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REPORT TO: Members' Library Service

MEETING DATE:

BY: Executive Director (Services for Communities)

SUBJECT: SESplan Proposed Plan – Ratification of Habitats
Regulations Appraisal Record

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To ratify the recommendation of the SESplan Joint Committee that the SESplan Proposed Plan, Record of Habitats Regulations Appraisal, should be approved and submitted to Scottish Ministers as part of the Proposed Plan's approval process.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council ratifies the decision of the SESplan Joint Committee of 29 June 2012 to approve the SESplan Proposed Plan Record of Habitats Regulations Appraisal, including Appropriate Assessment.

3 BACKGROUND

The Record of Habitats Regulations including the Appropriate Assessment

- 3.1 A Habitat Regulations Appraisal (HRA) of the SESplan Proposed Plan is mandatory under the Habitats Directive which, in Scotland, is governed by The Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994. The purpose of this HRA is to establish if the SESplan Proposed Plan policies and proposals could cause '*likely significant effects*' which could affect specific sites within and near to the SESplan area which form part of the Natura 2000 network.

- 3.2 These sites are designated for their qualifying interests which are the bird, other species or habitats for which the site is designated and are collectively known as European Sites. In particular, the HRA assesses whether there will be any likely significant effects on the conservation objectives for respective European Sites. If a likely significant effect is identified then an Appropriate Assessment must be undertaken to ascertain that there are no adverse effects on Natura site integrity
- 3.3 Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has been closely involved in the preparation of the HRA. SNH has confirmed that it is content with the Record of HRA, advising that SESplan has taken an appropriate approach to the HRA as it stands.
- 3.4 The HRA asserts that many of the policies and proposals contained in SESplan's Proposed Plan will not have a likely significant effect on the qualifying interests of any European Site, either individually or cumulatively. Those policies and proposals that were considered to have the possibility of causing significant effects were carried forward into the Appropriate Assessment.
- 3.5 The strategic housing land proposals within the East Coast Strategic Development Area (which includes part of East Lothian) were considered to have potential effects in terms of direct impact on designated sites, increased disturbance to wildlife, flooding and pollution. Strategic mitigation measures would involve avoidance of development within designated or associated sites (including foraging areas), strategic flood risk assessment, sustainable urban drainage systems and high quality greenspace within proposed residential developments with links into the green network. These will be matters for the East Lothian Local Development Plan to consider.
- 3.6 Consistent with HRA guidance, and in agreement with SNH, it has been asserted that further Appropriate Assessment will be required in lower-tier plans (i.e. Local Development Plans) where more specific detail will be available.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None at this stage, although there may be implications for the East Lothian Local Development Plan's strategy, policies and proposals and Appropriate Assessment of this Local Development Plan will be required.

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial - none
- 6.2 Personnel - none
- 6.3 Other - none

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 SESplan Proposed Plan, November 2011
- 7.2 Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record of Proposed Plan for SESplan, SESplan, March 2012 (attached)

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DATE	6 August 2012

SESplan

The Strategic Development Plan Authority for Edinburgh, East Lothian, Fife, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and West Lothian.

Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record of Proposed Plan for SESplan

March 2012

Contents

Glossary of Terms	3-5
Introduction	6-9
Methodology	10
Determination of need for appraisal	11
European Sites screened for likely significant effects	12-15
Discussion of likely significant effects	16-17
Screening for likely significant effects on a European Site	18-37
Aspects of SESplan Proposed Plan causing likely significant effects	38-52
Outcomes of screening process and appropriate assessment	52-57
Conclusions	58

Glossary of Terms

Included below is an explanation of a number of terms that are used within the HRA:

Adverse effect (on site integrity)

- *An effect on the qualifying interests of a European Site which is negative in terms of the achievement of the conservation objectives for that site. The following definition of the integrity of a site has been stated by the Scottish Government. The integrity of the site is “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”*

Appropriate assessment

- *Is one part of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal process. An appropriate assessment is only required where the plan-making body determines that the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site in Great Britain, or a European Offshore Marine Site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and the plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the conservation management of the site.*

Birds Directive

- *Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the European Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds*

Conservation objectives

- *These are set by SNH for each qualifying interest of each European Site and endorsed by the Scottish Government. They form the basis of, and are crucial to assessing the potential effects of plans and projects on European Sites. They should therefore ensure that the obligations of the directive are met.*

European Site

- *Defined by regulation 10 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994 (as amended), and may be summarised as follows: Special Protection Areas (SPA), classified under the Birds Directive, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), candidate Special Areas of Conservation both designated under the EC Habitats Directive 1992.*

Habitats Directive

- *EC Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.*

Habitats Regulations Appraisal/HRA

- *Is the whole procedure of plan appraisal, including deciding whether a plan is subject to Regulations; the ‘screening process’ for determining whether an ‘appropriate assessment’ is required; and the ‘appropriate assessment’ stage including consultation with SNH.*

Habitats Regulations

- *The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, (as amended) and also known as “the Regulations” or “the Habitats Regulations”, as the context requires. They transpose the Habitats Directive into domestic law.*

Likely Significant Effect(s) (LSEs)

- *The European Court of Justice judgement in case C-127/02 (the Waddenzee judgement) states that “...any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site is to be subject to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives if it cannot be*

excluded, on the basis of objective information, that it will have a significant effect on that site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects”.

A likely effect is one that cannot be ruled out on the basis of objective information. The test is a ‘likelihood’ of effects rather than a certainty of effects. Where a project is likely to undermine the site’s conservation objectives, it must be considered likely to have a significant effect on the site. The assessment of that risk must be made in the light, amongst other things, of the characteristics and specific environmental conditions of the site concerned.

Mitigation Measures

- *Measures to avoid cancel or reduce the effects of a plan on a European Site which should be proposed as part of the plan and which the plan-making body will take into account in the Habitats Regulations Appraisal.*

Natura 2000

- *The Europe-wide network of Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation, in all Member states, that is intended to provide protection for the bird species and assemblages in accordance with the Birds Directive, and for the species and habitats listed in Annexes 1 and 2 of the Habitats Directive.*

Priority Habitat

- *Certain habitats are marked with an asterisk (*) in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive, this indicates that special conservation measures are required to protect them because they are in danger of disappearance and for the conservation of which the EC has particular responsibility in view of the proportion of their natural range which falls in the EC area.*

Qualifying Interests

- *The habitats or species for which a site has been classified (SPA) or designated (SAC).*

Ramsar Site

- *A site listed as a wetland of international importance under the provisions of the ‘Ramsar Convention’. A Ramsar site is not a European Site as a matter of law, but all Ramsar sites in Scotland are also European Sites and/ or Sites of Special Scientific Interest and are protected under the relevant statutory regime.*

Scoping

- *‘Scoping’ is a term used to help to explain a part of the appraisal process. Scoping is not a statutory requirement, but it is recommended to help to ensure that the appropriate assessment is focused, fit for purpose, compliant and proportional, in other words ‘appropriate’*

Screening

- *‘Screening’ is a term that is used for convenience, to describe the initial stages of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal in the consideration of whether the policies and proposals of a plan are likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and should thus be subject to appropriate assessment. It is not a term used in either the Directive or Regulations*

Site condition

- *Site condition gives an indication of the conservation status of habitats and species at the site level. It is linked to the concept of 'favourable conservation status' which is defined in detail in Article 1 of the Habitats Directive; in summary, the conservation status is 'favourable' where all that is necessary to sustain the habitats or species in the long-term is in place (please refer to the detailed definitions in Article 1). In this HRA the site condition has been indicated in Appendix 2 European Site Details.*

Special Area of Conservation/SAC

- *An area designated, and afforded increased protection and management in respect of rare and vulnerable habitats and/or species under Articles 3-5 of the EC Habitats Directive. All SACs are European Sites and part of the Natura 2000 network.*

Special Protection Area/SPA

- *An area classified in respect of the protection and management of habitats which support (breeding, feeding, wintering or migration) rare and vulnerable bird species under Article 4 of the Birds Directive. All SPAs are European Sites and part of the Natura 2000 network.*

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The purpose of this Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) is to establish if the SESplan Proposed Plan policies could cause 'likely significant effects' (LSEs) which could affect specific sites within and near to the SESplan area which form part of the Natura 2000 network. These sites are designated for their qualifying interests which are the bird, other species, or habitats for which the site is designated; they are known collectively as European Sites. In particular the HRA assesses whether there will be likely significant effects on the conservation objectives for respective European Sites. If a likely significant effect is identified on the conservation objectives of a European Site, then an appropriate assessment is required to be undertaken which ascertains that there are no adverse effects on Natura site integrity or otherwise. This is to say whether the LSE(s) identified could affect "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 is classified"¹
- 1.2. For the SESplan Strategic Development Plan (SDP) to be approved by Scottish Ministers it must be shown that the Proposed Plan will not have any significant effects on the site integrity of any European Site. It should therefore be made explicit that this HRA is conducted for the policies of the Proposed Plan and it is the case that if there are subsequent changes to the Proposed Plan then re-assessment will need to take place.
- 1.3. This HRA has been directed by new advice, namely the Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans Guidance for Plan Making Bodies in Scotland², which has been produced by David Tyldesley and Associates and SNH. The Habitats Regulations advice has introduced a new process in completing HRA documents for Development Plans in Scotland. It is also the case that modernisation of planning under the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 has meant a change to the requirements in publishing Development Plans, this means that the SESplan Proposed Plan is the first south east Scotland Strategic Development Plan to be produced.
- 1.4. The sum of the new advice and the new requirement for a Strategic Development Plan mean that completing an HRA has been inherently complex in providing robust assessment of the LSEs on the conservation objectives of European Sites, and what might be adverse effects on site integrity. However the assessment has been carried out with continuous advice from SNH and the Scottish Government to make the conclusions as robust as possible.

Legislative and Policy Background

- 1.5. In 1992 the European Union governments adopted legislation, known as the Habitats Directive, to help conserve the most seriously threatened habitats and species across Europe³. The Habitats Directive complements the Birds Directive (1979) and

¹ Tyldesley and Associates, 2010, Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans Guidance for Plan Making Bodies in Scotland

² www.snh.gov.uk/docs/B698695.pdf

³ <http://www.natura.org/about.html>

the core of both Directives is the creation of a network of sites called Natura 2000. The Natura 2000 network is made up of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)⁴ and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)⁵. It is also the case that Ramsar wetland sites should be considered as part of the Natura 2000 network and protected under the relevant statutory regimes⁶. In the SESplan area all Ramsar sites are covered by SPAs and are considered as part of these designations.

- 1.6. In October 2005 the European Court of Justice ruled⁷ that Development Plans in the United Kingdom should be subject to assessment, in the same way as projects require assessment under Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive. These Articles require that:

“any plan or project, which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site, but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects shall be subject to an appropriate assessment”⁸

- 1.7. The above Directives are transposed into Scottish legislation by the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, (as amended)⁹.
- 1.8. In translating the above legislation into policy the Scottish Planning Policy (2010) states, in summary, that a plan, policy or strategy cannot be ratified unless it can be shown that there will be no adverse impacts on any European Site(s). This is the case unless:
- There are no alternative solutions; and
 - There are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature
- 1.9. In addition, in August 2010 an appendix to Planning Circular 1/2009 was published which provides guidance on the application of the Habitats Regulations. In summary it is stated that when submitting a proposed development plan to Scottish Ministers a HRA record should be included setting out:
- How the authority has determined that there is not likely to be a significant effect on a European Site (if that is the case); or
 - where a likely significant effect has been determined and an appropriate assessment has been undertaken, the conclusions reached and what action is proposed or has been taken to comply with the Habitats Regulations;
 - a copy of any relevant correspondence from SNH¹⁰

⁴ Classified by the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) Council Directive of 21st May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

⁵ Classified by the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds

⁶ Scottish Government (2010): 27.

⁷ Commission of the European Communities v United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Case C 6/04 in the second chamber of the European Court of Justice, judgement 20/10/2005

⁸ Tyldesley, D & Associates (2010), *Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans Guidance for Plan Making Bodies in Scotland Version 1.0*

⁹ Scottish Government (2010), Scottish Planning Policy

SESplan Proposed Plan and Habitats Regulations Appraisal

- 1.10. SESplan is a high level planning document which assesses and proposes strategic policies to affect the development issues in the Edinburgh city-region to 2032. The nature of many of the strategic policies means that they are general and this affects how much detail the HRA can feasibly include; in many cases the precise location, timing or design of policy proposals is not given, it is therefore the case that this affects the approach to undertake the Habitats Directive requirements for SESplan.
- 1.11. In line with the definition of “likely significant effect” given in the Habitats Regulations advice, and the legal interpretation of its meaning in the ECJ Waddenzee judgement, the precautionary principle has been applied and all effects identified are treated as being significant and are carried forward into the appropriate assessment. However it is considered that it is only possible to define whether there actually is a likely significant effect at a lower-tier plan level where there is further detail available.
- 1.12. It is therefore only at the Local Development Plan level where the detail of the policies will become available to allow a more detailed HRA. However, it is possible to ascertain no adverse effects on Natura site integrity by securing mitigation in a lower level plan (where they cannot be secured in detail in a higher level plan). In this situation it is helpful to indicate to Local Authorities what mitigation they should consider at a lower tier HRA to ensure that there are no adverse effects on European Site integrity.
- 1.13. The SESplan Proposed Plan HRA includes a number of steps:
- Determination of whether a HRA is required (p 11)
 - discussion on the identification of strategic level LSEs which certain Proposed Plan policies could cause (p 16-17)
 - screening process, this section determines which aspects of the SESplan Proposed Plan would and would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European Site either individually or in-combination; dependent on the decision policies are screened in or out (p20-30)
 - SESplan Proposed Plan policies are also considered against other Plans, Policies and Strategies (PPS) in an ‘external’ in-combination assessment. (p30-37)
 - the appropriate assessment, this provides the most detailed assessment possible of how LSEs identified may affect qualifying interests of European Sites and what strategic mitigation measures should be introduced to ensure there is no adverse effect on site integrity (p52-57)
 - conclusion which summarises the findings of the HRA and appropriate assessment (p58)

¹⁰Scottish Government (2009): 3, Planning Circular 1 2009 Development Planning: Appendix 1 The Habitats Regulations

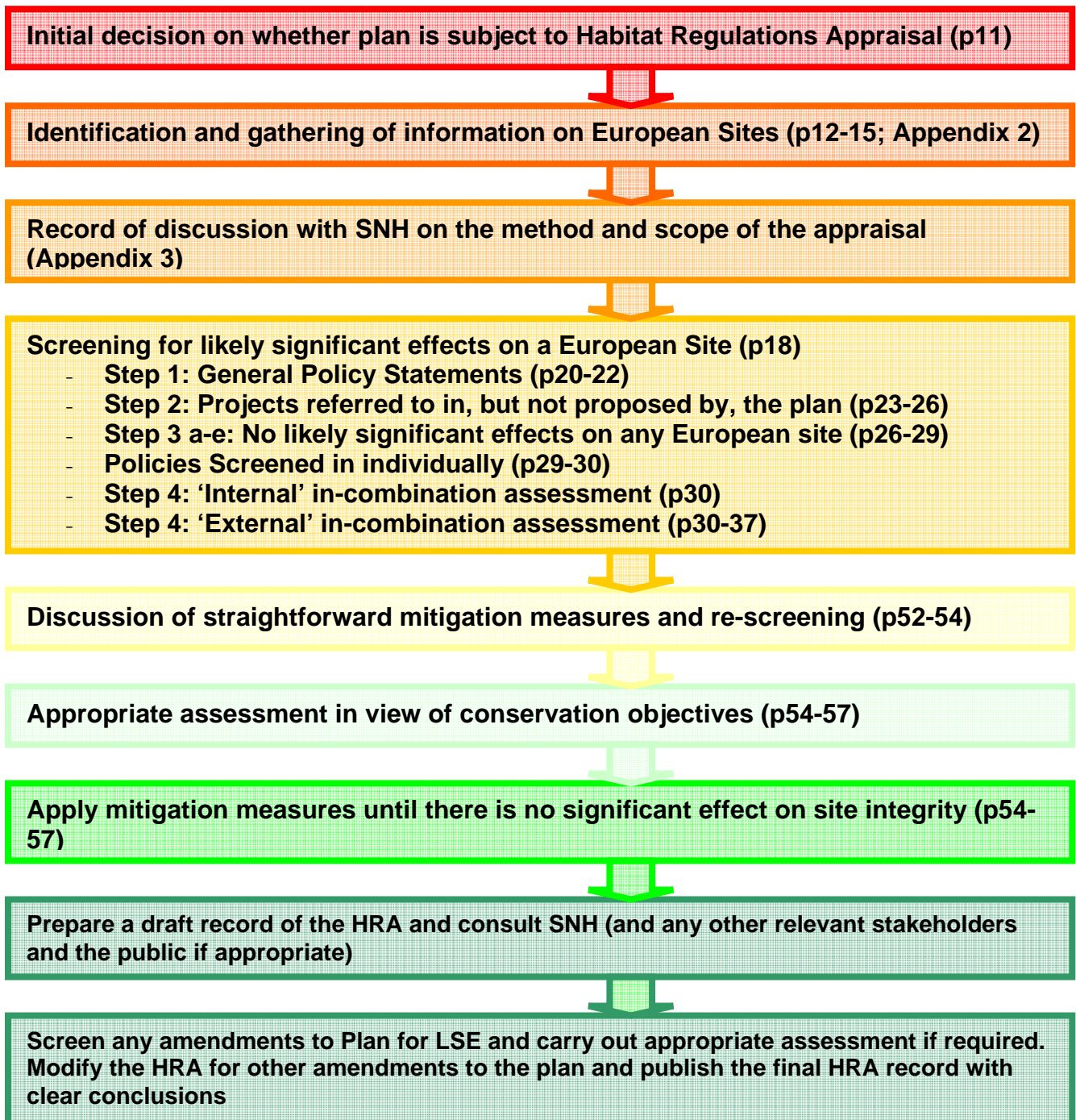
1.14. The appendices to the HRA include:

- A map of the European Sites which have been considered as a part of the assessment of the Proposed Plan policies (Appendix 1)
- a matrix which shows further detail about the European Sites, including factors currently affecting the sites and their vulnerabilities to change, that were identified as part of a 'baseline' to inform the HRA (Appendix 2)
- a record of discussion with SNH on agreements about how the HRA would be carried out (Appendix 3)

2. Methodology

2.1 The Tyldesley, HRA of Plans Guidance introduces a new methodology designed to help produce HRA and appropriate assessment documents for Development Plans. The Proposed Plan HRA therefore seeks to follow this guidance as far as possible. The steps in the guidance are shown in Figure 1 below, along with page numbers to show where this part of the assessment can be found in the main HRA/appropriate assessment report or HRA appendices.

Figure 1: Methodology Steps for Proposed Plan HRA



3. Is the SESplan Proposed Plan subject to Habitats Regulations Appraisal?

- 3.1 In accordance with the HRA of Plans Guidance, the first stage is to decide whether the Proposed Plan is subject to Habitats Regulations Appraisal. It can be established that the Proposed Plan **is** subject to HRA because it is not directly connected with or necessary to site management for nature conservation. It is also a 'strategic development plan' and as such a 'land-use plan'. Therefore appraisal of the effects of the Proposed Plan is required under Part IVA (regulations 85A-85E) of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 as amended.

4. European Sites Screened for LSE

4.1 Within the SESplan area there are a range of different types of natural environment which have been designated European Sites; within the plan boundary area there are 13 SACs, 10 SPAs (which cover 6 Ramsar sites). There are no proposed SACs, or proposed SPAs (or Ramsar sites) in the SESplan area. There is also a marine SAC; the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC.

4.2 Appendix 1 shows a map of all the European sites that were identified which could have been subject to possible LSEs from SESplan proposals.

4.3 The European Sites listed below were chosen to be the 'baseline' for assessment because a link/pathway could be identified between SESplan policies and the qualifying interests of the sites (and therefore a LSE on their conservation objectives). For all the other European Sites it was decided in discussion with SNH, that the SESplan policies had no link/pathway which could result in a LSE:

- Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC
- Blawhorn Moss SAC
- Firth of Forth SPA/Ramsar
- Forth Islands SPA
- Isle of May SAC
- River Teith SAC
- River Tweed SAC
- St Abb's to Fast Castle SAC
- St Abb's to Fast Castle SPA
- Whitlaw and Branxholme SAC

4.4 Appendix 2 shows the European Sites along with their: date of designation, location, qualifying interests, condition of qualifying interest, conservation objectives, Joint Nature Conservation Committee vulnerability statement summary (taken from UK SAC or SPA data forms)¹¹ and vulnerabilities to change (as provided by SNH). The information in Appendix 2 therefore forms the basis for the screening and subsequent appropriate assessment undertaken.

4.5 Table 1 lists the other European Sites considered with a justification as to why they are not considered to have a LSE on their conservation objectives from the Proposed Plan policies, either individually or in-combination.

¹¹ Joint Nature Conservation Committee homepage: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx>

Table 1 European Sites not included in 'baseline' for assessment	
European Site	Justification for non-inclusion
Black Loch Moss SAC	<p>The qualifying interests of the European site are Active and Degraded raised bogs.</p> <p>The Site is located west of the SESplan area in a remote part of North Lanarkshire. It is not considered there is any link/pathway from the Proposed Plan policies to the European Site.</p>
Borders Woods SAC	<p>The qualifying interests of the European site are Broad-leaved, mixed and yew woodland. These types of woodland are associated with rocky slopes.</p> <p>It is considered that there is no link/pathway to the European Site. This is particularly the case because development would not take place on or adjacent to the Site and it would not be affected by any material entering watercourses. It is not considered there is a risk from increased recreation.</p>
Cameron Reservoir SPA	<p>The qualifying interests of the European site are pink-footed geese.</p> <p>The site is located outwith the SESplan area in the north-east of Fife. It is considered that there is no link/pathway from the Proposed Plan policies on the European Site due to being remote from the SESplan area.</p>
Craigengar SAC	<p>The qualifying interests of the European site are grassland, heath and marsh habitats.</p> <p>It is considered that there is no link/pathway from the Proposed Plan policies to the European Site. Craigengar is located in a remote upland area of the Pentland Hills, out with any Strategic Development Areas and it is thought that any water would flow away from the site so there would be no possibility of material in water streams entering the Site or a significant change in recreational access</p>
Din-Moss Hoselaw Loch SPA	<p>The qualifying interests of the European site are Greylag and Pink-footed geese.</p> <p>Din-Moss and Hoselaw Loch are located in a remote area of the Borders out with the boundaries of any SDA. There is no possibility of any material entering the loch or affecting Din-Moss, as development will not be located on or adjacent to the site and there are no watercourses running to the site. Any increased recreational access will be at a non-significant level.</p>
Dogden Moss SAC	<p>The qualifying interest of the Site is Active Raised Bogs.</p> <p>Dogden Moss is located in a remote area of the Borders out with the boundaries of any Strategic Development Area (SDA) therefore there will be no development on or adjacent to the site. There is no possibility of material in watercourses affecting the site as it is at a fairly high level and the nearby burns flow away from the Site. It is not considered there is a risk from increased recreation.</p>
Greenlaw Moor SPA	<p>Greenlaw Moor is designated due to the population of Pink-footed Geese on site.</p> <p>The moor is located adjacently to Dogden Moss (above) in the Borders, therefore the same assessment applies.</p>

Langholm-Newcastleton Hills SPA	<p>The qualifying interest of the site is Hen Harriers.</p> <p>The Site is located out with the SESplan area just north of Langholm in Dumfries and Galloway. It is therefore considered that none of the Proposed Plan policies which could cause possible LSEs will give rise to any effects at the European Site. Any material entering the watercourses would flow east and the site has a high elevation in any case. It is not considered there is a risk from increased recreation.</p>
Loch Leven SPA	<p>The site is designated due to the presence of various species of bird: Pink-footed goose, shoveler, whooper swan and a waterfowl assemblage.</p> <p>The Site is located out with the SESplan area to the north. It is not considered that there is a link/pathway from the Proposed Plan policies on the European Site due to it being remote from the SESplan area.</p>
Moffat Hills SAC	<p>The site is designated due to types of heath, bogs, herbs and plants.</p> <p>The site is located out with the SESplan area to the south; in a remote, upland area of Dumfries and Galloway. It is not considered that there is a link/pathway from the Proposed Plan policies to the European Site due to it being remote from the SESplan area.</p>
Threepwood Moss SAC	<p>The qualifying interests of the site are Active and Degraded raised bogs.</p> <p>The Site is located in a remote part of the Borders out with any of the Strategic Development Areas; therefore there will be no development on or adjacent to the Site. It is also located in a location, to the north of the Central and Western SDAs, where it is not possible for any material in the watercourses to affect the Site (as the water flows east). It is not considered there is a risk from increased recreation.</p>
Fala Flow SPA	<p>Fala Flow is designated due to the population of Pink-footed Geese on Site.</p> <p>The Site is located in a remote, upland area of Midlothian out with any of the Strategic Development Areas therefore there is no possibility of development on or adjacent to the European Site. Given the upland nature of the Site it is not possible for material entering watercourses to cause any possible LSEs. It is not considered there is a risk from increased recreation.</p>
Gladhouse Reservoir SPA	<p>Gladhouse Reservoir is designated due to the population of Pink-footed Geese on Site.</p> <p>The Site is located in a remote, upland area of Midlothian out with any of the Strategic Development Areas; therefore there is no possibility of development on or adjacent to the European Site. Given the upland nature of the Site it is not possible for material entering watercourses to cause any possible LSEs. It is not considered there is a risk from increased recreation.</p>
Peeswit Moss SAC	<p>The qualifying interests of the site are Active and Degraded raised bogs.</p> <p>The Site is located in a remote, upland area of Midlothian out with any of the Strategic Development Areas; therefore there is no possibility of development on or adjacent to the European Site. Given the upland nature of the Site it is not possible for material entering watercourses to cause any possible LSEs. It is not considered there is a risk from increased recreation.</p>

Imperial Dock (Leith) SPA	<p>The qualifying interest of the site is the Common Tern.</p> <p>The Site is less than a hectare in size and is located at the waterfront in Leith, Edinburgh. Given the size and designation nature of the site there is no link/pathway from the Proposed Plan proposals on the European Site. It is not considered there is a risk from increased recreation. There is a significant amount of development proposed around the Imperial Dock SPA. However, this development is not proposed by SESplan and LSE have been ruled out by other previous HRAs (referenced in this HRA where appropriate).</p> <p>However, should SESplan be modified to take into account the review of proposals for Leith Docks, including the National Renewables Infrastructure Plan (NRIP) development and a revised Masterplan, this HRA would need to take this into account.</p>
All terrestrial European Sites in Northumberland	<p>For the European Sites located over the border in Northumberland it was considered that there was no link/pathway to the possibility of a LSE on the conservation objectives. It was considered that many of the designations on or adjacent to the Border were located in remote upland areas and therefore a link/pathway to the Proposed Plan policies could not be established.</p>

5. Likely Significant Effects

5.1 As stated the Proposed Plan is a high-level, strategic document and as a result of the general nature of the policies any assessment is at a strategic level. As a result the Proposed Plan has been examined and a list of factors which could result in likely significant effects has been identified.

5.2 In addition a list of possible likely significant effects on the conservation objectives of European Sites is also shown.

Factors from Proposed Plan policies which could cause Likely Significant Effects

- Development on or immediately adjacent to the intertidal/River Tweed area, including possible associated off-site effects such as erosion and deposition along the coast/river course
- Potential flooding as a result of new development (mobilisation of sediments/contaminants)
- Increased access to European Sites from inhabitants of new housing and users of new developments and sustainable transport links
- Development affecting adjacent feeding habitats i.e. fields or greenspace
- Waste water, sewage, pollutants and sediment entering watercourses due to development proposed

Possible Likely Significant Effects

- Permanent reduction in habitat area or species population
- Causing direct or indirect change to the physical quality of the environment (including hydrology) or habitat within the site
- Altering community structure (species composition)
- Causing a reduction in the resilience of a feature against external change (e.g. ability to respond to extremes of environmental conditions)
- Change to the coherence of the site or to the Natura 2000 series (e.g. increased fragmentation)
- Causing ongoing, or increased disturbance to species, or deterioration to a habitat, for which the site is notified
- Increasing the vulnerability of populations/habitats to additional impacts
- Causing direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site¹²

¹² English Nature, 1999, Habitats regulations guidance note. 3, 1-5

- 5.3 It is concluded that the 'Factors from Proposed Plan policies' could cause all of the 'Possible LSEs' in turn the 'Factors from Proposed Plan policies' and 'Possible LSEs' could affect all of the conservation objectives for both SACs and SPAs (these are the same for each respective Natura site type).
- 5.4 These 'Factors from Proposed Plan policies' and 'Possible LSEs' are used as a basis for consideration in the screening process that follows.

6. Screening for Likely Significant Effects on a European Site

6.1 Screening assesses whether the policies contained in the Proposed Plan will cause a likely significant effect. The Habitats Regulations advice states that “a likely effect is one that cannot be ruled out on the basis of objective information. The test is a ‘likelihood’ of effects rather than a certainty of effects”¹³. It is also stated in the advice that “Where a plan or project could undermine the site’s conservation objectives, the effects on the site must be considered to be significant”¹⁴. The Proposed Plan is assessed against the likely significant effects listed in paragraph 5.2 (p16 above), on the conservation objectives of European Sites. The screening has several stages:

- Screening in and out of Proposed Plan policies individually (p20-29);
- In-combination screening in and out of Proposed Plan policies (‘internal’) (p29-30);
- In-combination screening in and out of Proposed Plan policies and other PPS (‘external’) (p30-37)

6.2 The Habitats Directive requires that a plan is not considered for appropriate assessment solely as a standalone document; instead it must also be considered “in combination with other plans or projects”¹⁵, to assess whether cumulative LSE(s) on the conservation objectives of European Sites are created.

6.3 The Habitats Regulations advice states that there are a number of steps under which policies or proposals can be screened out individually as not having a LSE on European Sites. These steps are stated below:

- **Screening Step 1: General Policy Statements**
This is a policy which “sets out a strategic aspiration for the plan-making body for a certain issue”, general policy statements also include “general criteria based policies”, this is a policy which “expresses the tests or expectations of the plan-making body which it comes to consider particular proposals”
- **Screening Step 2: Projects referred to in, but not proposed by, the Plan**
SESplan refers to a number of projects which are proposed at a national level and policies which have been agreed at local authority level, for example projects from National Planning Framework 2 or the SEStran Regional Transport Strategy.
- **Screening Step 3: Elements of the Plan that could have no LSE on any European Site**
There are a variety of reasons why an element of the plan could have no LSE, the Tyldesley guidance provides a number of reasons which policies can be tested against and these are listed below:
 - a) **Intended to protect the natural environment**, including biodiversity, or to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a European Site;

¹³ Tyldesley, D & Associates (2010), Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans Guidance for Plan Making Bodies in Scotland Version 1.0

¹⁴ Tyldesley, D & Associates (2010), Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans Guidance for Plan Making Bodies in Scotland Version 1.0

¹⁵ Tyldesley, D & Associates (2010), Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans Guidance for Plan Making Bodies in Scotland Version 1.0

- b) **Which will not themselves lead to development or other change**, e.g. because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development or other kinds of change;
- c) **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;
- d) **Which make provision for change but which could have no significant effect** on a European site, because any potential effects would be trivial, or 'de minimis' or so restricted or remote from the site that they would not undermine the conservation objectives for the site;
- e) **For which effects on any particular European site cannot be identified, because the proposal is too general**, for example, it is not known where, when or how the proposal may be implemented, or where effects may occur, or which sites, if any, may be affected.

6.4 Due to the strategic nature of certain Proposed Plan policies there were areas that were difficult to screen. As a result certain policies have been presented differently in the screening then they appear in the Proposed Plan (the content has not been changed), these areas are shown below:

- Policy 5 Housing Land states that there is a need for 10,150 new homes to be identified in the period 2009-2024. The 10,150 homes are to be allocated in Local Development Plans within identified Strategic Development Areas (SDA); this is shown in Tables 3 and 4, of the Proposed Plan, which follow Policy 5. To simplify and clarify the screening process, it was decided to screen the housing figures by SDA, rather than as an overarching Policy 5. This was because it is possible that development at one SDA may cause a LSE, but development at another may not.
- Under the Housing Land Requirement section (but outwith any SESplan Proposed Plan policy) the locational strategy for the period 2024-2032 is mentioned; a figure of 24,050 units covering the whole SESplan area. The locational strategy "indicates the possible scale of housing land up to 2032, the location of which will be broadly in accordance with the Spatial Strategy"¹⁶. Due to the general nature of the locational strategy it was decided to screen it separately from the housing proposals.
- Under the descriptive text for the SDAs South East Edinburgh, A7/A68/ Borders Rail Corridor and A701 Corridor there is mention of additional employment land provision. It was thought most practical to screen this by SDA, rather than as a part of Policy 2 Supply and Location of Employment Land. This is because development of one area of employment land may cause an LSE but development at another may not.

6.5 It is the case that if a policy or proposal is screened out individually (in Table 2 below) then it is not necessary for that policy or proposal to then be considered for cumulative effects either "internally" (Table 3 below) or "externally" (Table 4 below). This is because the individual assessment for the policy/proposal has concluded no

¹⁶ SESplan Proposed Plan, Spatial Strategy 2012: 9

significant effect on a European Site and therefore it is not possible for a cumulative effect to arise.

6.6 The screening of the Proposed Plan policies individually is shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2 Screening aspects of the SESplan Proposed Plan for Likely Significant Effects on a European Site (individual)		
Screening Step	Section of Proposed Plan	Screening Decision
Step 1: General Policy Statements	<p>THE VISION By 2032, the Edinburgh City Region is a healthier, more prosperous and sustainable place which continues to be internationally recognised as an outstanding area in which to live, work and do business.</p> <p>THE AIMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enable growth in the economy by developing key economic sectors, acting as the national hub for development and supporting local and rural development. - Set out a strategy to enable delivery of housing requirements to support growth and contribute to meeting housing need in the most sustainable locations. - Integrate land use and transport, reduce the need to travel and cut carbon emissions by steering new development to the most sustainable locations. - Conserve and enhance the natural and built environment. - Promote green networks including through increasing woodland planting to increase competitiveness, enhance biodiversity and create more attractive, healthy places to live. - Promote the development of urban brownfield land for appropriate uses. - Promote the provision of improved infrastructure to enhance connectivity within the area, between the area and other parts of the UK and elsewhere to support economic growth and meet the needs of communities. - Contribute to the response to climate change through mitigation and adaptation and promote high quality design/development. <p>Policy 1A THE SPATIAL STRATEGY; DEVELOPMENT LOCATIONS The Spatial Strategy of this Strategic Development Plan builds on existing committed development and...identifies the following five Sub Regional Areas;</p>	The Vision, Aims and Policies listed are general policy statements and as a result can be Screened out .

- The Regional Core;
- East Coast;
- Fife Forth;
- Midlothian/Borders; and
- West Lothian.

Local Development Plans will direct further strategic development to the following Strategic Development Areas;

- West Edinburgh;
- South East Edinburgh;
- Edinburgh City Centre;
- Edinburgh Waterfront;
- East Lothian;
- Eastern Borders;
- North Dunfermline;
- Ore/Upper Leven Valleys;
- A7/A68/ Borders Rail Corridor (Midlothian);
- A701 Corridor (Midlothian);
- Central Borders;
- Western Borders; and
- West Lothian.

Local Development Plans will indicate the phasing and mix of uses as appropriate to secure the provision and delivery of infrastructure to accommodate development. Any areas of restraint necessary as a result of environmental and infrastructure constraints will be identified and justified in Local Development Plans.

**POLICY 1B- THE SPATIAL STRATEGY:
DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES**

- Ensure there are no significant adverse impacts on the integrity of international, national and local designations, in particular, National Scenic Areas, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, SSSI and AGLV and any other Phase 1 habitats or European Protected Species;
- Ensure that there are no significant adverse impacts on the integrity of international and national built or cultural heritage sites in particular World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Royal Parks and Sites listed in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes;
- Have regard to the need to improve the quality of life in local communities by conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment to create more healthy and attractive places to live;

- Contribute to the response to climate change, through mitigation and adaptation; and
- Have regard to the need for high quality design, energy efficiency and the use of sustainable building materials.

Policy 2 Supply and Location of Employment Land

The Strategic Development Plan supports the development of a range of marketable sites of the size and quality to meet the requirements of business and industry within the SESplan area. LDPs will support the retention of the quantity of the established strategic employment land supply as identified below:

Sub Regional Area	HA
Regional Core	250
East Coast	100
Fife Forth	450
Midlothian/Borders	100
West Lothian	150

Policy 3- Town Centres and Retail

LDPs will;

- a) Identify town centres and commercial centres clearly setting out their roles;
- b) Support and promote the network of centres...and identify measures necessary to protect these centres including setting out the criteria to be addressed when assessing development proposals; and
- c) Promote a sequential approach to the selection of locations for retail and commercial leisure proposals. Any exceptions identified through Local Development Plans should be fully justified

Policy 4- Minerals

Local Development Plans will;

- a) Review the need to identify areas of search for aggregate minerals and coal, or, where appropriate, specific sites, having regard to national guidance and other environmental objectives of the Strategic Development Plan;
- b) Set out the criteria to be addressed when assessing individual proposals, including restoration and enhancement;
- c) Safeguard mineral resources from sterilisation where the deposits are of a sufficient scale or

	<p>quality to be of potential commercial interest and their extraction is technically feasible and may be carried out in a way that is environmentally and socially acceptable. The need for safeguarding should be considered alongside the development strategy for the area; and</p> <p>d) Support and encourage the use of secondary and recycled aggregates.</p>	
<p>Step 2: Projects referred to in but not proposed by the plan</p>	<p>Regional Core (p12-17)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed/ongoing development of Haymarket and Waverley - Phases 1A, 1B, 1C and 3 of Tram Network - North Edinburgh Transport Action Plan - Millerhill Waste Management Facility* - Renewable Energy proposals in Leith - Edinburgh Airport enhancements - West Edinburgh Planning Framework proposals - Edinburgh orbital bus route and expansion of park and ride sites - Bioquarter Science park - Upgrading of Sheriffhall Roundabout <p>East Coast (p13-16)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvements to A1 - Work at Old Craighall junction and merge and interchange capacity at Wallyford, Dolphinston and Bankton - New station at Reston <p>Fife Forth (p16-18)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diageo bottling facility - Energy Park Fife 	<p>The projects listed are mentioned in SESplan but they are proposed by the plans listed adjacently, and will be subject to environmental assessment, including Habitats Regulations Appraisal, at that level.</p> <p>Screened out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (- Network Rail) (- City of Edinburgh Council (*and Midlothian Council) (- National Renewables Infrastructure Plan) (- BAA) (- Scottish Government) (- SEStran) (- Edinburgh Bioquarter) (- Transport Scotland) (- Transport Scotland) (-Scottish Borders Council/ SEStran) (- Diageo) (- Fife Council)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Levenmouth rail link - Upgrading Redhouse Roundabout and provision of a western distributor road at Dunfermline - Passenger rail between Alloa and Dunfermline - Forth replacement crossing (including light-rail linking Dunfermline to the new crossing) - Hovercraft and ferry crossings - International Container Terminal at Rosyth Midlothian/Borders - Easter Bush Research Consortium - New community at Redheugh - Borders Railway and extension to Carlisle - Improvements to key routes A68, A7, A72, A701, A703, A698 & A699 - Selkirk bypass - Galashiels transport interchange* - Flood schemes at Galashiels, Hawick and Selkirk West Lothian - A801 Avon Gorge improvement - New rail station at Winchburgh - Park and ride and bus priority on M8 Housing: Strategic Development Area: Central Edinburgh (0 housing units) Housing: Strategic Development Area: Edinburgh Waterfront (0 housing units) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fife Council/SEStran) (- Transport Scotland) (- SEStran) (- Scottish Government) (- Easter Bush Research Consortium) (- Midlothian Council) (- Transport Scotland) (- Respective local authorities *and Transport Scotland) (- Falkirk and West Lothian Council) (- SEStran) (- Transport Scotland) SESplan does not propose any development at either SDA; however both areas have significant levels of housing committed under the relevant City of Edinburgh Council Local Plans. It should be noted that Edinburgh Waterfront (and Edinburgh Harbour) has been subject to previous HRA and Appropriate Assessment that concluded no adverse effect on European Site integrity from proposed development (<i>City of Edinburgh Council & BMT Cordah, Appropriate Assessment for Edinburgh Harbour Amended Version:</i>
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	<p>Policy 10 Sustainable Energy Technologies</p> <p>The SDP seeks to promote sustainable energy sources. LDPs will;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Support the future development and associated infrastructure requirements of Logannet and Cockenzie Power Stations in relation to their role as non nuclear, base load capacity generators, Energy Park Fife at Methil, developments connected with offshore renewable energy in Leith and Rosyth; and b) Set a framework for the encouragement of renewable energy proposals, taking into account relevant economic, social, environmental and transport considerations <p>Policy 11- Delivering the Green Network</p> <p>The Strategic Development Plan supports the creation of a strategic Green Network (CSGN) including the Central Scotland Green Network and the Scottish Borders Green Network. Local Development Plans will identify opportunities to contribute to the development and extension of the Green Network and mechanisms through which they can be delivered.</p> <p>Policy 14- Waste Management and Disposal</p> <p>Local Development Plans will;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Encourage proposals for the recycling and recovery of waste where the proposal is in accordance with the Zero Waste Plan, taking into account relevant economic, social, environmental and transport considerations; b) Consider proposals for landfill development where the need for the facility is supported by the Zero Waste Plan and SEPA Landfill Capacity Reports, and taking into account relevant economic, social, environmental and transport considerations; and c) Safeguard Easter Langlee, Millerhill Marshalling Yards, Oxwellmains and Westfield as sites for waste treatment facilities 	<p><i>2009 & Environmental Report for the Edinburgh City Local Plan, Part 6 Assessment of the Local Plan Under the Habitats Directive and Regulations 2007: 53-56)</i></p> <p>Screened out</p> <p>(- Proposed by National Renewables Infrastructure Plan, Scottish Government, Fife Council.)</p> <p>(- Scottish Government)</p> <p>(Part C) - Fife Council, Midlothian Council and Scottish Borders Council)</p>
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<p>Step 3a Intended to protect the natural environment</p>	<p>Policy 12- Green Belts LDPs will define and maintain Green Belts around Edinburgh and to the south west of Dunfermline for the following purpose to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Maintain the identity and character of Edinburgh and Dunfermline and their neighbouring towns, and prevent coalescence unless otherwise justified by the LDP settlement strategy; b) Maintain the landscape setting of these settlements; and c) Provide opportunities for access to open space and the countryside. <p>LDPs will define Green Belt boundaries to conform to these purposes, ensuring that the strategic growth requirements of the Strategic Development Plan can be accommodated. Opportunities for contributing to the CSGN proposals should also be identified. LDPs should define the types of development appropriate within Green Belts.</p> <p>Policy 13- Other Countryside Designations Local Development Plans should review and justify additions or deletions to other countryside designations fulfilling a similar function to those of the Green Belt as appropriate. Opportunities for contributing to the Green Network proposals should also be identified in these areas.</p> <p>Policy 15- Water and Flooding Local Development Plans will;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Identify areas of flood risk and priority flood schemes to assist in the reduction of overall flood risk; b) Avoid any new development in areas at medium to high flood risk and safeguard areas which will help contribute to reducing overall flood risk; and c) Make provision to prevent deterioration of the water environment resulting from new development, and where appropriate promote enhancement of the water environment. 	<p>These policies are intended to conserve/enhance biodiversity or the natural environment and therefore any possible LSE would not be negative. Screened out.</p>
<p>Step 3b Which will not themselves lead to development or other change</p>		

<p>Step 3c Provision for change but could have no conceivable effect on a European Site</p>	<p>Housing: Strategic Development Area: South East Edinburgh (1450 housing units) Employment Land: South East Edinburgh (20ha)</p> <p>Housing: A7/A68/Borders Rail Corridor (1250 housing units) Employment Land: A7/A68/Borders Rail Corridor (10ha)</p> <p>Housing: A701 Corridor (750 housing units) Employment Land: A701 Corridor (15ha)</p>	<p>It was decided with SNH that there was no link/pathway between the proposals and the conservation objectives of a European Site from the development proposed in South East Edinburgh. Screened out.</p> <p>There was no link from a LSE on any European Site from the proposed housing or the employment land provision. Screened out.</p>
<p>Step 3d Provision for change but which could have no significant effect as change would be trivial</p>	<p>(N.B the SESplan HRA does not screen out any proposals at this stage)</p>	<p>It is not considered that there are any trivial or de minimis policies from the SESplan Proposed Plan.</p>
<p>Step 3e Effects on any particular European Site cannot be identified, because the proposal is too general</p>	<p>Policy 6- Housing Land Flexibility Local Planning Authorities may consider re-phasing the allocations specified for the Strategic Development Areas over the periods 2009-2019 and 2019-2024 identified in Policy 5 and Tables 3 and 4 to bring forward the 2019-2024 requirement to the earlier 2009-2019 period where there is justification to meet local needs or development would meet community regeneration objectives. LDPs will identify the relevant criteria.</p> <p>Policy 7- Housing Land Development Outwith Strategic Development Areas Greenfield proposals outwith the identified Strategic Development Areas will not be supported except those identified through Local Development Plans and where they satisfy all of the following criteria; a) Development is small scale and in keeping with the character of the settlement and local area; b) Development will not undermine Green Belt objectives; and c) Any additional infrastructure required as a result of the development is either committed or</p>	<p>Policy 6 only refers to Local Planning Authorities having the option to re-phase housing allocations. No specific location for this is given and therefore it is possible to conclude no LSE on a European Site. Screened out</p> <p>No specific location for small-scale development or detail on what the development might be is given and therefore it is possible to conclude no LSE on a European Site. Screened out</p>

	<p>to be funded by the developer</p> <p>Policy 8- Transportation The Strategic Development Plan Authorities in collaboration with Transport Scotland and SEStran will support and promote the development of a sustainable transport network. Local Development Plans will;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure that major development is directed to locations that support travel by public transport, foot and cycle; b) Ensure that new development minimises the generation of additional car traffic, including through the application of mode share targets and car parking standards that relate to public transport accessibility; and c) Relate density and type of development to public transport accessibility <p>Policy 9- Infrastructure The Strategic Development Plan identifies through its Action Programme infrastructure required to deliver the development of the Strategy. Local Development Plans will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Safeguard land to accommodate the necessary infrastructure including transport required to deliver the Strategic Development Plan as set out on figure 3 and in the accompanying Action Programme; b) In consultation with developers and infrastructure providers, give consideration to phasing of development in connection with the provision of supporting infrastructure; and c) Link developer contributions to the delivery of infrastructure, and promote the use of alternative delivery mechanisms. <p>Housing: Development outwith SDAs (Fife) (800 housing units)</p> <p>Housing: Development outwith SDAs (Borders) (50 housing units)</p> <p>Housing: Locational Strategy 2024-2032 (23,950 housing units)</p>	<p>No specific location for development or detail on what the development might be is mentioned in the policy and therefore it is possible to conclude no LSE on a European Site. Screened out.</p> <p>No specific location for the safeguarding of land for infrastructure or the phasing of this land, or any detail on what type of infrastructure is given and therefore it is possible to conclude no LSE on a European Site. Screened out.</p> <p>The two housing proposals do not give a specific site and therefore it is possible to conclude no LSE on a European Site. Screened out.</p> <p>The Locational Strategy is screened out because the proposal does not give a specific location and therefore no LSE on a European Site can be established Screened out.</p>
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Policies Not Screened out under any step above	Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Lothian SDA (2009-2019, 500 houses; 2019-2024, 1250) • West Edinburgh SDA (2009-2019, 1000; 2019-2024, 1000) • East Lothian SDA (2019-2024, 750) • North Dunfermline SDA (2019-2024, 500) • Ore/Leven Valley SDA (2019-2024, 500) • Central Borders SDA (2019-2024, 200) • Eastern Borders SDA (2019-2024, 50) • Western Borders SDA (2019-2024, 100) 	The respective SDAs could not be screened out under any of the steps above. Screened in for LSE.
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'Internal' In-combination Assessment Screening

Step 4: Table 3 'Internal in-combination screening: Proposed Plan policies/proposals		
Policies	Justification	Screening Decision
Strategic Development Areas against Strategic Development Areas West Edinburgh South east Edinburgh Central Edinburgh Edinburgh Waterfront East Lothian Eastern Borders North Dunfermline Ore/Leven Valley Development outwith SDAs (Fife) A7/A68/Borders Rail A701 Corridor Central Borders Western Borders Development outwith SDAs (Borders)	It was considered that two combinations of SDAs could result in cumulative LSEs, these are listed below: 1.) West Edinburgh East Lothian North Dunfermline Ore/Leven Valley West Lothian; And 2.) Eastern Borders Western Borders Central Borders The possibility of cumulative LSEs from the combination of SDAs in Group 1, and in Group 2 is discussed in more detail in Table 5 below (p42-43).	IN

West Lothian	Any other combination of SDAs would not result in cumulative Likely Significant Effects due to geographical location and the subsequent impossibility of a link/pathway being established.	OUT
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‘External’ in-combination screening

6.7 Table 4 shows the results of the ‘external’ in-combination screening assessment, which is where the Proposed Plan policies are assessed against other Plans Policies and Strategies (PPS) for the possibility of cumulative LSEs on the conservation objectives of European Sites.

6.8 It was found that there is a large number of ‘external’ PPS that would have to be considered as part of the in-combination assessment. This was particularly the case when considering cumulative LSEs on the conservation objectives of the Firth of Forth SPA and other European Sites in the vicinity such as River Teith SAC, Forth Islands SPA and the Isle of May SAC. As a result Tables 4 and 5 list all the external documents that were considered and other relevant proposals that were identified through a Firth of Forth SPA HRA workshop (further detail of the workshop is contained in Appendix 3 Record of Discussion). These external documents and proposals were agreed upon in consultation with SNH.

6.9 It is stated in the Habitats Guidance that an external in-combination assessment is necessary to show that there will not be cumulative LSEs on any European Sites. However in attempting the external in-combination screening assessment there have been limitations exposed, these are listed below:

- The strategic nature of many of the Proposed Plan policies means that combining them with other PPS, particularly other strategic PPS, does not lead to a robust assessment due to the level of uncertainty in policy detail; and
- The number of external PPS that have to be assessed (around 40 policies) for possible cumulative LSEs on the Firth of Forth SPA is very complex, aside from the lack of detail in the Proposed Plan and other external policies, it is a highly technical task to decide what the cumulative LSEs on the qualifying interests are

Step 4: Table 4 'External' in-combination screening assessment of SESplan policies and proposals for LSE		
Policies	Justification	Screening Decision
<p>Strategic Development Areas where cumulative LSEs were identified (Group 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Edinburgh • North Dunfermline • Ore/Leven Valley • East Lothian • West Lothian <p>'External' documents</p> <p>NPF2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forth Replacement Crossing • Enhanced Facilities at Edinburgh Airport • Rosyth Multi-modal container terminal • West Edinburgh Planning Framework • Grangemouth Transport Freight Hub • Provide for new non-nuclear base load capacity at other existing power station sites 	<p>The proposals listed are the only proposals from NPF2 where possible cumulative LSEs on the conservation objectives of European Sites in the SESplan area (Firth of Forth SPA, Forth Islands SPA, River Teith SAC and Isle of May SAC) was identified.</p>	<p>IN</p>

<p>National Renewables Infrastructure Plan- Stage 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Park Fife, Methil • Leith Docks (offshore wind turbine assembly) • Burntisland (offshore wind turbine assembly) 	<p>The proposals listed are the only proposals from the National Renewables Infrastructure Plan- Stage 1 where possible cumulative LSEs on the conservation objectives of European Sites in the SESplan area (Firth of Forth SPA, Forth Islands SPA, River Teith SAC and Isle of May SAC) were identified. <i>* If there is a change to the Proposed Plan so that SESplan is promoting the NRIP then this assessment will change.</i></p>	
<p>Falkirk Local Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal TR.BNS4; Forth Foreshore Path • Proposal ED.GRA1; Kineil Kerse (safeguarding of site for Petrochemical industry) • Proposals ED.GRA 2-4 Grangemouth Docks • Proposals ED.BNS02; Bo'ness foreshore 	<p>The proposals listed were the only proposals from the Falkirk Local Plan where possible cumulative LSEs on the conservation objectives of European Sites in the SESplan area (Firth of Forth SPA, Forth Islands SPA, River Teith SAC and Isle of May SAC) were identified.</p>	<p>IN</p>
<p>Mid-Fife Local Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bur04; Burntisland Docks East • KDY37; Kirkcaldy East Strategic Land Allocation • KDY38; Kirkcaldy South West Strategic Land Allocation • KDY39; Inveriel • KDY63; Kirkcaldy Esplanade • MET12; Methil Power Station 	<p>The proposals listed were the only proposals from the Mid-Fife Local Plan where possible cumulative LSEs on the conservation objectives of European Sites in the SESplan area (Firth of Forth SPA, Forth Islands SPA, River Teith SAC and Isle of May SAC) were identified.</p>	<p>IN</p>

<p><i>Dunfermline and West Fife Local Plan</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABD001; School Aberdour • CUL001; Blackadder Haven, Culross • DGB006; Hillend/Donibristle Industrial Estate • INV008; Cruicks Quarry, Inverkeithing • LWD006; Logannet Power Station West; • LWD007; Logannet Power Station East; • (Part)LWD019; Comrie Colliery, Nr Blairhall; • LWD018; Replacement Forth Crossing Landfall and Junction 	<p>The proposals listed were the only proposals from the Dunfermline and West-Fife Local Plan where possible cumulative LSEs on the conservation objectives of European Sites in the SESplan area (Firth of Forth SPA, Forth Islands SPA, River Teith SAC and Isle of May SAC) were identified.</p>	<p>IN</p>
<p><i>St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LW416; Crail Airfield 	<p>Proposal LW416 Crail Airfield was the only part of the St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan where possible cumulative LSEs on the conservation objectives of European Sites in the SESplan area (Firth of Forth SPA, Forth Islands SPA River Teith SAC and Isle of May SAC) were identified.</p>	<p>IN</p>
<p><i>Edinburgh Local Plan</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WAC 1b; Leith Docks 	<p>The proposals listed were the only proposals from the Edinburgh Local Plan</p>	<p>IN</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WAC 2; Granton Waterfront • (Part) Policy TRA 12; Cycle and Footpath Network • TRA 14; Port and Ferry Terminals • ECON10 Port Edgar Redevelopment <p><i>East Lothian Local Plan</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New housing policies • Policy TOUR1 Archerfield Estate, Dirleton (Renaissance golf course) • Policy BUS 3 Dunbar Harbours • Policy NRG 2 Torness Consultation Zone <p><i>West Lothian Local Plan</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy CDA7- Armadale • Policy CDA8- Winchburgh and East Broxburn • Policy CDA9 West Livingston/Mossend and Calderwood • Policy TRAN 29 and 30- Land Safeguarded for strategic road schemes 	<p>where possible cumulative LSEs on the conservation objectives of European Sites in the SESplan area (Firth of Forth SPA, Forth Islands SPA, River Teith SAC and Isle of May SAC) were identified.</p> <p>The proposals listed were the only proposals from the East Lothian Local Plan where possible cumulative LSEs on the conservation objectives of European Sites in the SESplan area (Firth of Forth SPA, Forth Islands SPA, River Teith SAC and Isle of May SAC) were identified.</p> <p>The proposals listed were the only proposals from the West Lothian Local Plan where possible cumulative LSEs on the conservation objectives of European Sites in the SESplan area (Firth of Forth SPA, Forth Islands SPA, River Teith SAC and Isle of May SAC) were identified.</p>	<p>IN</p> <p>IN</p>
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<p><i>Stirling Local Plan</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal ED1(8) Bandeath • Policy C4- Recreation on Lochs and Rivers • Policy ED4- Local Employment Sites • Policy ED8- Fish Farming • Housing Proposals <p><i>Stirling Local Development Plan (LDP)- Proposed Plan (not finalised)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing proposals in combination Buchlyvie, Kippen, Manor Powis, Plean, Stirling, Cowie, Durieshill, Throsk, Bridge of Allan, Bannockburn • Housing proposals in Stirling, Fallin, Throsk/Bandeath • Pol. 41- Wind turbines locational policy • Policy 24- Exceptional developments in areas at flood risk • Pol. 26- Provision and safeguarding of Waste Management Infrastructure 	<p>The proposals listed were the only proposals from the Stirling Local Plan where possible cumulative LSEs on the conservation objectives of European Sites in the SESplan area (Firth of Forth SPA, Forth Islands SPA, River Teith SAC and Isle of May SAC) were identified.</p> <p>The proposals listed were the only proposals from the Stirling LDP where possible cumulative LSEs on the conservation objectives of European Sites in the SESplan area (Firth of Forth SPA, Forth Islands SPA, River Teith SAC and Isle of May SAC) were identified.</p>	<p>IN</p> <p>IN</p>
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<p>Clackmannanshire FLPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forthbank windfarm (NS8991) • Black Devon river/wetland project (NS9090) and proposed wetland/managed retreat project around Inch or Ferryton (NS9089) 	<p>The proposals listed were the only proposals from the Clackmannanshire Finalised Local Plan Alteration where possible cumulative LSE on the conservation objectives of European Sites in the SESplan area (Firth of Forth SPA, Forth Islands SPA, River Teith SAC and Isle of May SAC) were identified.</p>	<p>IN</p>
<p>'External' proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beaully-Denny power line - Forthbank windfarm - Black Devon river/wetland project and proposed wetland/managed retreat project around Inch of Ferryton - Logannet Carbon Capture and Storage (pipeline under Forth) - Rosyth Biomass Plant - Rosyth residential/business development - Kirkcaldy- Seafield hovercraft - RSPB Skinflats managed retreat/wetland creation project - Carron wetlands potential project - Helix Project - Grangemouth Biomass Project - Grangemouth windfarm proposal - Carriden wind turbines - Wester Shore Wood Core Path - Port Edgar redevelopment - Edinburgh airport second runway 	<p>The 'External' proposals listed are those identified where possible cumulative LSEs on the conservation objectives of European Sites in the SESplan area (Firth of Forth SPA, Forth Islands SPA, River Teith SAC and Isle of May SAC) are possible.</p>	<p>IN</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Granton-Burrtisland ferry - Leith Biomass Plant - Barns Ness wind turbines - Forth Array wind farms <p>Strategic Development Areas where possible cumulative LSE(s) were identified (Group 2)</p> <p>Central Borders Eastern Borders Western Borders</p> <p><i>Scottish Borders Consolidated Local Plan</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Housing sites 	<p>The new housing sites for the Scottish Borders Consolidated Local Plan were considered to be the only external 'policy' where possible cumulative LSE(s) could occur when assessed in combination with the Strategic Development Areas (Group 2). It is considered that the River Tweed SAC, Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC, St Abbs' to Fast Castle SAC/SPA and Whitlaw and Branxholme SAC could be affected.</p>	<p>IN</p>
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Aspects of the Proposed Plan causing LSEs

6.10 Tables 5, 6 and 7 (below) identifies the aspects of the Proposed Plan both individually and in-combination that could cause LSEs on European sites; the table shows the European Site and the qualifying interest likely to be significantly affected; and what the possible likely significant effects are. The tables also show whether the LSE identified is individual, or whether it is a cumulative LSE.

6.11 Due to the lack of specific detail in the housing proposals and the fact that as a result the possible LSEs identified could only be considered to a strategic/general level of detail it was decided to consider all qualifying interests against all possible LSEs.

6.12 Only one LSE listed in Section 5 (p16) was found not to be caused by the respective SESplan SDAs (individually or cumulatively) and this was “permanent reduction in habitat area or species population”. It was considered this LSE was not possible due to the fact that the SDAs will not result in housing being built on any European Site and therefore a permanent reduction in habitat or species population is not possible.

Table 5 Aspects of the Proposed Plan, which cannot be screened out for LSEs: INDIVIDUAL		
Aspect of the Plan with possible LSE	Qualifying interest of the European Site	Summary of the LSEs
West Lothian SDA	<p><u>Firth of Forth SPA</u> European Importance Annex 1 Species: Red-throated diver (favourable maintained), Slavonian grebe (favourable declining), golden plover (favourable maintained) and bar-tailed godwit (favourable declining) and;</p> <p>Sandwich tern (favourable declining)</p> <p>European and international importance under Article 4.2 (not Annex 1 species): Pink-footed goose (favourable maintained), shelduck (favourable declining), knot (unfavourable declining), redshank (favourable maintained), turnstone (favourable maintained) and;</p> <p>European and international Importance under Article 4.2 (not Annex 1 species): Wintering waterfowl assemblage: Great crested grebe (unfavourable declining), cormorant (favourable maintained), scaup (unfavourable declining), eider (favourable declining), long-tailed duck (unfavourable declining), common scoter (unfavourable declining), velvet scoter (favourable maintained), goldeneye (unfavourable declining), red-breasted merganser (favourable declining), oystercatcher (favourable maintained), ringed-plover (favourable maintained), grey plover (favourable declining), dunlin (favourable declining) and curlew (favourable maintained) and wigeon (favourable recovered), mallard (unfavourable declining) and lapwing (favourable maintained));</p>	<p>Individual LSEs It is considered that there are possible indirect likely significant effects from the housing proposals from the Proposed Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste water, sewage, pollutants and sediment entering watercourses; • flooding mobilising sediments/contaminants; and • development affecting adjacent feeding habitats <p>These could individually cause the LSEs listed below on the Firth of Forth SPA, Forth Islands SPA, Isle of May SAC, Blawhorn Moss SAC and River Teith SAC.</p> <p>It is also the case that increased recreational access could cause the LSEs listed (in-directly) but only on the Firth of Forth SPA by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing direct or indirect change to the physical quality of the environment (including hydrology) or habitat within the site • Causing ongoing or increased disturbance by people, dogs etc. to species or habitats for which the site is notified • Altering community structure (species

	<p><u>Forth Islands SPA</u> European Importance Annex 1 species: Arctic tern (favourable declining), Roseate tern (unfavourable declining), Common tern (favourable maintained) and Sandwich tern (unfavourable declining);</p> <p>European importance under Article 4.2 (not Annex 1 species): Northern gannet, European shag, lesser black-backed gull (favourable maintained) and Atlantic puffin;</p> <p>National importance under Article 4.2 (not Annex 1 species): Razorbill (favourable maintained), Common guillemot (favourable maintained), black-legged Kittiwake (unfavourable declining), herring gull (favourable maintained), Northern gannet (favourable maintained), lesser-backed gull, European shag (unfavourable recovering), Atlantic Puffin (favourable maintained), Northern Fulmar (favourable maintained), Arctic tern, common tern, roseate tern and sandwich tern;</p> <p><u>Isle of May SAC</u> Inshore sublittoral rock (Marine), Grey Seal (both Favourable-maintained)</p> <p><u>River Teith SAC</u> Atlantic Salmon (Unfavourable Recovering), River Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Sea Lamprey (All favourable maintained)</p> <p><u>Blawhorn Moss SAC</u> Active raised bogs (priority habitat) Degraded raised bog (Both Unfavourable-Recovering)</p>	<p>composition)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altering the vulnerability of populations/habitats to other impacts • Causing direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site • Causing a reduction in the resilience of the feature against external change
<p>West Edinburgh SDA</p> <p>And East Lothian SDA North Dunfermline SDA Ore/Leven Valley SDA (same assessment results)</p>	<p><u>Firth of Forth SPA</u> <u>Forth Islands SPA</u> <u>Isle of May SAC</u> <u>River Teith SAC</u> (see West Lothian above for qualifying interests)</p>	<p>Individual LSEs</p> <p>It is considered that the possible LSEs on the European Sites listed adjacently are the same as those for West Lothian (see above).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Blawhorn Moss SAC is removed as only the West Lothian SDA has potential to bring LSEs on the European Site.
<p>Central Borders SDA</p> <p>And Eastern Borders SDA Western Borders SDA (same assessment results)</p>	<p><u>Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC</u> International features: Inshore sublittoral rock (reefs), littoral rock (marine) (sea caves), littoral sediment (intertidal mudflats and sandflats; shallow inlets and bays), grey seal (all favourable maintained)</p> <p><u>River Tweed SAC</u> International features: Atlantic Salmon (unfavourable-recovering)</p>	<p>Individual LSEs</p> <p>The housing proposed in the Central Borders could cause a direct LSE due to the potential for development to be located adjacent to, or upstream of the River Tweed SAC which may then have effects on the River Tweed SAC, and other European Sites affected by the flow of the Tweed, the possible LSE is listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing direct or indirect change to the

	<p>River brook and sea lamprey (unfavourable-No Change) Otter (favourable-maintained) Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot (unfavourable-no Change)</p> <p><u>St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SPA</u> International importance under Article 4.2 (not Annex 1 species): Razorbill (favourable maintained); Common guillemot (favourable maintained) Black legged Kittiwake (unfavourable declining), herring gull (unfavourable declining) and European shag (unfavourable declining)</p> <p><u>Whitlaw and Branxholme SAC</u> Base-rich fens (unfavourable declining) Slender green feather-moss (unfavourable declining) Fen, marsh and swamp (upland) (unfavourable no change)</p>	<p>physical quality of the environment (including hydrology) or habitat within the site</p> <p>A number of in-direct LSEs are also possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ waste water, sewage, pollutants and sediment entering watercourses; ➤ flooding mobilising sediments/contaminants; and ➤ development affecting adjacent feeding habitats <p>These could individually cause the LSEs listed below on the River Tweed SAC and the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC, St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SAC and SPA and Whitlaw and Branxholme SAC.</p> <p>In addition increased recreational access from new housing could cause the LSEs listed below (indirectly) but that this would only effect the River Tweed SAC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to the coherence of the site or to the Natura 2000 series • Causing direct or indirect change to the physical quality of the environment (including hydrology) or habitat within the site • Causing ongoing or increased disturbance by people, dogs etc. to species or habitats for which the site is notified • Altering community structure (species composition) • Altering the vulnerability of populations/habitats to other impacts • Causing direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site • Affecting restoration of a feature where this is a conservation objective • Causing a reduction in the resilience of the feature against external change
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Table 6: Aspects of the Proposed Plan, which cannot be screened out for LSEs: In-combination (internal)

<p>Group 1 SDAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Lothian • West Edinburgh • East Lothian • North Dunfermline • Ore/Leven Valley 	<p><u>Firth of Forth SPA</u> <u>Isle of May SAC</u> <u>Forth Islands SPA</u> <u>River Teith SAC</u> (see West Lothian above for qualifying interests)</p>	<p>LSE(s) In-combination Individually The individual assessment for each SDA, listed in Group 1, found that the possible LSEs were the same. Therefore assessed in-combination, it is likely that for each possible LSE identified individually there would also be a cumulative effect. The cumulative LSEs possible are listed below, they are in-direct:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to the coherence of the site or to the Natura 2000 series • Causing direct or indirect change to the physical quality of the environment (including hydrology) or habitat within the site • Causing ongoing or increased disturbance by people, dogs etc. to species or habitats for which the site is notified • Altering community structure (species composition) • Altering the vulnerability of populations/habitats to other impacts • Causing direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site • Causing a reduction in the resilience of the feature against external change <p>LSE(s) In-combination The cumulative LSEs due to increased recreational access to the Forth shore are listed below (only affecting the Firth of Forth SPA and in-direct):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing change to the physical quality of the environment (including hydrology) or habitat within the site • Causing ongoing or increased disturbance by people, dogs etc to species or habitats for which the site is notified • Causing direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site • Affecting restoration of a feature where this is a conservation objective
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<p>Group 2 SDAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Borders • Eastern Borders • Western Borders 	<p><u>Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC</u> <u>River Tweed SAC</u> <u>St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SAC</u> <u>St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SPA</u> <u>Whitlaw and Branxholme SAC</u> (see Central Borders above for qualifying interests)</p>	<p>LSE(s) In-combination</p> <p>The individual assessment for each SDA, listed in Group 2, found that the possible LSEs were the same. Therefore assessed in-combination, it is likely that for each LSE identified individually there would also be a cumulative effect. The cumulative LSEs possible are listed below, they are in-direct:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to the coherence of the site or to the Natura 2000 series • Causing direct or indirect change to the physical quality of the environment (including hydrology) or habitat within the site • Causing ongoing or increased disturbance by people, dogs etc. to species or habitats for which the site is notified • Altering community structure (species composition) • Altering the vulnerability of populations/habitats to other impacts • Causing direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site • Causing a reduction in the resilience of the feature against external change
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<p>Table 7: Aspects of the Proposed Plan, which cannot be screened out for LSEs: In-combination (external)</p>		
<p>Group 1 Strategic Development Areas</p> <p>AND;</p> <p>Falkirk Local Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal TR.BNS4; Forth Foreshore Path • Proposal ED.GRA1; Kineil Kerse (safeguarding of site for Petrochemical industry) • Proposals ED.GRA2-4 	<p><u>Firth of Forth SPA</u> <u>River Teith SAC</u> <u>Forth Islands SPA</u> <u>Isle of May SAC</u> (see West Lothian above for qualifying interests)</p>	<p>LSE(s) In-combination</p> <p>The Falkirk Local Plan HRA (<i>Falkirk Council 2010: 6.5</i>) identifies that the use of the Forth Foreshore path has the potential to be significant, when this is considered in-combination with increased recreational access to the Forth shore due to the housing at the Strategic Development Areas, a possibility for cumulative LSEs on the Firth of Forth SPA, as listed, are identified:</p>

<p>Grangemouth Docks</p> <p>AND;</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing direct or indirect change to the physical quality of the environment (including hydrology) or habitat within the site • Causing ongoing or increased disturbance by people, dogs etc. to species or habitats for which the site is notified • Causing direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site <p>The Falkirk Local Plan HRA also identifies impacts from Proposals ED.GRA1 and ED.GRA2-4 (<i>Falkirk Council 2010: 6.15 & 6.25</i>) which involve the mobilisation of contaminants, which when combined with the potential for waste water, debris, sediment or pollutants to enter watercourses and/or the mobilisation of sediments and contaminants from flooding, as a result of SESplan Strategic Development Areas, could result in cumulative LSEs on all of the European Sites identified, as listed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing direct or indirect change to the physical quality of the environment (including hydrology) or habitat within the site • Causing ongoing or increased disturbance by people, dogs etc. to species or habitats for which the site is notified • Altering community structure (species composition) • Altering the vulnerability of populations/habitats to other impacts • Causing direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site • Causing a reduction in the resilience of the feature against external change
<p>Mid-Fife Local Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bur04; Burntisland 	<p><u>Firth of Forth SPA</u> <u>River Teith SAC</u> <u>Forth Islands SPA</u> <u>Isle of May SAC</u> (see West Lothian above for</p>	<p>LSE(s) In-combination</p> <p>The Mid-Fife Local Plan Natura 2000 Sites</p>

<p>Docks East</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KDY37; Kirkcaldy East Strategic Land Allocation • KDY38; Kirkcaldy South West Strategic Land Allocation • KDY39; Inveriel • KDY63; Kirkcaldy Esplanade • MET12; Methil Power Station • MET16; Energy Park Fife <p>AND;</p>	<p>qualifying interests)</p>	<p>Appropriate Assessment Version 3 (<i>Fife Council & Ecodyn 2009: 12-17 & 28-34</i>) states that for the proposals KDY37, KDY38 and KDY63 that there is potential for increased access to people and pets when this is considered in-combination with increased recreational access to the Forth shore due to the housing at the Strategic Development Areas, a possibility for cumulative LSEs on the Firth of Forth SPA, as listed, are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing direct or indirect change to the physical quality of the environment (including hydrology) or habitat within the site • Causing ongoing or increased disturbance by people, dogs etc. to species or habitats for which the site is notified • Causing direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site <p>The Mid-Fife Local Plan Natura 2000 Sites Appropriate Assessment Version 3 (<i>Fife Council & Ecodyn 2009: 12-17 & 28-34</i>) also states that there is the possibility of changes to water quality arising through erosion, sedimentation, sewage, contaminants, change in the water flow, hazardous material (oil, chemicals, fuel) and cement wash from the seven Local Plan proposals.</p> <p>When this is combined with the potential for LSEs as a result of SESplan Strategic Development Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ waste water, debris, sediment or pollutants to enter watercourses ➤ the mobilisation of sediments and contaminants from flooding <p>There is the possibility for cumulative LSEs, as listed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing direct or indirect change to the physical quality of the environment (including hydrology) or habitat within the site • Causing ongoing or increased disturbance by people, dogs etc. to species or habitats for which the site is
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<p>Dunfermline and West Fife Local Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABD001; School Aberdour • CUL001; Blackadder Haven, Culross • DGB006; Hillend/Donibristle Industrial Estate • INV008; Cruicks Quarry, Inverkeithing • LWD006; Logannet Power Station West; • LWD007; Logannet Power Station East; • (Part)LWD019; Comrie Colliery, Nr Blairhall; • LWD018; Replacement Forth Crossing Landfall and Junction <p>AND;</p>	<p><u>Firth of Forth SPA</u> <u>River Teith SAC</u> <u>Forth Islands SPA</u> <u>Isle of May SAC</u> (see West Lothian above for qualifying interests)</p>	<p>notified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Altering community structure (species composition) •Altering the vulnerability of populations/habitats other impacts •Causing direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site •Affecting restoration of a feature where this is a conservation objective •Causing a reduction in the resilience of the feature against external change <p>LSE(s) In-combination</p> <p>There are only possible cumulative LSEs due to the water quality impacts; the DWF LP HRA Version 1 (<i>Fife Council 2010:4-13</i>) states impacts could relate to increased sedimentation; sewage; storm water runoff; release of contaminants; deposits of hazardous materials (chemicals, fuel and oil); changes in the water flow and cement wash.</p> <p>When this is combined with the possible LSEs identified from the SESplan SDAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ the potential for waste water, debris, sediment or pollutants to enter watercourses ➤ mobilisation of sediments and contaminants from flooding, <p>There is the possibility for cumulative LSEs, as listed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Causing direct or indirect change to the physical quality of the environment (including hydrology) or habitat within the site •Altering community structure (species composition) •Altering the vulnerability of populations/habitats to other impacts •Causing direct or indirect damage to the
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<p>St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LW416; Crail Airfield <p>AND;</p>	<p><u>Firth of Forth SPA</u> <u>River Teith SAC</u> <u>Forth Islands SPA</u> <u>Isle of May SAC</u> (see West Lothian above for qualifying interests)</p>	<p>size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Causing a reduction in the resilience of the feature against external change <p>LSE(s) In-combination</p> <p>The Appropriate Assessment of St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan (<i>Fife Council and Ecodyn 2009: 7-10</i>) states that for the proposal listed there is potential for LSEs due to recreational access; when this is considered in-combination with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased recreational access to the Forth shore due to the housing in the respective SESplan SDAs, possible cumulative LSEs on the Firth of Forth SPA, are identified: <p>There is the possibility for cumulative LSEs, as listed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Causing direct or indirect change to the physical quality of the environment (including hydrology) or habitat within the site Causing ongoing or increased disturbance by people dogs etc. to species or habitats for which the site is notified Causing direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site <p>There are also possible cumulative LSEs due to water quality impacts. In greater detail, the water impacts relate to sewage pollution from developments, changes in water flow, leaking of hazardous material (chemicals, oil and fuel). When this is combined with as a result of SESplan Strategic Development Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the potential for waste water, debris, sediment or pollutants to enter watercourses the mobilisation of sediments and contaminants from flooding, <p>There is the possibility for cumulative</p>
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<p>Edinburgh City Local Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WAC 1b; Leith Docks • WAC 2; Granton Waterfront • (Part) Policy TRA 12; Cycle and Footpath Network • TRA 14; Port and Ferry Terminals <p>AND;</p>	<p><u>Firth of Forth SPA</u> <u>River Teith SAC</u> <u>Forth Islands SPA</u> <u>Isle of May SAC</u> (see West Lothian above for qualifying interests)</p>	<p>LSEs, as listed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altering community structure (species composition) • Altering the vulnerability of populations/habitats to other impacts • Causing a reduction in the resilience of the feature against external change <p>LSE(s) In-combination Policy WAC1b, WAC2, TRA 12 and TRA 14 have potential cumulative LSEs with the Strategic Development Areas in Group 1. This is because the Appropriate Assessment for the Edinburgh Harbour Outline Planning Application (<i>BMT Cordah 2009: 18-21, 41-49 and 64</i>), states that potential LSEs were found that related to the Firth of Forth SPA from disturbance due to increased access. Therefore cumulative LSEs, when combined with the potential for increased recreational access due to the Group 1 SDAs, could occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing direct or indirect change to the physical quality of the environment (including hydrology) or habitat within the site • Causing ongoing disturbance to species or habitats for which the site is notified • Causing direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site
<p>East Lothian Local Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New housing policies • ENV14 West Harbour Areas, Cockenzie • BUS3 Dunbar Harbours • Tour2(P) Gosford Estate • C8 Musselburgh Lagoons <p>AND;</p>	<p><u>Firth of Forth SPA</u> <u>River Teith SAC</u> <u>Forth Islands SPA</u> <u>Isle of May SAC</u> (see West Lothian above for qualifying interests)</p>	<p>LSE(s) In-combination The East Lothian Local Plan Appropriate Assessment (<i>East Lothian Council 2008: 26-27, 33-36 & 40</i>) identifies that the proposals ENV14, BUS3, TOUR2(P) and C8 could lead to increased recreational access to the Forth shore, therefore there are possible cumulative LSEs on the Firth of Forth SPA with the Group 1 Strategic Development Areas. These are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing direct or indirect change to the physical quality of the environment (including hydrology) or habitat within the site • Causing ongoing or increased

<p>West Lothian Local Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy CDA7- Armadale • Policy CDA8- Winchburgh and East Broxburn • Policy CDA9 West Livingston/Moss end and Calderwood • Policy TRAN 29 and 30- Land Safeguarded for 	<p><u>Firth of Forth SPA</u> <u>River Teith SAC</u> <u>Forth Islands SPA</u> <u>Isle of May SAC</u> (see West Lothian above for qualifying interests)</p>	<p>disturbance by people or dogs etc. to species or habitats for which the site is notified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site <p>The East Lothian Local Plan Appropriate Assessment (<i>East Lothian Council 2008: 26-27, 33-36 & 40</i>) also identifies that there is potential for run-off from pollutants as a result of house building. When this is combined with the potential for waste water, debris, sediment or pollutants to enter watercourses and/or the mobilisation of sediments and contaminants from flooding, as a result of SESplan Strategic Development Areas, there is the possibility for cumulative LSEs, as listed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing direct or indirect change to the physical quality of the environment (including hydrology) or habitat within the site • Altering community structure (species composition) • Altering the vulnerability of populations/habitats to other impacts • Causing direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site • Causing a reduction in the resilience of the feature against external change <p>LSE(s) In-combination</p> <p>There is no relevant HRA available for the West Lothian Local Plan. However a review of the policies found that the strategic housing proposals and strategic road schemes could result in material entering the watercourses, just as the housing proposed in the Group 1 Strategic Development Areas could. It was therefore considered that there was the possibility of cumulative LSEs, as listed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing direct or indirect change to the physical quality of the environment (including hydrology) or habitat within the
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<p>strategic road schemes</p> <p>AND;</p> <p>Stirling Local Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal ED1(8) Bandeath • Housing Proposals • Policy C4- Recreation on Lochs and Rivers • Policy ED4- Local Employment Sites • Policy ED8- Fish Farming <p>And;</p> <p>Stirling Local Development Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 24- Exceptional developments in areas at flood risk 	<p><u>Firth of Forth SPA</u> <u>River Teith SAC</u> <u>Forth Islands SPA</u> <u>Isle of May SAC</u> (see West Lothian above for qualifying interests)</p> <p><u>Firth of Forth SPA</u> <u>River Teith SAC</u> <u>Forth Islands SPA</u> <u>Isle of May SAC</u> (see West Lothian above for qualifying interests)</p>	<p>site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altering community structure (species composition) • Altering the vulnerability of populations/habitats to other impacts • Causing direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site • Causing a reduction in the resilience of the feature against external change <p>LSEs in-combination There is a lack of precise detail available to define the possible cumulative LSEs.</p> <p>As a result of this it has been decided to identify possible cumulative in-direct LSEs at a general/strategic level. The LSEs are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing direct or indirect change to the physical quality of the environment (including hydrology) or habitat within the site • Causing ongoing or increased disturbance by people, dogs etc. to species or habitats for which the site is notified • Altering community structure (species composition) • Altering the vulnerability of populations/habitats to other impacts • Causing direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site • Causing a reduction in the resilience of the feature against external change <p>LSEs in-combination The Draft HRA (including Appropriate Assessment) of the Stirling Local Development Plan (<i>Stirling Council 2011: 19-20 & 23, 26 and 30</i>) states that for Policies 24 and 26 development proposals could affect water environment from</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pol. 26- Provision and safeguarding of Waste Management Infrastructure • Pol. 41- Wind turbines locational policy • Housing proposals in Stirling, Fallin, Throsk/Bandeath • Housing proposals in combination Buchlyvie, Kippen, Manor Powis, Plean, Stirling, Cowie, Durieshill, Throsk, Bridge of Allan, Bannockburn 		<p>surface water run-off or diffuse pollution, discharges from waste water treatment, sedimentation and litter; increase invasive riparian plant species, e.g. from poor landscape planting or escapes from waste management; and increase physical impacts on riparian habitat e.g. disturbance to the species that are the qualifying interest of these sites. It is therefore identified that cumulative LSEs with the housing proposed in Group 1 SDAs are possible, as listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Causing direct or indirect change to the physical quality of the environment (including hydrology) or habitat within the site •Altering community structure (species composition) •Altering the vulnerability of populations/habitats to other impacts •Causing direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site •Causing a reduction in the resilience of the feature against external change <p>The HRA also states that areas of search for wind turbines are located beside the Forth Estuary, development here could result in effects on the water environment due to construction and soil erosion; mortality to qualifying bird species from collision with wind turbines; and increase in disturbance to the species that are the qualifying interest of the Firth of Forth SPA. It is therefore identified that cumulative LSEs with the housing proposed in Group 1 SDAs are possible; these are the same as listed above.</p> <p>In terms of housing proposals, Stirling LDP HRA identifies that “effects through the water environment could potentially reach downstream to the SPA, but there is minimal potential for disturbance due to new housing in Stirling”. These “effects” include affecting the water environment through sedimentation or diffuse pollution from runoff; effects from waste water treatment, especially due to a lack of sewage treatment capacity; and an increase in invasive riparian plant species. It is considered that this approach also applies to the other Stirling LDP housing</p>
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<p>Clackmannanshire Local Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forthbank windfarm (NS8991) • Black Devon river/wetland project (NS9090) and proposed wetland/managed retreat project around Inch or Ferryton (NS9089) 	<p><u>Firth of Forth SPA</u> <u>River Teith SAC</u> <u>Forth Islands SPA</u> <u>Isle of May SAC</u> (see West Lothian above for qualifying interests)</p>	<p>proposal areas, and the housing proposals in combination. Therefore cumulative LSEs are possible and these are the same as those identified for the other Stirling LDP policies above</p> <p>LSEs in-combination For the proposals listed in the Clackmannanshire Local Plan, the scenario is exactly the same as for that of the Stirling Local Plan (p50 above).</p> <p>The possible LSEs are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing direct or indirect change to the physical quality of the environment (including hydrology) or habitat within the site • Causing ongoing or increased disturbance by people, dogs etc. to species or habitats for which the site is notified • Altering community structure (species composition) • Altering the vulnerability of populations/habitats to other impacts • Causing direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site • Causing a reduction in the resilience of the feature against external change
<p>Group 2 Strategic Development Areas</p> <p>And</p> <p>Scottish Borders Local Plan - <i>New housing Policies</i></p>	<p><u>Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC</u> <u>River Tweed SAC</u> <u>St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SAC</u> <u>St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SPA</u> <u>Whitlaw and Branxholme SAC</u> (see Central Borders above for qualifying interests)</p>	<p>LSE(s) In-combination It is considered that the possible cumulative LSEs would be the same or an exacerbation of those identified for the housing proposals in the individual assessments and the internal in-combination assessment. These are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to the coherence of the site or to the Natura 2000 series <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>River Tweed SAC only- since the European Site covers a large area of land it cannot be ruled out that housing may be located where the site coherence is affected</i> • Causing direct or indirect change to the physical quality of the environment

		<p>(including hydrology) or habitat within the site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing ongoing or increased disturbance by people, dogs etc. to species or habitats for which the site is notified • Altering community structure (species composition) • Altering the vulnerability of populations/habitats to other impacts • Causing direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the site • Causing a reduction in the resilience of the feature against external change
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7. Outcomes of Screening Process and Appropriate Assessment

7.1 The screening process finds that only the housing proposals give rise to possible likely significant effects, and that this is the case individually and in-combination.

7.2 Individually it is found that the following Strategic Development Areas have the possibility of causing significant effects:

- West Lothian;
- West Edinburgh;
- East Lothian;
- North Dunfermline;
- Ore/Leven Valley;
- Central Borders;
- Eastern Borders; and
- Western Borders

7.3 In-combination ‘internally’ it is found that certain combinations of the SDAs listed above could cause cumulative LSEs. Due to the lack of specific detail in the proposals it was only feasible to predict that certain broad factors from housing around the Firth of Forth could cause the cumulative LSEs; the SDAs around the Forth were therefore grouped together (Group 1). It was also found that the Borders SDAs could cause similar cumulative LSEs but on the River Tweed and associated European Sites, Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast, St Abb’s to Fast Castle and Whitlaw and Branxholme; the Borders SDAs were therefore grouped together (Group 2)

Group 1 SDAs

- West Lothian
- West Edinburgh
- East Lothian
- North Dunfermline
- Ore/Leven Valley;

Group 2 SDAs

- Central Borders
- Eastern Borders
- Western Borders

7.4 For the 'external' in-combination screening it was considered to use the two groups of SDAs which had been identified as having possible cumulative LSEs on European Sites in the 'internal' in-combination. The two groups were found to have possible cumulative LSEs on the 'external documents' and 'external proposals' (listed in Table 4 above).

Mitigation Measures at Screening Stage

7.5 The next stage in completing the HRA record is to examine straightforward mitigation measures for possible likely significant effects that have not been ruled out by the screening steps, so that the plan can be re-screened. The Habitats Regulations Guidance gives a number of examples of possible straightforward mitigation measures, listed below:

- a) Deletion of the policy or proposal that may cause the LSE;
- b) Changing the nature or type of a potentially damaging proposal;
- c) Reduction in the scale of the potentially damaging provision, whether it be an overall level of growth across all or part of the plan area, or a single proposal of a specific scale or size;
- d) Relocation or alteration of the spatial distribution of the potentially damaging provision;
- e) Phasing or timing of a proposal so that its possible effects can be adequately managed over time.

7.6 The possible mitigation measures were considered against the possible individual and cumulative LSEs that were identified in the screening process. It was considered that due to the fact that there is a requirement for the Proposed Plan to identify housing to serve future sustainable growth that it is not possible to implement the mitigation measures listed under a) or b). It is also the case that the level of housing proposed has been decided through a robust process, for example through a Housing and Needs Demand Assessment (HNDA) and that given the strategic nature of the housing proposals a reduction in the provision figures would not necessarily mean that the possible LSEs would not occur. It is therefore considered that mitigation measure c) should not be implemented. The strategic nature of the housing proposals mean that although it is known the housing will be located in Strategic Development Areas, it is left to the member Local Authorities and future Local Development Plans (LDPs) to decide exactly where. In addition to this it is also left to Local Authorities to decide exactly when the housing proposals will be brought forward. It is therefore considered that mitigation measure d) or e) cannot be implemented.

7.7 Due to the fact that additional mitigation measures were not implemented it was unnecessary to re-screen the Proposals, as suggested by the Habitats Regulations advice.

Appropriate Assessment

7.8 Given that the possible LSEs identified cannot be mitigated in a straightforward fashion it is confirmed that an appropriate assessment should be undertaken.

7.9 The appropriate assessment is undertaken on the SDAs that are identified in paragraph 7.2 as having the possibility of causing individual likely significant effects; the two groups

of SDAs identified in paragraph 7.3 as causing 'internal' cumulative likely significant effects and the two groups of SDAs and external policies and proposals identified in Table 4 (above).

7.10 To avoid adverse effects on site integrity, the approach of the appropriate assessment is to secure mitigation measures in a lower tier plan as they cannot be secured in the detail required in the Proposed Plan. This approach, which has been taken in agreement with SNH, is stated in the Habitats Regulations advice as a valid option because of difficulties in assessing potential effects of higher tier plans and the fact that higher tier plans make provisions for which lower tier plans must take forward to implement in detail. It is the case that the Habitats Regulations advice states that three criteria must be met to show that it is appropriate for a higher-tier plan to identify how adverse effects on site integrity will be avoided by a more detailed HRA, with more detailed mitigation measures, at a lower tier plan level, the criteria are as follows:

- a) The higher tier plan appraisal cannot reasonably predict the effects on a European site in a meaningful way; whereas*
- b) The lower tier plan, which will identify more precisely the nature, scale or location of development, and thus its potential effects, retains enough flexibility within the terms of the higher tier plan over the exact location, scale or nature of the proposal to enable an adverse effect on site integrity to be avoided; and*
- c) The Habitats Regulations Appraisal of the plan at the lower tier is required as a matter of law or Government Policy*

7.11 Criteria *a)* is met because this appropriate assessment cannot reasonably predict the effects on the European sites in question due to the fact that the precise location, timing and level of housing proposed by the Proposed Plan is vague and the required level of detail is unknown. Criteria *b)* is met because, as stated, SESplan hands over the decision on exact location, scale or nature of the housing to be built to the lower-tier plan (LDP). Finally criteria *c)* is met because as the lower-tier plans in question are Local Development Plans they are also a 'land-use plan'. By meeting these criteria the Appropriate Assessment of the effects of the Proposed Plan as required under Part IVA (regulations 85A-85E) of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 as amended are met.

7.12 The Habitats Regulations advice also states that it may be appropriate for the higher tier plan appraisal to specify strategic mitigation measures, which set out in broad terms what must be provided at the lower level in order to be able to conclude that there would be no adverse effects. It is therefore the case that this appropriate assessment sets out broad strategic measures that Local Development Plans could use to help mitigate the LSEs that have been identified in the screening process of this HRA. Again this has been done in agreement with SNH.

7.13 Table 8 below is the main body of the appropriate assessment. The table contains the aspects of SESplan which have the possibility of causing significant effects, an explanation on the implications for qualifying interests of the respective European Sites in question in light of their conservation objectives, the broad mitigation measures proposed for LDPs and whether it can be ascertained that the aspect of the plan would not adversely affect the integrity of a European site. Due to the strategic nature of the SESplan proposals identified as causing LSEs and the broad assessment carried out, the assessment for the SDAs with LSEs on the Firth of Forth and other associated European Sites (Group 1) was the same (with the exception of West Lothian, where Blawhorn Moss SAC was also considered) and the assessment

for SDAs with LSEs on the River Tweed SAC and other associated European Sites (Group 2) was also the same; Table 8 therefore bundles the respective groups of SDAs together to avoid unnecessary repetition.

Table 8: Identification of SESplan proposals causing LSEs, implications on European Sites, broad mitigation measures and decision on no adverse affect on European Site integrity

Aspect of the plan likely to have significant effect	Implications for qualifying interests of European Sites in light of conservation objectives from the LSEs identified	Mitigation measures applied or taken into account in assessment	Aspect of plan and integrity of a European Site
<p>East Lothian SDA</p> <p>North Dunfermline SDA</p> <p>Ore/Leven Valley SDA</p> <p>West Edinburgh SDA</p> <p>West Lothian SDA</p> <p>Group 1 SDAs in-combination</p> <p>Group 1 SDAs and</p>	<p>The possible LSEs (individual and cumulative) have the potential to affect all of the qualifying interests below.</p> <p>All of the housing proposals for the SDAs leave uncertainty over their precise impacts and it is therefore impossible to state that any of the qualifying interests would definitely not be affected by any of the respective LSEs (listed chapter 5, p16). The precautionary principle must therefore be applied.</p> <p><u>Qualifying Interests Affected</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Red-throated diver, Slavonian grebe, Golden plover, Bar-tailed godwit, Sandwich tern, Pink footed goose, Shelduck, Knot, Redshank, Turnstone - Wintering waterfowl assemblage: (full list in Appendix 2) (ALL FIRTH OF FORTH SPA) - Arctic tern, Roseate tern, Common tern, Northern Gannet, European Shag, Lesser black-backed gull, Atlantic puffin - Razorbill, Common guillemot, Black-legged Kittiwake, Herring gull, Northern Fulmar (ALL FORTH ISLANDS SPA) 	<p>Paragraphs 7.10-7.12 explain, in line with the Habitats Regulations Guidance, that HRAs of lower-tier plans (LDPs) will provide the detailed assessment and mitigation to ensure that SESplan SDAs do not cause adverse effects on European Site integrity.</p> <p>To help guide the lower tier plan HRAs broad strategic mitigation measures have been identified and these are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of development located on the European Sites in question or on land directly associated with the functioning of the site or behaviour of the qualifying interest (e.g. known feeding grounds, barring known flight paths) - <i>This could be achieved through a Spatial Strategy or other site assessment process where one of the criteria is avoidance of European Sites.</i> • Avoidance of development that could create/exacerbate flood risk which may cause direct/indirect adverse effect(s) on site integrity i.e. through mobilisation of sediments/contaminants- <i>This could be built into any Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and/or born in mind in any site assessment process.</i> • Prevent damage of European Sites and disturbance of qualifying interests from recreational users (including dogs) on both land and water- Minimise additional disturbance through provision in 	<p>Further assessment is required at lower-tier plan level (LDPs).</p>

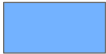


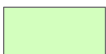

external policies and proposals in-combination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inshore sublittoral rock, Grey seals (BOTH ISLE OF MAY SAC) - Atlantic Salmon, River Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Sea Lamprey (ALL RIVER TEITH SAC) - Active raised bogs, Degraded raised bog (BOTH BLAWHORN MOSS SAC- <i>West Lothian SDA only</i>) 	<p>new residential developments for sufficient high quality greenspace with links into the green network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent waste water, sewage, pollutants and sediments entering the Forth/River Tweed/North Sea directly or entering waters that lead to the Forth/River Tweed/North Sea- this can be achieved through promotion of SUDS; Avoid pollution through adherence to SEPA and Scottish Water advice 	
Central Borders	<p><u>Qualifying Interests Affected</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inshore sublittoral rock (reefs), littoral rock (marine) (sea caves), littoral sediment (intertidal mudflats and sandflats; shallow inlets and bays), grey seal (ALL BERWICKSHIRE AND NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND COAST SAC) 	<p>It is considered that the broad strategic mitigation measures apply to each of the Strategic Development Areas where possible LSEs are identified, including where cumulative possible LSEs are identified. This is because the LSEs identified are the same for each SDA, either through effects on the Firth of Forth SPA and associated European Sites or the River Tweed SAC and associated European Sites.</p>	
Eastern Borders			
Western Borders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Atlantic Salmon, River, brook and sea lamprey, Otter, Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot (ALL RIVER TWEED SAC) 		
Group 2 SDAs in-combination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supralittoral rock (Vegetated Sea Cliffs) (ST ABB'S HEAD TO FAST CASTLE SAC) 		
Group 2 SDAs and Scottish Borders Local Plan- <i>New Housing Policies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Razorbill, Common guillemot, Black legged Kittiwake, Herring gull, European shag (ST ABB'S HEAD TO FAST CASTLE SPA) - Base-rich fens, Slender green feather-moss, Fen, marsh and swamp (WHITLAW AND BRANXHOLME SAC) 		

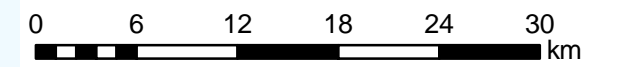
8. Conclusion

- 8.1 The HRA asserts that many policies and proposals contained in SESplan will not have a likely significant effect on the qualifying interests of any European Sites, either individually or cumulatively. These policies and proposals were screened out in section 6 of the HRA and were not considered in the appropriate assessment.
- 8.2 The policies and proposals that were considered to have the possibility of causing significant affects on the qualifying interests of European Sites individually and cumulatively were identified in section 7 and were carried forward into the appropriate assessment.
- 8.3 In line with the Habitats Regulations guidance, and in agreement with SNH, it has been asserted that further appropriate assessment will be required in lower-tier plans (namely the respective Local Development Plans) where more specific detail will be available.
- 8.4 To assist the lower-tier plans in assessing the identified likely significant effects strategic mitigation measures are identified, again this is in line with the Habitats Regulations guidance and in agreement with SNH.

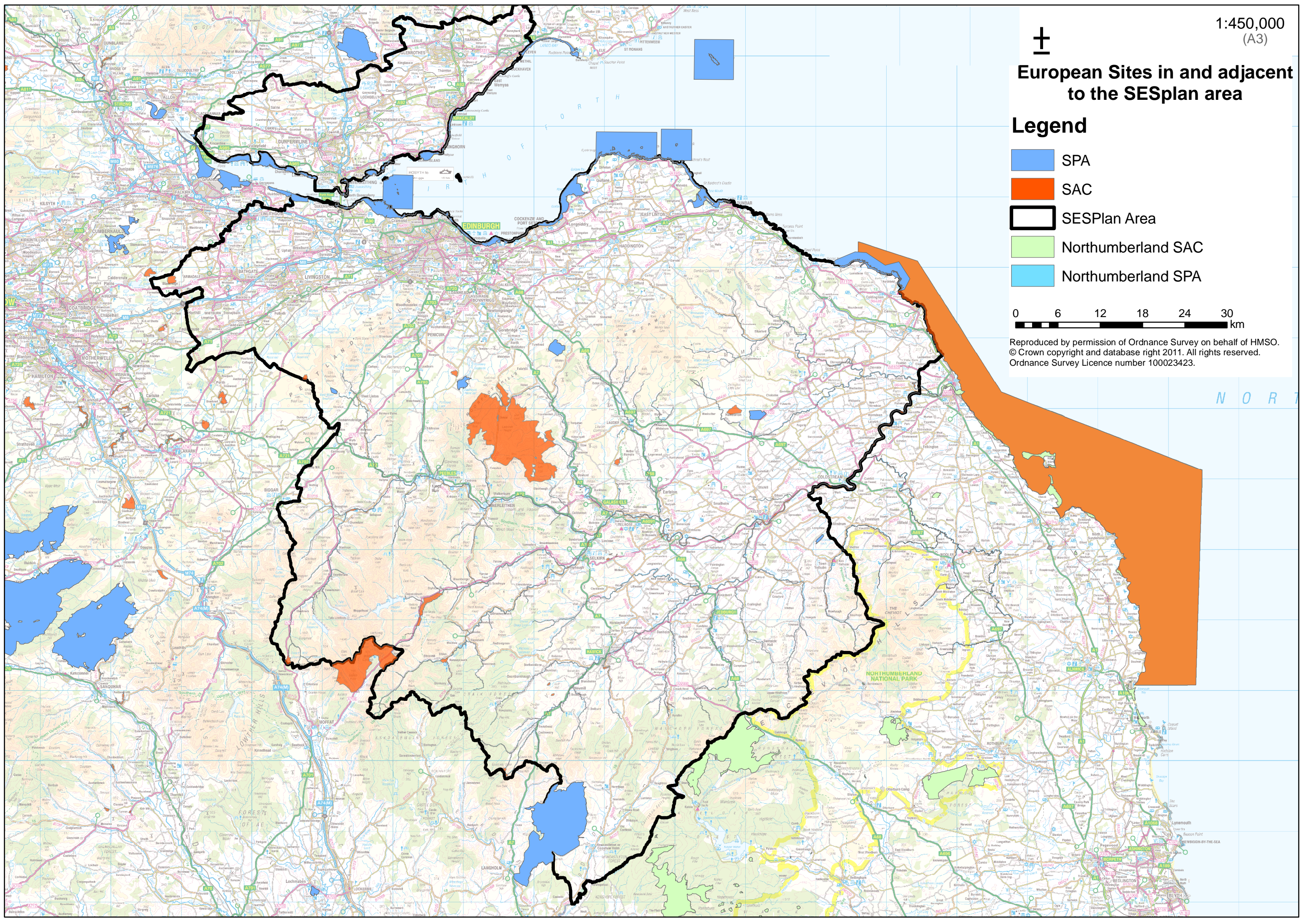
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**European Sites in and adjacent
to the SESplan area**

Legend

-  SPA
-  SAC
-  SESPlan Area
-  Northumberland SAC
-  Northumberland SPA



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Appendix 2 Details of European Sites Screened In				
Site & Designation (Designation Date) (Location)	Qualifying Interests and Site Condition	Conservation Objectives	Factors Currently Influencing the Site	Vulnerabilities to Change
Sites Within SESplan Area				
Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC (17/03/2005) (Alnwick to past St Abb's Head)	International feature: Inshore sublittoral rock (reefs), littoral rock (marine) (sea caves), littoral sediment (intertidal mudflats and sandflats; shallow inlets and bays), mammals (marine) (grey seal) (all favourable maintained)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	The varied geological sequence along the coast forms a mixture of cliffs, rocky shores and sandy bays that attract a variety of recreational users for angling, diving, watersports, etc. The estuarine reef communities support an important crustacean fishery whilst offshore fisheries exist for <i>Nephrops</i> and some pelagic and demersal fish species. Wastewater discharges could have a localised effect on the site but will be subject to EC water quality legislation. Much of the inshore area in Scotland is a Voluntary Marine Reserve (VMR). There is a site management plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal and offshore development, including development to service recreation, e.g. marina, dive centre etc • Pollution event- diffuse and point source • Exploitation of resources, e.g. change to current fishing practises

<p>Blawhorn Moss SAC (17/03/2005) (West Lothian, A89, west of Bathgate)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active raised bogs • Degraded raised bog (All Unfavourable-Recovering) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>This National Nature Reserve was drained extensively in the 1950s, resulting in gradual drying out and peripheral erosion. This trend has been reversed by the installation of dams and drain-blocks on all of the man-made drains and erosion gullies. Much of the site is managed as a National Nature Reserve and there is a site management plan. This site is partly owned by Scottish Natural Heritage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to hydrological units. • Air pollution.
<p>Firth of Forth SPA (30/10/2001)</p>	<p>European Importance Annex 1 Species: Red-throated diver (favourable maintained), Slavonian grebe (favourable declining), golden plover (favourable maintained) and bar-tailed godwit (favourable declining) (Wintering) and;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>While the major factor potentially affecting the site is coastal industrial development, such development is subject to detailed planning control, ensuring that the site is not significantly affected. Oil and other industrial developments concentrated along the shore line do pose a threat, however rigorous emergency contingency plans are in place to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal and offshore development. • Disturbance from development in close proximity. • Pollution event. • Windfarms.

	<p>Sandwich tern (favourable declining) (post-breeding/passage)</p> <p>European and international importance under Article 4.2 (not Annex 1 species): Pink-footed goose (favourable maintained), shelduck (favourable declining), knot (unfavourable declining), redshank (favourable maintained), turnstone (favourable maintained) (wintering) and;</p> <p>European and international Importance under Article 4.2 (not Annex 1 species): Wintering waterfowl assemblage: Great crested grebe (unfavourable</p>	<p>species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No significant disturbance of the species 	<p>minimise the impact of any incident. Localised tipping is an ongoing problem but consists mainly of inert building waste and is mostly controlled by the relevant licensing authority. Implementation of the Habitats Regulations will tighten control on these operations. Recreational pressures, including small-scale bait digging, are not currently considered to be a problem, while commercial bait digging is being monitored. The potential for rising sea levels to remove important habitats is recognised, and a number of coastal realignment schemes (planned retreat) are planned for these areas which will go some way to offsetting any habitat loss.</p>	
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	declining), cormorant (favourable maintained), scaup (unfavourable declining), eider (favourable declining), long-tailed duck (unfavourable declining), common scoter (unfavourable declining), velvet scoter (favourable maintained), goldeneye (unfavourable declining), red-breasted merganser (favourable declining), oystercatcher (favourable maintained), ringed-plover (favourable maintained), grey plover (favourable declining), dunlin (favourable declining) and curlew (favourable maintained) and wigeon (favourable recovered), mallard			
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	(unfavourable declining) and lapwing (favourable maintained)			
Forth Islands SPA (Inchmickery, Isle of May, Fidra, The Lamb, Craigleith, Bass Rock and Long Craig) (25/09/2009)	<p>European Importance Annex 1 species: Arctic tern (favourable declining), Roseate tern (unfavourable declining), Common tern (favourable maintained) and Sandwich tern (unfavourable declining) (all breeding)</p> <p>European importance under Article 4.2 (not Annex 1 species): Northern gannet, European shag, lesser black-backed gull (favourable maintained) and Atlantic puffin (all migratory and breeding)</p> <p>National importance under Article 4.2 (not</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	There are few threats to the interest of the site. The tern population has declined, probably because of the expansion in gull numbers combined with the natural mobility of tern colonies. SNH and RSPB are undertaking management initiatives to encourage a recovery in the tern population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal and offshore development. • Pollution event. • Windfarms.

	<p>Annex 1 species): Razorbill (favourable maintained), Common guillemot (favourable maintained), black-legged Kittiwake (unfavourable declining), herring gull (favourable maintained), Northern gannet (favourable maintained), lesser-backed gull, European shag (unfavourable recovering), Atlantic Puffin (favourable maintained), Northern Fulmar (favourable maintained), Arctic tern, common tern, roseate tern and sandwich tern (all breeding)</p>			
<p>Isle of May SAC (March 2005) (outwith SESplan area, off east coast of Fife)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inshore sublittoral rock (Marine) • Mammals (Marine) (Favourable-maintained) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of the habitat on site • Distribution of the habitat within site • Structure and function of the 	<p>The terrestrial part of the cSAC is a National Nature Reserve with a history of recreational pressure. However, the site is owned and managed by SNH, which ensures adequate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal and offshore development

		<p>habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>protection for nature conservation. Visitor pressure to the island is concentrated outwith the seal-breeding season and is managed by a permit system for tourist boats. No landings are allowed during the seal-breeding season except by special permission and permit. At present, pressure from recreational divers is principally during the seals' non-breeding season.</p>	
<p>River Teith SAC (17/03/2005) (Located outwith SESplan area, upriver of the Firth of Forth)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic Salmon (Unfavourable Recovering) • River Lamprey • Brook Lamprey • Sea Lamprey (All favourable maintained) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>There are few significant threats to the qualifying interests at present. Water quality is generally high, with modern forestry practices and guidance minimising the disturbance to the river system in the heavily afforested upper catchment of the site. Specific issues affecting habitat quality such as gravel extraction and river engineering will be addressed using practice and advice generated by SNH Research contracts on the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal and offshore development • Changes to hydrological units • Water course pollution • River engineering, including bridges, pipelines and flood defences • Abstraction

		<p>components of the habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat 	<p>Endrick Water cSAC and by the '<i>Safeguarding Natura Rivers in the UK</i>' LIFE Project.</p>	
<p>River Tweed SAC (17/03/2005) (All borders)</p>	<p>International feature: Atlantic salmon (Unfavourable-Recovering) River, brook and sea lamprey (Unfavourable-No Change) Otter (Favourable-Maintained) Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot (Unfavourable-No Change)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>The River Tweed Catchment Management Plan, SSSI consents and Habitats Directive regulation will combine to effect long-term protection of the site and its features. Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) General Binding Rules on Diffuse Pollution also apply and include activities such as engineering and will also protect qualifying interests of site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to hydrological units. Water course pollution diffuse and point source. River engineering, including bridges, pipelines and flood defences. Sediment management Abstraction. Hydro-electric schemes
<p>St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SAC (17/03/2005) (on the Borders east coast)</p>	<p>International feature: Supralittoral rock (Vegetated Sea Cliffs) (unfavourable no change)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of the habitat on site Distribution of the habitat within site Structure and function of the 	<p>The coastal cliffs, seabird colonies and dramatic scenery attract many thousands of visitors each year, ranging from walkers to keen naturalists. Part of the site</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal development

		<p>habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>forms a National Nature Reserve and is managed for nature conservation (and for recreational enjoyment) by the National Trust for Scotland. Management is agreed through a Management Plan which is approved by the National Trust for Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Wildlife Trust. Visitor management forms part of the overall plan, to protect the area from recreational pressure. The cliffs themselves are largely inaccessible and not subject to the same recreational and grazing pressures as the grasslands bordering the cliffs.</p>	
<p>St Abb's to Fast Castle SPA (11/08/1997) (on the Borders east coast)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shag, breeding (unfavourable declining) • Kittiwake, breeding (unfavourable declining) • Herring gull, breeding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of the species as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the 	<p>St Abb's Head to Fast Castle lies on the coast of Berwickshire in south-east Scotland. It is a 10 km stretch of cliffs comprised of Old Red Sandstone and Silurian rocks, in places reaching over 150 m in height. The cliffs are backed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal development • Windfarms

	<p>(unfavourable declining)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Razorbill, breeding (favourable maintained) • Guillemot, breeding (favourable maintained) • Seabird assemblage, breeding (favourable maintained) 	<p>species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species 	<p>by areas of grassland, open water, flushes and splash zone communities. The site is important for large numbers of breeding seabirds, especially auks and gulls, which feed outside the SPA in surrounding marine areas, as well as further away in the North Sea.</p>	
<p>Whitlaw and Branxholme SAC (March 2005)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base-rich fens (Unfavourable declining) • Slender green feather-moss (Unfavourable declining) • Fen, marsh and swamp (Upland) (Unfavourable no change) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>These wetland sites are subject to gradual change from open water through fen to carr woodland and beyond. Although this is a natural process there is evidence that the rate of change may be being accelerated by the influence of agricultural activity within the catchments. Whitlaw is managed as a National Nature Reserve and Branxholme is subject to a Management Agreement. Both sites have</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to hydrological units

		<p>components of the habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat	<p>Management Plans which specify actions to address the problem. The agricultural management of the catchment of Slaidhills Moss is less intensive and this small wetland has been subject to less change than Whitlaw or Branxholme.</p>	
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Summary of Discussion with SNH

The Summary of Discussion contains an audit trail table which details the key discussions with SNH and the decisions taken throughout the process of producing the HRA. It is also considered useful to describe the overall process that occurred, and this is done in the paragraphs below.

Production of the SESplan Proposed Plan HRA has been a complex process due to the fact that as the SESplan Strategic Development Plan has changed, so the approach to the HRA has had to change. In addition SESplan is one of the first strategic level plans, as introduced by the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006, to be subject to Habitats Regulations Appraisal and the level of detail contained within the Proposed Plan (and previous drafts) has resulted in difficulties achieving a robust structure and conclusion to the assessment.

The bullet points below show how the production of the HRA was influenced by the iteration of the SESplan production process:

- *MIR stage*

At this stage, it seemed possible that the Plan could be developed in either of two ways. It could be developed to include sufficient detail on allocations which would allow determination of whether or not there would be adverse impacts on site integrity.

Alternatively the Plan would not provide this detail. In this instance, the HRA would have to identify whether, in principle, areas, e.g., West or East Lothian, could accommodate the scale of allocations for development set in SESplan without inevitably leading to adverse impacts. In addition, in order to ascertain no adverse effect on the integrity of European sites to clarify reliance on lower tier plans in terms of the criteria set out in the DTA guidance, especially paragraphs 5.28 to 5.30.

- *Proposed Plan*

When the Proposed Plan was published it was clear that SESplan would be a high level, strategic document and, therefore, the alternative approach set out at the MIR stage was considered to be more appropriate.

The table below contains an audit trail of the decisions taken:

Record of Discussion with SNH		
Date	SESplan Stage	Agreement or Comment Provided
15 November 2010	Main Issues Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SNH will commit to ongoing help in the production of the HRA • SNH will send on details of Natura Sites in SESplan area and where it is thought LSE(s) are possible. Details to include: site, conservation objectives, qualifying interests and developments related to disturbance
27 January 2011	Main Issues Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed that the screening of Main Issues Report policies as carried out under Step 1, 2, 3A and 3E (as taken from the Habitats Regulations advice) are generally fine. It is noted that this initial screening will change dependant on the content of the Proposed Plan. • Agreed that the policies covering Town Centres and Retailing; Edinburgh City Centre, Edinburgh Waterfront, West Edinburgh, East Coast Corridor, Fife Forth, Midlothian Borders Corridor and West Lothian would be screened in at this point. Again the potential for change given the content of the Proposed Plan is noted. • Agreed that for the proposals for which likely significant effect(s) were identified the appropriate assessment could conclude no adverse effect on the integrity of the relevant Natura site(s); for example for the housing proposals, it was felt that each Strategic Development Area had the capacity to accommodate the housing required without adversely affecting the Natura site(s) subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appropriate land allocation and/or; ○ Mitigation within the relevant Local Development Plan • Agreed that the assessment for each SDA should make specific reference to the relevant Natura Site(s) • Agreed that for the European Sites where no link/pathway to a LSE is identified should be removed

		<p>and a table included showing this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the 'external' in-combination assessment SNH to clarify precisely how this works with Scottish Government; and find out from area officers what proposals there are in Tayplan, Falkirk, Clackmananshire, Glasgow Clyde Valley areas which could affect European Sites.
31 March 2011	Proposed Plan (Version 1)	<p><i>At this point in the Strategic Development Plan process SNH were asked by SESplan for comments on the first draft of the Proposed Plan. A response was provided in which the implications on the HRA were discussed and actions to be taken forward into the HRA draft suggested:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates to legislation/policy mentioned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and on the Council on the Conservation of Wild Birds ○ Reference to Ramsar from Scottish Planning Policy ○ Habitats Directive transposed into domestic law by Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994 as amended • Recommended all Ramsar references are removed, except one initial comment acknowledging their status but saying they are effectively the same as SPAs. • Currently no reference to Appendix 2 (which provides European Site details) and therefore no reference to qualifying interests and conservation objectives of Natura Sites and how these could be affected by the plan. This is essential, as the purpose of the appraisal is to prevent adversely affecting the integrity of the sites in light of their conservation objectives. • Considered useful to include a summary table showing what elements of the Plan have been screened in and the qualifying interests of the European Sites that could be affected • For the appropriate assessment; the approach in the table could be clarified to identify what European Sites and what qualifying interests could be affected by which element of the Proposed Plan; how they could be affected; what mitigation measures are being applied, and; a conclusion as

		<p>to whether it can be ascertained that this element will not adversely affect the integrity of the relevant European Site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Appendix 2; 'priority habitats' and 'assemblage qualifiers' should be indicated and the difference between species and habitat conservation objectives should be noted.
4 May 2011	Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A workshop was held by SNH and Scottish Government for the local authorities adjoining the Firth of Forth SPA to look at cumulative impacts on the European Site and how to tackle them.
25 May 2011	Proposed Plan (version 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that the Draft HRA could be simplified for example through identifying early on which policies were relevant to the appraisal and then taking these forward, rather than including irrelevant detail this could be done through ensuring there was no confusion over terminology and using definitive language to avoid possibility of information being overlooked. • It was agreed to refer to the European Site(s) conservation objectives to help define Likely Significant Effects. • An issue was identified over deferring assessment to Local Development Plan level and further advice should be sought over doing this, the Scottish Government Environmental Assessment unit was suggested. It was also suggested that paragraph 5.28 of the Habitats Regulations guidance would help on this issue. • An annotated update to Appendix 2 was left; comments were included for rewording of identified vulnerabilities and inclusion of others which had been identified in discussion with SNH area officers. • Clarification of the terms "likely significant effect", "adverse effect on site integrity" and "qualifying interests" was provided

12 July 2011	Proposed Plan (version 7)	<p><i>An informal workshop was held with members of SNH's planning and Natura teams, Scottish Government and SESplan. The aim was to establish an approach to assessing the problem identified under the third bullet point 25th May 2011 (above)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed that it was unlikely there would be further policy or proposal detail provided and that the most appropriate method to achieve finalisation of the HRA would be to ensure lower-tier plan level assessment in accordance with paragraphs 5.25-5.30 of the Habitats Regulations advice. • Agreed that the three criteria in the Habitats Regulations advice (p31) were met and that this should be detailed in the appropriate assessment/HRA. In addition broad strategic mitigation measures could be considered to guide Local Development Plans. • Agreed that an explanation of the strategic nature of SESplan and how this would affect the scope of the HRA would be helpful. • Agreed that it would be possible to identify “generic” LSE from SESplan policies/proposals, to identify measures that prevent these and/or strategic mitigation measures for Local Development Plans to carry out in greater detail. In addition it would be possible to identify what could not be assessed at this level but left to LDP assessment. • Agreed that SEPA and Scottish Water would be able to state whether there would be issues over the level of development proposed in the Strategic Development Areas in the SESplan area. • Agreed that given the nature of the possible LSE(s) identified (relating to material entering water courses) the River Teith SAC, St Abbs to Fast Castle SAC and SPA, Forth Islands SPA and Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC should be considered as part of the appraisal. • Agreed where policies were screened out due to being proposed by another plan, programme or strategy (PPS); it could be stated which PPS they were put forward by. • Agreed a worked example of one SDA in the appropriate assessment could be sent on.
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23 February 2012	Proposed Plan ratified	<p><i>A tracked changed version of the Draft HRA from November 2011 was sent on by SNH's Natura advisor and this document suggested some structural changes to better reflect the move towards "generic" LSEs from SESplan policies/proposals, strategic mitigation measures and assessment at the LDP level. A meeting was held to discuss the changes made and to sign off on the Draft HRA of the Proposed Plan</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification of the use of "likely significant effect" and the wording within the HRA relative to the findings of the assessment. • Addition of a line to state that the Imperial Dock SPA has been subject to previous HRA. • Update of the reference to HRA for Edinburgh Waterfront. • Line within the 'external' in-combination screening to reflect that if the Proposed Plan changes to promote the National Renewables Infrastructure Plan then so the assessment will change. • Removal of Appendix 4- SDA Assessment Matricies. It was considered that Table 5 within the HRA document contained all of the information necessary and that the working in Appendix 4, which had informed table 5, was surplus to requirements. • Rewording of the Strategic Mitigation Measures. • SNH to provide detailed further comments on the most recent draft (Feb 2012) of the HRA.
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