construction, recreation). The potential for an adverse effect on the SPA population can be appraised by considering foraging distribution data alongside information on the proposed allocations and taking account of any available alternative habitat and in-combination effects alongside allocations in other plans (the most relevant being the Aberdeenshire LDP).</p> <p>Screen in all Opportunity Sites on the precautionary basis that theoretically they might collectively affect pink-footed goose through loss of foraging habitat.</p> <p>For the Aberdeen Harbour Expansion Project a theoretical apportioning of the eider in Nigg Bay from different SPAs, indicating upwards of 97% are from the breeding population at the Ythan estuary and will form part of the wintering population of that SPA. It is possible that some aspects of development at Nigg Bay could affect SPA eider. Policy B5 Energy Transition Zone provides a presumption in favour of development to support renewable energy related industry within the Aberdeen South Harbour area, and</p>
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		<p>depending on the specific nature of development projects coming forward under such policy support, there may be an impact on the eider qualifying interest of the Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA.</p> <p>For this reason screen in Policy B5, and OP62 Nigg Bay.</p> <p>Plan policy LR1 provides for the release of the Opportunity sites and so is also screened in, but other policies are unlikely to affect the SPA qualifying interests.</p>
<p>Loch of Skene SPA Greylag goose Goosander Goldeneye</p>	<p>LR1 Land Release Policy</p> <p>Screen in all Opportunity Sites (i.e. OP1 – OP116, noting that there are no Opportunity Sites numbered 71, 67, 108, 114). This is on the precautionary basis that theoretically they might collectively affect SPA greylag goose through loss of foraging habitat.</p>	<p>Greylag geese are now present on the SPA in very low numbers but the city boundary is within foraging range (20km) of the SPA, and so it is theoretically possible that proposed LDP allocations quite distant from the SPA could result in some loss of foraging ground. Loss of foraging land to development could be either from the direct footprint of a development or from an increase in related nearby disturbance (e.g. construction, recreation).</p>

		<p>This aspect can be appraised by considering the SPA goose foraging distribution data alongside information on the proposed allocations. The appraisal would take account of the availability of alternative habitat for the geese, and the potential for any in-combination effects alongside allocations in other plans (in this case the most relevant being the Aberdeenshire LDP).</p> <p>Goosander and goldeneye are also qualifying features of the SPA. We have little information on in-winter movements of goosander in Scotland. Goosander only use Loch of Skene as a roost and there has been a strong decline in their numbers at the loch. Only three were observed in 2018 counts. However numbers on the Dee and the Don remain healthy, and it is unlikely that development would have a significant effect on the SPA goosander and goldeneye populations.</p> <p>Screen in all Opportunity Sites on the precautionary basis that theoretically they might collectively affect SPA greylag goose through loss of foraging habitat.</p> <p>Plan policy LR1 provides for the release of</p>
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		<p>the Opportunity sites and so is also screened in, but other policies are unlikely to affect the SPA qualifying interests.</p>
<p>Moray Firth SAC Subtidal sandbanks Bottlenose dolphins</p>	<p>B4 Aberdeen Harbours B5 Energy Transition Zone OP62 Nigg Bay</p>	<p>For proposed developments in coastal locations there may be a potential negative impact on bottlenose dolphins if underwater noise is generated that prevents or limits their use of the areas that help support them such as Aberdeen harbour. Such noise might be generated from piling or blasting works. Coastal pollution might also affect dolphins or their prey species.</p> <p>Policies B4 Aberdeen Harbours and B5 Energy Transition Zone provide a presumption in favour of certain types of development within the harbour areas, and depending on the specific nature of the development projects coming forward under such policy support, there may be an impact on the bottlenose dolphin qualifying interest of the Moray Firth SAC.</p> <p>For this reason screen in Policies B4 and B5, and OP62 Nigg Bay.</p> <p>Other policies and Opportunity Sites, although sometimes related to coastal</p>

		issues or near-coastal locations, are unlikely to affect the SAC qualifying interest.
Isle of May SAC Grey Seal	B4 Aberdeen Harbours B5 Energy Transition Zone OP62 Nigg Bay	<p>Potential vulnerabilities to consider are: underwater noise from construction with potential to result in disturbance, injury and death; vessel movements causing disturbance and possible risk of injury from collision; reduction in water quality which could be directly harmful to seals or impair their foraging; and impacts upon the seals' prey species.</p> <p>Previous seal telemetry analysis (for Aberdeen harbour expansion in 2016) showed that although grey seals tagged at the Isle of May SAC and Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC used Nigg Bay. The degree of connectivity was only of a sufficient strength to warrant further assessment of the Isle of May SAC grey seal population (but not the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC population).</p> <p>Policies B4 Aberdeen Harbours and B5 Energy Transition Zone provide a presumption in favour of certain types of development within the harbour areas,</p>

		<p>and depending on the specific nature of the development projects coming forward under such policy support, there may be an impact on the grey seal qualifying interest of the Isle of May SAC.</p> <p>For this reason screen in Policies B4 and B5, and OP62 Nigg Bay.</p> <p>Other policies and Opportunity Sites, although sometimes related to coastal issues or near-coastal locations, are unlikely to affect the SAC qualifying interest.</p>
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Appropriate Assessment

The Appropriate Assessment stage of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record is an assessment of whether the elements of the Proposed ALDP screened in as having 'likely significant effects' (listed in Table 5.2 above) will or will not adversely affect the integrity of designated sites. This assessment considers required mitigation and any limitations of the assessment.

The integrity of a site is defined as 'the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.' (Scottish Government Circular on the Habitats and Birds Directive)⁴

An adverse effect would be something that impacts the sites features, either directly or indirectly, and results in disruption or harm to the ecological structure and functioning of the site and/or affects the ability of the site to meet its conservation objectives across all parts of the site. Another form of adverse effect on integrity would be a physical impact on the site which may indirectly affect the ecological structure and functioning of the site features or their supporting structures and/or the ability of the site to meet the conservation objectives.

The Appropriate Assessment follows the precautionary principle. It is for Aberdeen City Council (through this Assessment) to ascertain that implementation of the Proposed ALDP will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site, this must be ascertained prior to adoption of the Proposed ALDP.

There are a limited number of topics that we need to cover in this Appropriate Assessment and these are dealt with in the following sub-sections.

The key issues covered below are:

- Possible water abstraction and construction related impacts on qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC

- Possible loss of foraging habitat impacts on SPA geese of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA, and Loch of Skene SPA

- Possible impacts on eider (non-breeding) as a qualifying interest of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA

⁴ Scottish Government Circular 6/1995 (Revised June 2000) 'Habitats and Birds Directives'

Possible impacts on bottlenose dolphins as a qualifying interest of Moray Firth SAC
Possible impacts on grey seal as a qualifying interest of Isle of May SAC

Appropriate Assessment in relation to water abstraction and construction related impacts on qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC

Water abstraction impacts on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC

All Opportunity Sites were screened in as having a 'likely significant effect', and requiring further investigation through this Appropriate Assessment, due to the potential for Appropriate Assessment cumulatively increasing water abstraction levels from the River Dee SAC.

Salmon and freshwater pearl mussels may be adversely affected reduced flows as a result of abstraction which, if substantial enough, may expose and dry out available habitat, increase water temperatures, and reduce dilution of pollution. This may degrade habitat or can directly damage or stress the salmon or pearl mussels. Opportunity Sites therefore have potential to affect the River Dee SAC.

It is important to ascertain whether the cumulative effect of any proposed development-related abstraction from the River Dee SAC is at a level that will not adversely affect site integrity. In relation, the Proposed Strategic Development Plan (SDP) sets the additional housing need required from the Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council LDPs, and the HRA Record for the Proposed SDP included an Appropriate Assessment for the River Dee SAC which covered the abstraction issue. The reasoning and conclusions of that Appropriate Assessment are copied below:

“Declines of freshwater pearl mussels have been linked to diffuse and point source pollution, degraded habitat and pearl fishing and it is likely that a combination of these factors were collectively responsible for the population’s unfavourable status within the River Dee. The River Basin Management Plan supporting document on River Dee identified abstraction as a potential contributing factor as well. The AfterLIFE plan “Pearls in Peril” (LIFE11 NAT/UK/383) an evaluation project led by SNH, considered the five areas of work undertaken for the River Dee, taking a catchment-based, long-term approach to improving habitat conditions. A number of bank and river improvement projects have been underway since 2014 and they suggest success in the recovery of the freshwater pearl mussel in the River Dee.

In terms of the Plan [i.e. the SDP], regulated Drinking Water Abstractions take place at Mannofield and Invercarnie and Scottish Water abstractions are conditioned under licence at these locations. These Licenced Abstractions are regulated under the CAR licencing regime by SEPA, and SEPA are the competent Authority in terms of the licencing regime in line with the Habitats Directive. The volume of water currently licenced for abstraction has been confirmed as sufficient to meet the identified future growth within the Proposed Strategic Development Plan and subsequently the Proposed Strategic Development Plan. SEPA assesses a range of pressures on water bodies including water abstraction and flow regulation including cumulative assessment of pressures. This includes water flow and level modelling, taking account of information on the location and rates of abstraction, the results of rainfall and water flow and level monitoring. Potential effects on the River Dee SAC are regulated and conditioned as part of the licence, with contingency planning in place to manage any periods of low flow, and SEPA advise that they record water levels in order to manage the water resource. There are nine monitoring stations in the River Dee Catchment. Water levels are converted to flow at most river gauging stations and that knowledge of the flow in a catchment is important in order to effectively manage that water, for example when issuing licenses for water abstractions and for the control of pollution.

The River Dee as well as being designated as a SAC, is a designated Drinking Water Protected Area under “The Water Environment (Drinking Water Protected Areas) (Scotland) Order 2013”. This Protected Area is along its length within Aberdeenshire from Braemar to Banchory and within the City of Aberdeen to the sea. The only exception is for the stretch of river between Banchory and Peterculter. This designation serves to protect the river for its drinking water supplies by applying more stringent limitations and controls on potential discharges into the river. This designation seeks to ensure high quality drinking for the population that it currently serves.

Scottish Water have advised (Appendix 1) that the volume of drinking water currently available to serve existing and proposed development is sufficient to meet the Proposed Strategic Development Plan requirements. As the volume of water abstracted is already risk assessed and licenced and regulated by SEPA, the licenced abstraction volumes and impact on the River Dee SAC has already been assessed in relation to meeting the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives. Scottish Water is licenced to abstract up to the agreed volume and this licence has conditions attached, including mitigation. Both SEPA and Scottish Water have contingency plans to manage flow and when necessary can impose by-laws and other constraints on the use of water. There are nine monitoring stations in the River Dee Catchment. Water levels, which are

converted to flow at most river gauging stations provides information on river flow within the catchment to ensure effective management of the water resource and trigger mitigation applied to the licenced abstraction activity when necessary.

Both the constituent local councils [i.e. Aberdeen City and Shire Councils] are committed to retrofitting surface water management systems wherever possible to improve surface water within the urban areas and to progress reductions in energy and water use in all developments wherever possible. This is supported within the plan with a commitment to better surface water management, increased use of green infrastructure and open space within all development.

Scottish Water monitors both domestic water consumption and business consumption (which is metered). SEPA manages all discharges to the water environment under CAR.

The currently licenced volumes of water abstracted by Scottish Water and licenced and regulated by SEPA will with suitable mitigation applied not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the River Dee and its qualifying features.”

As a competent authority we can take note of another competent authority’s HRA to help come to our own conclusions. We therefore borrow upon the reasoning on abstraction set out in the HRA record for the SDP and confirm that we agree with this reasoning to reach our own conclusion regarding no adverse impact on site integrity.

Scottish Water has confirmed its position (see 5 November 2019 correspondence at Appendix 1) that it believes the volumes of water currently licenced for abstraction from the River Dee would meet the needs of the additional housing identified in the SDP. Given that both Aberdeen City Council’s and Aberdeenshire Council’s Proposed Local Development Plans would be allocating opportunity sites to meet (rather than exceed) the SDP growth requirements, it follows that the allocations for both these plans will be within the licenced limit. As discussed in the HRA record for the SDP, the licences for water abstraction are given by SEPA, and SEPA (as the competent authority for licensing that abstraction) has its own requirement to be satisfied that this licenced limit does not result in an adverse effect on integrity of the River Dee SAC. The HRA record for SDP2 has drawn upon information provided by SEPA, and this informs its conclusions.

On the above basis we conclude that the water abstraction associated with Opportunity Sites identified in the proposed ALDP will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the River Dee SAC.

Policy LR1 Land Release has a likely significant effect in the sense that it provides for release of the identified housing and employment allocations (i.e. the Opportunity Sites). Our conclusion is that the policy does not have an adverse effect on integrity because the related Opportunity Sites have been adequately made subject to HRA at plan level.

We also make the following related observations on the abstraction issue:

Water saving measures: Our policy R6 promotes water efficiency. In our view it is possible to agree with the conclusions of the HRA record for SDP without considering that water saving technologies are required as mitigation *in order to avoid an adverse effect on site integrity*. However, this is not to downplay the benefits of water-saving measures, particularly given the potential impacts of climate change. Water abstraction is a cumulative issue affecting the River Dee, and anything that can be done to minimise the volume abstracted will only act to help reduce the potential for residual effects on the River Dee, and also potentially allow greater headroom for future development. We do not identify any *requirement* for any other forms of mitigation in order to avoid an adverse effect on site integrity, besides those measures that are related to SEPA's licensing of abstraction (these measures are referred to in the Proposed SDP HRA record).

Project Level HRA of allocations: In relation to construction related pollution affecting the River Dee SAC, we have set out a requirement for further 'Project Level HRA' of relevant Opportunity Sites at the stage when planning applications are submitted. As part of this process it is likely a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will also be required. For abstraction related effects, however, we consider that the Proposed ALDP's HRA can essentially 'cover off' this issue because adequate information is available at this stage to enable a conclusion to be reached on the proposed Opportunity Sites, and project level HRA (for individual allocations) will not add to that. In other words, project level HRA would not be informed by further relevant detail that is not available at this stage.

Other cumulative effects: Water abstraction affecting the River Dee is a cumulative issue, as generally speaking the more allocations there are, the greater the burden of water abstraction from the River Dee. We note and accept the way that the HRA record for SDP has taken account of the Cairngorms National Park LDP, in relation to new development and abstraction from the River Dee upstream from the SDP area, i.e.: "Unlike the position for the SDP, the Cairngorms National Park LDP sites do not have an identified a water supply to meet the needs of development proposed. Any abstraction to serve development within the Cairngorms National Park LDP will require a licence and this will be considered by and regulated by SEPA, who are best placed to consider local and wider water catchment issues as part of the licencing process,

including impact on abstraction activity downstream. The settlements identified in the Cairngorms National Park LDP are distant from the Strategic Growth Areas for the Proposed SDP, no combined or cumulative LSEs can be identified as a result of combination of new housing sites in the CNP LDP although they cannot be ruled out. It will be for the licencing authority to assess the impact of the proposed new water abstractions from the River Dee SAC to serve new development within the CNP LDP, their impact on site integrity and potential impacts on river flows downstream. No new abstractions assessed by licencing authority.”

Examination of the Proposed SDP: It is worth briefly exploring how Examination of the Proposed SDP may have affected the housing requirement upon which the abstraction-related Appropriate Assessment was based. As a result of the Examination in Public of the Proposed Strategic Development Plan 2018 the Reporter had (in January 2020) proposed a number of modifications to the Housing Land Requirement and the Housing Allowances. The implications of these modifications are summarised below. But the key point is that Examination of the Proposed SDP has not resulted in any overall increase in housing allowances, and that consequently the reasoned conclusions of the Proposed SDP Appropriate Assessment regarding abstraction remain valid. As a result of Examination:

It is proposed that the Housing Land Requirement for the entire plan period be reduced by 780 homes. Therefore, the global number has been decreased from 64,272 to 63,492. It should be noted that with each Structure Plan and Strategic Development Plan that has been produced the global housing requirement has decreased as a result of increases in the effective land supply.

It is proposed to modify the SDP to use the Housing Land Audit (HLA) 2019 to inform the Total Effective Land Supply. There is a difference of 803 homes between the HLA 2016 and HLA 2019 Total Effective Land Supply. This is due to the fact that the programming on some larger sites has reduced to reflect lower market demand. Therefore, the Total Effective Land Supply is less in the HLA 2019.

The Reporter used a different methodology to calculate the Proposed SDP’s Housing Allowances and this is based on different site programming. The result of this is a shift of allowances from the period 2033-2040 to the period 2020-2032. There has been no overall increase in housing allowances, rather the modification means that they are allocated in the earlier period of the Proposed SDP. As a result of the change to the effective land supply and the revised programming the Proposed LDP is required to allocate an additional 939 homes in Aberdeen City for the period 2020-2032.

- The HLA 2019 has recorded an established land supply of 45,410 homes for the Aberdeen Housing Market Area and Rural Housing Market Area combined. The modifications to the Housing Allowances required by the Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Local Development Plans to allocate land for 5,107 new homes each. When the established land supply and the modified allowances for the period 2020-2032 are combined it would mean there will be housing land allocated for a total of 55,624 new homes up to the period 2032.

Windfall sites: A windfall site is a site which becomes available for development during the plan period which was not anticipated when the plan was being prepared. It is useful to understand whether there is potential for windfall sites in this plan period to increase abstraction levels beyond what has been considered by the current HRA reasoning. In relation, given that the HRA for the Proposed SDP 2018 considered a global number of 64,272 there is headroom for windfall sites of up to 8,648 homes across both the Aberdeen and Rural Housing Market areas up to the period 2040 (approx. 430 per annum). Consequently there appears to be some headroom for an identified level of windfall development in this plan period without going beyond the licenced limit and necessitating any revisiting of the Appropriate Assessment reasoning on abstraction. There is also means of keeping track of the cumulative level windfall development, noting that Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council undertake Housing Land Audits on an annual basis to ascertain the rates of delivery and programmed rates of anticipated completions on both allocated and windfall sites. This data is also sent to Scottish Water every two years in the form of the Assembly of Planning Policy Information to support their strategic planning. Our conclusion is that provided the level of windfall development does not exceed the identified headroom, there is unlikely to be a need to consider the abstraction issue afresh (via project level HRA) for each windfall application.

Construction related impacts on the qualifying interests of the River Dee SAC

All Opportunity Sites situated within the River Dee catchment were screened in as having a 'likely significant effect', and requiring further investigation through this Appropriate Assessment, due to the potential for construction related impacts on the River Dee SAC.

Atlantic salmon and freshwater pearl mussels are sensitive to disturbance to their river habitat. This includes silt and sediment entering the watercourse, as well as other forms of pollution. The greatest risk of pollution from development is usually at construction stage, especially if there is a clear connection between the development site and the river. These kind of changes

might destroy or degrade habitat or can directly damage or stress the salmon or pearl mussels, and the Plan therefore has potential to adversely affect the River Dee SAC.

It is important to know that any the risk of construction related impacts from Opportunity Sites in the River Dee catchment is suitably low or can be adequately managed. On a precautionary basis, the LDP requires project level HRA to be carried out for all the allocations located within the catchment. At project stage, the Council will appraise the risks of construction, and if it considers that the proposal is likely to have a significant effect it may require submission of an adequate Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). Where the Council considers that a CEMP is required, this could be made subject to a planning condition. The requirement for project level HRA is set out for relevant Opportunity Sites at Appendix 2 of the LDP, and on this basis we are able to conclude (at plan stage) that an adverse effect on site integrity can be avoided. It is worth noting that the Council is also likely to undertake project level HRA for any windfall development located within the River Dee catchment, and similarly should the Council consider it is likely to have a significant effect, it can potentially require the submission of an adequate CEMP.

On this basis we are able to conclude that an adverse effect on site integrity can be avoided in relation to potential construction impacts for the Opportunity Sites.

It is worth noting that Project Level HRA is also likely to be required to accompany any windfall development located within the River Dee catchment, and it is likely that a CEMP will also be required to inform the HRA in such situations.

Besides those Opportunity Sites, we have screened in a number of the Proposed ALDP policies.

Policy LR1 Land Release has a likely significant effect in the sense that it provides for release of the identified housing and employment allocations (i.e. the Opportunity Sites). Our conclusion is that the policy does not have an adverse effect on integrity because the related Opportunity Sites have been adequately made subject to HRA at plan level.

The River Dee SAC estuary is located at the existing Aberdeen Harbour and lies to the north of the Aberdeen South Harbour/ proposed Energy Transition Zone area. Certain forms of development might impact salmon, for example through the generation of construction-related underwater noise. While freshwater pearl mussel will not be present within the harbour or Nigg Bay, any impact upon migrating salmon through the existing harbour or through Nigg Bay could theoretically in turn affect mussels and otters present in the Dee. We have screened in Policy B4 Aberdeen Harbours and Policy B5 Energy Transition Zone because these

provide a presumption in favour of certain types of development within those existing and under-construction harbour areas, and depending on the specific nature of developments coming forward under such policy support, it is possible there may be an impact on Atlantic salmon (and also possibly the other qualifying interests) for the River Dee SAC.

Our experience however is that there are a range of mitigation measures available that could effectively control the risk of any impacts likely to arise as a result of these policies, e.g. as demonstrated through the HRA process and accepted mitigation for the Aberdeen Harbour Expansion Project. At the Proposed LDP stage it is not possible to ascertain what particular development projects may in future come forward under the policy support, and so we are also unable to assess site-specific detail or any related mitigation. If future developments were likely to cause a significant effect, then at that stage Project Level Appropriate Assessment would be required (as noted under Policy NE3 Natural Heritage).

For this reason we have concluded that there would be no adverse effect on site integrity in relation to these two policies.

OP62 Nigg Bay may affect the same River Dee SAC interest depending on the nature of development that might come forward in this area. The need for Project Level HRA has been identified in relation to this allocation, and for this reason we have concluded that there would be no adverse effect on site integrity.

A range of other policies are screened in on the general basis that in one form or another they support the principle of development in the plan area and it is possible that development projects being put forward under such policy support may potentially impact the River Dee SAC, e.g. via construction-related impacts. Again, it is not possible to assess site-specific detail or any related mitigation of any future project that may come forward under such policy support, but we consider that mitigation measures are available that would effectively control the risk of construction-related impacts. If future development projects were considered likely to cause a likely significant effect, then at that stage project level Appropriate Assessment would be required as a legislative requirement (as noted under Policy NE3 Natural Heritage).

On this basis we conclude that there is no adverse effect on site integrity in relation to the range of other plan policies.

Appropriate Assessment in relation to possible loss of foraging habitat impacts on SPA geese of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA, and Loch of Skene SPA

All Opportunity Sites in the Plan were screened in as having a 'likely significant effect', and requiring further investigation through this Appropriate Assessment, on the basis that they might collectively, and in combination with Plan allocations, affect SPA geese through loss of foraging habitat.

The city boundary is within the foraging range (20km) of SPA pink-footed geese from Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA, and it is also within the foraging range (20km) of SPA greylag geese from Loch of Skene SPA. It is theoretically possible that proposed LDP allocations could result in some loss of foraging ground. Loss of foraging land to development could be either from the direct footprint of a development or it could be related to an increased level of associated disturbance (e.g. construction, recreation) which would scare geese away from using the previously available foraging habitat.

The potential for an adverse effect on the SPA population has been appraised by SNH. Their appraisal looked at goose foraging distribution data alongside information on the proposed Opportunity Site allocations and also in-combination effects alongside allocations in other plans (the most relevant being the Aberdeenshire LDP).

SNH's advice is that, given the status of the relevant goose populations, the relatively low area coverage of Opportunity Sites and the distribution of these sites (mainly concentrated around existing settlements, not significantly encroaching on any known preferred SPA goose foraging area) any loss of foraging habitat from these proposals will be negligible and that there will be no adverse effect on site integrity.

On the basis of SNH's advice we are able to conclude that there is no adverse effect on site integrity in relation to loss of foraging habitat for SPA geese (i.e. pink-footed geese from Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA, and greylag geese from Loch of Skene SPA).

It is worth noting that SNH has also advised that it is content that, unless any 'windfall' development sites are concentrated near particular SPAs, or unless the goose population trends change markedly, it would be okay to wait to consider this issue again for the next LDP (i.e. rather than carrying out re-appraisal for each proposed windfall development).

Policy LR1 Land Release has a likely significant effect in the sense that it provides for release of the identified Opportunity Sites. But our conclusion is that the policy does not have an adverse effect on site integrity because the Opportunity Sites have been made subject to HRA.

Appropriate Assessment in relation to impacts on eider (non-breeding) as a qualifying interest of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA

For the Aberdeen Harbour Expansion Project a theoretical apportioning of the eider in Nigg Bay from different SPAs, indicating upwards of 97% are from the breeding population at the Ythan estuary and will form part of the wintering population of that SPA. It is possible that some aspects of development at Nigg Bay could affect SPA eider. Policy B5 Energy Transition Zone provides a presumption in favour of development to support renewable energy related industry within the Aberdeen South Harbour area, and depending on the specific nature of development projects coming forward under such policy support, there may be an impact on the eider qualifying interest of the Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA. For this reason we have screened in Policy B5.

Our experience is that there are a range of mitigation measures available that could effectively control the risk of any impacts likely to arise as a result of this policy, e.g. as demonstrated through the HRA process and accepted mitigation for the Aberdeen Harbour Expansion Project. At the Proposed LDP stage it is not possible to ascertain what particular development projects may in future come forward under the policy support, and so we are also unable to assess site-specific detail or any related mitigation. If future developments were likely to cause a significant effect, then at that stage Project Level HRA would be required (as noted under Policy NE3 Natural Heritage).

For this reason we have concluded that there would be no adverse effect on site integrity in relation to these two policies.

OP62 Nigg Bay may affect the same SPA eider interest depending on the nature of development that might come forward in this area. The need for Project Level HRA has been identified in relation to this allocation, and for this reason we have concluded that there would be no adverse effect on site integrity.

Policy LR1 Land Release has a likely significant effect in the sense that it provides for release of the identified Opportunity Sites. But our conclusion is that the policy does not have an adverse effect on site integrity because the related Opportunity Sites have been made subject to HRA.

Appropriate Assessment in relation to possible impacts on bottlenose dolphin as a qualifying interest of Moray Firth SAC

For proposed developments in coastal locations there may be a potential negative impact on bottlenose dolphins if underwater noise is generated that prevents or limits their use of the areas that help support them such as Aberdeen harbour. Such noise might be generated from piling or blasting works. Coastal pollution might also affect dolphins or their prey species.

Policies B4 Aberdeen Harbours and B5 Energy Transition Zone provide a presumption in favour of certain types of development within the harbour areas, and depending on the specific nature of the development projects coming forward under such policy support, there may be an impact on the bottlenose dolphin qualifying interest of the Moray Firth SAC.

Other policies and Opportunity Sites, although sometimes related to coastal issues or near-coastal locations, are unlikely to affect the SAC qualifying interest.

Our experience is that there are a range of mitigation measures available that could effectively control the risk of any impacts likely to arise as a result of Policy B4 and Policy B5, e.g. as demonstrated through the HRA process and accepted mitigation for the Aberdeen Harbour Expansion Project. At the Proposed LDP stage it is not possible to ascertain what particular development projects may in future come forward under such policy support, and so we are also unable to assess site-specific detail or any related mitigation. If future developments were likely to cause a significant effect, then at that stage Project Level HRA would be required (as noted under Policy NE3 Natural Heritage).

For this reason we have concluded that there would be no adverse effect on site integrity in relation to these two policies.

OP62 Nigg Bay may affect the same SAC dolphin interest depending on the nature of development that might come forward in this area. The need for Project Level HRA has been identified in relation to this allocation, and for this reason we have concluded that there would be no adverse effect on site integrity.

Appropriate Assessment in relation to possible impact on grey seal as a qualifying interest of Isle of May SAC

Potential vulnerabilities to consider are: underwater noise from construction with potential to result in disturbance, injury and death; vessel movements causing disturbance and possible risk of injury from collision; reduction in water quality which could be directly harmful to seals or impair their foraging; and impacts upon the seals' prey species.

Previous seal telemetry analysis (for Aberdeen harbour expansion in 2016) showed that although grey seals tagged at the Isle of May SAC and Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC used Nigg Bay. The degree of connectivity was only of a sufficient strength to warrant further assessment of the Isle of May SAC grey seal population (but not the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC population).

Policies B4 Aberdeen Harbours and B5 Energy Transition Zone provide a presumption in favour of certain types of development within the harbour areas, and depending on the specific nature of the development projects coming forward under such policy support, there may be an impact on the grey seal qualifying interest of the Isle of May SAC.

Other policies and Opportunity Sites, although sometimes related to coastal issues or near-coastal locations, are unlikely to affect the SAC qualifying interest.

Our experience is that there are a range of mitigation measures available that could effectively control the risk of any impacts likely to arise as a result of Policy B4 and Policy B5, e.g. as demonstrated through the HRA process and accepted mitigation for the Aberdeen Harbour Expansion Project. At the Proposed LDP stage it is not possible to ascertain what particular development projects may in future come forward under such policy support, and so we are also unable to assess site-specific detail or any related mitigation. If future developments were likely to cause a significant effect, then at that stage Project Level HRA would be required (as noted under Policy NE3 Natural Heritage).

For this reason we have concluded that there would be no adverse effect on site integrity in relation to these two policies.

OP62 Nigg Bay may affect the same SAC grey seal interest depending on the nature of development that might come forward in this area. The need for Project Level HRA has been identified in relation to this allocation, and for this reason we have concluded that there would be no adverse effect on site integrity.

Conclusions

Under this Habitats Regulations Appraisal many policies were considered unlikely to significantly affect the qualifying interests of the given European sites. These were screened out of the Appropriate Assessment carried out for the Plan.

The policies and proposals carried forward for the Appropriate Assessment, in section 6, are those that were considered to have the potential to impact on European sites. The assessment identifies mitigation measures where appropriate. It can be concluded that with appropriate mitigation the ALDP will not adversely affect the integrity of any of the listed European sites.

Further Habitats Regulations Appraisal will be required at project level for many of the proposals identified. Where this is applicable, it has been highlighted within this document at Table 2.3 and will also within the ALDP itself at Appendix 2.

Appendix 1 – Email Correspondence from Scottish Water

From: Elaine Hutchison [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 November 2019 10:04
To: Kathryn Roberts
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan - Habitats Regulations Assessment
Attachments: CD84 Scottish Water email (6 August 2018) re Water Abstraction Volumes to serve development.pdf

Importance: High

Hi Kathryn,

Apologies – we have moved to new phone numbers which are detailed in my signature below.

I can confirm that our position still stands and that Scottish Water believe that the volumes of water currently licenced from the River Dee meets the needs of the additional housing identified in the SDP Plan.

Kind regards
Elaine

Elaine Hutchison
Water Resource Planning Team Leader
Water Resources Team

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Strategic Environmental Assessment Appendices

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Appendix 1 Analysis of Consultation at Scoping Stage

Organisation	Section	Comment	Aberdeen City Council Response
Scottish Natural Heritage	Scope of assessment and level of detail	Suggest a clear link between the SEA for the higher-level Aberdeen city/shire Strategic Development Plan (SDP) and this assessment, ensuring the requirements which the SDP ER identifies for LDPs are addressed i.e. mitigation measures referred to for LDPs.	Noted. The Environmental Report has taken into consideration the Proposed SDP requirements identified in its ER.
		Convey key findings of the SEA, including developer requirements, in the Main Issues Report for each site and policy.	Each development bid has been subject to a site assessment and SEA. Reference to this has been made in the Main Issues Report.
	Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)	Expect the HRA will be published alongside the Proposed Plan. HRA should be included as a separate appendix to the ER.	HRA will be included as a separate appendix to the ER at Proposed Plan stage.
	4.1 Plan, Programme or Strategy (PPS) Context	Additional PPS to be included: Human Health: Let's Get Scotland Walking – The National Walking Strategy Cycling Action Plan for Scotland 2013 A Long-Term Vision for Active Travel in Scotland 2030 Landscape: Fitting Landscapes	Additional PPS have been included.
	4.4 Characteristics of Areas likely to	Short narrative in the main body of the ER identifying any significant baseline changes since the first LDP	This will be our third LDP. A narrative of significant changes since the second

be significantly affected	SEA would be helpful.	LDP have been included within Section 4 of the Interim ER.
	Appendix 7.2.5 – some information is not available (biodiversity, flora and fauna information). Baseline gaps/trend should be acknowledged where possible and how it is proposed to obtain this.	Appendix 7.2.5 (biodiversity, flora and fauna) comprises the most recent available baseline figures. Data will be obtained from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology 'Land Cover Map'. Link to this has been provided in the Appendix.
	Recommends the Scotland-wide maps (e.g. soils mapping) be replaced with location-specific maps for Aberdeen. SNH may be able to provide this data if required.	The report has been amended to reflect the location-specific map for peat soils in Aberdeen.
	Water (7.2.3): suggest a baseline of water flow would be useful if information is available, especially given the abstraction considerations for the River Dee SAC. For example: water flow – the quantity of water being affected (e.g. by abstraction, increase or impoundment).	Appendix 7.2.3 (water) comprises the most recent available baseline figures. Aberdeen City Council are in regular contact with SEPA and Scottish Water regarding abstraction levels.
	Soils (7.2.4): suggest the 'carbon rich soil' deep peat and priority peatland habitats 2016 dataset combined digital soil information is used, and the % and type of carbon rich soils is provided.	Digital link in the Appendix has been updated with the information reflecting this.
	Biodiversity, flora and fauna (7.2.5): are there any geodiversity sites in the local authority area?	Bay of Nigg (Balnagask to Cove) is the only geodiversity site in Aberdeen. SEA includes a question in relation to this.

		Landscape (7.2.9): recommend inclusion of a baseline on green networks – e.g. number of km.	The Appendix reflects the latest information that is readily available.
4.5 Environmental Problems		Welcome the recognition of the pressures on the natural environment associated with increased development.	Noted.
5 Scope and Level of Detail		Support the scoping in of the SEA issues for the Plan (Table 5.1).	Noted.
		Pg 17: SNH expect the SEA will assess the significant environmental effects of the sites technically capable of being delivered.	All sites are capable of being delivered, even though this may be at a delayed timescale. Significant environmental effects of all sites have been assessed through the SEA process.
		Welcome inclusion of those sites with planning consent in the baseline and support the assessment of those sites which do not have consent. Support the intent to include carried forward sites as part of the overall cumulative assessment.	Noted.
Proposed assessment frameworks		Welcome the intent to assess all aspects of the plan. Examples of the proposed assessment for each part of the LDP are helpful. SNH are content with more generic assessment proposed for the spatial strategy, main issues and draft policy.	Noted.
		Table 5.4 proposes to assess existing policies with minor policy amendments, and Table 5.5 new policies and alternatives. Does the latter also need to state that	Existing policies with significant amendments will be classified as new policies. These have been assessed,

	it includes all other amendments (i.e. not minor) to existing policies?	together with any new policies and are included in Appendix 9.
Site Assessments (proposed Tables 5.8 and 5.9)	Welcome pre-LDP discussions including the SEA process.	Noted.
	SEA Consultation Authorities have recently produced a LDP: Site Assessment and SEA Checklist. Scoping Report proposes a format for site assessments which follows that of SEA in LDP1 rather than the combined checklist. If this format is proceeded with, SNH recommend the comments column is expanded to separate out the assessment of the individual SEA topics and their scoring.	Proposed site assessment format has been updated to include the most recent LDP: Site Assessment and SEA Checklist recommended by SEA Consultation Authorities. The checklist will be completed on a site by site basis.
	Scoping Report states that “all site-specific alternatives will be assessed against the SEA objectives” but we cannot locate these objectives – please advise where these can be found.	SEA objectives have been included in Table 6.1 within the Interim ER.
	For scoring, SNH recommend that the system (key) proposed for recording of cumulative effects (pg.29) is also used for the other elements of the assessment as this provides the scope to better reflect which environment effects are most significant.	Noted. All other elements of the assessment will be assessed using the key on Table 5.5.
5.6 Proposed mitigation measures	Table 5.11 only proposes generic mitigation in relation to the overall impact of the Plan. In order to be meaningful it is expected that mitigation be provided for each specific site. SNH refer to the specific mitigation column in the combined site/SEA checklist and seek inclusion of this for the individual site assessments,	The Combined site/SEA checklist recommended by the SEA Consultation Authorities has been used. It includes a mitigation for each specific site.

		along with a separate column for residual effects post-mitigation. Specific mitigation measures can be included as developer requirements for sites in the Plan to provide a clear audit trail of how the SEA findings inform the LDP. Consideration of environmental enhancement measures can also be included at this level.	
	5.8 Monitoring	Support continuation of monitoring from the adopted plan's SEA for this SEA for consistency.	Noted.
	6 Next Steps	Table 6.1 Note the 10-week consultation period proposed for the ER and the Plan. For avoidance of doubt, we would expect the interim ER to be submitted at the MIR stage. Suggest the interim and ER stages are made more explicit in the table.	This has been amended to include the word 'interim ER'. The interim ER will be submitted to SEA Gateway Consultation Authorities at the MIR stage.
Historic Environment Scotland	Scope and level of detail	Content and satisfied that the historic environment has been scoped into the assessment. Welcome the opportunity to comment on any changes to policies for the historic environment.	Noted. As a key agency HES will be consulted on any changes made to policies relating to the historic environment.
	Framework for assessing environmental effects	Welcome the example frameworks provided to report the findings of the assessment. It's unclear why the cumulative assessment is the only one to ascribe significance to effects. Would advise that significant positive/negative scores should be available for these tables.	Noted. All other assessments have been amended to include significant positive/negative effect scores.

		<p>It is beneficial to the delivery of identified mitigation that actions that have been put forward to mitigate/enhance specific issues for the spatial strategy are brought through to plan itself in the form of developer requirements. This process adds clarity to all stakeholders as to what is required to deliver the aspirations contained within the plan.</p>	<p>Mitigation actions put forward within the SEA would be brought through in the form of developer requirements through Policy and Supplementary/Non-Supplementary Guidance.</p>
		<p>The Consultation Authorities have produced a site assessment pro forma with the aim of bringing together the site assessment and SEA in order to streamline the process. The questions contained within the pro forma can help focus the assessor when considering sites and the questions may be utilised to underpin the finding to be presented in the assessment tables provided.</p>	<p>Noted. The Combined site/SEA checklist recommended by the SEA Consultation Authorities has been used.</p>
	Environmental baseline	<p>The environmental baseline identified in Section 7.2.8 is appropriate for the assessment. The data source address for spatial information on designated historic environment assets is no longer in use. These downloads are available here https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/spatialdownloads.</p>	<p>Noted. Where relevant, the web address has been updated on Table 7.2.8.</p>
	Consultation period for the Environmental Report	<p>Section 6.1 in the Next Steps Chapter states that the Council intends to consult on the ER for a minimum of 8 weeks while Table 6.1 states that the consultation period will be for 10 weeks. HES are content with a minimum of 8 weeks consultation.</p>	<p>Noted. For clarity, Section 6.1 has been amended to read 10 weeks, to correspond with Table 6.1.</p>

Scottish Environment Protection Agency	4.1 Relationship with other Plans, Policies and Strategies (PPS)	Some of the PPS included have been subject to SEA. Where this is the case it may be useful to prepare a summary of the key SEA findings that may be relevant to the ALDP. This may assist with data sources and environmental baseline information and also ensure the current SEA picks up environmental issues or mitigation actions which may have been identified elsewhere.	The Proposed Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan ER has been considered and reviewed in the preparation of this Interim ER.
	Baseline information	SEPA holds significant amounts of environmental data which may be of interest in preparing the environmental baseline, identifying environmental problems, and summarising the likely changes to the environment in the absence of the PPS.	Noted. Where necessary, we will endeavour to contact SEPA to gather any additional data required to update the baseline information.
	4.5 Environmental problems	<p>The following issues are also of relevance to the environmental problems section of the assessment.</p> <p>Air & climatic factors/Population & human health energy consumption with respect to transport – including consideration of alternative fuels to petrol & diesel;</p> <p>energy consumption of new development – including consideration of district heating;</p> <p>Material assets</p> <p>new infrastructure – WPR/other infrastructure improvements;</p> <p>major developments not identified in the development plan – including Kingsford Stadium;</p> <p>public water supply requirements & infrastructure including impacts on the River Dee;</p>	Table 5.3 has been amended to include the issues raised for air & climatic factors/population & human health, and material assets.

		rainwater and waste water infrastructure including impacts on water environment and flooding.	
5.1 Alternatives		Reasonable alternatives should be considered as part of the Plan preparation. These should be assessed as part of the SEA process and the findings should inform the choice of the preferred option. This should be documented in the ER. Such alternatives may include alternative strategic directions, policies or proposals that are being considered as part of the plan-making process.	As part the Plan preparation, alternative policies and sites will be considered, and assessed as part of the SEA process. The ER will document all alternative sites/policies that have been assessed during the plan-making process.
5.2 Scoping in/out of environmental topics		SEPA agree that in this instance all environmental topics should be scoped into the assessment.	Noted.
5.3 Methodology for assessing environmental effects		Including a commentary section within the matrices in order to state the reasons for the effects cited and the score given helps to fully explain the rationale behind the assessment results.	The Combined site/SEA checklist recommended by the SEA Consultation Authorities has been used. Each SEA includes a commentary highlighting reasons for the effects and the scores.
		Where it is expected that other plans, programmes or strategies are better placed to undertake more detailed assessment of environmental effects, this should be clearly set out in the ER.	Noted.
		SEPA expect all aspects of the PPS which could have significant effects to be assessed.	All aspects of the local development plan that could have significant effects have been assessed (policy and strategy, site-specific and cumulative).

		SEPA support the use of SEA objectives as assessment tools as they allow a systematic, rigorous and consistent framework with which to assess environmental effects.	Noted.
		When setting out the results of the assessment in the ER please provide enough information to clearly justify the reasons for each of the assessments presented. Setting out assumptions that are made during the assessment and difficulties and limitations encountered would also be helpful. It is helpful if the assessment matrix directly links the assessment result with the proposed mitigation measures such as in the tabled example given.	The Combined SEA site/checklist used makes provision for enough information to clearly justify the assessment results. It also includes a column for the assessment result and one covering specific mitigation measures.
		SEPA recommend that the proposed SEA objectives to be used in the assessment are clearly identified.	SEA objectives have been included in Table 6.1 within the Interim ER.
		On assessment of the effects of allocations or sites, SEPA advocate a rigorous methodology which clearly assesses potential effects on all environmental topics. It can be a much easier and useful exercise for the plan-maker if the assessment is made against a range of related questions, rather than directly against the environmental topics. The joint SEA and development plan site assessment proforma sets out the issues which are required to be assessed in more detail.	The site assessment pro forma has been used to help inform the SEA checklist that was used as part of the site assessments.
	5.6 Mitigation and enhancement	Encourage using the assessment as a way to improve the environmental performance of individual aspects of the final option. SEPA support proposals for	Noted.

	enhancement of positive effects as well as mitigation for negative effects.	
	It is useful to show the link between potential effects and proposed mitigation/enhancement measures in the assessment framework. Encourage the ER to be very clear about mitigation measures proposed as a result of the assessment. These should follow the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, reduce, remedy or compensate).	Table 6.2 - Proposed Mitigation Measures links the potential Plan impact and to the mitigation measures. Mitigation hierarchy has been followed.
	An important way to mitigate significant environmental effects identified through the assessment is to make changes to the plan itself so significant effects are avoided. The ER should identify any changes made to the plan as a result of the SEA.	Changes made to the plan as a result of the SEA have been identified within Table 6.2 -Proposed Mitigation Measures.
	Where the mitigation proposed does not relate to modification to the plan itself then proposed mitigation measures should be set out in a way clearly identifying: (1) the measures required, (2) when they would be required and (3) who will be required to implement them. Inclusion of a summary table in the ER such as the example provided will help to track progress on mitigation through the monitoring process.	Noted. Table 6.2 has included this.
5.8 Monitoring	Monitoring is a requirement of the Act. It would be helpful if the ER included a description of the measures envisaged to monitor the significant environmental effects of the Plan.	Noted. This has been included within the Interim ER.
6.1 Consultation period	SEPA is satisfied with the proposal for an 8-week consultation period for the Environmental report.	Noted. The consultation will be for 10-weeks – the relevant section has been

			updated to reflect this.
	Outcomes of the Scoping exercise	It would be helpful if the ER included a summary of the scoping outcomes and how comments from the Consultation Authorities were taken into account.	A summary of Aberdeen City Council's response to comments from the Consultation Authorities have been included in the Interim ER.

Appendix 2 Analysis of Consultation at Interim Environmental Report Stage

Organisation	Section	Comment	Aberdeen City Council Response
Scottish Natural Heritage	Non-Technical Summary	Include sentence on what the assessment focused on i.e. the 12 Main Issues, 12 new policy areas and the site allocations.	Noted. This section of the Environmental Report now includes detail on what the assessment is focused on.
		In describing the environmental challenges, note the pressure from all new development on the River Dee as a result of water abstraction.	A point has been added noting pressure from all new development on the River Dee within the State of the Environment Subsection in the Non-Technical Summary. Each development proposal has been subject to a site assessment and SEA. A note on the assessment of water has also been added in Section 6.4.
	Relevant State of the Environment – Baseline Data	Wording under biodiversity topic in Table 5.2 may contain a typo. If not, an explanation is needed for what unplanned development is likely to be promoted by the Strategic Development Plan and Local Development Plan.	Sentence has been amended to read ‘...unplanned developments not promoted by the Strategic Development Plan and Local Development Plan.’

	Appendix 3.5 – four SSIs in Aberdeen City should be named.	This has been added.
	Appendix 4, Map 5 – it would be better to retitle as ‘European sites’ and include both the River Dee SAC and the Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch (extension) SPA.	This has been amended to include maps from the SNH website.
	Table 5.3 – Welcome recognition in both the Water and Material Assets topics of the potential challenge of additional development increasing the need for abstraction.	Noted.
Assessment of Main Issues	Happy with identification of alternatives in terms of the Main Issues. The framework for assessing the environmental effects is thorough.	Noted.
Assessment of Policies	Notes there may be minor updates to existing policy areas however the wording for Natural Environment policies have not been provided making it difficult to provide comments on their likely significant effects.	Noted. Proposed wording for all policies has been included as part of the Proposed Plan.
	Appendix 9 – repeats the same narrative for policies relating to NE2: Green and Blue Infrastructure, NE3: Protecting our Natural Assets and NE4: Water Environment. Questions whether such repetition is intended/correct. Suggest the benefits of improved green and blue infrastructure will have positive <i>direct</i> and indirect impacts.	Final policies have been drafted and their respective assessments have been updated. They are included in the Appendix 8.

		Positive biodiversity effects reported for policies NC1: Town Centre and NCX(11): Visitor Attractions and Facilities are overestimated and should be recorded as neutral. Where in terms of NC1 for example, there may be some opportunities for enhancement of green networks, there would need to be specific measures included in the mitigation column, such as developer requirements to incorporate good design principles for enhanced green networks into their development proposals in order for this to be recorded as positive.	Final policies have been drafted and their respective assessments have been updated. They are included in Appendix 8.
	Site assessments	There are occasions where the read between the SEA findings and reporting in the bid assessment is not clear or inconsistent. For example, sites B0313, B0401, B0402 and B1101 have no reference to landscape or cultural heritage considerations but these elements were picked up in the bid assessments.	All SEAs have been cross-checked to ensure they are consistent with the updated bid assessments.
		There are some inconsistencies in the treatment of landscape considerations in the bid site assessments.	All bid assessments have been reviewed and any inconsistencies have been amended.
	Proposed mitigation measures	Welcome measures in Section 6.4 of the ER detailing proposed mitigation measures to address plan impacts. Expect the Council will ensure that there is a good read between mitigation (as set out in Table 6.2) and the more specific proposed mitigation measures that are tied to allocation sites.	Specific mitigation measures for allocated sites have been included as part of the Proposed Plan, as appropriate.
		Recommend that it will be important that mitigation measures for site allocations are incorporated into the	Where appropriate, mitigation measures have been included

		Proposed Plan as specific developer requirements.	as specific developer requirements for site allocations.
Monitoring		Table 6.3 is helpful, but to be effective, the proposed remedial actions that could be taken if monitoring reveals problems need to be more attributable and actionable. Recommend that remedial action could include a hierarchy of possible responses, from requiring an immediate response as part of the development management process to short/long term review of guidance.	The table includes both short term actions i.e. review of the supplementary guidance or Aberdeen planning guidance and long term actions i.e. the review of the local development plan. The development management process would form part of a short term response were there to be another material consideration that is substantially different to the LDP or APG. Therefore, in most of the cases, short and long term actions would stem from either the planning guidance or LDP.
Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)		Note the HRA will be published alongside the Proposed Plan. Concerned about the potential effect of increases in physical abstraction on the River Dee. Encourage early commencement of the HRA and refer to SNH responses to Aberdeenshire Main Issues Report and the Aberdeen City and Shire Proposed Plan HRA. Consideration should be given to the Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch Special Protection Area – the proposed marine extension of the	HRA has been included as part of the overall ER. It considers Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch Special Protection Area. The HRA covers concerns over water abstraction in the River Dee.

		site extends down to Aberdeen, just north of the Dee.	
	Cumulative, synergistic and secondary environmental effects	Unclear from the narrative why it is considered that the infrastructure topic will have a neutral effect on biodiversity.	The scoring has been amended to reflect both positive/negative effects.
Historic Environment Scotland	Policies carried forward from the existing LDP	The new Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement 2019 together with Scottish Planning Policy should be taken into account during the preparation of the Local Development Plan.	Scottish Planning Policy and Historic Environment Policy for Scotland have been considered in the preparation of the Proposed Plan.
	Relationship with PPS and environmental objectives	Reference should be made to the new Historic Environment Policy for Scotland and Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland.	Noted. PPs has been updated.
	Potential environmental changes without the LDP	Welcome recognition of the opportunity to enhance policies on design and cultural heritage as a result of the plan review.	Noted.
	Alternatives to which SEA was applied	Satisfied with approach taken to the assessment in terms of preferred options and reasonable alternatives of both the Main Issues and spatial strategy.	Noted.
	Framework for assessing	The framework utilised for the assessment is sound however, often effects have been scored as neutral (0)	The framework was adopted from the combined SEA

environmental effects	whereas a scoring of +/- or uncertain would have been more appropriate with the mitigation attempting to resolve the score.	site/checklist recommended by SEA Gateway. Where appropriate we have now included +/- scoring with mitigation.
Environmental objectives and questions	Site assessment questions used within assessment are appropriate. Canmore Database website is out of date. This should now read https://canmore.org.uk/ .	Noted. The web address has been amended.
Proposed mitigation measures	Proposed mitigation suggested for the historic environment in Table 6.2 is high-level in nature and should serve to flow through decision making at all levels. It is beneficial for the successful delivery of mitigation for predicted effects for specific mitigation to be written into the developer requirements for individual sites where effects are predicted. Such sites within the emerging spatial strategy as Woodend Hospital would be a case in point here.	The mitigation measures for historic environment will be undertaken by both the local development plan team, development management and masterplanning, design and conservation teams, thus flowing through various decision levels. Where appropriate, mitigation measures have been included for allocated sites within the Proposed Plan. The nature of the listed buildings part of Woodend Hospital have been included in the OP site description.
Monitoring	Welcome recognition of the need to monitor the impact of development on listed buildings and conservation areas. Little information is provided at this stage on how this monitoring will be carried out.	There will be monitoring of the Historic Environment policies in the plan – looking at how often they have been

	<p>It would be beneficial to consider how the effects of issues such as residential use in the city centre are performing against historic environment objectives and to find a way of capturing this information. We would also note that the Scottish Civic Trust are no longer responsible for the Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland, rather this is now maintained by Historic Environment Scotland. In terms of using the number of buildings 'at risk' as an indicator we would remind you that such figures can be affected by a number of factors outwith the development planning sphere and as such may not be fair reflection of the performance of the plan.</p>	<p>used. There is a Masterplanning, Design and Conservation team who work together with Local Development Plan, Development Management and Building Standards teams. There is a document currently being prepared looking at how to convert upper floors of Union Street to residential uses. Aberdeen City Council is aware that Historic Environment Scotland maintains the Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland. We agree that buildings at risk figures may not be a fair reflection of the Plan's performance however it does provide some indication.</p>
Proposed consultation timeline	Content with the proposed 10-week consultation on the proposed plan and revised environmental report.	Noted.
Appendix 5 – Desirable sites – new housing sites	B0319 – Woodend Hospital: Welcome assessment provided. Assessment notes the site has potential for both negative and positive effects; mitigation should seek to capitalise on the opportunity that these historic environment assets offer in terms of their contribution	Noted. Mitigation now includes sentence noting the opportunity development of the listed building will bring.

		to placemaking.	
		B0601 – 152 Don Street, Old Aberdeen: The potential for positive or negative effects are identified in the comments section yet scored as neutral. A more appropriate scoring would be +/- or uncertain pre-mitigation with a post mitigation score that reflects the deliverability of identified mitigation. Notwithstanding this the mitigation identified is appropriate.	The framework was adopted from the combined SEA site/checklist recommended by SEA Gateway. Where appropriate we have now included +/- scoring with mitigation.
		B0702 – Raeden (eastern part): Agree with the findings and mitigation. Beneficial for this mitigation to be transposed into developer requirements within the plan itself in order to aid delivery.	Noted. Proposed plan includes policy on the historic environment, which any development on site would be required to conform to.
		B0802 – Frederick Street: Welcome recognition of historic environment resource and the potential effects on these. Do not consider the scoring (0) reflects the commentary and should be more appropriately scored +/- or uncertain.	The framework was adopted from the combined SEA site/checklist recommended by SEA Gateway. Where appropriate we have now included +/- scoring with mitigation.
		B0804 – Urquhart Building, City Hospital: Agree with the findings and mitigation. Beneficial for this mitigation to be transposed into developer requirements within the plan itself in order to aid delivery.	Noted. Proposed plan includes a historic environment policy that any development on site would be required to conform to.
		B1101 – Garthdee Road: Assessment should note that the site lies within the Pitfodels Conservation Area and	This site is no longer desirable and does not form

		ensure mitigation is identified.	part of the Proposed Plan.
Appendix 5.2 – Bids: other proposals		City Centre Masterplan Intervention Area 1 – Denburn: Content with assessment. It should note that the site lies wholly within the Union Street conservation area.	This has now been included.
		City Centre Masterplan Intervention Area 2 – Heart of the city: Content with assessment. It should note that the site lies partly within the Union Street conservation area.	This has now been included.
		City Centre Masterplan Intervention Area 3 – Queens Square: Content with assessment. It should note that the site lies wholly within the Union Street conservation area. It is unclear which element of the masterplan is being referred to when the assessment notes ‘proposal includes demolition and redevelopment of an extension to part of a listed building’ and how this has been factored into the assessment.	This has now been included. The listed building being referred to is the Council Town House on Broad Street. The assessment notes the redevelopment of the demolished extension.
		City Centre Masterplan Intervention Area 4 – Union Street West: While the assessment notes that one Category A listed building (presumably the Music Hall) will be refurbished as part of the proposal, effects on the large number of other listed buildings within the masterplan intervention area and the conservation area designation that covers the site are not outlined.	The assessment refers to parts of the site that will be affected by development.
		City Centre Masterplan Intervention Area 5 – Station Gateway: content with the high-level assessment.	Noted.
		City Centre Masterplan Intervention Area 6 –	Noted.

	Castlegate/Castlehill: content with the high-level assessment.	
	City Centre Masterplan Intervention Area 7 – North Dee/Torry Waterfront: content with high-level assessment. Retention and refurbishment of the listed smokehouses is a positive outcome for the historic environment.	Noted.
Appendix 5.3 – Bids: existing opportunity sites submitted as bids	Content with assessment findings in relation to these sites.	Noted.
Appendix 5.4 – Existing opportunity sites rolled forward	OP42: Kennerty Mill – Assessment notes the development could have a positive or negative impact on the category B listed building depending on the proposal. We would therefore have expected the assessment to be scored either uncertain of +/-.	This site has not been carried forward as an opportunity site in the Proposed Plan.
	OP88: Shore Porters Warehouse - Assessment notes the development could have a positive or negative impact on the category B listed building depending on the proposal. We would therefore have expected the assessment to be scored either uncertain of +/-.	The framework was adopted from the combined SEA site/checklist recommended by SEA Gateway. Where appropriate we have now included +/- scoring with mitigation.
	OP96: Upper/Basement Floors, 73-149 Union Street – Various listed buildings here are category C listed, not A as reported in the assessment.	This site is now part of OP96 Castlegate & Castlehill CCMP Intervention Area. Assessment has been

			amended to reflect the comments.
		OP63: Prime Four Phase 5 Expansion – the consumption dyke referred to as category B listed was delisted on 09/08/2016 as part of our dual designation review project. The consumption dyke remains a schedule monument (SM108).	Assessment has been amended to reflect this.
		OP64: Former Ness Tip - assessment here should be updated to consider the potential effects on the scheduled monuments immediately to the south and west of the site. These are Crab's Cairn (SM 4060) and Tullos Cairn (SM 4055).	Assessment has been amended to reflect this.
Appendix 6 – Undesirable sites		B0107 – Mains of Dyce: Bid assessment notes that the Category C listed Mains of Dyce lies adjacent to the site however there is no consideration of this in the environmental assessment. The presence of the listed building should be noted, and the assessment updated with appropriate mitigation identified in the event the site is brought forward.	Assessment has been amended to reflect this.
		B0311 – Prime Four North: Content with significant adverse effect predicted for the historic environment in relation to this proposal.	Noted.
		B0701 – Land adjacent to Cornhill Road: Assessment should note that the site lies within the Rosemount and Westburn Conservation Area and consider appropriate mitigation in the event the site is brought forward.	Assessment has been amended to reflect this.

	<p>B0917: Land east of Inchgarth Mews: Bid assessment notes that the Category C listed Inchgarth House lies directly to the east of the site however there is no consideration of this in the environmental assessment. The presence of the listed building adjacent to the site should be noted as well as the recognition that the site lies within the Pitfodels conservation area. The assessment should therefore be updated, and appropriate mitigation identified in the event the site is brought forward.</p>	Assessment has been amended to reflect this.
	<p>B0944: Inchgarth Road: Bid assessment notes that the site lies within the Pitfodels conservation area. The environmental assessment should therefore be updated, and appropriate mitigation identified in the event the site is brought forward.</p>	Assessment has been amended to reflect this.
Appendix 7 – Possible sites	No comments to offer on the assessment of these sites.	Noted.
Appendix 8 – Main issues	<p>MI1 – Residential use in the city centre: Welcome recognition of the potential effects of this policy on the historic environment. Suggest that work carried out sensitively should be considered mitigation. For example, the effect of conversion of upper floors to residential accommodation is unknown at the policy stage (either uncertain or +/-) with the delivery of sensitive proposals being the mitigation of that effect.</p>	Agreed. This has been considered in the preparation of the final policy included in the Proposed Plan. The SEA has been amended and is included in Appendix 8.
	<p>MI3 – Visitor attractions and facilities: Assessment does not consider that the policy would have any effect on cultural heritage. Tourism can have positive and</p>	Agreed. This has been considered in the preparation of the final policy included in

	<p>negative effects on the historic environment, through increased understanding and appreciation as well as pressure on the fabric of the historic environment resource through increased usage.</p>	<p>the Proposed Plan. The SEA for this policy is included in Appendix 8.</p>
	<p>MI4 – Minimum internal space standards for new residential development: Welcome consideration given to the implications of minimum internal space standards and conversions within the context of the historic environment. Would welcome the flexible approach that has been put forward as mitigation and would be happy to offer comments on policy wording/guidance as it is being developed. Recently released new Managing Change Guidance Note on the Use and Adaptation of Listed Buildings has further advice in this area.</p>	<p>Noted. The issue of minimum internal space standards has been incorporated as part of policy D2 – Design and Amenity. Historic Environment Scotland is a statutory consultee and was consulted as part of the LDP Key Agencies Working Group during the preparation of the Proposed Plan. Consideration will be given to the Guidance Note in the preparation of Aberdeen Planning Guidance on New Residential Developments.</p>
	<p>MI8 – West End office area: Agree with the findings here in terms of the potential positive outcomes for the historic environment through use and adaptation of vacant historic environment assets. Positive effects on the historic environment will be dependent on the successful delivery of the mitigation.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Appendix 9 – Policies</p>	<p>DX: Windows and doors – Agree that this policy is likely to have a significant positive effect on the historic environment. We would understand that the policy</p>	<p>Historic Environment Scotland is a statutory consultee and was consulted</p>

		wording will be finalised for the proposed plan and would be happy to offer comment on this as it is being prepared.	as part of the LDP Key Agencies Working Group during the preparation of the Proposed Plan.
		BX: The West End – Agree that the policy has the potential to bring positive outcomes for the historic environment. Emphasis on the protection of the conservation area is welcomed.	Noted.
	Appendix 11 – Cumulative, synergistic and secondary environmental effects	Content with the summary assessment provided in this section as it relates to the historic environment.	Noted.
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	General comments	The Interim ER provides a good summary of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process to date in identifying all the potential effects that the Aberdeen Local Development Plan may have on the environment.	Noted.
	Introduction	Note that the Interim Environmental Report provides an assessment of preferred and alternative policy and site options, and that most policies and land allocations in the 2017 LDP will be carried forward.	Noted.
	4. Description of PPS – content of	Separate comments have been provided on the LDP Main Issues Report.	These have been received and assessed.

LDP main issues report	B01/06, B01/11 Former Cordyce School: Text in Interim Environmental Report (page 283) does not correctly identify that a part of the identified site is at risk of fluvial flooding, that no details have been provided of where development would occur at this stage, that a FRA will be required and no development in the floodplain with an appropriate buffer strip to the watercourse.	Assessment for these sites have been amended.
	B03/19 Woodend Hospital: Text in Interim Environmental Report (page 203) does not correctly identify potential to upgrade waterbody status of North Burn of Rubislaw/Den Burn, risk of flooding to site and requirement for FRA and no development in the floodplain with an appropriate buffer strip to the watercourse.	Assessment for this site has been amended.
	B02/08 WTR Site Dubford: Text in Interim Environmental Report (page 172) appears to be missing section on flood risk.	Section on flood risk has now been included.
	B02/25 Balgownie Area 4: Text in Interim Environmental Report (page 188) appears to be missing section on flood risk.	Section on flood risk has now been included.
	001 Former Bucksburn Primary School: Text in Interim Environmental Report (page 316) does not identify requirement for FRA.	Requirement for FRA has now been included in the mitigation column.
	B06/01 152 Don Street: Text in Interim Environmental Report (page 233) does not correctly identify fluvial	Noted. This has been referenced in the site

		flood risk and requirements for FRA.	assessment.
		B03/13 Summerfield House: Potential surface water flood risk – this is a matter for Aberdeen City Council in consultation with relevant internal specialists in the Flood Prevention Unit. Surface water management measures to be considered in detail to ensure no increased risk downhill of the site.	Noted.
		B04/02 Former Factory, Granitehill Road: Potential surface water flood risk – this is a matter for Aberdeen City Council in consultation with relevant internal specialists in the Flood Prevention Unit. Surface water management measures to be considered.	Noted. This has been referenced in the assessment.
5. Plan, programme or strategy context		<p>The following PPS should be identified in Appendix 5.1 and included in the SEA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011, as amended Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP) Progress Report 2018 Climate Change Plan: third report on proposals and policies 2018-2032 (RPP3) The Heat Policy Statement: Towards Decarbonising Heat: Maximising the Opportunities for Scotland Scottish Energy Strategy 2017 New Climate Change Bill Getting the best from our land: A Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2016 – 2021 	The PPS have been included.
		It would be helpful if ER could identify key	If and when key water

		<p>infrastructure projects for water – including surface water (pluvial), flooding (fluvial), regional SUDS, waste water and drinking water. The ER should also identify key transport infrastructure projects – including any associated with the new harbour and football stadium and key waste infrastructure projects – including the new energy from waste plant.</p>	<p>infrastructure projects come forward during the lifetime of the Plan, these will be assessed through the appropriate process. The ER includes opportunity sites that have been carried forward from the 2017 Local Development Plan and new sites, of which these include the harbour, football stadium and the energy from waste plant. These have all been assessed.</p>
	<p>6. Assessment, mitigation and monitoring</p>	<p>To provide coverage of the issues the question Climate Change Mitigation: Does the development promote the use of renewable energy and the efficient use of energy and water? Should include an assessment as to whether the development promotes the efficient use of water (as well as energy).</p>	<p>Efficient use of water is covered under the first objective for water: ‘promote sustainable use of water and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts’ and the subsequent question ‘does the development increase the area vulnerable to the effects of changes in climate including increased rainfall and extreme weather events?’. In addition, policy R7 Low and Zero Carbon Buildings and Water Efficiency requires all new development to install water-</p>

			saving technologies. This has been included as a mitigation where appropriate for all assessments.
		We note that it is proposed to apply the policy requirement for all new developments to install water saving technologies to help minimise abstraction from the River Dee in the next LDP.	Noted.
		Further work should be done with Scottish Water to understand their infrastructure proposals over the period of the plan to provide drinking water supplies to existing and new development.	Scottish Water is a statutory consultee and have been involved as part of the LDP Working Group during the preparation of the LDP.
		Further monitoring should be done of new development to understand whether water saving technologies have been successfully implemented resulting in a reduction in water demand.	The LDP will monitor policy usage during the course of the Plan period. As part of the development management process, conditions may be included to ensure the successful implementation of water saving technologies. This can also be captured by the Flooding Team.
		Monitoring should be done of new development to understand whether low and zero carbon generating technologies have been successfully implemented resulting in a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.	The LDP will monitor policy usage during the course of the Plan period. As part of the development management process, conditions may be

			included to ensure the successful implementation of low and zero carbon generating technologies. This can also be captured as part of the continual development process through Building Standards procedures.
		Table 6.5 Monitoring: We suggest that the column identifying who is responsible for undertaking the monitoring is reviewed and updated and ideally only one lead party is identified as responsible with possibly other parties identified as interested/in supporting roles.	Table has been updated and where appropriate includes several parties as they are responsible for different actions which would result in the mitigations being met.
		Biodiversity: Impact on the qualifying features of the River Dee SAC - we suggest that updated information on water abstraction from the River Dee should be obtained direct from Scottish Water and reviewed, along with SEPA and SNH.	For the purpose of the report, the most upto date information has been used. Concerns over water abstraction have been dealt with in the HRA.
		We would welcome the opportunity to be involved in the Open Space Strategy and Greenspace Network review.	Noted. The Open Space Strategy will be subject to consultation, of which you will be informed at the appropriate time by colleagues in the Environmental Policy team.

Appendix 3 Analysis of Consultation at Finalised Environmental Report Stage

Organisation	Section	Comment	Aberdeen City Council Response
NatureScot	Habitats Regulations Appraisal – River Dee Special Area of Conservation	Respondent agrees that the Council can conclude that the Proposed Local Development Plan will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the River Dee Special Area of Conservation in relation to construction pollution impacts.	Welcomed and noted.
	Habitats Regulations Appraisal – Geese	Respondent agrees that the Habitats Regulations Appraisal can conclude that there is no adverse effect on site integrity in relation to loss of foraging habitat for Special Protection Area geese.	Welcomed and noted.
	Habitats Regulations Appraisal – Windfall Sites	Respondent is also content that, unless any 'windfall' development sites are concentrated near particular Special Protection Areas, or unless the goose population trends change markedly, it would be appropriate to wait to consider this issue again through the next Local Development Plan cycle (i.e. rather than carrying out re-appraisal for each proposed windfall development).	Welcomed and noted.

<p>Habitats Regulations Appraisal – Recreational Disturbance</p>	<p>Respondent has considered potential recreational disturbance of qualifying interests at Special Protection Areas. There is a potential impact from development in relation to an assumed increased or redistributed human population causing increased recreational disturbance in the Special Protection Areas themselves. However, taking account of the locations of allocated sites, as well as facilities for visitors and/or visitor management plans, and parking limits, respondent advises that the Council can conclude no adverse effect on the integrity of Special Protection Areas from increased recreational pressure. The Council may wish to also mention this aspect in any update to their Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record.</p>	<p>Welcomed and noted.</p>
<p>Habitats Regulations Appraisal – Robust wording of NE3 to support no adverse effect</p>	<p>Respondent agrees with the Council’s conclusions (page 138-140) that the Proposed Local Development Plan will not have an adverse effect on site integrity of the following qualifying interests: Eider (non-breeding) as a qualifying interest of Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch Special Protection Area Bottlenose dolphin as a qualifying interest of Moray Firth Special Area of Conservation. Grey seal as a qualifying interest of Isle of May Special Area of Conservation. Respondent states again the importance of having robust wording on European sites at Policy NE3 in order to support these conclusions.</p>	<p>Welcomed and noted.</p>
<p>Habitats Regulations Appraisal – Water Abstraction Impacts</p>	<p>Respondent makes comments regarding potential water abstraction impacts. Respondent agrees that based on the Habitats Regulations Appraisal’s reasoning, that the Council can conclude that the Proposed Local Development Plan will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the River Dee Special Area of Conservation in relation to water abstraction.</p>	<p>Welcomed and noted.</p>

<p>Habitats Regulations Appraisal – Windfall Sites and Abstraction</p>	<p>Respondent also notes discussion of windfall sites, and how these might affect abstraction. Page 134 of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal flags that there is existing headroom for an identified level of windfall development in the plan period without going beyond the licenced limit and that there are also means of keeping track of the cumulative level of windfall development. Respondent advises, therefore, that provided the City and Shire Councils take steps to implement the means of ensuring that the level of windfall development does not exceed the identified headroom, there is unlikely to be a need to consider the abstraction issue afresh (via project level Habitats Regulations Appraisal) for each windfall application.</p>	<p>Welcomed and noted.</p>
<p>Habitats Regulations Appraisal – Policy NE3</p>	<p>Respondent notes that the Appropriate Assessment conclusions (page 136) are based on the logic that if future development projects were considered likely to cause a likely significant effect, then at that stage project level Habitats Regulations Appraisal would be required as a legislative requirement (as noted under Proposed Policy NE3 - Natural Heritage). Respondent is generally content with this approach, however, in order to support such a conclusion, respondent recommends strengthening wording of Policy NE3 as detailed in separate comments (888/9). Respondent states that proposed changes to NE3 will make the legislative requirements for European sites clearer within the Proposed Local Development Plan, and this will therefore better support the logic the Council use to reach the Habitats Regulations Appraisal conclusions.</p>	<p>The word changes proposed in relation to Proposed Policy NE3 are discussed in Issue 21 Our Natural Heritage where the Council suggest to the Reporter that if they are so minded the Council could agree to the changes.</p>

<p>Habitats Regulations Appraisal – River Dee Special Area of Conservation During Construction</p>	<p>Respondent makes comments regarding potential impacts on the River Dee Special Area of Conservation during construction. Respondent suggests word changes to the first three paragraphs on page 135 of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal record. Respondent feels that these word changes would make it clearer that the Council will take a detailed look at the risk associated with proposals at the project stage and then assess whether there is 'likely to be a significant effect' on the interests of the Special Area of Conservation.</p>	<p>The Council agree that the word changes to the first three paragraphs on page 135 of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal record would make it clearer that the Council will take a detailed look at the risk associated with proposals at the project stage and then assess whether there is 'likely to be a significant effect' on the interests of the Special Area of Conservation. The Council have included this within the update to their Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record.</p>
<p>Habitats Regulations Appraisal – Word Change</p>	<p>Respondent suggests that the acronym 'HRA' is replaced with 'Appropriate Assessment' on page 136 in the following sentence, "<i>if future development projects were considered likely to cause a likely significant effect, then at that stage project level HRA would be required as a legislative requirement (as noted under Policy NE3 Natural Heritage)</i>"</p>	<p>The Council agree that changing the acronym 'HRA' to 'Appropriate Assessment' on page 136 in the following sentence, "<i>if future development projects were considered likely to cause a likely significant effect, then at that stage project level HRA would be required as a legislative requirement (as noted under Policy NE3 Natural Heritage)</i>" would be clearer.</p>

			The Council have included this within the update to their Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record.
Scottish Forestry	OP9, OP20, OP25, OP63, OP31, OP50, OP53, OP112, OP113, OP46 and OP56	Requests that a number of Site Assessments be amended in the Strategic Environmental Assessment in order to assert a strong presumption against development due to the presence of woodland	For the Opportunity Sites listed it is agreed that greater emphasis should be given to the presence of woodland on site and possible mitigation. This information has been included in the revised version of the Environmental Report.

Stewart Milne Homes	B0933 Cadgerford	Disputes the Strategic Environmental Assessment referring to B0933 as a stand-alone development when considering its impact on landscape. The respondent states that the development would be an expansion to Westhill.	Site B0933 Cadgerford was assessed both through the Development Options Assessment Report (CD 184, pages 456-460) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (CD 159). Both assessments found the site to be unrelated to the settlement of Westhill. The Council are satisfied that this assessment is correct. Each site is considered on its own merits, not alongside future development that may or may not happen in the neighbouring Local Authority area of Aberdeenshire.
Member of the Public	OP56 St Fittick's Park	Makes comments regarding what they believe to be missing information from the Environmental Report at page 87. The current status of St Fitticks Park as a public park should be clearly stated, plus details of links to the appropriate documentation. Details of previous public investment in the area (e.g. East Tullos Burn restoration) should be laid out, plus details of links to the appropriate documentation. The existence of contaminated land (particularly heavy metals) in the area should be mentioned in the list of "issues to be addressed". Any proposal to reduce the size of an existing public park should be matched by Aberdeen City Council designating a suitable and similar sized alternative area within the Torry community area as a new public park. The existence of strong and persistent odours caused by Scottish Water's nearby Waste Treatment should be mentioned in the list of "issues to be addressed".	The suggestions put forward to include information on OP56 as a public park, the East Tullos Burn project, contaminated land and strong odours have been incorporated into the revised version of the Environmental Report.

The New Aberdeen Mosque and Community Centre Project	OP85 King Street/Beach Esplanade	Requests changes to the Strategic Environmental Assessment for OP85 and highlights that there are discrepancies between the SEA for this site in the extant Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2017 and the Proposed Plan 2020.	The Council agree that there are discrepancies between the Strategic Environmental Assessment that was carried out for OP85 King Street/Beach Esplanade in the extant Local Development Plan 2017 and the Proposed Local Development Plan. The Council have re-assessed OP85 in terms of its Strategic Environmental Assessment and are content that the content is correct. The SEA template has changed since 2017.
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	OP3, OP6, OP11, OP12, OP75, OP20, OP21, OP22, OP29, OP40, OP53, OP112, OP61, OP65, OP116,	Makes comments on OP sites listed in relation to 'Other Factors' section of Appendix 2 (shown in Proposed Local Development Plan and Environmental Report).	For the Opportunity Sites listed it is agreed that greater emphasis should be given to the presence of woodland on site and possible mitigation. This information has been included in the revised version of the Environmental Report.

<p>Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Scottish Government</p>	<p>Supporting Comments</p>	<p>Satisfied that all relevant Plans, Policies and Strategies listed in Appendix 3 have been considered in the Environmental Report.</p> <p>Satisfied that the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has adequately informed the site assessment process and the mitigation measures put forward. However, respondent provides detailed comments on specific site flood risk assessment in their Proposed Local Development Plan response and these should be taken forward into the Adopted Plan and the finalised Environmental Report.</p> <p>Welcomes additional environmental problems listed in Table 5.3. Respondent thanks the Council for providing them with up to date shape files in order for them to independently assess them.</p>	<p>Welcomed and noted.</p>
<p>X3 Members of the Public</p>	<p>Anti-Social Behaviour</p>	<p>Further explanation required on how the Local Development Plan will safeguard mitigation action on anti-social behaviour. Queries whether the Strategic Environmental Assessment is required to assess anti-social behaviour issues that negatively affect physical or mental health of residents.</p>	<p>The Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required to assess or mitigate for anti-social behaviour. Such design issues are dealt with at the planning application/masterplanning stage where policies such as D1 – Quality Placemaking are applied to ensure that developments are safe and pleasant.</p>

X2 Members of the Public	OP53, OP112, OP113, B0901, B0905, B0911, B0927	Requests the SEA's for sites listed is reassessed particularly it's section on post mitigation. Respondent states that the Strategic Environmental Assessment is superficial and does not answer the criteria set.	It is not clear what aspect of the Strategic Environmental Assessment's post mitigation is superficial. The Council are content that appropriate mitigation is discussed within the Strategic Environmental Assessment for sites OP53, OP112, OP113, B0901, B0905, B0911 and B0927.
NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Scottish Government	OP56 St Fittick's Park and OP61 Doonies	Outlines how in their view the Environmental Report under-represents the importance of OP56 St Fittick's Park (in terms of its value to people, wildlife and flood management) and also under-represents the likelihood of adverse environmental effects, including post mitigation. The respondent observes that it would appear that the East Tullos Burn Project area has not been included in the Policy B5 and OP56 assessments. The respondent considers that all the benefits that the project has delivered (and the available North East Scotland Biological Records Centre records) have not been considered in the topics within the assessments. This is noting that the East Tullos Burn Project area takes up most of the undeveloped open space within OP56, which itself is a sizeable proportion of the Energy Transition Zone.	It is agreed that greater emphasis should be given to the presence of the East Tullos Burn and its associated environmental benefits within the Strategic Environmental Assessment for OP56 and Policy B5. This information has been included in the revised version of the Environmental Report.

Water Abstraction	<p>Requests that the text of page 46 'Note on the Assessment of Water' is amended to read, "<i>Decisions regarding acceptable water abstraction levels from the River Dee may be discussed between Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Water and SNH. The Habitats Regulations Assessment also has a bearing on this issue. The licence for abstraction for the public water supply from the River Dee is held by Scottish Water, and SEPA is the principal regulator of that abstraction licence.</i>"</p> <p>Amend text of Environmental Report to read "<i>New development may increase the need for Scottish Water to abstract water from the River Dee for the public supply, with water abstraction licence requirements set by SEPA.</i>"</p>	<p>The word changes suggested for the section 'Note on the Assessment of Water', have also been made and incorporated into the revised version of the Environmental Report.</p> <p>The word changes suggested for other entries in the Environmental Report have also been made and incorporated into the revised version of the Environmental Report.</p>

<p>OP56 St Fittick's Park and OP61 Doonies</p>	<p>Respondent highlights that the Energy Transition Zone (OP56 and OP61) has not been assessed in terms of its impact on the historic environment. The environmental assessment of the allocation of land in St Fittick's Park for the Energy Transition Zone does not consider the impact of the proposed land use on the Scheduled Monument St Fittick's Church (SM 10400). Given that the allocation for the Bay of Nigg OP62 - Harbour Expansion, Energy Transition Zone, Green Belt etc does assess the potential impact as having the "<i>potential to negatively impact on the scheduled monument of St. Fittick's Church</i>" respondent would have expected the assessment of OP56 to include an assessment of the same site with similar findings. Respondent therefore advises that the assessment be updated to cover this and put forward mitigation for identified effects..</p>	<p>It is agreed that the Strategic Environmental Assessment should be amended for OP56 and OP61 so that it fully assesses the Energy Transition Zone in terms of its impact on the historic environment. This information has been included in the revised version of the Environmental Report.</p>
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<p>As with OP56, the detailed assessment provided for OP61 Doonies (page 801) has not considered the potential impacts on the site and setting of the nationally important historic environment assets in its vicinity, in this case the Scheduled Monuments of Crab's Cairn (SM 4060), Tullos Cairn, cairn (SM 4055) and Baron's Cairn, cairn (SM 4126). In particular the Crab's Cairn Scheduled Monument lies directly adjacent to the north east corner of the allocation and may form part of a relict prehistoric landscape with the other monuments noted above. It is noted that the assessment for OP64 (Former Ness Tip - Solar Farm) that is being brought forward from the extant plan does offer an assessment on the scheduled cairns in its vicinity and that the potential for adverse effects prior to mitigation is predicted. On this it should be noted that the assessment scores this effect as positive after mitigation without offering explanation of what the positive effect is. The respondent would consider it more appropriate that if mitigation through siting and design served to lessen the impact on the setting of these sites it would be more accurate to consider the residual effect neutral rather than positive. In light of the above omissions regarding the assessment of the allocations relating to the Energy Transmission Zone we would advise that the environmental report be updated to ensure that the need for mitigation is recognised and that the delivery programme reflects this.</p>	

<p>OP46 Royal Devenick Park</p>	<p>Agrees with the Strategic Environmental Assessment that: <i>“Development will have a negative impact on the landscape setting of the area” for OP46 Royal Devenick Park.</i>”</p>	<p>Agreement that OP46 will have a negative impact on the landscape setting of the area is noted.</p>
<p>OP53 Tillyoch</p>	<p>Advises mitigation which goes beyond that identified in the Environmental Report. Respondent advises excluding the woodland area and also providing information demonstrating how the woodland would be protected.</p>	<p>Issue 11 of the Schedule 4 document contains a detailed response regarding woodland within OP53 Tillyoch. The Strategic Environmental Assessment for OP53 discusses woodland and protected trees on site.</p>

Appendix 4 Links to other PPS & Environmental Protection Objectives

Name of PPS / Environmental protection objective	Main Requirements of the PPS	Implications of the PPS for Local Development Plan
INTERNATIONAL		
Nature Conservation		
The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC	Protects habitats and species. Gives basis to classify SACs and SPAs.	Strategies should ensure the protection of all wild, rare and vulnerable birds, their nests, eggs and habitats.
The Birds Directive 2009/147/EC	Protection of wild birds and their habitats.	
European Biodiversity Framework	Promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	The LDP should support the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
Water		
Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	Safeguard the sustainable use of surface water; transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater. Supports the status of aquatic ecosystems and environments; Addresses groundwater pollution; flooding and droughts; river basin management planning.	The Local Development Plan should consider sustainable use of water and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts.
The Nitrates Directive 91/43/EEC	Reduce water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources; and preventing further such pollution.	The spatial strategy should not increase water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from point source/ pollution sources.
Waste		
The Landfill Directive 99/31/EC	Sets a framework for waste management and sets out demanding targets to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal landfilled up to 2020.	The Plan should reflect the needs of the Landfill Directive, including the infrastructure required to meet the municipal biodegradable waste targets to 2020.

The Waste Framework Directive 2006/12/EC	Requires the planning system to: Provide policies and sites for waste disposal. Recover or dispose of waste without endangering human health and without processes or methods which could harm the environment. Liaison between planning authorities and SEPA. Provide the right infrastructure for the new thematic strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste.	The Plan should identify suitable locations for large-scale waste management facilities to meet the Directive (and Landfill Directive and Area Waste Plan) whilst safeguarding the natural and built environment including designated areas, green belts, open countryside and the coast.
Taking Sustainable Use of Resources Forward: A Thematic Strategy on the Prevention and Recycling of Waste (2005)	Describes the ways in which waste management can be improved; limiting the production of waste and promoting the recycling, reuse and recovery of waste.	Sets a context for national policy and legislation on greenhouse gas emission reductions (see below) which the LDP will be required to help meet.
Climate Change		
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change	International environmental treaty which provides a framework for future binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions. Sets an overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to tackle the challenge posed by climate change. It recognizes that the climate system is a shared resource whose stability can be affected by industrial and other emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.	Sets a context for national policy and legislation on greenhouse gas emission reductions (see below) which the LDP will be required to help meet.
The Second European Climate Change Programme	Will be exploring further cost-effective options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions through a series of Working Groups	Sets a context for national policy on legislation and policy measures to help the EU meet its emissions targets under the 1997 Kyoto protocol, which the LDP will be required to help meet.
NATIONAL		
Overarching Planning Policy		
Planning (Scotland) Act 2019	Provides the legal basis for planning. Parts of this new act are being enacted on a transitional basis.	The Local Development Plan will abide by the parts of the Act that have been enacted.
National Planning Framework for Scotland 3 (2014)	The Framework promotes sustainable growth and development, and the vision for Scotland is to be:	The Plan should take account of the spatial and environmental issues set out in the NPF,

	<p>a successful, sustainable place</p> <p>a low carbon place</p> <p>a natural, resilient place</p> <p>a connected place</p>	<p>such as:</p> <p>promoting the concepts of sustainable development, community regeneration, transportation infrastructure, and other environmental issues; &</p> <p>ensuring land required to meet the city region's needs (e.g. infrastructure and affordable housing) is delivered.</p>
Scottish Planning Policy (2014)	Identifies the Scottish Government's central purpose at sustainable economic growth. SPP sets out the main purpose and tasks of the planning system and national policies across all policy sectors.	LDP policies on topic areas must accord with the national policies set out by SPP.
Cross-Sectoral		
Transport (Scotland) Act 2019	Provides the legal basis for Scottish Ministers to establish a national transport strategy for Scotland.	The LDP should include measures to integrate with the National Transport Strategy.
National Transport Strategy 2 (2020)	Sets out a long- term vision for transport. Advocates vision for Scotland's transport system that creates great places – a sustainable, inclusive and accessible transport system which promotes prosperity, health and fairness for all of its citizens.	The LDP should seek to integrate with the aims of strategies. It should push for a sustainable, inclusive and accessible transport system that benefits Aberdeen's local population.
Strategic Transport Projects Review (2009)	Sets out recommendations for land-based strategic transport interventions in Scotland's national transport network from 2012.	Although the LDP is not tasked with delivering the interventions set out in this document, it should however have regard to the strategic aims it has for the future of Scotland's transport system.
The Government Economic Strategy (2007)	Identifies strategic priorities critical to achieving sustainable economic growth.	LDP should support sustainable economic growth whilst meeting the differing needs of a

		diverse population.
Choosing Our Future: Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)	It highlights the need to build a sustainable future taking account of public well-being (e.g. quality of life, food, economic opportunities), travel, natural resources and waste.	It should aim to conserve Scotland's biodiversity whilst reducing resource depletion and encouraging responsible use of our natural resources. Consider objectives (and policies) that will lead to sustainable communities.
Natural Resource Productivity (2009)	Sets out a vision for the future direction of agriculture in Scotland in a way which is sustainable but delivers the maximum economic and public benefit.	SDP should consider the impact on Scottish agriculture when considering its strategy or development proposals.
Getting the Best from our Land: A Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2016-2021	Sets out priorities for delivery of new and refreshed areas of policy such as land rights and responsibilities statement. This includes consideration of land ownership, use and management. Recognises the need for change particularly as climate change issues become more pressing.	LDP should support the best use for land and should support adaptation of land management practices as climate change issues continue.
Building a Better Scotland Infrastructure Investment Plan: Investing in the Future of Scotland (2005)	Sets out the delivery plan for achieving significant investment in transport, education, health, water, waste management, sports, business, flood prevention and regeneration programmes in Scotland.	LDP should support investment that would boost sustainable economic growth, and regeneration programmes that will help achieve sustainable communities.
Air and Climate Change		
Environment Act 1995	Provides the legal basis for the local air quality management (LAQM) regime, secondary legislation and the UK Air Quality Strategy.	The Local Development Plan should include measures to improve local air quality.
Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019	Introduces the public body duty to contribute towards Scotland's climate change targets and the adaptation framework. Sets a target for the year 2045, an interim	The Local Development Plan must contribute to meeting national climate change targets.

	target for the years 2020, 2013 and 2040 and provides annual targets, for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. It discusses mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, energy efficiency, including provision enabling council tax discounts, reduction and recycling of waste. It aims to reduce Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions by at 100% by 2045, with at least 75% reduced by 2030.	
Climate Change Plan: Third Report on Proposals and Policies 2018-2032 (RPP3)	Sets out the path to a low carbon economy while helping to deliver sustainable economic growth and secure the wider benefits to a greener, fairer and healthier Scotland in 2032.	The LDP should include measures to encourage a low carbon economy.
Scottish Climate Change Delivery Plan (2009)	Sets out high level measures required to meet Scotland's statutory climate change targets to 2020.	LDP should include measures to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases considering methods of adaptation, diversification and mitigation.
Scottish Energy Strategy 2017	Scotland's first energy strategy that sets out the Scottish Government's vision for the future energy system in Scotland. The 2050 vision for energy is Scotland is 'a flourishing, competitive local and national energy sector, delivering secure, affordable, clean energy for Scotland's households, communities and businesses.'	LDP should include measures encouraging new development to incorporate clean energy.
The Heat Policy Statement: Towards Decarbonising Heat: Maximising the Opportunities for Scotland	Sets out future policy direction for addressing the three key aspects of the heat system: how we use it (heat demand and its reduction) how we distribute and store it (heat networks and heat storage) where our heat comes from (heat generation)	The LDP should include measures encouraging developments to make use any existing heat networks and to also think about reducing heat demand.

<p>UK Air Quality Strategy (2011)</p> <p>SEPA's National Air Quality Report (2008)</p>	<p>Seeks to “render polluting emissions harmless”. Sets objectives for protecting human health to be included in regulations for the purposes of Local Air Quality Management relating to concentrations of, amongst others, carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone and particulates.</p> <p>SEPA's report provides information on emission levels of key pollutants and ambient air quality monitoring data.</p>	<p>The Local Development Plan should improve local air quality.</p>
<p>Cleaner Air for Scotland – The Road to a Healthier Future (2015)</p>	<p>The national cross-government strategy that sets out how the Scottish Government and its partner organisations propose to reduce air pollution further to protect human health and fulfil Scotland's legal responsibilities.</p>	<p>The LDP should include measures to reduce air pollution.</p>
<p>A Low Carbon Economic Strategy for Scotland (2010)</p>	<p>Sets out the Scottish Government's plans to move towards a low carbon economy in Scotland.</p>	<p>The SDP must contribute to the promotion of development which helps to reduce Scotland's carbon footprint and help meet carbon saving targets for Scotland.</p>
<p>Planning Advice Note 84 Reducing Carbon Emissions in New Development (2008)</p>	<p>Provides information on low and zero carbon development through the use of energy efficient and renewable energy systems.</p>	<p>LDP should include measures encouraging new development to incorporate low carbon and renewable sources of energy.</p>
<p>Heritage, Design and Regeneration</p>		
<p>The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1997</p>	<p>Prescribes the approach to be taken in planning for listed buildings, conservation areas and designed landscapes and gardens.</p>	<p>The Plan should ensure that listed buildings, conservation areas and designed landscapes and gardens are not adversely affected by</p>

		new development.
Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (2019)	<p>A policy statement for decision making for the whole of the historic environment – both at national and local level, from funding decisions to applications to wind farms. Contains six policies on managing the historic environment:</p> <p>Decisions should be informed by an inclusive understanding of the historic environment’s breadth and cultural significance;</p> <p>Decisions should ensure that the historic environment’s understanding, enjoyment and benefits are secured;</p> <p>Plans, programmes, policies and strategies and the allocation of resources should protect and promote the historic environment;</p> <p>Detrimental impacts should be avoided and where appropriate, opportunities for enhancement should be sought;</p> <p>Decisions should contribute to the sustainable development of communities and places; and</p> <p>Decisions should demonstrate how everyone has had the opportunity to enjoy the historic environment.</p>	<p>The plan should promote the management of the historic environment in a sustainable way which avoids adverse impacts as a result of new development.</p> <p>The Plan should take account of the six policies in the HEPS by managing the historic environment in a sustainable way.</p>
Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland (2014)	Sets out a 10-year vision for Scotland’s historic environment.	The LDP should take account of the Strategy’s vision for the historic environment.
<p>Creating Places: A Policy Statement on Architecture and Place for Scotland (2013)</p> <p>Designing Streets: A Policy</p>	<p>Development plans should:</p> <p>set out the council’s distinctive vision for how its area will develop. It should summarise its appraisals of the most important features of the area’s character and identity.</p>	<p>The plan should set out concisely the local authorities’ priorities in relation to creating successful places and vibrant communities. The LDP should include measures encouraging high quality design at all times.</p>

Statement for Scotland (2010)	have effective design policies, and urban design frameworks, development briefs and master plans to provide planning and design guidance; and explain how the plan's priorities are distinctly different from those of other places, and not just say that the council is committed to good design, or that development should respect its context.	
People and Place: Regeneration Policy Statement (2006)	Sets out a forward looking strategic framework and priorities for regeneration in Scotland encouraging proactive and integrated approaches.	The plan should take account of changing regeneration priorities and provide support where possible.
Green Infrastructure, Design and Placemaking (2011)	Provides practical tips on incorporating green infrastructure in masterplans to help achieve successful places.	The plan should promote the use of green infrastructure in development.
Landscape and Soil		
The Scottish Soil Framework (2009)	Promote the sustainable management and protection of soils consistent with the economic, social and environmental needs of Scotland. Protection of soil as an asset- for the future of the Scottish economy as well as a contributor to challenges of climate change.	The LDP should promote the sustainable management of soils.
Getting the Best from our Land: A Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2016 – 2021	Long term vision and objectives relating to the economy, environment and communities, and the principles for sustainable land use, to guide policy and decision making. Where land is highly suitable for a primary use (for example food production, flood management, water catchment management and carbon storage) this value should be recognised in decision making.	The LDP should promote sustainable land use and acknowledge land that is highly suitable for specific uses.

<p>Scottish Landscape Forum: Scotland's Living landscapes (2007)</p> <p>Scotland's Living Landscapes: Places for People (2007)</p>	<p>The Scottish Landscape Forum has published a report entitled <i>Scotland's Living Landscapes – places for people</i>. It considers how to promote good management of all landscapes, to secure benefits for all. It provides seven key recommendations to the Scottish Government and other public bodies as first steps to delivering better care for Scottish landscapes. This includes preparing a European Landscape Convention action plan.</p>	<p>Consider how the Plan can maintain and restore natural habitats to ensure biodiversity and landscapes</p>
<p>Homes, Population and Health</p>		
<p>Homes Fit for the 21st Century: The Scottish Government's Strategy and Action Plan for Housing in the Next Decade (Scottish Housing Strategy)</p>	<p>Key aims: to increase the effective supply of housing across all tenures and to increase flexibility and choice within the system, and improve homes and neighbourhoods.</p>	<p>LDP must support Scotland's Housing Strategy and the Aberdeen Draft Local Housing Strategy by ensuring there is enough land for housing.</p>
<p>All Our Futures: Planning for a Scotland with an Ageing Population (2007)</p>	<p>Provides a strategic approach which considers how best to respond to and plan for a Scotland with an ageing population.</p>	<p>The LDP should consider the housing and other needs of an ageing population.</p>
<p>Reaching Higher- Building on the Success of Sport 21 (2007)</p>	<p>This is the national strategy for sport in Scotland and sets out the long-term aims and objectives for sport until 2020 and plans for its delivery and evaluation.</p> <p>It has been produced following a scheduled review of <i>Sport 21: 2003-2007</i>. The strategy maintains a vision of Scotland as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a country achieving and sustaining world class performances in sport; a country where sport is more widely available to all; and a country where sporting talent is recognised and 	<p>The Plan should contribute to implementing the strategy.</p>

	nurtured.	
Let's Make Scotland More Active: A Strategy for Physical Activity (2003)	Aims to increase and maintain the proportion of physically active people in Scotland setting out targets to 2022.	The LDP should promote physical activities.
Let's Get Scotland Walking – The National Strategy	Sets out a vision where everyone benefits from walking as part of their everyday journeys, and everyone has access to welcoming and safe environments to walk in.	The LDP should promote walking as part of everyday journeys.
Cycling Action Plan for Scotland 2017-2020	The first Cycling Action Plan for Scotland was published in 2010 and then refreshed in 2013. The purpose of the third iteration is to gauge progress since 2010, and develop a robust set of actions that will help achieve the shared vision of “10% of everyday journeys to be made by bike, by 2020”.	The LDP should promote cycling as part of everyday journeys, and should encourage developments to incorporate cycling parking facilities.
A Long-Term Vision for Active Travel in Scotland 2030	Aims to encourage more people to walk and cycle for everyday shorter journeys.	The LDP should promote walking and cycling for everyday shorter journeys.
Equalities Act 2010	Sets out a framework which prevents individuals from unfair treatment and promotes a more equal society.	The LDP should build the needs of people with protected characteristics into its strategic actions.
Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 & 2005	Ensures that discrimination law covers all the activities of the public sector; and requires public bodies to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people. Aims to end the discrimination that many disabled people face and gives disabled people rights in the areas of employment, education, access to goods, facilities and services and buying or renting land or property.	The Local Development Plan should build the needs of disabled persons into its strategic actions.

Community Empowerment Act 2015	Provides a framework to increase community empowerment and engagement. Targets regeneration and community participation. Requires local authorities to produce a Food Growing Strategy.	The Plan should promote community empowerment and engagement, and support any subsequent Food Growing Strategy produced by the local authority.
Nature Conservation		
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	Gives protection to listed species from disturbance, injury intentional destruction or sale.	The Local Development Plan should protect wildlife from disturbance, injury and intentional destruction.
The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	Sets out a series of measures, which are designed to conserve biodiversity and to protect and enhance the biological and geological natural heritage of Scotland. Places a general duty on all public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity.	The Local Development Plan should promote and protect biodiversity.
Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy- It's in Your Hands (2004) 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity - A Strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland (2013)	Is a 25 year strategy, which sets out a vision for the future health of Scotland's biodiversity to 2030. It highlights the need to: look at the bigger picture: reconnecting and extending habitats and reducing barriers; think in terms of landscapes and ecosystems (not just in terms of species and habitats), which it says can be better delivered through strategic planning; and encourage more engagement with people in biodiversity conservation. The 2020 Challenge document shows how Scottish Government, its public agencies, Scottish businesses and others can contribute to the European Biodiversity Strategy's aim as well as supporting sustainable	The Plan's strategy needs to: ensure the protection and conservation of biodiversity; to assist in reversing the decline of important species and habitats; and to maximise habitat linkage in both urban and rural areas and minimise further fragmentation.

	economic growth. Both documents comprise the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.	
The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)	These Regulations implement the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives. The Regulations provide for the: designation and protection of 'European sites' (e.g. SACs); protection of 'European protected species' from deliberate harm; and adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European sites. The Habitats Regulations only apply as far as the limit of territorial waters (12 nautical miles from baseline).	The Plan should not adversely affect habitats and species protected under the Wild Birds and Habitats Directives.
The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2007	The amended Regulations: simplifies the species protection regime to better reflect the Habitats Directive; provides a clear legal basis for surveillance and monitoring of European protected species (EPS); toughens the regime on trading EPS that are not native to the UK ensures that the requirement to carry out appropriate assessments on water abstraction consents and land use plans is explicit.	An appropriate assessment will be required where the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site.
Making the Links: Greenspace for a More Successful and Sustainable Scotland' (2009)	Sets out the key actions that are needed to ensure that greenspace delivers for people, communities and places across the whole of urban Scotland.	The SDP should take account of the actions required to deliver quality greenspace to shape better places and increase quality of life for those working and living in the SDP area.
Water		
Water Environment (Controlled	Implements the obligations of section 20 of the	The LDP should aim to reduce impacts on

<p>Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and The Water Environment (Miscellaneous) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.</p>	<p>Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 (WEWS Act), and the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). Applies regulatory controls over activities which may affect Scotland's water environment including rivers, lochs, transitional waters, coastal waters, groundwater and groundwater dependent wetlands.</p> <p>Sets out the framework for protecting the water environment that integrates the control of pollution, abstractions, dams and engineering activities in the water environment.</p>	<p>the water environment from severe weather events and should promote reduction of pollution to watercourses. It should also address challenges to flooding and drought.</p>
<p>Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003</p>	<p>Ensures that all human activity that can have a harmful impact on water is controlled.</p>	<p>The plan should not promote development that would have adverse impacts on the water environment, and lead to the authorities failing to ensure water bodies achieve good ecological status, as required in the Water Framework Directive by 2015.</p>
<p>Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005</p>	<p>Implements the obligations of section 20 of the Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 (WEWS Act), and the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). Sets out the framework for protecting the water environment that integrates the control of pollution, abstractions, dams and engineering activities in the water environment.</p>	<p>Same as above.</p>
<p>Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009</p>	<p>Creates a framework in which organisations involved in flood risk management can co-ordinate actions to deliver sustainable and modern approaches to flood risk management.</p>	<p>The LDP should not create flood risks (from the sea or rivers) and should actively promote sustainable flood risk management.</p>

River Basin Management Plan for Scotland 2015-2027 (2015)	Details the strategy and requirements for River Basin Management Planning in Scotland.	The LDP should not conflict with River Basin Management Plans for the area (River Dee).
Scottish Water Strategic Asset and Capacity Development Plan (2012)	Provides a description of Scottish Waters processes and systems for calculating capacity available, at waste/ water treatment works in Scotland.	The Local Development Plan should take into account existing infrastructure and provide for new infrastructure if required.
SEPA Groundwater Protection Policy for Scotland: Environmental Policy 19	To protect groundwater quality by minimising the risks posed by point and diffuse sources of pollution, and to maintain the groundwater resource by influencing the design of abstractions and developments, which could affect groundwater quantity.	The spatial strategy should not adversely affect ground water supplies, principally from water abstraction and point source pollution.
Action Programme for Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (Scotland) Regulations 2008 (as amended)	Areas where the concentrations of nitrate in water exceed, or are likely to exceed, the levels set in the Directive are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) and mandatory rules, set out in Action Programmes, must be enforced to reduce nitrate loss from agricultural land and to protect human health and resources from water pollution. The Action Programme was produced to meet Scotland's legal and environmental obligations for Nitrate Vulnerable Zones. The regulations set out what is required from farmers to comply with NVZ rules.	The spatial strategy should not result in water pollution from exceedances in nitrate.
Waste		
Scotland's Zero Waste Plan (2010)	The plan outlines Scotland's key objectives in relation to waste prevention, recycling and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill on the journey to a zero waste Scotland. The plan proposes targets for Scotland's waste	The LDP should have regard to the Scottish Government's targets for 70% of all waste to be recycled by 2025. The Scottish Gov also intends to establish sector specific programmes of work to deliver

		the Zero Waste Plan.
SEPA Guidelines for Thermal Treatment of Municipal Waste	Sets out SEPA's approach to permitting thermal treatment of waste facilities and her role as a statutory consultee of the land use planning system.	The Plan must have regard to and apply SEPA guidelines when it comes to thermal treatment of waste facilities.
The landfill Directive 99/31/EC The Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC Taking sustainable use of resources forward: A thematic Strategy on the prevention and Recycling of Waste (2005)	The plan outlines Scotland's key objectives in relation to waste prevention, recycling and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill on the journey to a Zero Waste Scotland. Provides a vision for Scotland where all waste is seen as a resource; Waste is minimised; valuable resources are not disposed of in landfills, and most waste is sorted, leaving only limited amounts to be treated	The LDP should promote waste reduction and recycling.
Marine and Coastal		
Scottish Executive Marine & Coastal Strategy (2005)	To enhance and conserve the overall quality of the coasts and seas, their natural processes and their biodiversity. To integrate environment and biodiversity considerations into the management of marine activities. To promote wider public awareness, on the value of the marine and coastal environments and the pressures on them. To identify means of working with natural processes to protect against coastal flooding and to maintain inter-tidal and coastal habitats of importance for biodiversity.	Promote objectives that promote clean, safe, healthy and productive coastal and water environments.
Marine (Scotland) Act 2010	Expresses outcomes for the UK marine area and underpins the development of the joint Marine Policy Statement (MPS) guides development of national and	Although the LDP is not tasked directly with delivering Marine Plans or the High Level Marine Objectives, the LDP should support

<p>UK Marine Policy Statement</p> <p>Our Seas- a Shared Resource. High Level Marine Objectives (2009)</p>	<p>regional marine plans.</p> <p>The MPS builds and expands upon 'Our Seas - a Shared Resource. High Level Marine Objectives (2009)' and provides a framework which will help balance competing demands on Scotland's seas and introduces duties for sustainable development, protection and enhancement of marine areas, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, marine planning and conservation and measures to encourage economic investment.</p> <p>High level objectives reflecting the full range of the UK government and devolved administrations' policies in the marine area.</p>	<p>them.</p>
<p>Cross-Sector Guidance</p>		
<p>PAN 60: Planning for Natural Heritage</p>	<p>Provides advice on how development and the planning system can contribute to the conservation, enhancement, enjoyment and understanding of Scotland's natural environment.</p> <p>Encourages developers and planning authorities to be positive and creative in addressing natural heritage issues.</p>	<p>The Local Development Plan should contribute to the conservation, enhancement, enjoyment and understanding of the natural environment.</p>
<p>PAN 61: Planning & sustainable urban drainage</p>	<p>Describes how the planning system has a central co-ordinating role in getting SUDS accepted as a normal part of the development process. In implementing SUDS on the ground, planners are central in the development control process, from pre-application discussions through to decisions, in bringing together the parties and guiding them to solutions which can make a significant contribution to sustainable</p>	<p>The Local Development Plan should consider the role of sustainable urban drainage.</p>

	development.	
Planning and Waste Management Advice 2015	<p>Complements NPF3, SPP and Scotland's Zero Waste Plan. Ensures that development plans consider all forms of waste from all types of development, as well as waste management infrastructure.</p> <p>Ensures that development plans reflect the land use requirements for the delivery of an integrated network of waste management facilities.</p> <p>Provides a basis for more informed consideration of development proposals for waste management facilities.</p> <p>Provides developers seeking planning permission for waste management facilities with advice on the issues taken into consideration when determining applications.</p>	The Local Development Plan should consider waste management from the inception process. It should promote integrated waste management.
PAN 65: Planning and Open Space	<p>Raises the profile of open space as a planning issue.</p> <p>Provides advice on the role of the planning system in protecting and enhancing existing open spaces and providing high quality new spaces.</p> <p>Sets out how local authorities can prepare open space strategies and gives examples of good practice in providing, managing and maintaining open spaces.</p>	The Local Development Plan should promote conservation and environment protection.
PAN 75 Transport and Planning	<p>Provides good practice guidance which planning authorities, developers and others should carry out in their policy development, proposal assessment and project delivery.</p> <p>Creates greater awareness of how linkages between planning and transport can be managed.</p> <p>Highlights the roles of different bodies and professions in the process and points to other sources of</p>	The Local Development Plan should promote the use of existing transportation networks and develop new cycling and walking alternatives.

	information.	
PAN 76 New Residential Streets.	<p>Aims at creating attractive, safe residential environments, which reflect the needs of people, rather than cars.</p> <p>Requires that street design should reflect local character, be appropriate to the built form and linked to surrounding areas by direct pedestrian, cycle and car routes; that the character of the street should be determined by space requirements of people and vehicles, street furniture should fit with its surroundings and streets should use high quality materials, be well maintained and may employ signage to reinforce its sense of place; and that streets should provide easy movement within and beyond the site, street design itself should be used to limit traffic speed and home zones, prioritising pedestrian and cycle needs over car users, should be considered for residential streets.</p>	The Local Development Plan should safeguard safe and high standard design of streets.
PAN 77 Designing safer places	<p>Highlights the positive role that planning can play in helping to create attractive, well-managed environments which help to discourage antisocial and criminal behaviour.</p> <p>Aims to ensure that new development can be located and designed in a way that deters such behaviour as poorly designed surroundings can create feelings of hostility, anonymity and alienation and can have significant social, economic and environmental costs.</p>	The Local Development Plan should safeguard safety.
PAN 78 Inclusive Design	Seeks to deliver high standards of design in development and redevelopment projects; and widens the user group that an environment is designed for.	The Local Development Plan should promote high standard of design.

	Makes it a legal requirement to consider the needs of disabled people under the terms of Disability Discrimination legislation.	
REGIONAL		
Overarching Planning Policy		
Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan 2020	<p>Creates a long-term sustainable framework of settlements in a hierarchy, which focuses major development on the main settlements in the North East.</p> <p>Sets the strategic context for Aberdeen City Local Development Plan which in turn sets the framework for land use development.</p>	The Local Development Plan should support the vision and spatial strategy of the Strategic Development Plan, and should support its objectives of economic growth, population growth, high quality environment, sustainable mixed communities and accessibility.
Cross-Sectoral		
Regional Economic Strategy – Securing the Future of the North East Economy 2015	Sets the context for economic prosperity in the North East. The four key strands are investment in infrastructure innovation, inclusive economic growth and internationalisation.	The Local Development Plan should support sustainable economic growth.
The Economic Action Plan for Aberdeen City and Shire to 2025	Sets out objectives identifying actions to be undertaken towards the longer term economic ambitions for Aberdeen City and Shire.	The LDP should support sustainable economic growth.
Nestrans Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) Refresh 2013	<p>Sets the long-term framework to improve the transport network in the North East. The objectives are:</p> <p>To enhance and exploit the north east's competitive economic advantages, and reduce the impacts of peripherality;</p> <p>To enhance choice, accessibility and safety of transport for all in the north east, particularly for disadvantaged and vulnerable members of society</p>	The Plan should contribute to meeting objectives set out in the RTS.

	<p>and those living in areas where transport options are limited;</p> <p>To conserve and enhance the north east's natural and built environment and heritage and reduce the effects of transport on climate, noise and air quality;</p> <p>To support transport integration and a strong, vibrant and dynamic city centre and town centres across the north east;</p>	
<p>Building on our Strengths 2013-2020: Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Tourism Strategy</p>	<p>The vision is to make Aberdeen City and Shire a sustainable destination of choice, with skilled and passionate people delivering value for money and memorable customer experiences, by the region's outstanding assets. The Strategy notes the need to improve and expand accommodation provision, improve access to IT infrastructure, develop leadership and management skills, improve the customer journey, reduce seasonality and ensure the area is accessible.</p>	<p>The LDP should support the tourism strategy.</p>
<p>Nature Conservation</p>		
<p>North East of Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2017</p>	<p>Ensures the protection and enhancement of the biodiversity in the north east through the development of effective, local, working partnerships;</p> <p>Ensure that national targets for species and habitats, as specified in the UK Action Plan, are translated into effective local action.</p>	<p>The Local Development Plan should promote and protect biodiversity.</p>
<p>Forestry and Woodlands Strategy 2017</p>	<p>The Strategy provides a framework for woodland development and management, and aims to:</p> <p>Promote trees and woodlands as a means to aid Scotland in mitigating and adapting to climate change;</p>	<p>Although the Plan does not need to conform to the Strategy, as it is a management tool, the Plan can ensure that new development does not conflict with forest and woodland priorities (e.g. sustaining ancient woodlands,</p>

	<p>Promote and support the forest industry; provide opportunities for recreation and tourism; and protect and enhance biodiversity and the environment.</p> <p>This means encouraging multi-benefit forestry in new planting and through re-structuring, balancing forestry against other land uses, protecting sensitive areas and identifying priority areas for expansion of a variety of forest and woodland types.</p>	enhancing popular recreation areas, and linking wildlife corridors).
River Dee Catchment Management Plan	<p>Records the current state of the Dee catchment, including water quality, the type and extent of habitats and species in the catchment, and important land management activities.</p> <p>Identifies key issues and puts forward potential solutions through a series of actions.</p>	The Plan should contribute to delivering the actions proposed in the Catchment Management Plan.
LOCAL		
Draft Aberdeen Local Housing Strategy 2018-2023	<p>The LHS sets the strategic direction for housing in the city over the next five years. The LHS takes into regard Aberdeen City and the Aberdeen Housing Market Area (AHMA) providing scope for joint working on some issues with Aberdeenshire Council.</p>	The Plan should contribute to delivering both Aberdeen's and Aberdeenshire's LHS in terms of provision of land, need, tenure, affordability, location, and reducing deprivation.
Aberdeen City Local Transport Strategy 2016 - 2021	<p>Makes the Local Development Plan to take full account of the environment, social and economic implications of transport;</p> <p>Promotes the maximisation of accessibility for all to services and jobs; sustainable and active travel, efficient resource use, as well as safety in delivering transportation.</p>	The Local Development Plan should support sustainability, environment protection, accessibility and safety and reduce social exclusion.

Aberdeen City Air Quality Action Plan	To reduce nitrogen dioxide within the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Aberdeen City Centre, and to a lesser extent reduce particulates (PM ₁₀) through short, medium and long term infrastructure and other projects.	The Plan should contribute to delivering the actions proposed in the Action Plan in order to improve air quality with the AQMA and ensure land required to implement the Action Plan is provided timeously.
Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2016 - 2026	The vision is for Aberdeen to be 'a place where all people prosper'. Four themes are set out: Prosperous Economy, Prosperous People, Prosperous Place and Enabling Technology. It focuses on four priority areas for strategic partnership working: Aberdeen prospers Children are our future People are resilient, included and supported when in need Empowered, resilient and sustainable communities Creating a digital place	The Local Development Plan should support the themes and priority aims set out in the LOIP.
Aberdeen City Centre Masterplan and Delivery Programme 2015	A regeneration blueprint that aims to transform Aberdeen city centre while conserving its heritage. 50 projects have been identified within these eight objectives: Changing perceptions Growing the city centre employment base A metropolitan outlook A living city for everyone Made in Aberdeen Revealing waterfronts Technologically advanced and environmentally responsible Culturally distinctive	The LDP should support the City Centre Masterplan and should promote development within the city centre that above all conserves its heritage.
Aberdeen City Nature Conservation	Aims to control and maintain remaining natural	The Local Development Plan should promote

Strategy 2010-2015	habitats and associated wildlife through the identification of designated sites and additional non-statutory sites. This will benefit both biodiversity and the citizens that live, work and visit the City of Aberdeen.	biodiversity.
Forestry Commission Scotland Management Plans: Aberdeen Woods and Dyce Woods	This plan covers the thirteen woodland blocks that were formerly covered by three land management plans (Maryculter woods, Peterculter woods and Countesswells woods). It details how the Forestry Commission Scotland will manage these woodlands for social, economic and environmental benefits. The plans include objectives for timber harvesting, recreational use, creation of diverse habitats, and management regimes to benefit red squirrels, control of deer populations and control of diseases.	The Local Development Plan should take account of the Management Plan and support the right management of Aberdeen and Dyce Woods.
Open Space Audit and Strategy 2011-2016	This Strategy sets out a strategic vision, aims and objectives for open space in Aberdeen. Its main purpose is to ensure the city has enough accessible and good quality open space. The Strategy is based on the findings of the Aberdeen Open Space Audit 2010.	Ensure that the LDP incorporates the findings of the audit and supports the aims of the strategy.
Aberdeen City Core Paths Plan	Core Paths Plans are required under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 for each council area <i>sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access throughout their area</i> . They set out the core paths network. The Plans are developed in consultation with local communities, user groups, land managers and other stakeholders. Drafts are expected in 2008. Their aims include: connecting residential areas, green-spaces,	The plan should support the aims of the Core Paths Plans.

	<p>amenities, other attractions and the wider countryside;</p> <p>forming a basic, safe framework for outdoor recreation and sustainable and active travel;</p> <p>assisting people to lead healthier lifestyles;</p> <p>promoting environmental protection and foster the development of a more sustainable city; and</p> <p>being well integrated in policy and usage terms, encouraging access opportunities for all.</p>	
Landscape Character Assessment of Aberdeen	<p>Seeks to maintain a balance between landform, geology, ecology, and vegetation despite human influences.</p> <p>Encourages development in existing settlements; avoiding coalescence between settlements and discouraging isolated development in the open countryside unless it is clearly identified in development plan.</p>	The Local Development Plan should take account of landscape character and promote good landscape design.
Aberdeen Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (2001)	The Contaminated Land Strategy sets out how local authorities deal with potentially contaminated land.	Unknown at present.
Aberdeen City Waste Strategy 2014-25	Sets out the long term plans to reduce the social, economic and environmental consequences of waste. It aims for Aberdeen to see waste a resource and not a problem, and for it to be a zero waste city, providing long term social, economic and environmental benefits to all.	The LDP should promote zero waste.
Powering Aberdeen – Aberdeen Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2016	Plan for Aberdeen to increase energy efficiency and move towards greater use of renewable energy. Sets targets for reducing carbon emissions. It sets out our plans to reduce emissions across the city through a	The LDP should promote greater use of renewable energy and reduction of carbon emissions.

	<p>combination of measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">*Greater uptake of alternative energy*Implementation of new technology to reduce resource use and improve efficiency*Improvements to energy efficiency*Greater move towards sustainable transport*Leadership and engagement. <p>The Plan briefly notes the role of plants and soils in sequestering emissions.</p>	
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Appendix 5 Baseline Data, Targets and Trends

Appendix 5.1 – Climatic Factors

Appendix 5.2 – Air

Appendix 5.3 – Water

Appendix 5.4 – Soil

Appendix 5.5 – Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

Appendix 5.6 – Human Health

Appendix 5.7 – Population

Appendix 5.8 – Cultural Heritage

Appendix 5.9 – Landscape

Appendix 5.10 – Material Assets

Appendix 5.11 – Employment Land

Appendix 5.1 Climatic Factors

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)	
Natural Resources Consumption (footprint)	<p>Aberdeen City's annual global footprint:</p> <p>Total: 5.73gha/per</p> <p>Energy and Consumption: 1.14gha (20%)</p> <p>Food and Drink 1.07gha/p(19%)</p> <p>Land Travel: 0.81ha/p (14%)</p> <p>Other: 2.7gha/p (48%)</p> <p>Scotland's annual global footprint: Total: 5.37gha/per</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire's annual global footprint - in global hectares per person (gha/p)</p> <p>Total: 5.60gha/p</p> <p>Energy Consumption: 1.09gha/p (19%)</p> <p>Food and drink: 1.11gha/p (20%)</p> <p>Land Travel: 0.74ha/p (13%)</p> <p>Other (Government, capital investment, holiday activities, consumables, services and sports), 2.7gha/p (48%)</p>	<p>Both Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City's global footprint is higher than the Scottish average.</p> <p>The main contributors to the NE's global footprint are energy consumption, food and drink and land travel.</p> <p>Compared to Scotland's footprint, both the City and the shire have higher footprints.</p>	<p>Energy is the largest contributor to Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire's Global Footprint and indicates high energy consumption associated with domestic fuels like gas, oil, electricity and other fuels.</p> <p>The North East's Global Footprint Project identified transport, the Built Environment and Energy as areas in which global footprint reductions could be achieved.</p>	<p>North East Global Footprint Project http://www.scotlandsfootprint.org/the-project/north-east.php</p> <p>Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council (2006) Scotland's Global Footprint Project – Reduction Report for North East Scotland Global Footprint Project, Joint Global Footprint Co-ordinator, Aberdeen City Council</p>
Total CO ₂ emissions (kt)	<p>Aberdeen City</p> <p>2012 - 1,653.9</p> <p>2013 - 1,569.7</p> <p>2014 - 1,405.1</p> <p>2015 - 1,335.2</p> <p>2016 – 1,364.6</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire</p> <p>2012 - 2,095.6</p> <p>2013 - 1,963.3</p> <p>2014 - 1,800.1</p> <p>2015 - 1,792.1</p> <p>2016 – 1,241.9</p>	<p>Falling in both the City and the Shire</p>	<p>It appears that issues are improving</p>	<p>Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy data published on June 2018 (Online) Available at https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2016 Accessed 16/8/18</p>

Per Capita CO ₂ emissions (kt)	Aberdeen City 2012 - 7.4 2013 - 6.9 2014 - 6.1 2015 - 5.8 2016 - 5.6	Aberdeenshire 2012 - 8.2 2013 - 7.6 2014 - 6.9 2015 - 6.8 2016 - 6.4	Falling in both the City and the Shire	It appears that issues are improving	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy data published on June 2018 (Online) Available at https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2016 Accessed 16/8/18
Industry and Commercial CO ₂ emissions (kt)	Aberdeen City 2012 - 798.0 2013 - 741.8 2014 - 656.6 2015 - 601.3 2016 - 581	Aberdeenshire 2012 - 665.0 2013 - 653.7 2014 - 620.2 2015 - 615.3 2016 - 496	Falling in both the City and the Shire	It appears that issues are improving	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy data published on June 2018 (Online) Available at https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2016 Accessed 16/8/18
Domestic CO ₂ emissions (kt)	Aberdeen City 2012 - 528.0 2013 - 506.6 2014 - 423.6 2015 - 406.1 2016 - 382	Aberdeenshire 2012 - 722.1 2013 - 693.1 2014 - 596.7 2015 - 562.1 2016 - 534	Falling in both the City and the Shire	It appears that issues are improving	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy data published on June 2018 (Online) Available at https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2016 Accessed 16/8/18
Road Transport CO ₂ emissions (kt)	Aberdeen City 2012 - 319.8 2013 - 317.5 2014 - 322.6 2015 - 324.9 2016 - 138	Aberdeenshire 2012 - 599.7 2013 - 602.1 2014 - 618.1 2015 - 628.9 2016 - 534	There appears to be a slight improvement in Road Transport emissions. However, 2016 saw a dramatic drop. This could be attributed to the economic downturn in the oil and gas sector.	Increased travel by accounts for this	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy data published on June 2018 (Online) Available at https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2016 Accessed 16/8/18

LULUCF* CO ₂ emissions (kt)	Aberdeen City 2012: 0.2 2013: -4.5 2014: -6.3 2015: -7.5 2016: -8.7	Aberdeenshire 2012: -273 2013: -372 2014: -437 2015: -467 2016: - 473	The rate of fall in LULUCF CO ₂ emissions in variable for both the Shire and the City as is the case for all Scotland	This depends on the way we use our land and Forest resources	Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy data published on June 2018 (Online) Available at https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2016 Accessed 16/8/18
Potential Vulnerable Area (PVA) to flooding No of Area	23 PVAs in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire		Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	PVA areas and issues have to be taken into account and allocating land for development and imposing conditions on development.	<u>SEPA (2016) Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009: Flooding in Scotland – Flood Risk Management Strategy</u> http://apps.sepa.org.uk/FRMStrategies/norh-east.html A second set of Flood Risk Management Strategies and Local Flood Risk Management Plans will be published in December 2021 and June 2022 Respectively
Estimated Weighted Annual Average damages within PVA	Aberdeen City • 2011- £22,390,000.00 • 2016 • 17,6000,000.00	Aberdeenshire • 2011 - £17,080,000.00 • 2016 • £8,714,230.00	Worsening	Cost implication for developing areas at risk from flooding must be taken into account and allocating land for development and imposing conditions on development.	<u>SEPA (2016) Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009: Flooding in Scotland – Flood Risk Management Strategy</u> http://apps.sepa.org.uk/FRMStrategies/norh-east.html A second set of Flood Risk Management Strategies and Local Flood Risk Management Plans will be published in December 2021 and June 2022 respectively

Damage by Flood likelihood	Aberdeen City (Dee, Don, Denmore Catchments) • 2016 • £64.5m-£537m	Aberdeenshire (Aggregate of all areas) • 2016 • £52.7m - £273.25m	Worsening	This range takes into account residential, non-residential, roads, vehicles and agriculture	SEPA (2016) Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009: Flooding in Scotland – Flood Risk Management Strategy http://apps.sepa.org.uk/FRMStrategies/norh-east.html A second set of Flood Risk Management Strategies and Local Flood Risk Management Plans will be published in December 2021 and June 2022 respectively
Total Area (Km 2) in PVA	Aberdeen City • 2011 – 344 • 2016 - 126	Aberdeenshire • 2011- 529	The value appears to be lower, but this reflects actual figures than an earlier estimate	It has implications for land allocation and development.	SEPA (2016) Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009: Flooding in Scotland – Flood Risk Management Strategy http://apps.sepa.org.uk/FRMStrategies/norh-east.html
Residential Properties in PVA	Aberdeen City • 2011- 1,943 • 2016 –10,440	Aberdeenshire • 2011- 1820 2016 -4,540	Worsening	It has implications for land allocation and development.	SEPA (2016) Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009: Flooding in Scotland – Flood Risk Management Strategy http://apps.sepa.org.uk/FRMStrategies/norh-east.html A second set of Flood Risk Management Strategies and Local Flood Risk Management Plans will be published in December 2021 and June 2022 respectively
Non-Residential Properties in PVA	Aberdeen City • 2011- 375 • 2016- 2,510	Aberdeenshire • 2011- 272 • 2011 -1,380	Worsening	It has implications for land allocation and development.	SEPA (2016) Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009: Flooding in Scotland – Flood Risk Management Strategy http://apps.sepa.org.uk/FRMStrategies/norh-east.html

					A second set of Flood Risk Management Strategies and Local Flood Risk Management Plans will be published in December 2021 and June 2022 respectively
UK Climate Projections	UK CP 09 UK CP 18 – indicates current and future climate data against a range of emission pathways.			It has implications for all SEA topics	Defra, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, Met Office, Environment Agency (2018) UK Climate Projections https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/collaboration/ukcp Accessed December 2019
Dynamic Coast	Coastal erosion vulnerability mapping.			It has implications for land management	Scottish Government (2016) Dynamic Coast http://www.dynamiccoast.com/webmap.html Accessed December 2019

Appendix 5.2 Air

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Annual Mean Concentration of NO ₂	Aberdeen City 2013: 12.9 – 70.4 2014: 10.5 – 63.8 2015: 10.0 – 58.2 2016: 9.6 – 54.1 2017: 7.8 – 48.1 2018: 8 – 48	Aberdeenshire 2013: 8:5 – 33.1 2014:11.3 – 38.0 2015: 9.4 – 35.4 2016: 9.7 – 31.5 2017:8.8 – 27.7 2018: 10.3 – 26.4 Objective 40µg/m ³	Out of measurements at 62 monitoring stations, the EU objective has been breached in 23 locations in 2013, 22 locations in 2014, 19 locations in 2015 and 18 locations in 2016. Locations with highest readings include Market Street in 2013 and 2016, Great Northern Road in 2014 and Union Street in 2015. In 2018 location with exceedances of annual mean NO ₂ levels were the Anderson Drive/Haudagain Roundabout/Auchmill Road AQMA. Levels remain similar to 2017. The Objective is not breached in Aberdeenshire	Source: mostly transport related emissions. 2019 Air Quality Annual Progress Report (APR) for Aberdeen City Council 2019 Air Quality Annual Progress Report (APR) for Aberdeenshire Council http://www.scottishairquality.co.uk/news/reports?view=laqm
Annual Mean Concentration of PM ₁₀	Aberdeen City 2013:13 – 26 2014:15 – 26 2015:12 – 20 2016:12 – 16	Aberdeenshire None Objective	There were exceedances in 4 out of 6 stations in 2013; 3 out of 6 in 2014, 2 out of 6 in 2015 and none in 2016-18.	Source: transport related emissions, and construction 2019 Air Quality Annual Progress Report (APR) for Aberdeen City Council http://www.scottishairquality.co.uk/news/reports?view=laqm

	2017: 11 – 13 2018: 14 – 17	18µg/m ³			o.uk/news/reports?view=laqm
Annual Mean Concentration of PM _{2.5}	Aberdeen City 2013: 9 2014: 10 2015: 8 – 11 2016: 5 – 7 2017: 6 – 7 2018: 7 – 8	Aberdeenshire None Objective 10µg/m ³	Apart from 2015 when 2 stations experienced exceedances, there has not been any other exceedances		2019 Air Quality Annual Progress Report (APR) for Aberdeen City Council http://www.scottishairquality.co.uk/news/reports?view=laqm

Appendix 5.3 Water

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Overall status of River Dee SAC	The present condition of the qualifying interests dependent on water quality and quantity are: Atlantic salmon – Favourable Maintained Freshwater Pearl Mussel – Unfavourable No change to declining Otter – Favourable Declining	No data	Mixed results.	Freshwater Pearl Muscles is unfavourable. Otters are continuing to decline.	Comments from SNH on Aberdeenshire's 2013 SEA Scoping Report for the 2017 ALDP.
Overall Status of surface water High	Aberdeen 2014 – 3 2016 - 3 2021 – 3 2027 – 3	Aberdeenshire 2014 – 18 2016 - 14 2021 - 18 2027 - 18	Almost at the same level by 2027	Modifications to beds, banks and shores; rural diffuse pollution; man-made barriers to fish migration; waste water (sewerage) discharges; public water supply; and industrial use can activities; urban and rural land use	https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/water/scotland-s-freshwater/ https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/ Accessed 9/1/18
Overall Status of surface water Good	Aberdeen 2014 – 2 2016 - 3 2021 – 6 2027 – 12	Aberdeenshire 2014 – 71 2016 - 84 2021 - 95 2027 - 171	Increasing	Same as above	https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/water/scotland-s-freshwater/ https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/

					visualisation/water-environment-hub/ Accessed 9/1/18
Overall Status of surface water Moderate	Aberdeen 2014 – 5 2016 - 4 2021 – 4 2027 – 3	Aberdeenshire 2014 – 51 2016 - 45 2021 - 40 2027 - 19	Increasing	Same as above	https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/water/scotland-s-freshwater/ https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/ Accessed 9/1/18
Overall Status of surface water Poor	Aberdeen 2014 – 4 2016 - 4 2021 – 4 2027 – 0	Aberdeenshire 2014 – 37 2016 - 34 2021 - 29 2027 - 2	The following water bodies in Aberdeen City are poor. Den Burn, Elrick Burn - d/s, Newmachar WWTP, Black Burn and Leuchar Burn	The following water bodies in Aberdeenshire are poor. Burn of Brydock, Rosy Burn, Burn of King Edward River Isla - source to Keith, River Bogie - Culdrain to Huntly, Burn of Auchmacoy, River Ugie - North/South confluence to tidal limit, Crooko Burn, North Ugie Water - upper catchment, South Ugie Water - Stuartfield to Longside, Burn of Ludquharn Quhomery Burn, Burn of Keithfield/ Raxton Burn Ebrie Burn, Youlie Burn / Bronie Burn, Findon Burn Burn of Muchalls, Carron Water, Bervie Water - upper	https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/water/scotland-s-freshwater/ https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/ Accessed 9/1/18

				<p>catchment, Elrick Burn - d/s Newmachar WWTP, Elrick Burn - u/s Newmachar WWTP Black Burn, Newmill Burn, Tuach Burn / Tillakae Burn, Shevock Burn, Esset Burn, Leuchar Burn Water of Feugh - lower catchment, Beltie Burn, Dess Burn - upper stretch, River Muick - Allt an Dubh Loch, Loch of Strathbeg, Loch of Skene, and Loch Kinord</p>	
<p>Overall Status of surface water Bad</p>	<p>Aberdeen 2014 – 4 2016 = 4 2021 – 2 2027 – 0</p> <p>The following water bodies in Aberdeen are bad South Mundurno Burn, River Dee - Peterculter to tidal limit, Gormack Burn and Brodiach Burn / Ord Burn</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire 2014 – 33 2016 - 33 2021 - 28 2027 – 0</p> <p>The following water bodies in Aberdeenshire are bad. Water of Philorth / Water of Tyrie, Burn of Savocho/ Logie Burn, Black Water - u/s St Fergus, Burn of Fortrie, Idoch Water, Burn of Turriff, Keithny Burn / Forgue Burn, Shiel Burn Slains Burn, Water of Cruden - u/s Hatton WWTP,</p>	No immediate change.		<p>https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/water/scotland-s-freshwater/</p> <p>https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/</p> <p>Accessed 9/1/18</p>

		<p>Laeca Burn Forvie Burn, Tarty Burn, Foveran Burn, South Mundurno Burn, Faichfield Burn, Greenspeck Burn, Crichie Burn, Leeches Burn Water of Fedderate, South Ugie Water - New Deer to Stuartfield, Burn of Elsick, Forthie Water, Bervie Water - lower catchment, River Dee - Peterculter to tidal limit, Gormack Burn, Brodiach Burn / Ord Burn, Kinnernie Burn, Bo Burn, Dess Burn / Lumphanan Burn, Tarland Burn and Cowie Burn</p>			
Overall water chemistry - Pass	Aberdeen 2016 – 33	Aberdeenshire 2016 - 209	Increasing	Same as above	Same as above
Overall water chemistry - fail	Aberdeen 2016 – 0	Aberdeenshire 2016 - 1	In Aberdeenshire only Potterton Burn has failed this test. In Aberdeen City no water body has failed this test.	Same as above	Same as above

Overall water ecology - High	Aberdeen 2016 – 3	Aberdeenshire 2016 - 14	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	Same as above	Same as above
Overall water ecology - Good	Aberdeen 2016 – 1	Aberdeenshire 2016 - 83	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	Same as above	Same as above
Overall water ecology - Moderate	Aberdeen 2016 – 4	Aberdeenshire 2016 - 46	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	Same as above	Same as above
Overall water ecology - Bad	Aberdeen 2016 – 4 The following water bodies are bad in the City. South Mundurno Burn, River Dee, Peterculter to tidal limit, Gormack Burn and Brodiach Burn / Ord Burn	Aberdeenshire 2016 - 33 In Aberdeenshire the following water bodies are bad. Kessock Burn, Water of Philorth / Water of Tyrie, Burn of Savoch/ Logie Burn, Black Water - u/s St Fergus, Burn of Fortrie, Idoch Water, Burn of Turriff, Keithny Burn / Fogue Burn, Shiel Burn, Slains Burn, Water of Cruden - u/s Hatton WWTP, Laeca Burn, Forvie Burn, Tarty Burn, Foveran Burn South Mundurno Burn, Faichfield	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	Same as above	Same as above

		<p>Burn, Greenspeck Burn Crichie Burn, Leeches Burn, Water of Fedderate, South Ugie Water - New Deer to Stuartfield, Burn of Elsick, Forthie Water, Bervie Water - lower catchment, River Dee - Peterculter to tidal limit, Gormack Burn, Brodiach Burn / Ord Burn, Kinnernie Burn, Bo Burn, Dess Burn / Lumphanan Burn, Tarland Burn and Cowie Burn</p>			
Overall water ecology - Poor	<p>Aberdeen 2016 – 6</p> <p>In the City the following water bodies are poor. Den Burn, Elrick Burn - d/s Newmachar WWTP, Black Burn, Leuchar Burn, Dee (Aberdeen) Estuary and Don Estuary to Souter Head (Aberdeen)</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire 2016 – 34</p> <p>In Aberdeenshire the following water bodies are poor. Burn of Brydock, Rosy Burn, Burn of King Edward, River Isla - source to Keith, River Bogie - Culdrain to Huntly, Burn of Auchmacoy, River Ugie - North/South confl to tidal limit Crooko Burn, North</p>	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	Same as above	Same as above

		<p>Ugie Water - upper catchment, South Ugie Water - Stuartfield to Longside, Burn of Ludquharn</p> <p>Quhomery Burn, Burn of Keithfield/ Raxton Burn, Ebrie Burn, Youlie Burn / Bronie Burn, Findon Burn</p> <p>Burn of Muchalls, Carron Water, Bervie Water - upper catchment, Elrick Burn - d/s Newmachar WWTP, Elrick Burn u/s Newmachar WWTP, Black Burn, Newmill Burn, Tuach Burn / Tillakae Burn, Shevock Burn, Esset Burn, Leuchar Burn, Water of Feugh - lower catchment, Beltie Burn, Dess Burn - upper stretch, River Muick</p> <p>Allt an Dubh Loch, Loch of Strathbeg. Loch of Skene and Loch Kinord</p>			
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Overall water hydrology- High	Aberdeen 2016 – 10	Aberdeenshire 2016 - 161	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	None	Same as above
Overall water hydrology - Good	Aberdeen 2016 – 2	Aberdeenshire 2016 - 23	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	None	Same as above
Overall water hydrology - Moderate	Aberdeen 2016 – 1	Aberdeenshire 2016 - 8	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	None	Same as above
Overall water hydrology - Bad	Aberdeen 2016 – 0	Aberdeenshire 2016 - 0	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	None	Same as above
Overall water hydrology - Poor	Aberdeen 2016 – 0	Aberdeenshire 2016 - 0	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	None	Same as above
Overall Status of ground water High	Aberdeen 2016 - 0	Aberdeenshire 2016 - 0	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	Modifications to beds, banks and shores; rural diffuse pollution; man-made barriers to fish migration; waste water (sewerage) discharges; public water supply; and industrial use can activities; urban and rural land use	https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/water/scotland-s-freshwater/ https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/ Accessed 9/1/18
Overall Status of ground water Good	Aberdeen 2016 - 8	Aberdeenshire 2016 - 37	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	As above	https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/water/scotland-s-freshwater/ https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/

					Accessed 9/1/18
Overall Status of ground water Moderate	Aberdeen 2016 - 0	Aberdeenshire 2016 - 0	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	As above	https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/water/scotland-s-freshwater/ https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/ Accessed 9/1/18
Overall Status of ground water Poor	Aberdeen 2016 - 0 In Aberdeenshire, the following water bodies are poor: Cullen, St Cyrus, Montrose, Stonehaven, Drumlithie, Laurencekirk, Ellon, North Esk Sand and Gravel, South Esk Valley and Montrose Coastal.	Aberdeenshire 2016 - 9	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	As above	https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/water/scotland-s-freshwater/ https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/ Accessed 9/1/18
Overall Status of ground water Bad	Aberdeen 2016 - 0	Aberdeenshire 2016 - 0	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	As above	https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/water/scotland-s-freshwater/ https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/

					Accessed 9/1/18
Overall water - ground water ecology - Bad	<p>Aberdeen 2016 – 4</p> <p>The following water bodies are bad in the City. South Mundurno Burn, River Dee, Peterculter to tidal limit, Gormack Burn and Brodiach Burn / Ord Burn</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire 2016 – 33</p> <p>In Aberdeenshire the following water bodies are bad. Kessock Burn, Water of Philorth / Water of Tyrie, Burn of Savoch/ Logie Burn, Black Water - u/s St Fergus, Burn of Fortrie, Idoch Water, Burn of Turriff, Keithny Burn / Forgue Burn, Shiel Burn, Slains Burn, Water of Cruden - u/s Hatton WWTP, Laeca Burn, Forvie Burn, Tarty Burn, Foveran Burn South Mundurno Burn, Faichfield Burn, Greenspeck Burn Crichie Burn, Leeches Burn, Water of Fedderate, South Ugie Water - New Deer to Stuartfield, Burn of Elsick,</p>	Insufficient data available to determine trend.	As above	Same as above

		<p>Forthie Water, Bervie Water - lower catchment, River Dee - Peterculter to tidal limit, Gormack Burn, Brodiach Burn / Ord Burn, Kinnernie Burn, Bo Burn, Dess Burn / Lumphanan Burn, Tarland Burn and Cowie Burn</p>			
<p>Overall water - ground water ecology - Poor</p>	<p>Aberdeen 2016 – 6</p> <p>In the City the following water bodies are poor. Den Burn, Elrick Burn - d/s Newmachar WWTP, Black Burn, Leuchar Burn, Dee (Aberdeen) Estuary and Don Estuary to Souter Head (Aberdeen)</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire 2016 - 34</p> <p>In Aberdeenshire the following water bodies are poor. Burn of Brydock, Rosy Burn, Burn of King Edward, River Isla - source to Keith, River Bogie - Culdrain to Huntly, Burn of Auchmacoy, River Ugie - North/South confl to tidal limit Crooko Burn, North Ugie Water - upper catchment, South Ugie Water - Stuartfield to Longside, Burn of Ludquharn Quhomery Burn, Burn of Keithfield/ Raxton Burn, Ebrie</p>	<p>Insufficient data available to determine the trend.</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Same as above</p>

		Burn, Youlie Burn / Bronie Burn, Findon Burn Burn of Muchalls, Carron Water, Bervie Water - upper catchment, Elrick Burn - d/s Newmachar WWTP, Elrick Burn u/s Newmachar WWTP, Black Burn, Newmill Burn, Tuach Burn / Tillakae Burn, Shevock Burn, Esset Burn, Leuchar Burn, Water of Feugh - lower catchment, Beltie Burn, Dess Burn - upper stretch, River Muick Allt an Dubh Loch, Loch of Strathbeg. Loch of Skene and Loch Kinord			
Overall water - ground water hydrology- High	Aberdeen 2016 – 10	Aberdeenshire 2016 - 161	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	None	Same as above
Overall water - ground water hydrology - Good	Aberdeen 2016 – 2	Aberdeenshire 2016 - 23	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	None	Same as above
Overall water - ground water hydrology -	Aberdeen 2016 – 1	Aberdeenshire 2016 - 8	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	None	Same as above

Moderate					
Overall water - ground water hydrology - Bad	Aberdeen 2016 – 0	Aberdeenshire 2016 - 0	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	None	Same as above
Overall water - ground water hydrology - Poor	Aberdeen 2016 – 0	Aberdeenshire 2016 - 0	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	None	Same as above
Water quality of surface water Good	Aberdeen 2014 – 5 2021 – 8 2027 – 10	Aberdeenshire 2014 - 87 2021 - 111 2027 - 127	Forecast to increase.	None	https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/water/scotland-s-freshwater/ https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/ Accessed 9/1/18
Water quality of surface water Moderate	Aberdeen 2014 – 7 2021 – 4 2027 – 3	Aberdeenshire 2014 - 52 2021 - 32 2027 - 19	Forecast to decrease.	None	https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/water/scotland-s-freshwater/ https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/ Accessed 9/1/18
Water quality of surface water Poor	Aberdeen 2014 – 1 2021 – 1 2027 – 0	Aberdeenshire 2014 - 9 2021 - 5 2027 - 2	Forecast to decrease.	None	https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/water/scotland-s-freshwater/

					https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/ Accessed 9/1/18
Water quality of surface water Bad	Aberdeen 2014 – 0 2021 – 0 2027 – 0	Aberdeenshire 2014 - 0 2021 - 0 2027 - 0	None	None	https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/water/scotland-s-freshwater/ https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/ Accessed 9/1/18
Physical conditions of surface water High	Aberdeen 2014 – 3 2021 – 3 2027 – 3	Aberdeenshire 2014 - 44 2021 - 44 2027 - 44	None	None	https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/water/scotland-s-freshwater/ https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/ Accessed 9/1/18
Physical conditions of surface water Good	Aberdeen 2014 – 4 2021 – 8 2027 – 15	Aberdeenshire 2014 - 94 2021 - 102 2027 - 166	Forecast to increase.	None	https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/water/scotland-s-freshwater/ https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/ Accessed 9/1/18

Physical conditions of surface water Moderate	Aberdeen 2014 – 7 2021 – 4 2027 – 3	Aberdeenshire 2014 - 52 2021 - 32 2027 - 19	Forecast to decrease.	None	https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/water/scotland-s-freshwater/ https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/ Accessed 9/1/18
Physical conditions of surface water Poor	Aberdeen 2014 – 2 2021 – 1 2027 – 0	Aberdeenshire 2014 - 27 2021 - 15 2027 - 0	Forecast to decrease.	None	https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/water/scotland-s-freshwater/ https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/ Accessed 9/1/18
Physical conditions of surface water Bad	Aberdeen 2014 – 4 2021 – 2 2027 – 0	Aberdeenshire 2014 - 33 2021 - 28 2027 - 0	Forecast to decrease.	None	https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/water/scotland-s-freshwater/ https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/ Accessed 9/1/18
Overall Status of ground water	No data	No data	None	None	https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/ Accessed 9/1/18

Water quality of ground water	No data	No data	None	None	https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/ Accessed 9/1/18
Physical conditions of ground water	No data	No data	None	None	https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-environment-hub/ Accessed 9/1/18
How policy “R2 Degraded and Contaminated Land” is applied to planning applications	Aberdeen City Applications considered with reference to this policy between January 2017-July 2018 Received: 21 Approvals: 17 Refusals:4 Allowed on Appeal:0	Aberdeenshire See relevant policies further below.	Planning applications are largely being determined in accordance with the policy.	None at present.	Aberdeen City Monitoring Statement (2019) https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-02/MIR%202019%20-%20Monitoring%20Statement%20FINAL.pdf Accessed December 2019.
How safeguarding water bodies under Policy PR1 “Protecting important resources” is applied to Planning Applications	Aberdeen City See above	Applications considered with reference to this policy April 2017- April 2018: 133 Approvals: 116 Refusals: 17 Departures: 2 Appeals: 2	Planning applications are largely being determined in accordance with the policy.	None at present.	Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Monitoring Statement (September 2018) https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24029/aldp2017monitoringstatementseptember2018v7.pdf Accessed December 2019 As Policy PR1 applies to water quality, mineral loss, open space, trees and prime agricultural land, it may not be possible to extract data precisely.

Appendix 5.4 Soil

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
SNH Geological Conservation Review Sites	Aberdeen 2018: 1	Aberdeenshire 2018: 31	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	Potential loss or erosion through permanent development.	SNH Dataset. Accessed 02/07/18.
Land contamination	Aberdeen None	Aberdeenshire 4 statutorily identified contaminated sites no statutorily identified contaminated sites in Aberdeen 900 potentially contaminated sites	Legal regime is in place to deal with contaminated sites therefore this position should improve in the future.	Contaminated land places financial and technological constraints on development.	Aberdeen City Council Contaminated Land Strategy August 2016 (Online) Available at https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/aberdeen-cms/files/2017-12/Contaminated%20Land%20Inspection%20Strategy.pdf Accessed 9/1/18 Aberdeenshire Council (2011) Public Register of Contaminated Land (online) Available at http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/17044/public-register-of-contaminated-land-index-nov11.pdf Accessed 9/1/18 https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/land/contaminated-land/local-authority-contaminated-land-support/ Accessed 9/1/18

Prime agricultural land (Grades 1 to 3.1)	Aberdeen contains very little prime agricultural land (300ha).	Aberdeenshire prime agricultural land is concentrated in central and southern Aberdeenshire. Grade 2 near Laurencekirk (approx 950ha)	Climate change could increase the level of prime agricultural land in Scotland, however this may cause conflicts with sites of high biodiversity value, sensitive or designated sites.	Potential impacts of climate may constrain prime agricultural land available in the future. Prime agricultural land may require further protection from development as demand for development rises and as land for food production rises.	Scottish Executive Statistics (2005): Economic Report on Scottish Agriculture http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/06/2290402/05121 Scottish Government (2009): The Scottish Soil Framework http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/05/20145602/6
Municipal Waste generated	Aberdeen 2013 – 94,117 2014 – 96,130 2016 – 96,123	Aberdeenshire 2013 – 131,811 2014 – 131,390 2016 – 131,863	Falling and rising	Human attitudes are very hard to change but education must increase.	http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/household-waste/ https://www.environment.gov.scot/data-analysis-applications/household-waste/ (Online)
Rate (kg/person)	Aberdeen 2013 - 414 2014 – 420 2016 – 418	Aberdeenshire 2013 - 527 2014 – 504 2016 - 503	Falling and rising	Human attitudes are very hard to change but education must increase.	www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/household-waste/ https://www.environment.gov.scot/data-analysis-applications/household-waste/ (Online) Accessed 9/1/18
Municipal Waste recycled (tonnes)	Aberdeen 2013 – 34,956 2014 – 36,742 2016 – 37,498	Aberdeenshire 2013 – 47,220 2014 – 52,479 2016 – 57,305	Falling and rising	Human attitudes are very hard to change but education must increase.	www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/household-waste/ https://www.environment.gov.scot/data-analysis-applications/household-waste/ (Online) Accessed 9/1/18
Rate %	Aberdeen 2013 – 37.27 2014 - 37.14 2016 – 39.01	Aberdeenshire 2013 – 35.55 2014 - 35.82 2016 – 43.46	Slowly rising	Human attitudes are very hard to change but education must increase.	www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/household-waste/ https://www.environment.gov.scot/data-analysis-applications/household-waste/

					(Online) Accessed 9/1/18
Household waste landfilled	Aberdeen 2013 – 59,051 2014 – 59,034 2016 – 58,021	Aberdeenshire 2013 – 84,421 2014 – 78,734 2016 – 72,995	Falling	Human attitudes are very hard to change but education must increase.	www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/household-waste/ https://www.environment.gov.scot/data-analysis-applications/household-waste/ (Online) Accessed 9/1/18
Rate %	Aberdeen 2013 – 62.72 2014 - 62.74 2016 – 60.36	Aberdeenshire 2013 – 64.45 2014 - 64.05 2016 – 55.36	Falling and rising	Human attitudes are very hard to change but education must increase.	www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/household-waste/ https://www.environment.gov.scot/data-analysis-applications/household-waste/ (Online) Accessed 9/1/18
Waste other diversion	Aberdeen 2013 - 109 2014 – 354 2016 - 604	Aberdeenshire 2013 - 170 2014 – 177 2016 - 1564	Rising	Human attitudes are very hard to change but education must increase.	www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/household-waste/ https://www.environment.gov.scot/data-analysis-applications/household-waste/ (Online) Accessed 9/1/18
Rate %	Aberdeen 2013 – 0.12 2014 - 0.12 2016 – 0.63 2016 – 1.19	Aberdeenshire 2013 - 0 2014 – 0.13	Slowly rising	Human attitudes are very hard to change but education must increase.	www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-interactive/data/household-waste/ https://www.environment.gov.scot/data-analysis-applications/household-waste/ (Online) Accessed 9/1/18
Peat soils	4 types of peaty soils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blanket peat Peaty podsols Peaty gleys Organic soils rich in peat 	With respect of the rest of Scotland Aberdeen City and Shire seem to be at the fringes of peat soils	Blanket peat is moderately distributed to the southwest of Aberdeen City and Shire and with a few dots in the northeast of the region Peaty podzol is densely distributed to the southwest of Aberdeen	Because of the relationship between peat and climate change development must be directed away from peat soils	www.macaulay.ac.uk http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/natural-spaces/dataset.jsp?dsid=PEAT Online (Accessed 9/1/18)

			<p>City and Shire and with a few dots in the northeast of the region</p> <p>Peaty gleys is sparsely distributed to the southwest of Aberdeen City and Shire and with a few dots in the northeast of the region</p> <p>Organic soils rich in peat is moderately distributed to the southwest of Aberdeen City and Shire and with a few dots in the northeast of the region</p>		
How policy "R2 Degraded and Contaminated Land" is applied to planning applications	<p>Aberdeen City Applications considered with reference to this policy between January 2017-July 2018 Received: 21 Approvals: 17 Refusals:4 Allowed on Appeal:0</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire See relevant policies further below.</p>	<p>Planning applications are largely being determined in accordance with the policy.</p>	<p>None at present.</p>	<p>Aberdeen City Monitoring Statement (2019)</p> <p>https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-02/MIR%202019%20-%20Monitoring%20Statement%20FINAL.pdf</p> <p>Accessed December 2019.</p>
How prime agricultural land under Policy PR1 "Protecting important resources" is	<p>Aberdeen City See above</p>	<p>Applications considered with reference to this policy April 2017- April 2018: 133</p>	<p>Planning applications are largely being determined in accordance with the policy. Departures and appeals were on prime agricultural</p>	<p>None at present.</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Monitoring Statement (September 2018)</p> <p>https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24029/alp2017monitoringstatementseptember2018v7.pdf</p>

applied to Planning Applications		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approved: 116 ○ Refused: 27 ○ Departures: 2 ○ Appeals: 2 allowed 	land (PAL) and one on protected land. In these cases, the quality of the PAL was questioned.		Accessed December 2019
How peaty soils under Policy PR1 “Policy C3 Carbon sinks and stores” are applied to Planning Applications	Aberdeen City See above	<p>Applications considered with reference to this policy</p> <p>April 2017- April 2018: 0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approved: 0 ○ Refused: 0 ○ Departures: 0 ○ Appeals: 0 	None.	None at present.	<p>Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Monitoring Statement (September 2018)</p> <p>https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24029/aldp2017monitoringstatementseptember2018v7.pdf</p> <p>Accessed December 2019</p>

Appendix 5.5 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/ constraints	Data source(s)
Land Over	<u>Aberdeenshire</u>				<p>Land Use Change Issues and Opportunities for Aberdeenshire (January 2015) (online) Available at https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/20170/aberdeenshire-land-use-strategy-pilot-overview-report-full.pdf Accessed on 10 January 2018</p> <p>Countryside Survey's Land Cover Map 2007 (LCM2007) (online) Available at https://www.ceh.ac.uk/sites/default/files/LCM2007%20dataset%20documentation.pdf Accessed on 10 January 2018</p> <p>Centre for Ecology and Hydrology Land Cover Map, 2015 (online). Available at: https://catalogue.ceh.ac.uk/eidc/documents?facet=topic%257C0%252FLand+cover%252F Accessed 12 December 2018</p>
Broad leaf woodland (%)	2015 – 4 2018 – No information available	No comparators	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	None	Same as above
Coniferous woodland (%)	2015 – 11 2018 – No information available	No comparators	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	None	Same as above
Arable (%)	2015 – 26 2018 – No information	No comparators	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	None	Same as above

	available				
Improved grassland (%)	2015 – 23 2018 – No information available	No comparators	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	None	Same as above
Rough and semi-natural grassland (%)	2015 – 8 2018 – No information available	No comparators	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	None	Same as above
Water and wetland (%)	2015 – 3 2018 – No information available	No comparators	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	None	Same as above
Heather moorland (%)	2015 – 14 2018 – No information available	No comparators	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	None	Same as above
Montane and bare land (%)	2015 – 9 2018 – No information available	No comparators	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	None	Same as above
Urban and sub-urban (%)	2015 – 2 2018 – No information available	No comparators	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	None	Same as above
International natural heritage designations (Ramsar)	<u>Aberdeen City</u> sites – 0 hectares - 0	<u>Aberdeenshire</u> – 4 sites namely: Loch of Skene, Loch of Strathbeg, Muir of Dinnet and Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch 2009 – 1239 hectares 2018 – 1208.61 hectares	No trend	New development has the potential to put pressure on site	SNHi accessed in July 2018 http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/index.jsp
International natural heritage designations (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC))	<u>Aberdeen City</u> site – 1 hectare - 155	<u>Aberdeenshire</u> – sites – 12 Hectares – 5545	No trend	New development has the potential to put pressure on site	SNHi accessed in July 2018 http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/index.jsp

International natural heritage designations (Special Protection Areas (SPA))	<u>Aberdeen City</u> site – 1 hectare – 60.51 Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch (extension) (pSPA)	<u>Aberdeenshire</u> – sites – 9 Hectares – 2227	No trend	New development has the potential to put pressure on site	SNHi accessed in July 2018 http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/index.jsp
National natural heritage designations - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	<u>Aberdeen City</u> 2018: site – 4 (Corby Lily & Bishop Loch, Scotstown Moor, Cove Bay, Nigg Bay) hectare - 47	<u>Aberdeenshire</u> – sites – 85 Hectares - 15,655	No trend	New development has the potential to put pressure on site	SNHi accessed in July 2018 http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/index.jsp
National natural heritage designations National Nature Reserve (NNR)	<u>Aberdeen City</u> site – 0 hectare - 0	<u>Aberdeenshire</u> – sites – 7 Hectares - 1072	No trend	New development has the potential to put pressure on site	SNHi accessed in July 2018 http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/index.jsp
Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS)	<u>Aberdeen City</u> site – 16	<u>Aberdeenshire</u> – sites – 79	No trend	New development has the potential to put pressure on site	Aberdeenshire Council internal data
Local natural heritage designations - Scottish Wildlife Trust Reserves	<u>Aberdeen City</u> site – 0 hectare – N/A	<u>Aberdeenshire</u> – sites – 4 Hectares – N/A	No trend	New development has the potential to put pressure on site	Aberdeenshire Council internal data
Local natural heritage designations - RSPB Reserves	<u>Aberdeen City</u> site – 0 hectare – N/A	<u>Aberdeenshire</u> – sites – 3 Hectares – N/A	No trend	New development has the potential to put pressure on site	Aberdeenshire Council internal data
Local natural heritage designations - Ancient Woodland	<u>Aberdeen City</u> site – 140 hectare – N/A	<u>Aberdeenshire</u> – sites – 2,584 Hectares - 45,000	No trend	New development has the potential to put pressure on site	SNH, <i>SNHi</i> http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/index.jsp <i>Source: SNH 2009</i>
Country Park	Aberdeen City	Aberdeenshire	No trend	New development has the	SNHi accessed July 2018

	0	4 sites		potential to put pressure on site	http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/index.jsp
Area Covered by S.49 Agreement	Aberdeen City 0	Aberdeenshire 2 sites	No trend	New development has the potential to put pressure on site	SNHi accessed July 2018 http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/index.jsp
Local Nature Reserve	Aberdeen City 4 sites	Aberdeenshire 2 sites	No trend	New development has the potential to put pressure on site	SNHi accessed July 2018 http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/index.jsp
Quality and availability of public open space in urban and rural areas	The Aberdeen City audit identified 3471 hectares of open space (not including private gardens or sites under 0.2 hectares). The quality of open space varies across the city with public parks and gardens rating the highest and allotments and business amenity open space scoring the lowest rating	Data for Aberdeenshire Councils Open Space Audit was not available.	The poorest quality parks and open spaces tend to be found within the regeneration priority areas. It is more difficult to provide open space within densely populated areas.	Development pressure to build on urban open spaces. Revised standards for open space could encourage the development of more useful, publicly desirable and efficient types of open space, such as natural areas, green corridors, play spaces and allotments. This detail is likely to be taken forward through the local development plan and Aberdeen planning guidance.	Aberdeen City Council (2010) Open Space Audit
How "NE1 Green Space Network" policy is applied to planning applications	Aberdeen City Applications considered with reference to this policy between January 2017-July 2018	Aberdeenshire See relevant policies further below.	Planning applications are largely being determined in accordance with the policy.	None at present.	Aberdeen City Monitoring Statement (2019) https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-02/MIR%202019%20-%20Monitoring%20Statement%20FI

	Received: 41 Approvals: 32 Refusals: 8 Allowed on Appeal: 1				NAL.pdf Accessed December 2019.
How “NE2 Green Belt” policy is applied to planning applications	Aberdeen City Applications considered with reference to this policy between January 2017-July 2018 Received: 89 Approvals: 81 Refusals :4 Allowed on Appeal: 4	Aberdeenshire See relevant policies further below.	Planning applications are largely being determined in accordance with the policy.	None at present.	Aberdeen City Monitoring Statement (2019) https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-02/MIR%202019%20-%20Monitoring%20Statement%20FINAL.pdf Accessed December 2019.
How “NE3 Urban Green Space” policy is applied to planning applications	Aberdeen City Applications considered with reference to this policy between January 2017-July 2018 Received: 32 Approvals: 27 Refusals :5 Allowed on Appeal: 2	Aberdeenshire See relevant policies further below.	Planning applications are largely being determined in accordance with the policy.	None at present.	Aberdeen City Monitoring Statement (2019) https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-02/MIR%202019%20-%20Monitoring%20Statement%20FINAL.pdf Accessed December 2019.
How “NE4 Open Space Provision in New Development” policy is applied to planning applications	Aberdeen City Applications considered with reference to this policy between January 2017-July 2018 Received: 18 Approvals: 16	Aberdeenshire See relevant policies further below.	Planning applications are largely being determined in accordance with the policy.	None at present.	Aberdeen City Monitoring Statement (2019) https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-02/MIR%202019%20-%20Monitoring%20Statement%20FINAL.pdf

	Refusals :2 Allowed on Appeal: 0				Accessed December 2019.
How “NE5 Trees and Woodlands” policy is applied to planning applications	Aberdeen City Applications considered with reference to this policy between January 2017-July 2018 Received: 110 Approvals: 93 Refusals: 15 Allowed on Appeal: 2	Aberdeenshire See relevant policies further below.	Planning applications are largely being determined in accordance with the policy.	None at present.	Aberdeen City Monitoring Statement (2019) https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-02/MIR%202019%20-%20Monitoring%20Statement%20FINAL.pdf Accessed December 2019.
How “NE7 Coastal Planning” policy is applied to planning applications	Aberdeen City Applications considered with reference to this policy between January 2017-July 2018 Received: 6 Approvals: 6 Refusals :0 Allowed on Appeal: 0	Aberdeenshire See relevant policies further below.	Planning applications are largely being determined in accordance with the policy.	None at present.	Aberdeen City Monitoring Statement (2019) https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-02/MIR%202019%20-%20Monitoring%20Statement%20FINAL.pdf Accessed December 2019.
How Policy E1 “Natural heritage” is applied to Planning Applications	Aberdeen City See above	Aberdeenshire Applications considered with reference to this policy April 2017- April 2018: 304 Approved: 280 Refused: 24 Departures: 1 Appeals: 0	Planning applications are largely being determined in accordance with the policy. A departure was allowed as compensatory planting would replace the loss of and extend the life of the ancient woodland.	None at present.	Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Monitoring Statement (September 2018) https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24029/aldp2017monitoringstatementseptember2018v7.pdf Accessed December 2019

<p>How proposals within the green belt and coastal zone are applied to Planning Applications (policy R1 Special Rural Areas)</p>	<p>Aberdeen City See above</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire Applications considered with reference to this policy April 2017- April 2018: 196 Approved: 180 Refused: 16 Departures: 6 Appeals: 3</p>	<p>Planning applications are largely being determined in accordance with the policy. Social and economic benefits were cited as the reasons in most cases for allowing houses in the countryside and that a livery business is an enterprise appropriate to the countryside.</p>	<p>None at present.</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Monitoring Statement (September 2018)</p> <p>https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24029/aldp2017monitoringstatementseptember2018v7.pdf</p> <p>Accessed December 2019</p>
<p>How the protection of trees under Policy PR1 “Protecting important resources” is applied to Planning Applications</p>	<p>Aberdeen City See above</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire Applications considered with reference to this policy April 2017- April 2018: 133 Approved: 116 Refused: 27 Departures: 2 Appeals: 2 allowed</p>	<p>None relating to trees. Policy E1 was applied to development affecting ancient woodland (see above).</p>	<p>As Policy PR1 applies to water quality, mineral loss, open space, trees and prime agricultural land, it may not be possible to extract data precisely.</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Monitoring Statement (September 2018)</p> <p>https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24029/aldp2017monitoringstatementseptember2018v7.pdf</p> <p>Accessed December 2019</p>

Appendix 5.6 Human Health

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/ constraints	Data source(s)	
Life expectancy at birth (years)	<p>Aberdeen</p> <p>Male</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2002-2004 – 74.4 • 2012-2014 – 76.8 • 2014-2016 - 76.4 • 2016-2018 – 76.9 <p>Female</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2002-2004 – 79.9 • 2012-2014 – 80.1 • 2014-2016 – 80.8 • 2016-2018 – 81.1 	<p>Aberdeenshire:</p> <p>Male</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2002-2004 -79.4 • 2012-2014 -76.3 • 2014-2016 – 79.2 • 2016-2018 – 79.2 <p>Female</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2002-2004 - 80.8 • 2012-2014 - 82.3 • 2014-2016 - 82.4 • 2016-2018 – 82.9 		Life expectancy is improving year on year in the City and the Shire compared with Scottish figures. The Shire is faring much better than the City. In both the City and the Shire female life expectancy is much higher.	Increasing life expectancy has longer-term cost implications for local authorities for service provisions for ageing population.	National Records of Scotland (2019). <i>Life Expectancy for areas in Scotland</i> , [Online] Available at https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/life-expectancy/life-expectancy-in-scottish-areas Accessed 18/12/19
Life expectancy at 65 years	<p>Aberdeen</p> <p>Male</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012-2014 – 18.4 • 2014-2016 – 16.9 • 2016-2018 – 17.4 <p>Female</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012-2014 – 20.2 • 2014-2016 – 19.7 • 2016-2018 – 19.90 	<p>Aberdeenshire</p> <p>Male</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012-2014 –17.1 • 2014-2016 - 18.3 • 2016-2018 – 18.2 <p>Female</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012-2014 – 18.5 • 2014-2016 – 20.3 • 2016-2018 – 20.7 		No trend	Healthy Life Expectancy represents the number of years that an individual can expect to live in good health.	Same as above
Care home place for Adults	<p>Aberdeen</p> <p>2012 -2,036</p> <p>2015 - 1,769</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire</p> <p>2012- 2,061</p> <p>2015 - 2,129</p>		No significant trend	Ageing population and disability will put pressure on resources	Aberdeen City Council (2016) Behind the Granite: Aberdeen Key Facts 2016 Available http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/tourism-visitor_attractions/tourists_visitors/statistics/BTG_2016_Care_and_Protection.asp Accessed 11/7/16

Children looked after by LA	Aberdeen 2010 -690 2011- 642 2014 – 577	Aberdeenshire 2010 -496 2011- 498 2014 – 403	Things are improving in the City and the Shire	Pressure on Government and LA resources	Same as above
Children on child protection register	Aberdeen 2009 - 180 2010 - 119 2011- 96 2014 - 73	Aberdeenshire 2009 - 81 2010 -51 2011- 68 2014 – 68	Things are improving in the City compared with the Shire where the situation improved in 2010 but rose again in 2011	Pressure on Government and LA resources	Same as above
All crimes recorded by police	Aberdeen 2013/14 - 15,390 2014/15- 13,912	Aberdeenshire 2013/14 - 6,836 2014/15- 5,681	Things are improving	Crime and fear of crime can affect people's quality of life	Same as above
Fuel poor	Aberdeen 2009-11- 23% 2012-14 - 29%	Aberdeenshire 2009-11 -35% 2012-14 - 39%	Things are worsening	Worsening economy, longer winters, higher fuel prices and falling value of the pounds worsens the situation	Same as above
Income support	Aberdeen Feb 2012 -4,420 Feb 2015 - 1,770	Aberdeenshire Feb 2012 -2,980 Feb 2015- 1,310	No trend collected	Pressure on Government and LA resources	Same as above
Unemployment benefit claimants Figures (%)	Aberdeen 1/2015 - 1,635 (1.0) 1/2016 - 2,710 (1.7) 5/2016 – 3,405 (1.5) 11/2017 – 3,160 ((2.0)	Aberdeenshire 1/2015 - 1,080 (0.7) 1/2016 - 2,025 (1.2) 5/2016 – 2,470 (1.5) 11/2017 1, 965 (1.2)	Rising in Aberdeen City and the Shire but begins to fall by November 2017. The figures are lower than Scottish average	The down turn in the oil market may be the cause of rising unemployment	https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157405/report.aspx#tabempunemp https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/gor/2013265931/report.aspx#tabempoc_c https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157406/printable.aspx

					Accessed 10/1/18
Most deprived data zones – SIMD in most deprived 15%	Aberdeen 2009 - 28 2012 – 22 2016 - No data	Aberdeenshire 2009 - 5 2012 – 5 2016 - No data	Falling	Pressure on Government and LA resources	Aberdeen City Council (2016) Behind the Granite Aberdeen City Key Facts 2016
Incapacity benefit	Aberdeen 2012– 4,840 2015 – 230 2016 – 8,620	Aberdeenshire 2012 – 3,810 2015 – 230 2016 – 7,040	Not clear 2016 is for ESA and incapacity benefits	Pressure on Government and LA resources	https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/Imp/gor/2013265931/report.aspx#tabempoc_c Accessed 10/1/18
Footpaths	Aberdeen Total distances in 2018: Rights of way: 88km Core paths: 241km Formartine and Buchan Way: 1.4km Deeside Way: km	Aberdeenshire Total distances in 2018: Rights of way: 666km Core paths: 905km Formartine and Buchan Way: 87km Deeside Way: 66km Gordon Way: 18.6km Core paths improved/developed: • 2008-2009: 12200m (new 8000m) • 2009-2010: 17600m (new 5860m) • 2010-2011: 947m (new 8637m) • 2011-2012: 23295m (11495m) • 2012-2013: No data • 2013-2014: 5473m (new: 635m) • 2015-2015: 8845m (new 4565m) • 2015-2016: 7402m (new 900m) • 2016-2017: 4937 (new	No comparisons can be made however more core paths are being developed/improved in the Shire.	In Aberdeenshire - permanent loss of paths is mostly down to erosion than new development. In Aberdeenshire communities are requesting paths to link between coastal communities, but possibilities are limited due to the erosion of cliffs and the suitability of running alongside the A90 trunk road.	Aberdeen City Council – Environment Policy Team Aberdeenshire Council – Environment Team

		0m)			
Green Networks	Aberdeen City (2017) Total amount of green space networks around the city: 17,178,733sq / 1,717.9ha	Aberdeenshire (2018) Banff and Buchan: 107,320sqm/10.7ha a Buchan: 1,405,584sqm/140.5ha Formartine: 1,635,857sqm/163.5ha Garioch: 4,585,519sqm 458.5ha Kincardine and Mearns: 3,783,423sqm/ 378.3ha Marr: 3,685,203sqm/ 368.5ha	No comparison can be made at this stage.	Risk of being lost to development, but there is also the opportunity to increase and enhance green networks through new developments.	Aberdeen City Council GIS overlay. Accessed 18/12/2019 Aberdeenshire Council GIS overlay. Accessed 17/10/2018

Appendix 5.7 Population

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)	
Population Projection 2016-based	Aberdeen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016 - 229,840 • 2017 – 231,248 • 2018 – 232,557 • 2019 – 233,521 • 2021 - 234,884 • 2026 - 237,169 • 2031 - 239,548 	Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016 – 262,190 • 2017 – 264, 047 • 2018 – 266,078 • 2019 – 268,163 • 2021 - 272,019 • 2026 - 273,956 • 2031 - 287,442 	The projections show increasing population in the City and the Shire	It has implication for increased provision of housing, industry and services to meet the needs of growing population and therefore the potential pressure on resources	National Records of Scotland (2018). Population Projections for Scottish Areas (2016-based) (Online) Available at https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-projections/sub-national-population-projections/2016-based Accessed 2/7/18
Household projections (based on 2014)	Aberdeen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2014 – 105,287 • 2019 – 109,846 • 2024 – 114,880 • 2029 – 119,987 • 2034 – 130,370 	Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2014 – 108,381 • 2019 – 114,391 • 2024 – 120,276 • 2029 – 125,814 • 2034 – 130,761 	The projections show increasing households in the City and the Shire	Same as above	National Records of Scotland (2018). Household Projections for Scottish Areas (2014-based) (Online) Available at https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/households/household-projections Accessed 2/7/18
Average Household size	Aberdeen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013 – 2.08 • 2014 – 2.09 • 2015 – 2.10 • 2016 – 2.07 • 2017 – 2.04 	Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013 – 2.38 • 2014 – 2.38 • 2015 – 2.37 • 2016 - 2.35 • 2017 – 2.34 Scotland 2017 – 2.16	The projections show falling household size in the City and the Shire. However, Aberdeenshire is above the Scottish average.	Same as above	National Records of Scotland (2018). Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland, 2017 (Online) Available at https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/households/household-estimates/2017 Accessed on 2/7/18

Population Change	<p>Aberdeen 2014 – 228,920 2015 – 230, 350 2016 - 229,840</p> <p>Change % change (2014-15) 0.6% % change (2015-16) -0.22% Change projected for 2019 (3.8%)</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire 2014 – 260,530 2015 - 261, 960 2016 - 262,190</p> <p>Change % change (2014-15) 0.5% % change (2015-16) 0.09% % change projected for 2019 (4.1%)</p>	Both areas are doing better than the Scottish average change of 0.6%. Over 10 years the City has added 8,520 persons to its population compared to the Shire's 20,660 addition	Components of population change by administrative area,	<p>Aberdeen City (2016) Briefing Paper 2016/03: Population Report, Aberdeen City and Shire. Available at: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=71874&slD=3365</p> <p>https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/population-estimates/mid-year-2016/16mype-cahb.pdf Accessed 15/1/18</p>
Population Structure	<p>Aberdeen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 00-15 -14.7% • 16-24 – 14.4% • 25-44 – 32.3% • 45-64 -23.7% • 65+ - 14.9% 	<p>Aberdeenshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 00-15 -18.7% • 16-24 – 9.7% • 25-44 – 25.1% • 45-64 – 28.8% • 65+ - 17.8% 	A trend exists if data is collected on the basis of male/female. But no trend exists for data collected on the basis of total persons before 2011.	A large proportion of working age population means large future pensionable and ageing population.	<p>Aberdeen City (2016) Briefing Paper 2016/03: Population Report, Aberdeen City and Shire. Available at: http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=71874&slD=3365</p>
Population density	<p>Aberdeen Area – 186 Km2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012 – 1,187 • 2015 – 1,242 • 2016 – 1,250 • 2017 – 1,259 • 2018 – 1,268 	<p>Aberdeenshire Area – 6313km2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015 - 41 • 2016 – 41.9 • 2017 – 42.3 • 2018 – 42.6 	The density is higher in the city than the shire Both densities have risen over time	There will be more pressure on resources provided in the City in one sense but less pressure on burning of fossil fuel on distance travelled in the City	<p>Computed from National Records of Scotland (2018). Population Projections for Scottish Areas (2014-based) (Online) Available at https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-projections/sub-national-population-projections/2014-based/detailed-tables Accessed 10/1/18</p>

Appendix 5.8 Cultural Heritage

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	using this column for figures for Jan 2018	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Listed buildings	Aberdeen City Listed buildings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013– 1,215 • 2018 – 1,220 	Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013– 3,715 • 2017 – 3,775 • 2018 – 3,776 	Increasing	New development also has potential to maintain or enhance cultural sites	Aberdeen City and Shire LDPA (2009) <i>Aberdeen City and Shire Structure Plan Monitoring Report</i>
Listed buildings at risk	Aberdeen City <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013 – 26 • 2018 – 29 	Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013– 228 • 2018 – 268 (68 unlisted) • 	Increasing	New development also has potential to maintain or enhance cultural sites	Buildings at Risk (Register for Scotland) www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk
Conservation Areas	Aberdeen City <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013 – 11 • 2018 – 11 	Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013 – 42 • 2018 – 41 with another 14 proposed 	Decrease but forecast increase in short-medium term	New development has the potential to put pressure on, or be constrained by, built and cultural sites.	Aberdeen City Council (online) https://aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building/conservation-areas Aberdeenshire Council (online) https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/built-heritage/what-is-a-conservation-area/#areas
Scheduled Monuments	Aberdeen City <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016 – 45 • 2018 - 45 	Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016 – 552 • 2017 – 552 • 2018 – 553 	No change	New development has the potential to put pressure on, or be constrained by, built and cultural sites.	Historic Environment Scotland
Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record	Aberdeen City <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016 - 5,370 • 2018 – 3,561 	Aberdeenshire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016 – 20,413 • 2017 – 20,584 • 2018 – 21, 237 (figure includes maritime sites) 	Rising in the Shire, falling in the City.	New development has the potential to put pressure on, or be constrained by, built and cultural sites.	Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service – Historic Environment Records Database
Gardens and	Aberdeen City	Aberdeenshire	No change	New development has	Historic Environment Scotland

designed landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013 – 1 • 2016 - 1 • 2018 - 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013 – 27 • 2016 – 34 • 2017 – 34 • 2018 – 28 		the potential to put pressure on, or be constrained by, built and cultural sites.	
Battlefields	Aberdeen City None	Aberdeenshire Alford – 1,645 Barra – 1,308 Fyvie – 1,644 Harlaw – 1,411	No change	New development has the potential to put pressure on, or be constrained by, built and cultural sites.	https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/spatialdownloads
How policy D4 “Historic Environment” is applied to planning applications	Aberdeen City Applications considered with reference to this policy between January 2017-July 2018 Received: 548 Approvals: 500 Refusals:48 Allowed on Appeal: 7	Aberdeenshire See relevant policies further below.	Planning applications are largely being determined in accordance with the policy.	None at present.	Aberdeen City Monitoring Statement (2019) https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-02/MIR%202019%20-%20Monitoring%20Statement%20FINAL.pdf Accessed December 2019.
How policy D5 “Our Granite Heritage” is applied to planning applications	Aberdeen City Applications considered with reference to this policy between January 2017-July 2018 Received: 131 Approvals: 118 Refusals:13 Allowed on Appeal: 0	Aberdeenshire See relevant policies further below.	Planning applications are largely being determined in accordance with the policy.	None at present.	Aberdeen City Monitoring Statement (2019) https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-02/MIR%202019%20-%20Monitoring%20Statement%20FINAL.pdf Accessed December 2019.
How Policy HE1 on listed buildings and	Aberdeen City See above	Aberdeenshire Applications considered with	Planning applications are largely being determined in accordance with the	None at present. Future reviews will consider demolition of	Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Monitoring Statement (September 2018)

archaeological site is applied to planning applications		reference to this policy April 2017- April 2018: 245 o Approved: 235 o Refused: 10 o Departures: 5 o Appeals: 0	policy. Departures related to replacement windows and building of a car park.	listed buildings.	https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24029/aldp2017monitoringstatementsseptember2018v7.pdf Accessed December 2019
How Policy HE2 on other protected areas is applied to planning applications	Aberdeen City See above	Aberdeenshire Applications considered with reference to this policy April 2017- April 2018: 241 o Approved: 230 o Refused: 11 o Departures: 2 o Appeals: 0	Planning applications are largely being determined in accordance with the policy. Departures related to replacement windows in a conservation area.	None at present.	Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Monitoring Statement (September 2018) https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24029/aldp2017monitoringstatementsseptember2018v7.pdf Accessed December 2019

Appendix 5.9 Landscape

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and targets	Trends	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)
Landscape character	In Aberdeen there are 27 landscape character areas.	<p>There are 42 landscape character areas in Aberdeenshire, including 9 within the CNP.</p> <p>The four Landscape Character Assessments that cover the North East provides a brief overview of past land use practices and discusses potential land uses for existing landscapes.</p>	Insufficient data available to determine the trend.	<p>The inappropriate scale and insensitive siting of future new development may adversely affect landscape characteristics (e.g. changing its landscape character type, not respecting local topography/contours).</p> <p>New development not fitting in with the landscape's capacity to absorb further developments (e.g. design, layout and sense of place) – need to promote suitable development capacity.</p>	<p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1997) <i>National programme of landscape character assessment: Banff and Buchan</i>, Review No 37.</p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1996) <i>Cairngorms landscape assessment</i>, Review No 75.</p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1996) <i>Landscape character assessment of Aberdeen</i>, Review No 80</p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage (1998) <i>South and Central Aberdeenshire: landscape character assessment</i>, Review No 102.</p>
Special Landscape Areas	Aberdeen has none. It has the green belt.	Aberdeenshire 2018: 10 sites	Replaced the Valued Views and Areas of Landscape Significance designations.	New and cumulative development has the potential to put pressure on these sites.	<p>Supplementary Guidance 9: Special Landscape Areas (2017) https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/</p> <p>Accessed December 2019</p>
How policy “D2 Landscape” is applied to planning applications	Aberdeen City Applications considered with reference to this policy between	Aberdeenshire See relevant policies further below.	Planning applications are largely being determined in	None at present.	<p>Aberdeen City Monitoring Statement (2019)</p> <p>https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-02/MIR%202019%20-</p>

	January 2017-July 2018 Received: 75 Approvals: 59 Refusals:16 Allowed on Appeal: 2		accordance with the policy.		%20Monitoring%20Statement%20FINA L.pdf Accessed December 2019.
How policy “NE3 Urban Green Space” is applied to planning applications	Aberdeen City Applications considered with reference to this policy between January 2017-July 2018 Received: 32 Approvals: 27 Refusals:5 Allowed on Appeal:2	Aberdeenshire See relevant policies further below.	Planning applications are largely being determined in accordance with the policy.	None at present.	Aberdeen City Monitoring Statement (2019) https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-02/MIR%202019%20-%20Monitoring%20Statement%20FINA L.pdf Accessed December 2019.
How “Landscape character” and Special Landscape Areas in Policy E2 are applied to planning applications	Aberdeen City See above	Applications considered with reference to this policy April 2017- April 2018: 368 ○ Approved: 325 ○ Refused: 43 ○ Departures: 0 ○ Appeals: 1 allowed	Planning applications are largely being determined in accordance with the policy. Appeal related to noise.	None at present.	Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Monitoring Statement (September 2018) https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24029/alp2017monitoringstatements eptember2018v7.pdf Accessed December 2019
How “Public open space” under Policy P2 is applied to planning applications	Aberdeen City See above	Applications considered with reference to this policy April 2017- April 2018: 57 ○ Approved: 49	Planning applications are being determined in accordance with the policy.	None at present.	Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Monitoring Statement (September 2018) https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24029/alp2017monitoringstatements eptember2018v7.pdf

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Refused: 8 ○ Departures: 0 ○ Appeals: 0 allowed 			Accessed December 2019
Percentage Greenspace type (primary codes only)	%	%	Trend	Constraints/Issues	Greenspace Scotland (February 2018) The Third State of Scotland's Greenspace Report (online) Available at http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/Data/Sites/1/media/docs/sosgreport/3rdstateofscotlandsgreenspacereport_010218.pdf
Public Park and Garden	8	1	No Trend		Same as above
Private Garden	27	28	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
School Grounds	2	2	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Institutional Grounds	2	1	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Amenity Residential or business	31	23	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Play space	<1	<1	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Playing Fields	2	2	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Golf Course	6	7	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Tennis Course	<1	<1	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Bowling Green	<1	<1	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Other Sports facility	2	1	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Natural total	14	31	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above

Allotments or community growing space	<1	<1	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Religious grounds	<1	<1	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Cemetery	<1	1	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Camping or caravan park	<1	<1	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Land use changing	5	3	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Percentage Greenspace type (primary and secondary codes only)	%	%	Trend	Constraints/Issues	Greenspace Scotland (February 2018) The Third State of Scotland's Greenspace Report (online) Available at http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/Data/Sites/1/media/docs/sosgreport/3rdstateofscotlandsgreenspacereport_010218.pdf
Public Park and Garden	8	1	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Private Garden	27	27	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
School Grounds	2	2	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Institutional Grounds	2	1	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Amenity Residential or business	30	22	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Play space	<1	<1	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Playing Fields	3	3	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above

Golf Course	6	7	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Tennis Course	<1	<1	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Bowling Green	<1	<1	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Other Sports facility	2	1	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Natural total	14	32	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Allotments or community growing space	<1	<1	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Religious grounds	<1	<1	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Cemetery	<1	1	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Camping or caravan park	<1	<1	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Land use changing	4	3	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Summary Area Total of Greenspace types (primary codes only)	%	%	Trend	Constraints/Issues	Greenspace Scotland (February 2018) The Third State of Scotland's Greenspace Report (online) Available at http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/Data/Sites/1/media/docs/sosgreport/3rdstateofscotlandsgreenspacereport_010218.pdf
Public Park and Garden	492	59	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above

Private Garden	1,737	1,619	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
School Grounds	146	130	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Institutional Grounds	133	65	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Amenity Residential or business	1,960	1,357	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Play space	14	16	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Playing Fields	124	91	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Golf Course	358	425	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Tennis Course	2	1	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Bowling Green	6	4	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Other Sports facility	142	50	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Natural total	874	1,804	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Allotments or community growing space	16	7	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Religious grounds	16	12	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Cemetery	28	32	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Camping or caravan park	4	15	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Land use changing	286	169	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above

Total	6,338	5,858			
Summary Area Total of Greenspace types (primary and secondary codes only)	%	%	Trend	Constraints/Issues	Greenspace Scotland (February 2018) The Third State of Scotland's Greenspace Report (online) Available at http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/Data/Sites/1/media/docs/sosgreport/3rdstateofscotlandsgreenspacereport_010218.pdf
Public Park and Garden	492	59	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Private Garden	1,741	1,620	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
School Grounds	146	130	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Institutional Grounds	138	68	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Amenity Residential or business	1,969	1,360	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Play space	19	22	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Playing Fields	168	160	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Golf Course	358	425	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Tennis Course	5	2	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Bowling Green	9	5	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Other Sports facility	156	58	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above

Natural total	940	1,967	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Allotments or community growing space	16	7	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Religious grounds	16	12	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Cemetery	28	32	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Camping or caravan park	4	16	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Land use changing	286	169	No Trend	Same as above	Same as above
Total	6,490	6,112			

Appendix 5.10 Material Assets

SEA Indicator	Quantified information	Comparators and Trends targets	Issues/constraints	Data source(s)	
Council tax Band D	Aberdeen 2011/12 - £1,230. 2016/17 - £1,230. 2017/18 - £1,230 2018/19 - £1,267	Aberdeenshire 2011/12 - £1,141 2016/17 - £1,141 2017/18 - £1,170 2018/19 - £1,205	After several years of no change, charges are now increasing annually.	Government policy on keeping household costs down affects how much councils can charge	Aberdeenshire Council https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/council-tax/charges/ Aberdeen City Council https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/council-tax/view-council-tax-bands
Household tenure – owner occupied	Aberdeen 2012/13 – 55% 2016 – 58%	Aberdeenshire 2012/13 – 73% 2016 – 77%	Increasing proportion of owner-occupied housing in City and Shire although it is higher in the Shire	House prices for first time buyers may be a constraint as is the general economic climate	Source: Scottish Survey Core Questions (SSCQ) 2016 http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/Surveys/SSCQ/
Household tenure – social rent	Aberdeen 2012/13 – 26% 2016 – 22%	Aberdeenshire 2012/13 – 16% 2016 – 12%	Low compared those living in their own homes and decreasing over time	Availability of funding for building affordable housing	Same as above
Household tenure – private rent	Aberdeen 2012/13 – 19 % 2016 – 20%	Aberdeenshire 2012/13 – 10% 2016 – 10%	Proportion steady in Aberdeenshire but increasing in City	Probably open market rental values will constrain choice in this sector	Same as above
Public-sector housing stock	Aberdeen March 2012 - 22,740 March 2015 - 22,328 2017 – 22,041	Aberdeenshire March 2012 - 12,877 March 2015 - 12,856 2017 – 12,869	The Stock is falling	Issue is energy efficiency in this sector	Housing Statistics for Scotland - Public sector housing stock http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Housing-Regeneration/HSfS/StockPublicSector
Economic Activity Rates,	Aberdeen 2012 - 83.0% 2014 – 2015 – 80.5% 2016 – 75.2% 2017 – 79.0%	Aberdeenshire 2012 - 82.6% 2014-2016- 84.0% 2016 – 82.6% 2017 – 82.3%	Rising in the Shire but falling in the City Rising in both the City and Shire	Falling oil prices Jan 2016 lowest price per barrel (since 2008) at \$29. Prices have since	Same as above Source: Nomis: annual population survey

				stabilised with overall steady growth experienced since mid-2017.	
Average Gross Weekly earnings	Aberdeen 2011/12 - £574.90 2014/14 - £617.00 2016 - £557.40 2017 - £545.60	Aberdeenshire 2011/12 -£456.70 2014/14 - £482.50 2016 – £570.20 2017 - £566.10	Quite high for the City and the Shire compared with national average. The Shire remains above the national average in 2017, although by a smaller margin than 2016. The City is now just less (£2.10 per week).	The influence of the oil industry continues to keep wages in the North East. Confidence has grown in the industry again with most stats indicating a positive recovery	Same as above Source: Nomis: annual survey of hours and earnings - resident analysis
Established Housing Land Supply (EHLS) (including small sites)	Aberdeen 2016 – 21,271 2017 - 20,651 2018 – 21,052 2019 – 20,091	Aberdeenshire 2016 – 25,634 2017 - 25,486 2018 – 25,582 2019 – 25,319	Established supply has generally decreased as sites that were allocated in the 2017 ALDPs are built out.	Part of the overall land supply is classed as constrained	Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Housing Land Audit 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/housing/housing-land-audit
EHLS on Greenfield (%) (For Aberdeen Housing Market)	Aberdeen 2016 – 86% 2017 - 86% 2018 – 82% 2019 – 83%	Aberdeenshire 2016 – 94% 2017 - 94% 2018 – 92% 2019 – 92%	Slight increase in the city. No change in the Shire.	See below	Same as above
EHLS on Brownfield (%) (For Aberdeen Housing Market)	Aberdeen 2016 – 14% 2017 - 14% 2018 – 18% 2019 – 17%	Aberdeenshire 2016 – 6% 2017 - 6% 2018 – 8% 2019 – 8%	Slight decrease in the city. No change in the Shire.	Most brownfield sites only enter the land supply once they have consent, so the true proportion is likely to be higher than this.	Same as above

Constrained Housing Land Supply	Aberdeen 2016 – 3,020 2017 - 2,915 2018 – 1,955 2019 – 3,593	Aberdeenshire 2016 – 6,808 2017 - 7,083 2018 – 7,228 2019 – 6,911	Dramatic rise in the City but falling in the Shire.	Notable increase in Aberdeen City relates to a small number of large sites mainly due to ownership, land use and marketability. Continued progress on large Aberdeenshire sites.	Same as above
5 – year effective housing land supply (including small sites)	Aberdeen 2016 – 6,648 2017 - 6,631 2018 – 7,451 2019 – 6,422	Aberdeenshire 2016 – 8,112 2017 - 7,727 2018 – 8,288 2019 – 7,901	Decreasing in both City and Shire due to progress on sites that were allocated in the 2017 ALDPs.	Some uncertainty over future market demand	Same as above
Effective Units Programmed Beyond Year 5	Aberdeen 2016 – 11,603 2017 - 11,105 2018 – 11,637 2019 – 10,076	Aberdeenshire 2016 – 10,714 2017 - 10,678 2018 – 10,066 2019 – 10, 507	Falling in the City but there has been a slight increase in the Shire.	In the City some units have moved into the five-year supply and others to the constrained supply. In Aberdeenshire there has been a slowing down of build rates this year reflecting market demand.	Same as above
Housing completions	Aberdeen 2015 - 795 2016 – 833 2017 - 1,176 2018 – 1,211	Aberdeenshire 2015 – 1,304 2016 – 1,133 2017 – 885 2018 - 983	Rising in both the City and Aberdeenshire.	The market conditions remain difficult however it is likely to pick up over the next few years.	Same as above

Appendix 5.11 Employment Land

Aberdeen City

	Established	Constrained	Marketable	Immediately Available	Under Construction
2012	298	147	125	58	10
2013	272	89	166	71	25.4
2014	246	89	140	66	34
2015	280	111	169	71	45
2016	269	64	205	46	27
2017	286	64	223	52	12
2018	286	64	223	52	12
2019	274	64	210	52	0

Aberdeenshire

	Established	Constrained	Marketable	Immediately Available	Under Construction
2012	628	231	397	29	12
2013	608	233	375	45	13
2014	596	197	399	40	11
2015	581	240	341	60	7
2016	558	217	341	70	13
2017	551	253	298	65	8
2018	553	245	307	68	3
2019	548	267	281	64	2

Appendix 6 Maps

Map 1 – Blanket Peat Soil

Map 2 – Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Map 3 – Local Nature Conservation Sites

Map 4 – Local Nature Reserves

Map 5 – (a) River Dee SAC in Aberdeen City, (b) Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch (extension) SPA

Map 6 – Sites and Monuments Record

Map 7 – Listed Buildings

Map 8 – Conservation Areas

Map 9 – Union Street Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme

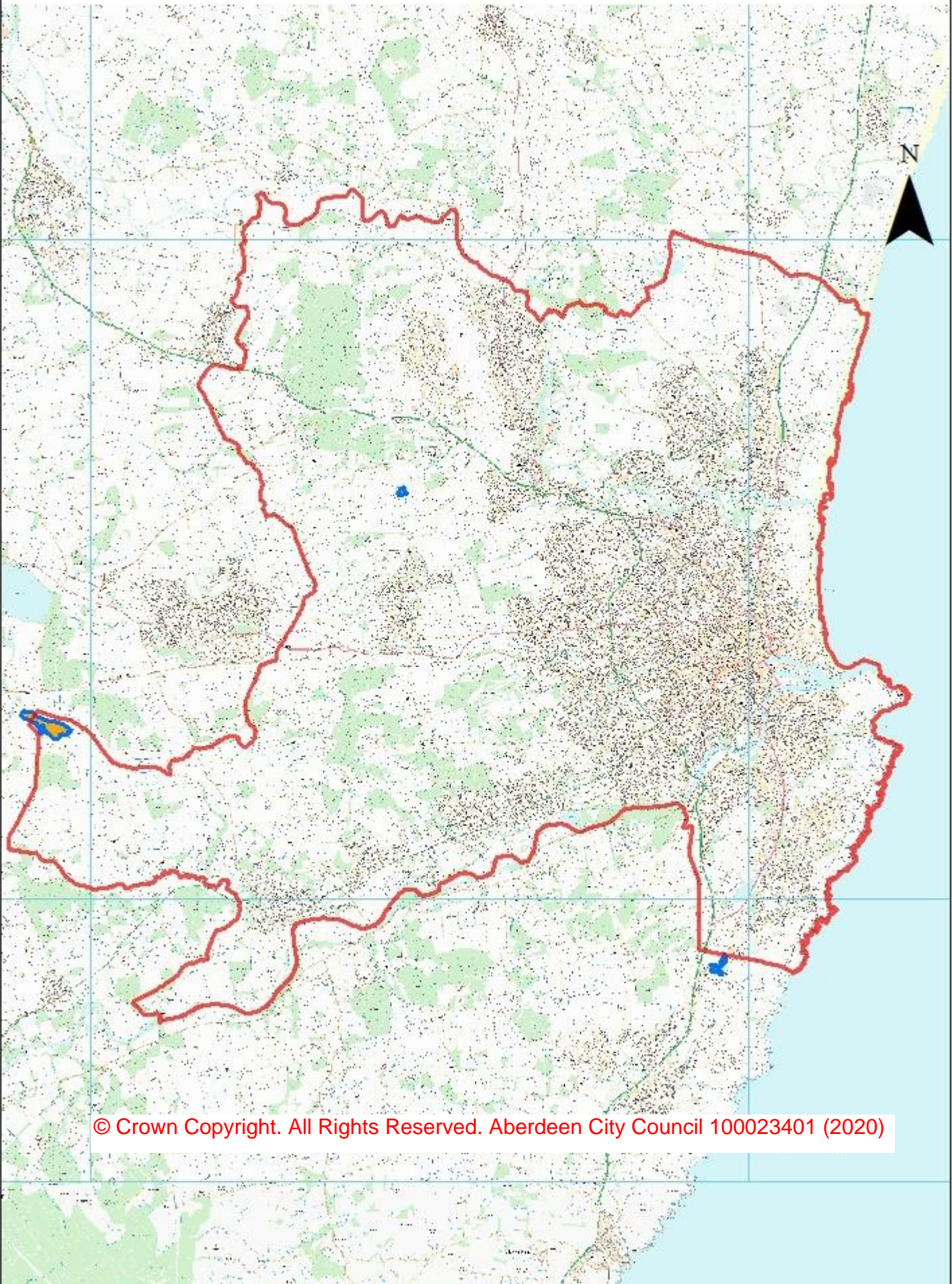
Map 10 – Duthie Park Designed Landscape

Map 11 – Vacant and Derelict Land Survey Sites 2017

Map 12 – Open Space Audit 2012 Quality of Open Spaces

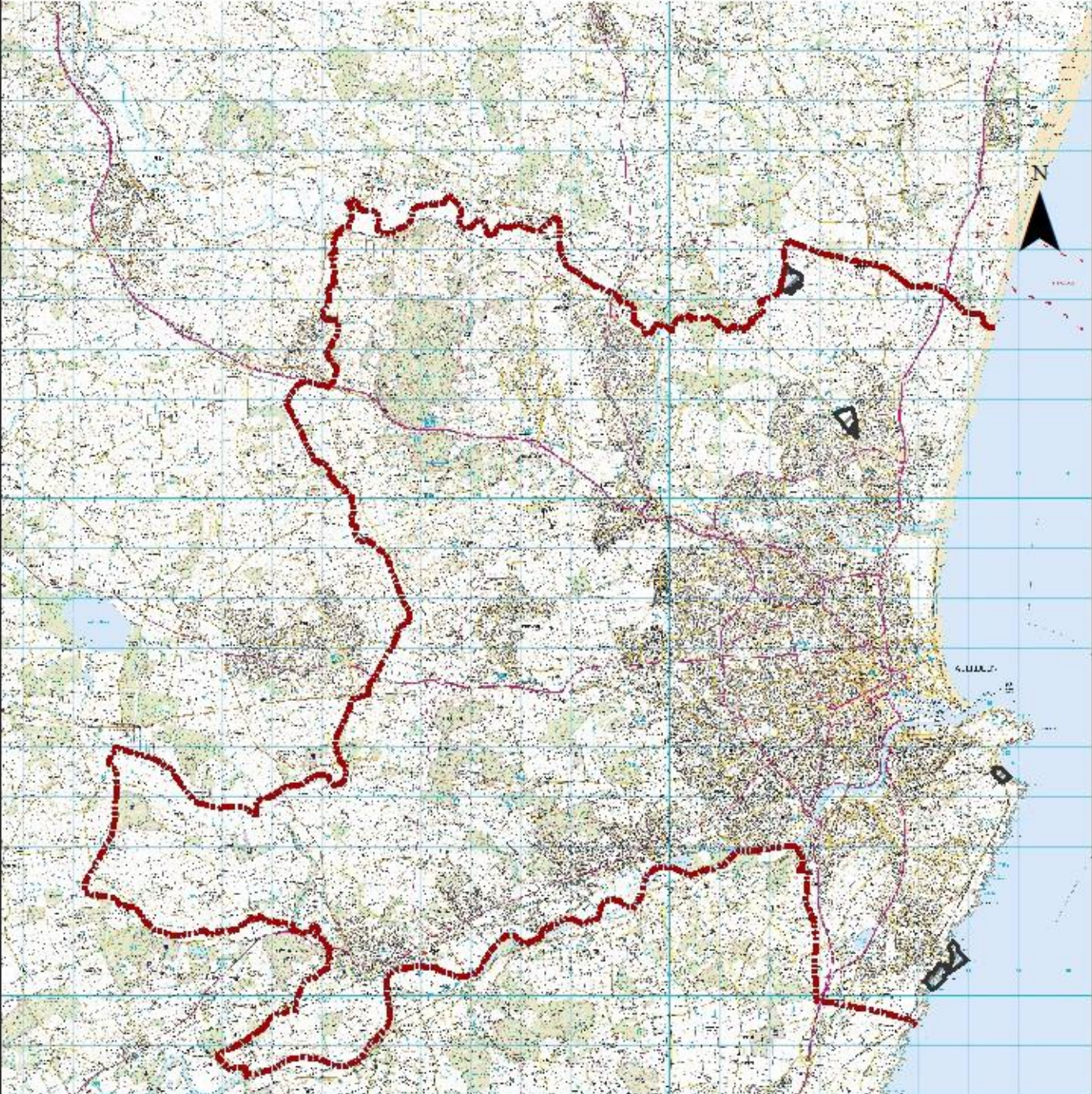
Map 13 – Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

Map 1 - Peat Soils



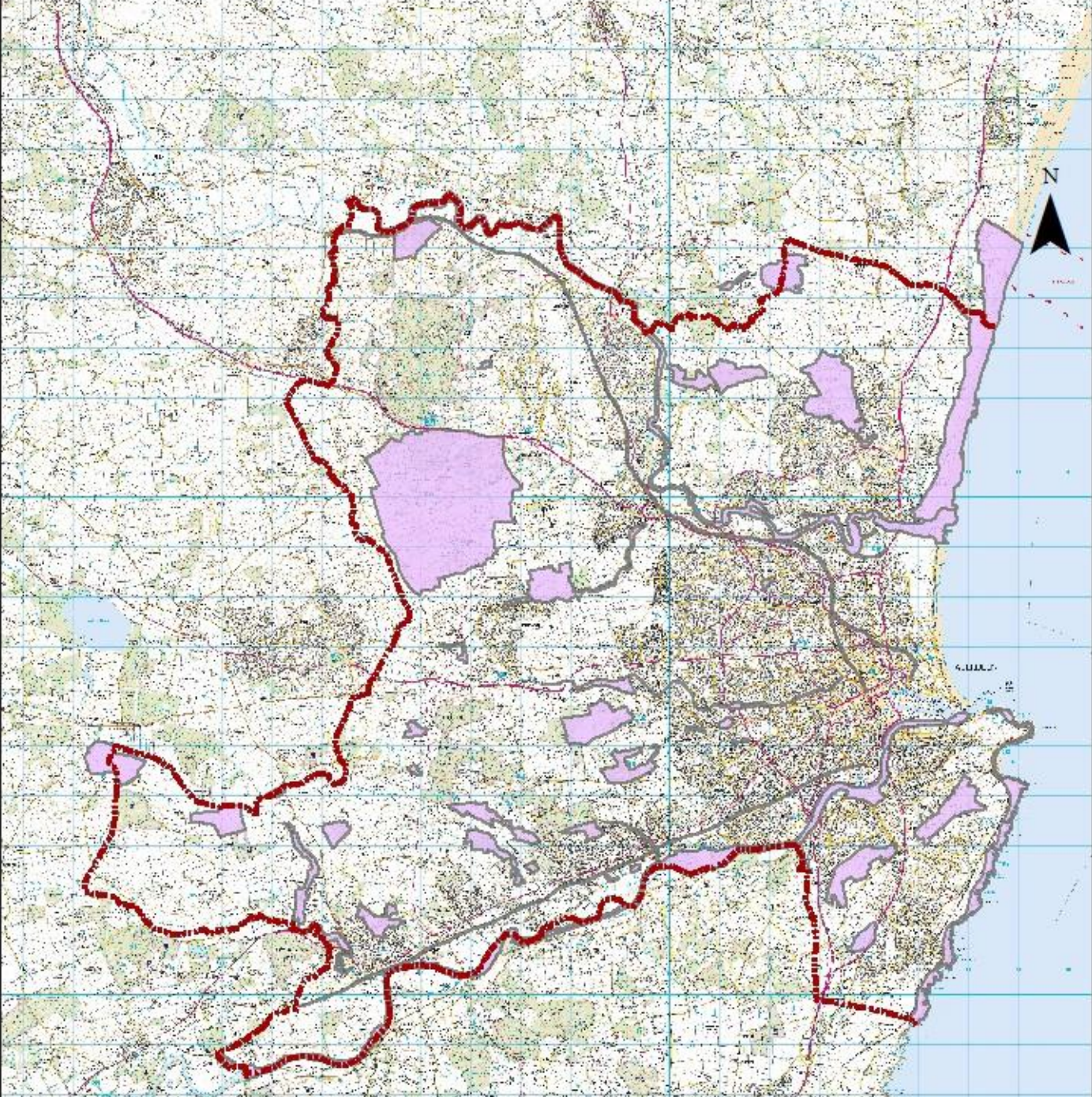
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Map 2 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest



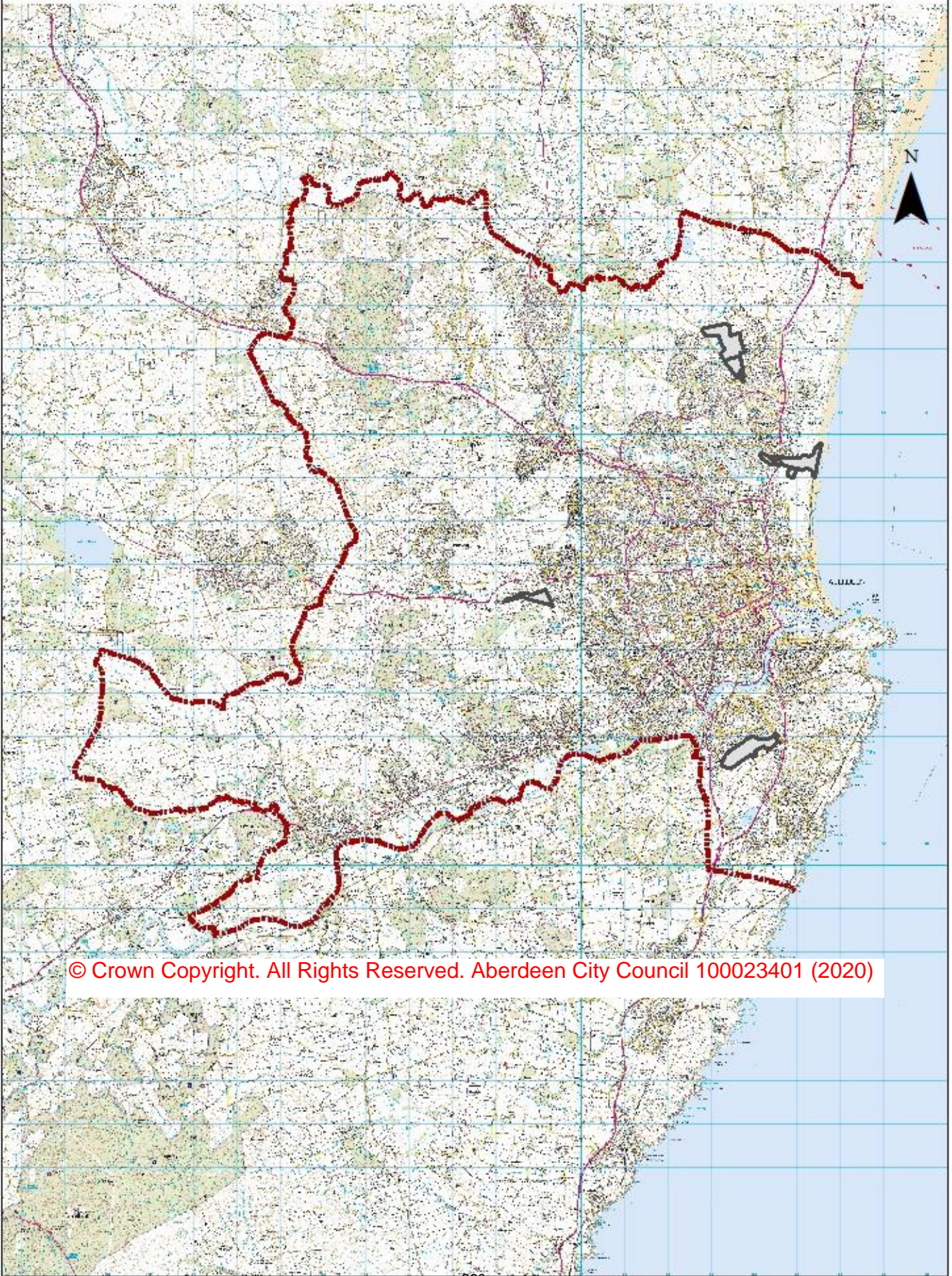
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Map 3 - Local Nature Conservation Sites



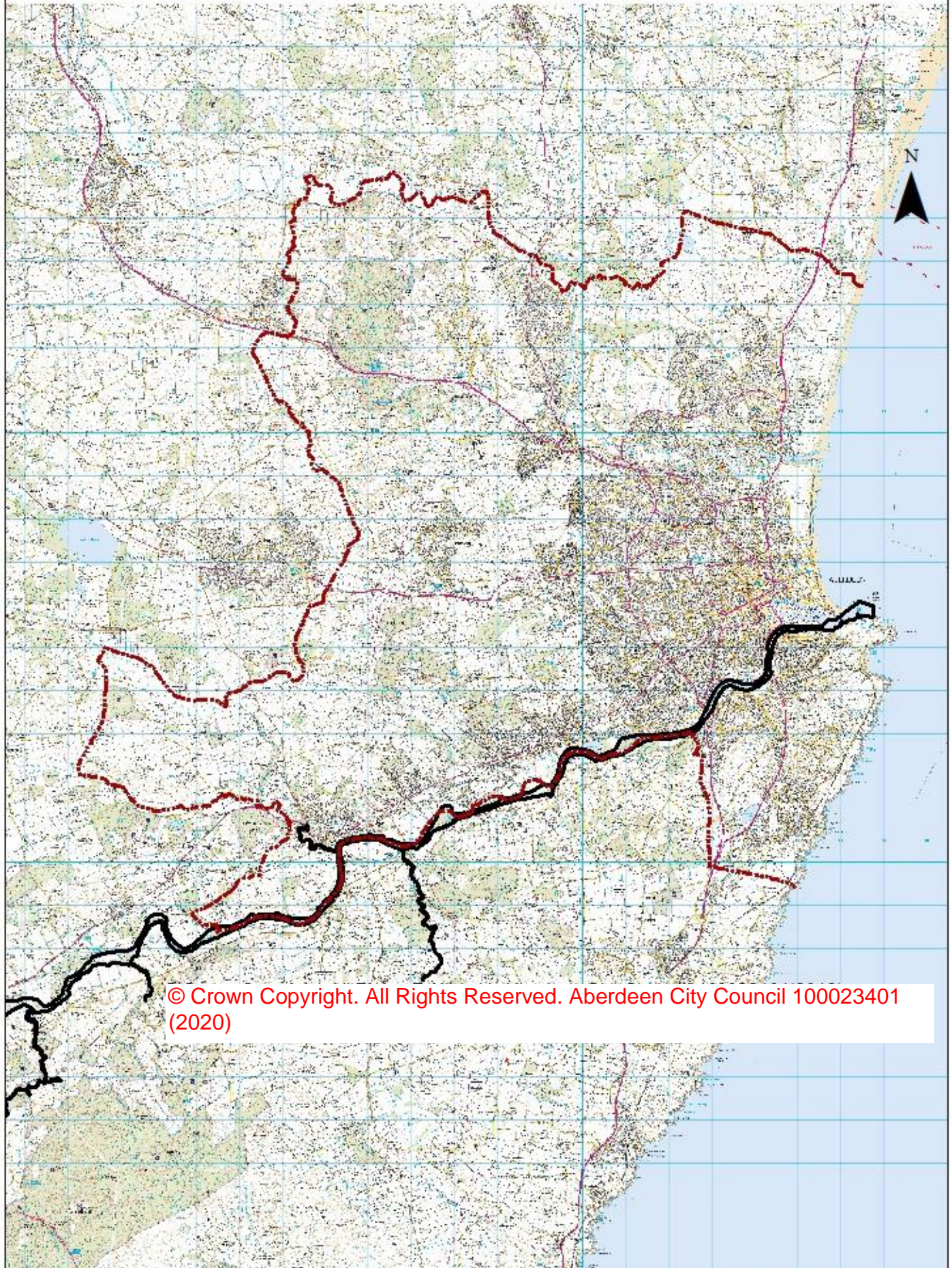
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Map 4 - Local Nature Reserves



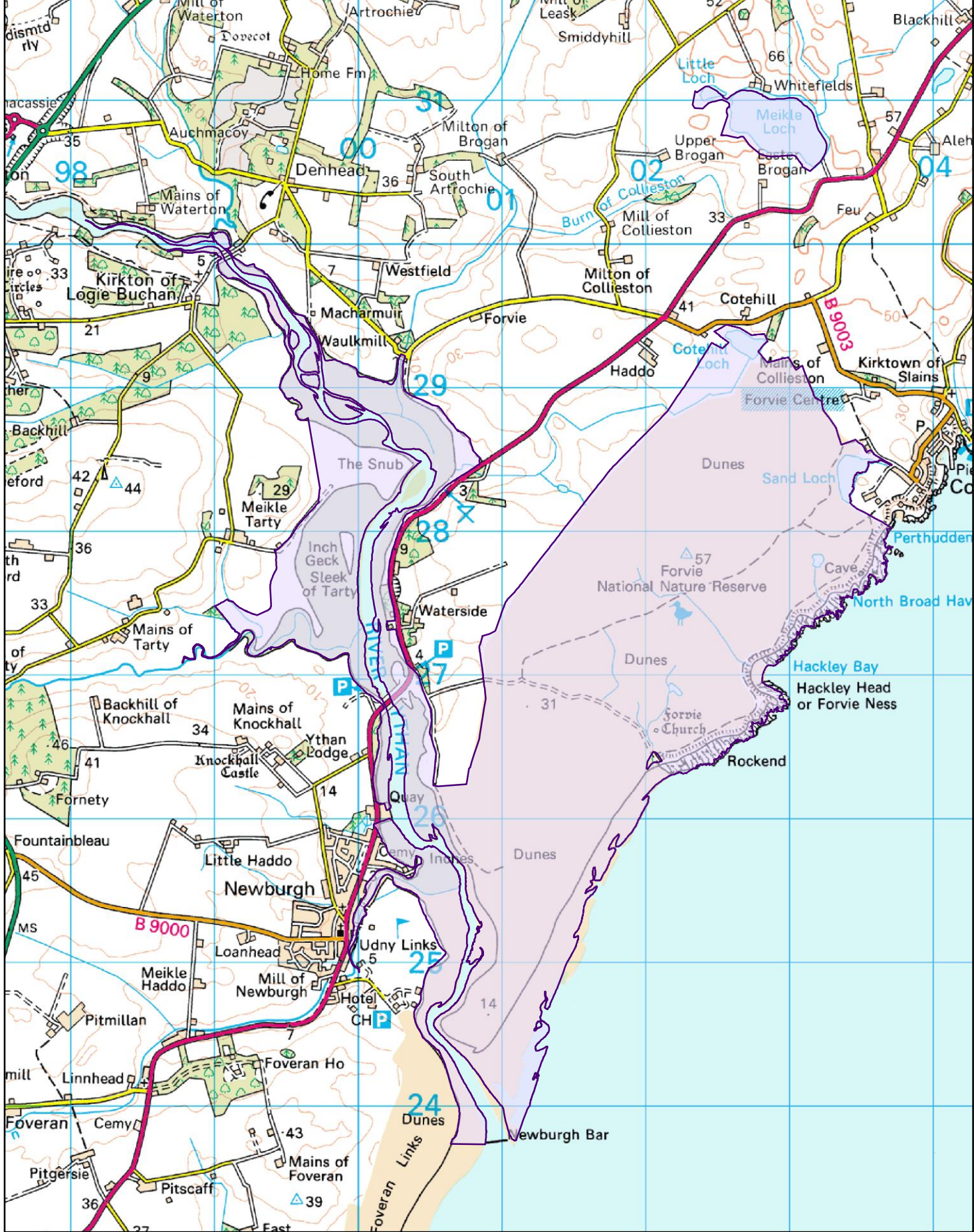
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**Map 5 - European Sites:
5a - River Dee Special Area of Conservation**



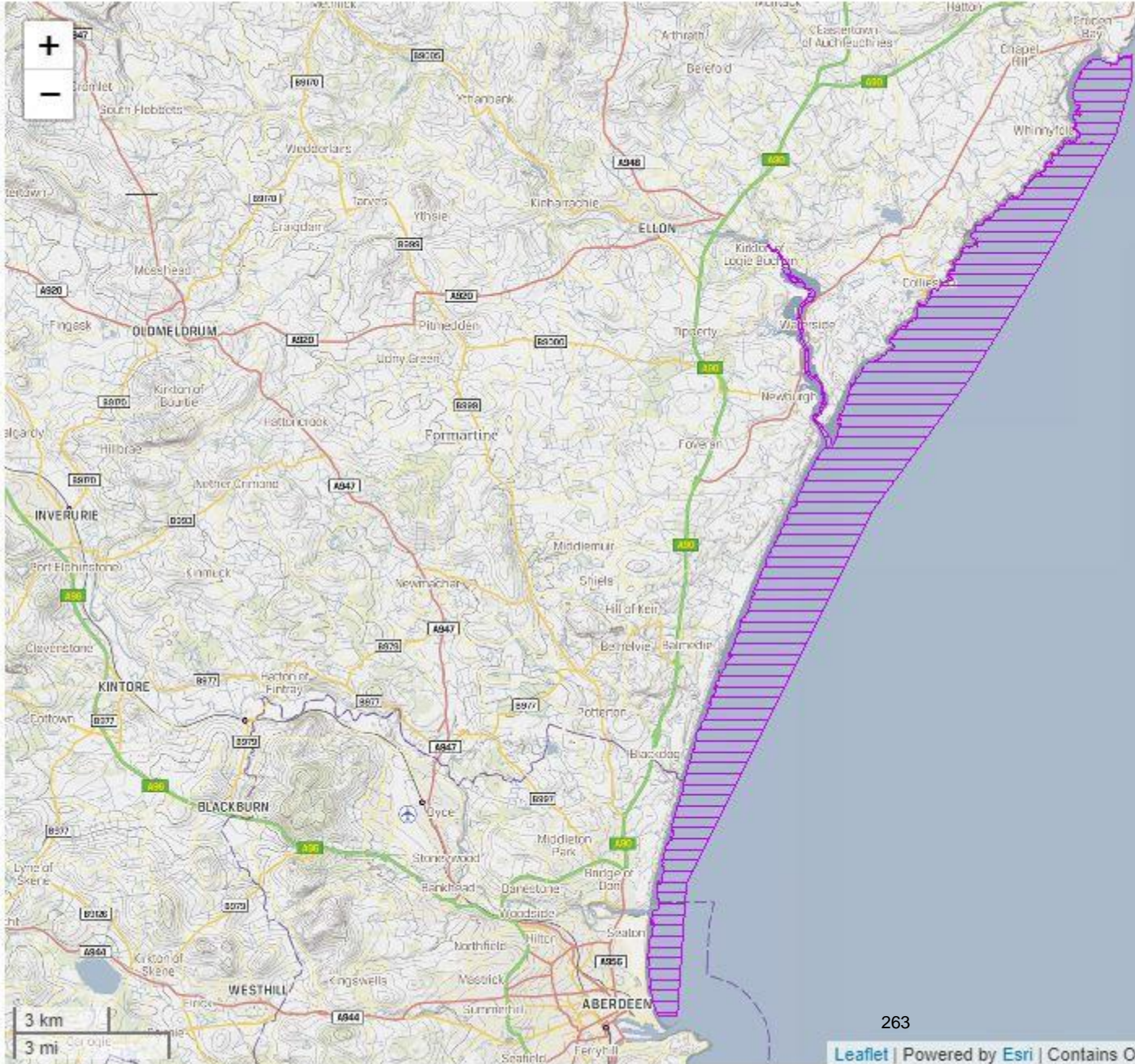
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5b - Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch (extension) SPA

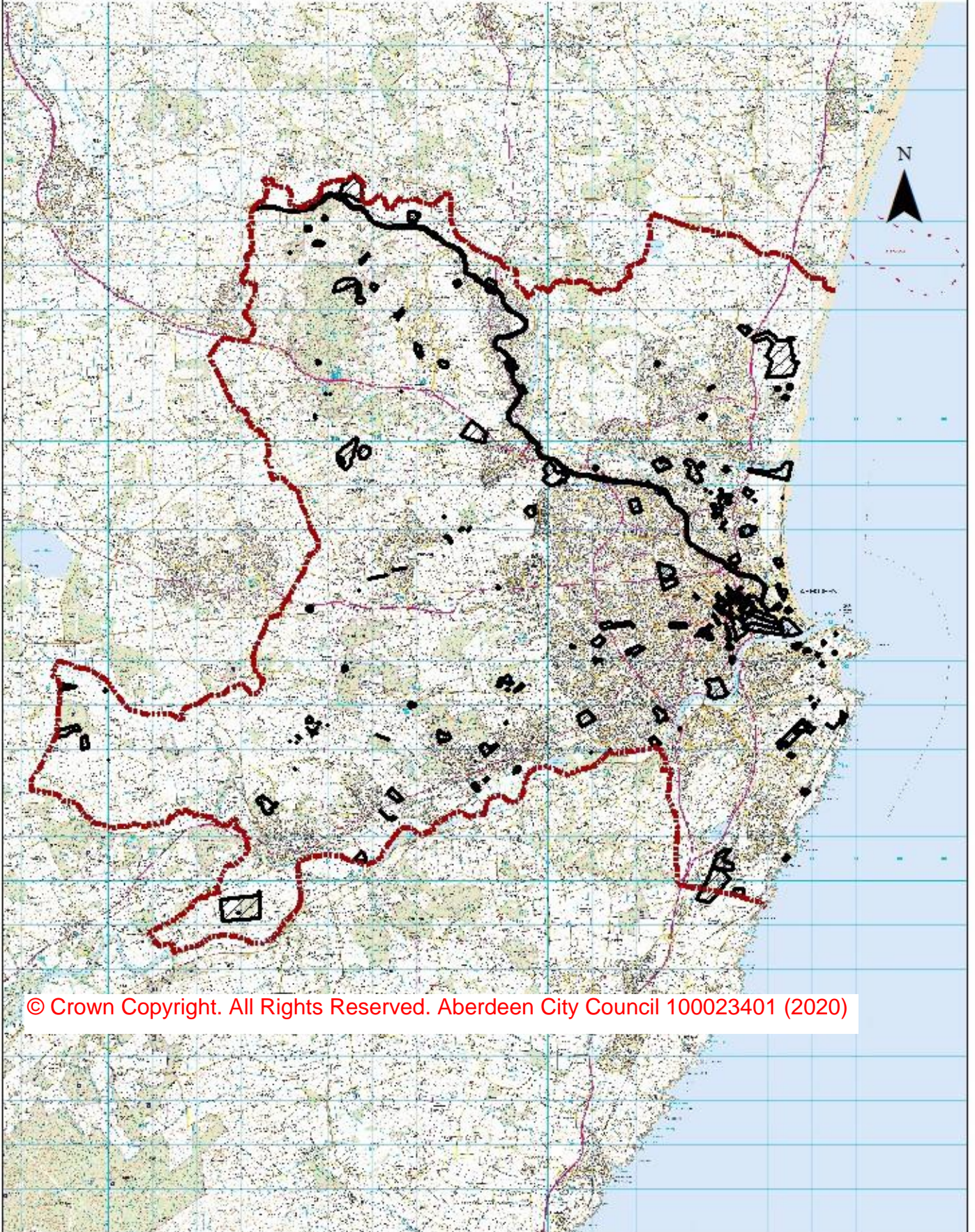


<p>Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch</p> <p>Special Protection Area EC Site Code: UK9002221</p> <p> Site boundary</p> <p><small>Produced by: Geographic Information Group, SNH, 2012 © Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown copyright and database right 2012. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number SNH 100017908.</small></p>	<p>0 0.5 1 2 km</p> <p>0 1,000 2,000 m</p> <p>Scale 1:35,000</p> <p>This is an updated representation of the classified site boundary. Any apparent small differences are due to changes to the OS backstop</p>	 	
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Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch (extension) SPA

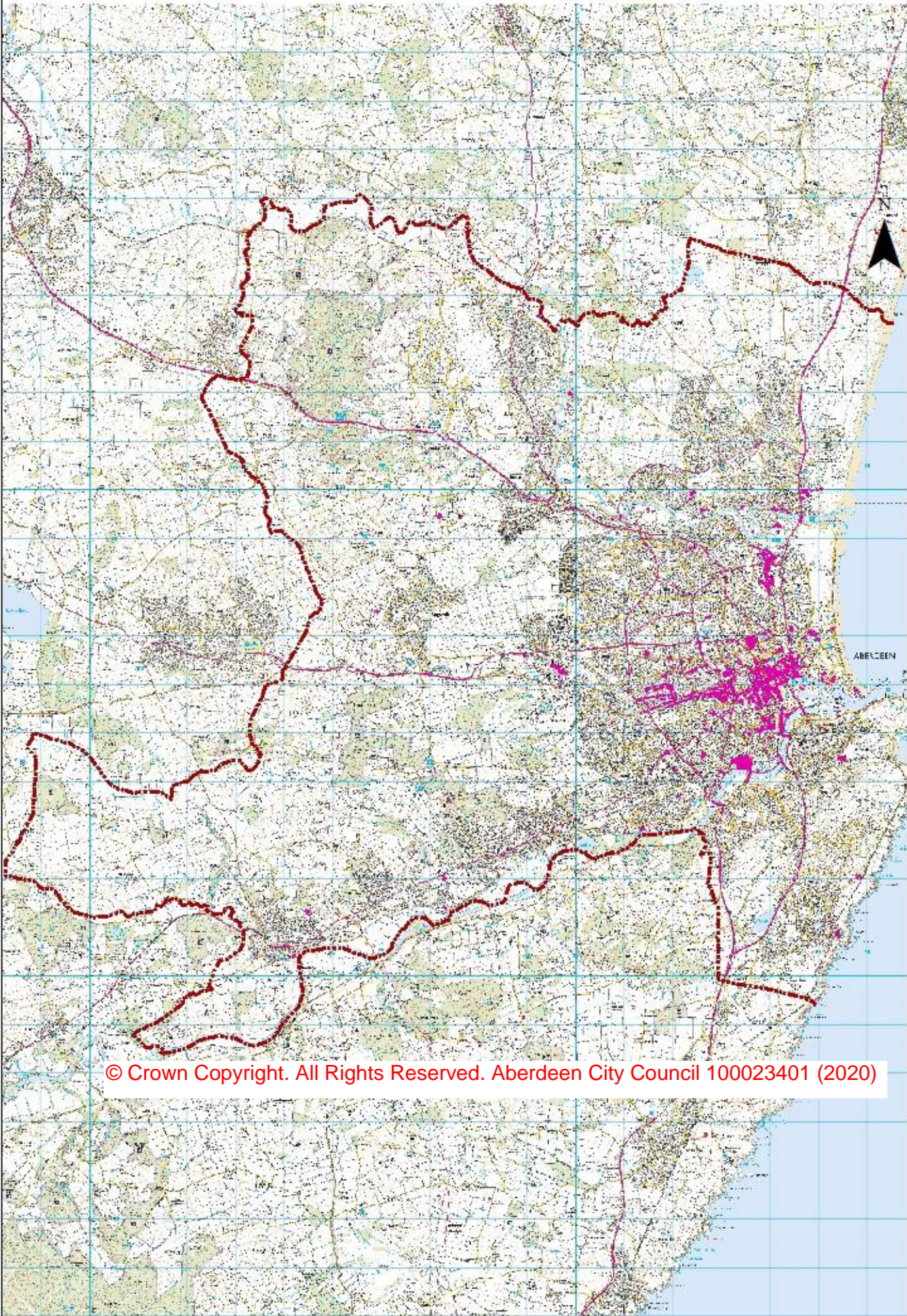


Map 6 - Sites and Monuments Record



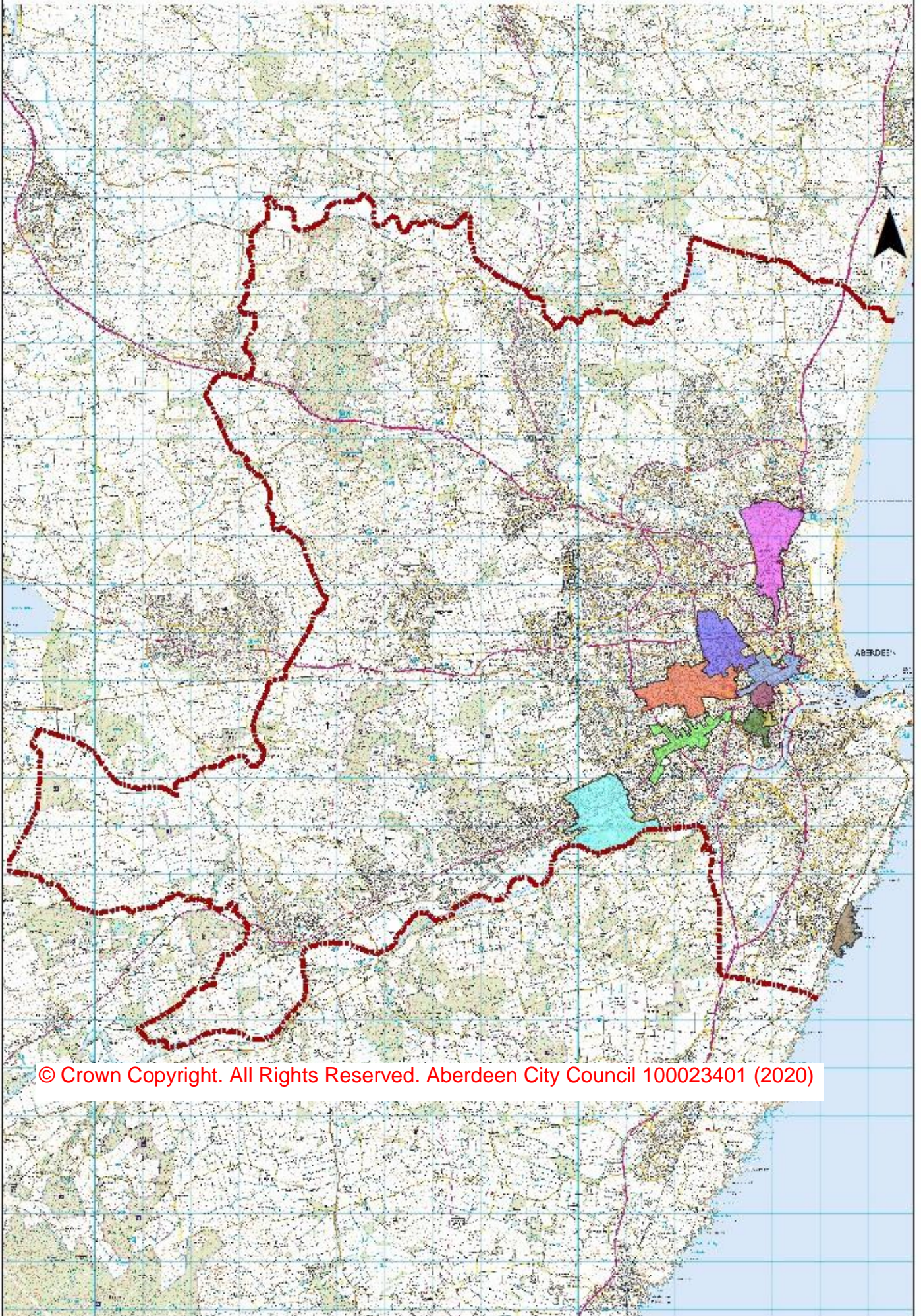
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Map 7 - Listed Buildings



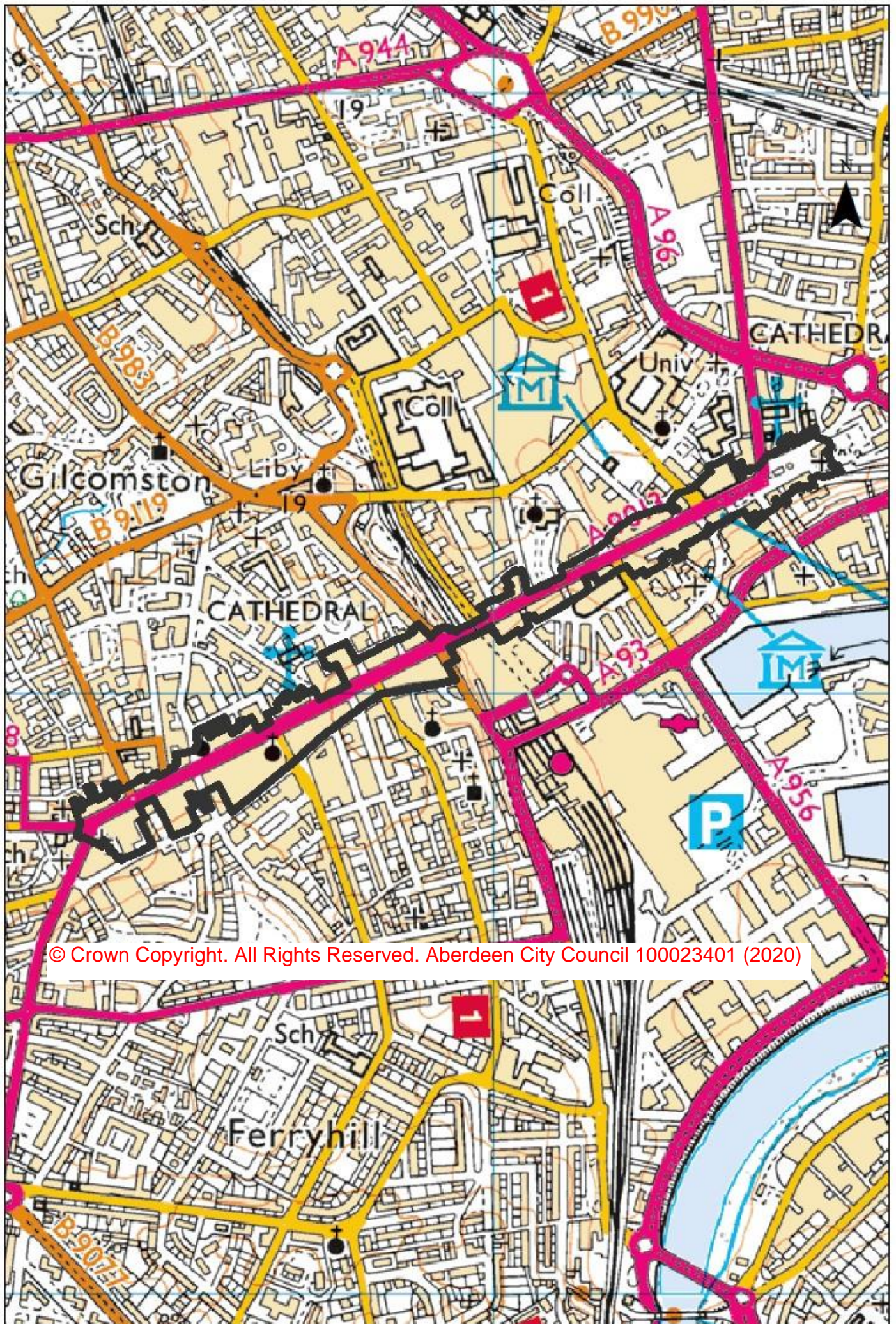
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Map 8 - Conservation Areas



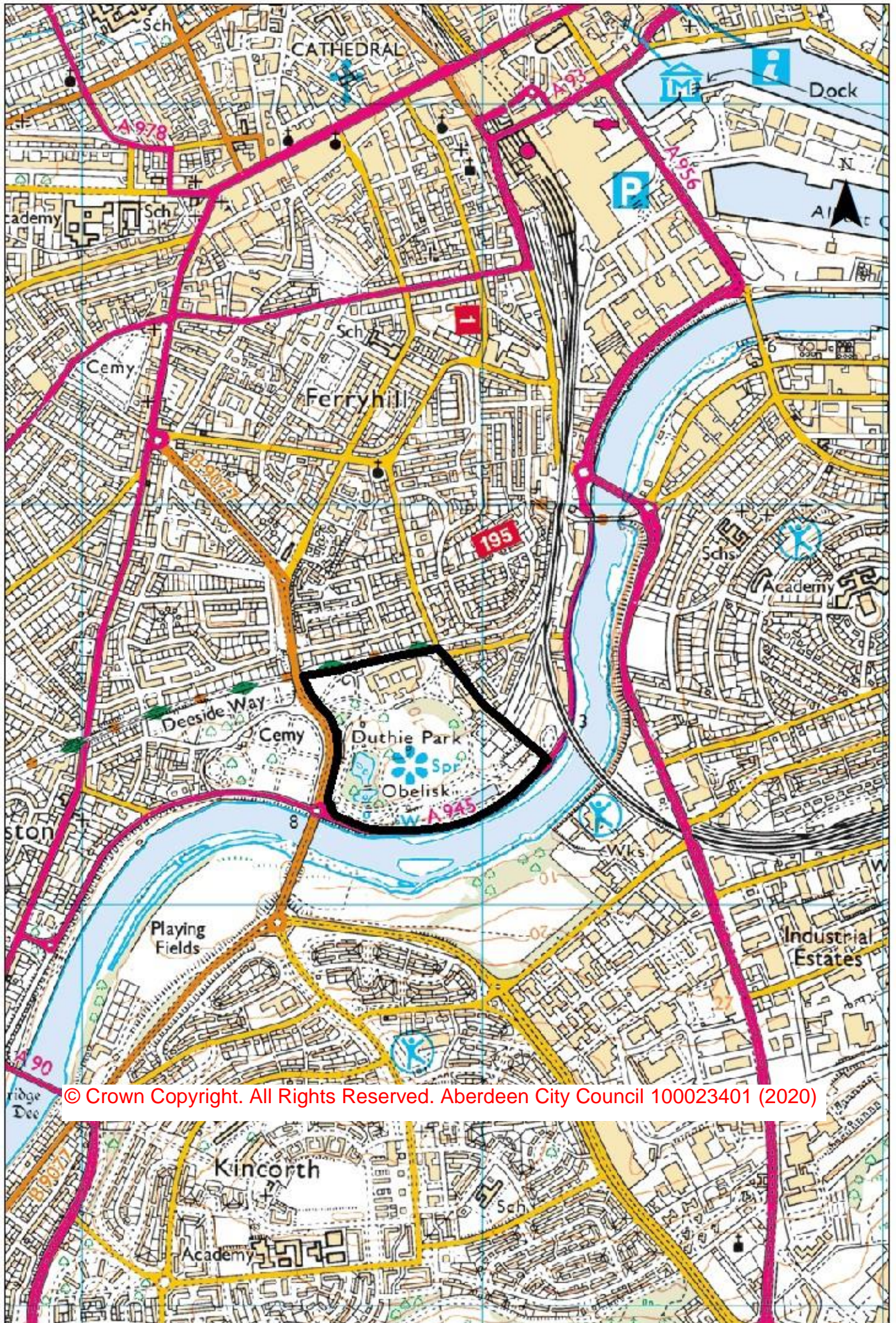
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Map 9 - Union Street Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme



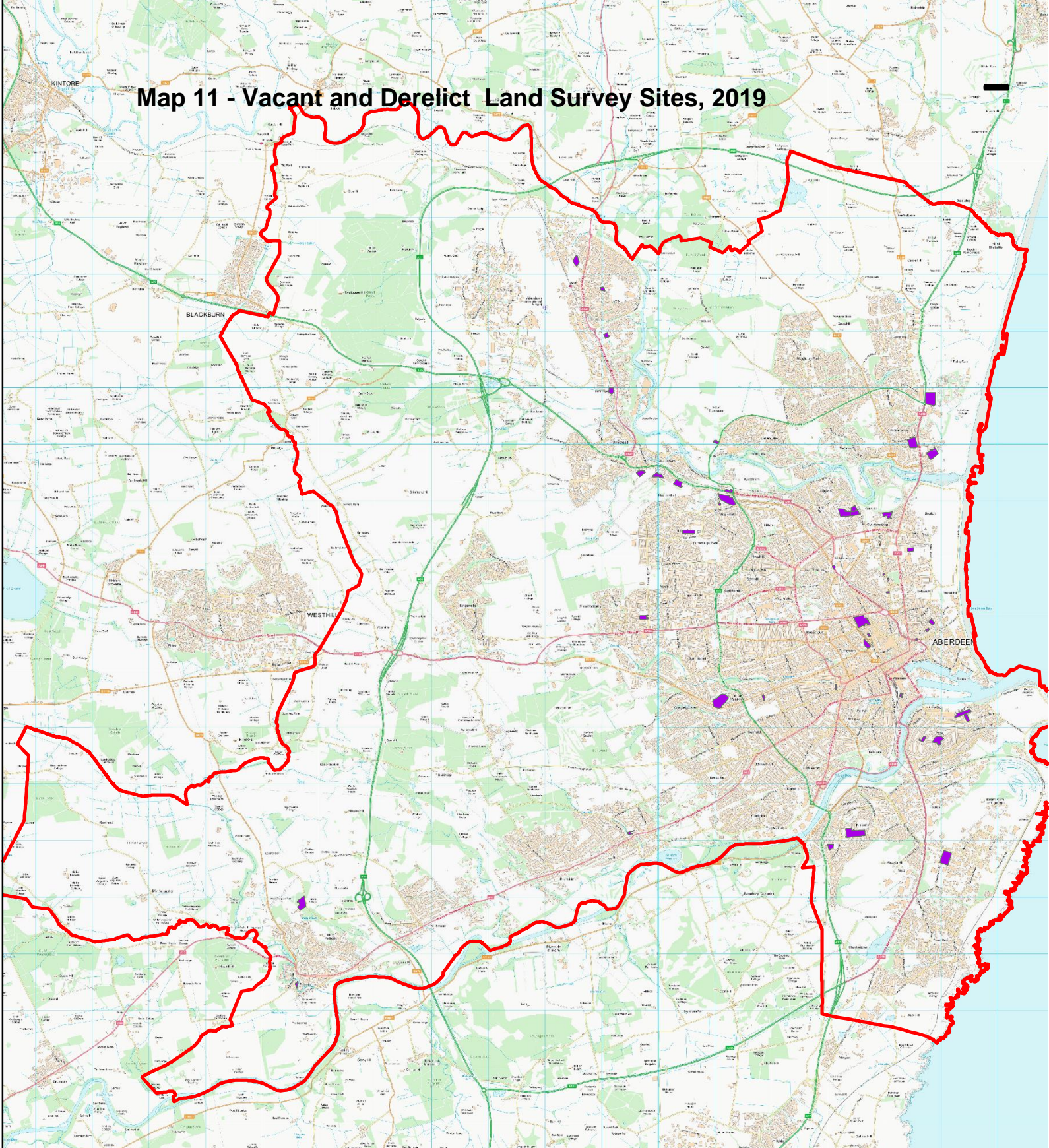
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Map 10 - Duthie Park Designed Landscape

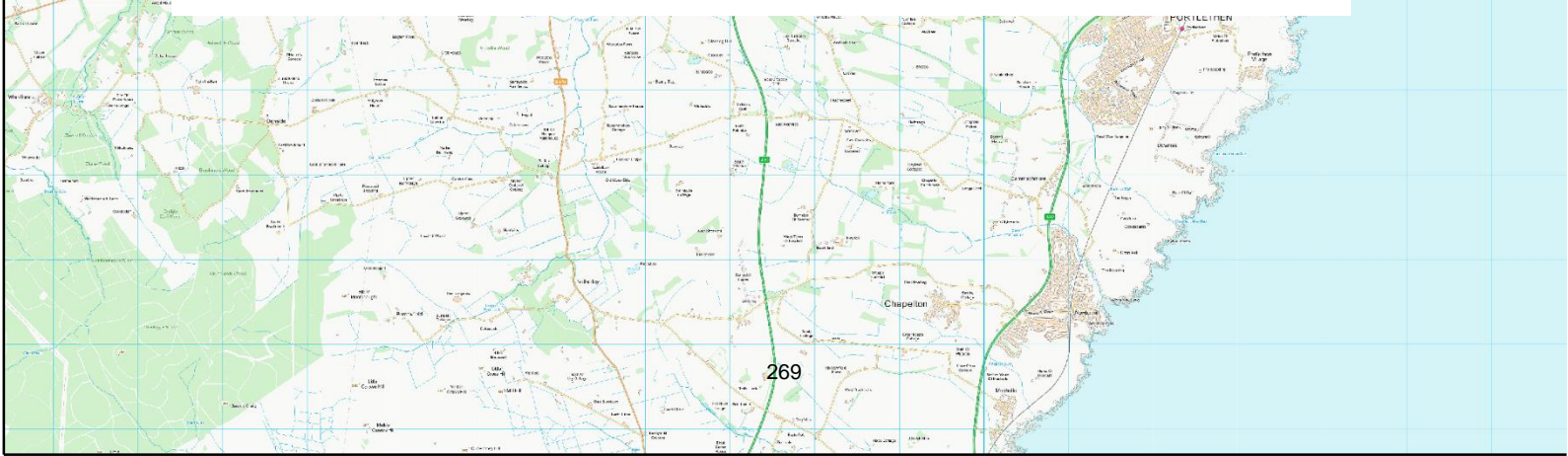


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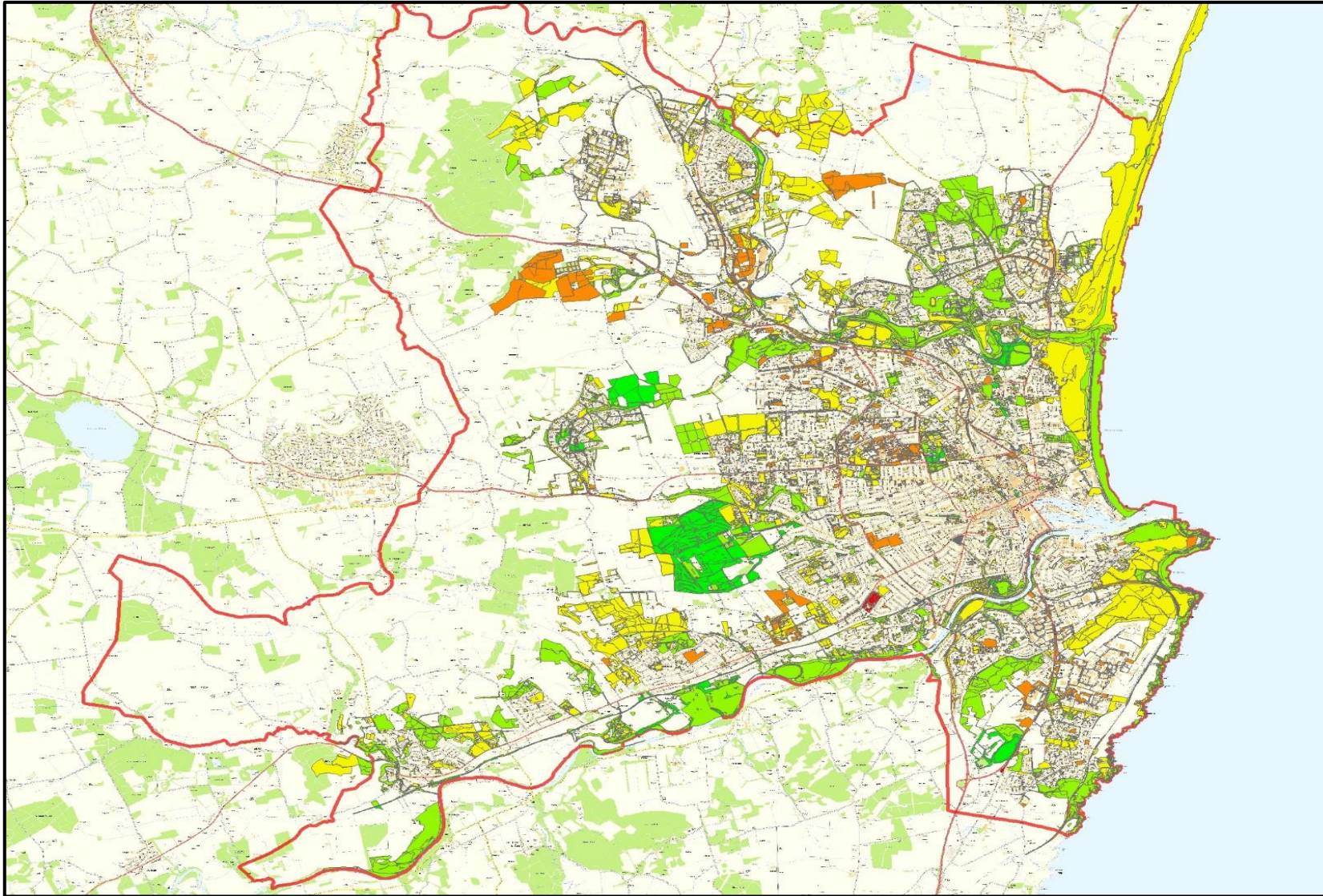
Map 11 - Vacant and Derelict Land Survey Sites, 2019



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Map 12 - Open Space Audit, 2012 - Quality of Open Spaces

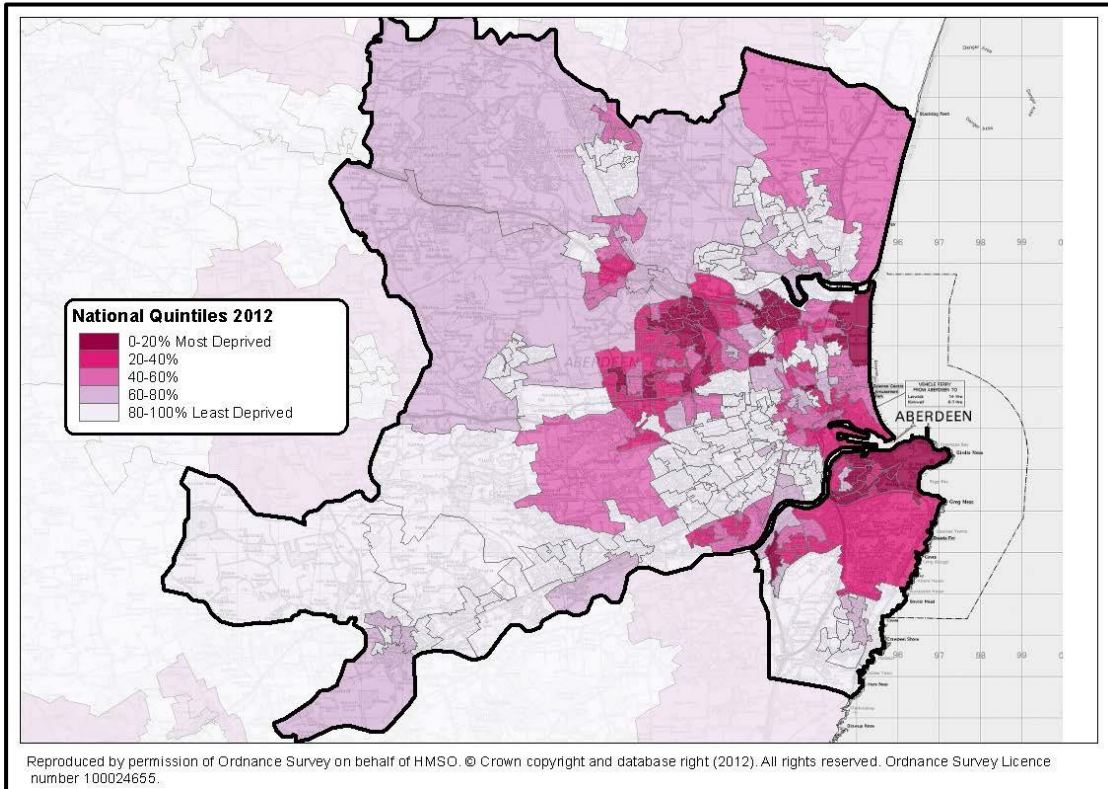


Green = high quality;
Red = low quality

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Map 13 - Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation: Aberdeen City datazones by National Quintile.
Source: SIMD 2012



Change in 15% Most Deprived Datazones between SIMD 2009 and SIMD 2012 in Aberdeen. Source: SIMD 2012

