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proposed local development plan

habitats regulations appraisal 2016



**East Lothian Council Proposed Local Development Plan
Habitats Regulations Appraisal & Appropriate Assessment**

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose of document

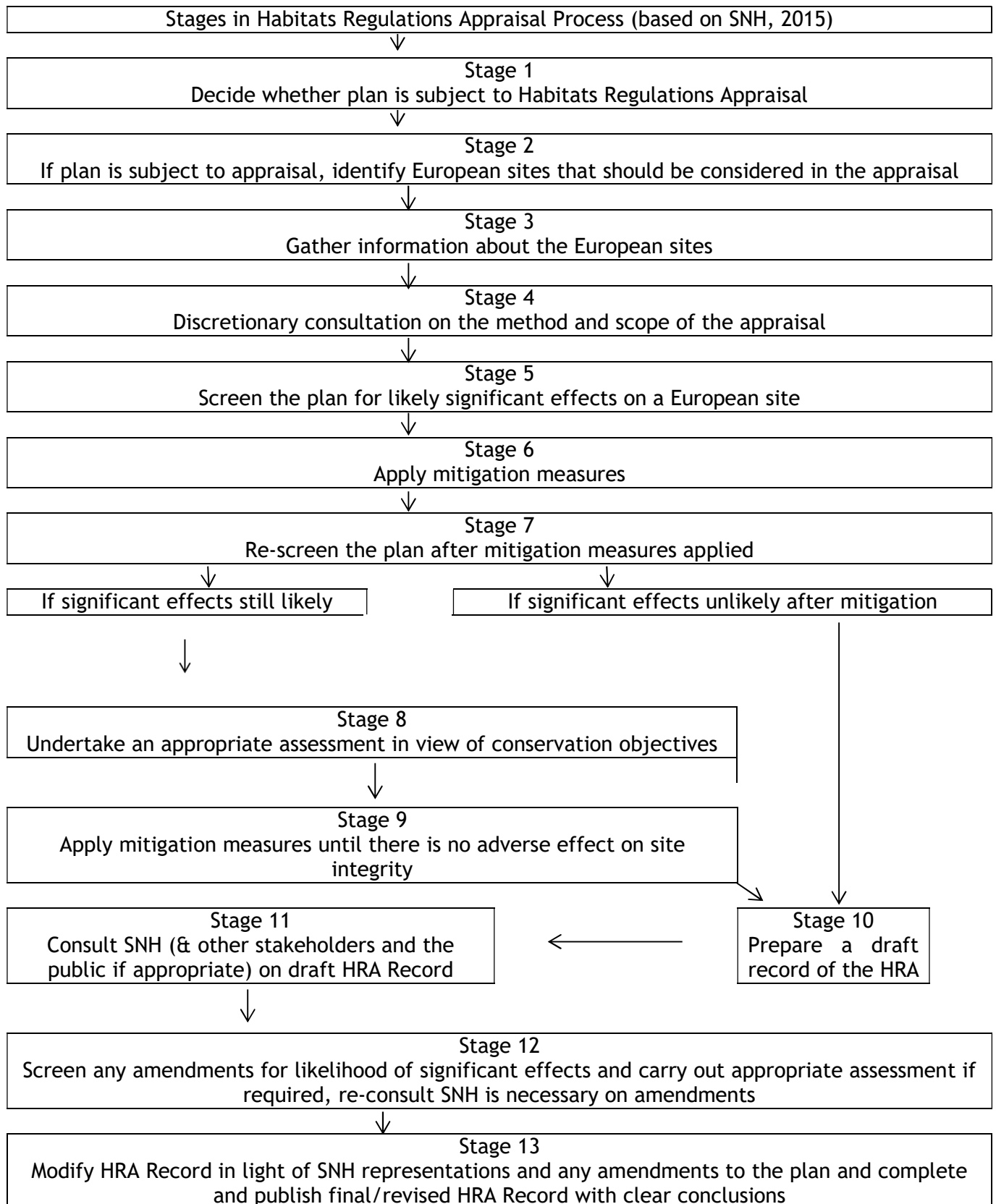
- 1.1 This document summarises the Habitats Regulations Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment of the East Lothian Council proposed Local Development Plan (LDP). It accompanies the proposed LDP presented to East Lothian Council in September 2016. It will be used in consultations with Scottish Natural Heritage and will be updated, as necessary, in the light of its advice and/or amendments to the proposed LDP.
- 1.2 The document has been prepared by Sue Bell, a Chartered Ecologist, on behalf of East Lothian Council.

Habitats Regulations Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment

- 1.3 The requirement for Appropriate Assessment is set out in The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 as amended¹, which implement Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. Before giving consent to a project or plan that is not directly connected to the management of a European site, and which is considered to have a likely significant effect upon that site, a competent authority must consider the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives. This is known as "Appropriate Assessment". The "test" is that permission for the project or plan should only be given where it has been determined that it will not have, either alone or in combination with other projects and plans, an adverse effect upon the integrity of the European site. Permission can only be granted for plans that have an adverse effect upon integrity if there are no alternative solutions, but there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest that mean the plan should proceed. Before making any decision, the competent authority should consult with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), the statutory nature conservation adviser.
- 1.4 The term "Habitats Regulations Appraisal" (HRA) is used to describe the whole process of considering whether a project or plan will give rise to likely significant effects upon a European Site, deciding which European sites should be considered, which aspects of the plan or proposals may give rise to likely significant effects (known as "screening"), and the subsequent Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the implications of these effects upon the integrity of the European Site. The process, which is described by SNH in guidance for HRA (SNH, 2015) can be sub-divided into 13 stages (see Figure 1.1). This document reports on stages 1 - 10 of the process.

¹ Part IVA (regulations 48 & 49)

Figure 1.1: Stages in Habitats Regulations Appraisal
(Taken from SNH, 2015)



APPROACH

Methods

- 2.1 The approach has broadly followed the stages and methods set out in “*Guidance for HRA of plans published by SNH*” (2015). The reporting matrices included in Appendix C of that Guidance have been referred to and adapted to meet the presentational needs of this document.
- 2.2 East Lothian Council commenced discussions with SNH during preparation of the Main Issues Report. At that time the need for HRA was confirmed (Stage 1 - see Figure 1.1), there was discussion about the list of European sites that should be considered in the appraisal (Stage 2 - see Figure 1.1), and some preliminary gathering of information about these sites (Stage 3 - see Figure 1.1). Following publication of a consultation draft of the LDP, further work on screening these sites against the policies and proposals in the plan was completed (Stages 3 - 5 - see Figure 1.1). This identified some proposals as having likely significant effects, and other proposals for which there was some ambiguity about effects. Mitigation measures for some of these proposals was added (Stage 6) and the plan was re-screened (Stage 7). A progress report, which summarised the results of the screening, was produced and issued to SNH for comment (May 2016). A meeting was held with SNH in July 2016 to discuss the progress report. There was broad agreement with the approach that was being taken, including the European sites that had been screened into the process.
- 2.3 Since the progress report was produced, the LDP has been amended in the light of technical work relating to infrastructure and transport. This has included some additions, modifications and re-drafting of policies and spatial proposals. These changes have been screened as part of the HRA (Stages 5 - 7 - see Figure 1.1). Some proposals have been identified as having Likely Significant Effects, either alone or in combination with other policies and plans, and have been subject to an appropriate assessment of their implications for European sites (Stage 8), which has included the application of mitigation measures (Stage 9).
- 2.4 This document forms the draft HRA record and incorporates the findings of the appropriate assessment. It will be used in consultations with SNH (stages 10 & 11, see Figure 1.1).

European Sites

- 2.5 The HRA needs to consider all the European sites which are potentially affected by a plan, but should keep the assessment proportional to the likelihood of significant effects and avoid excessive data gathering about sites that are not likely to be affected (SNH, 2015).
- 2.6 The SNH Guidance (2015) includes advice on criteria for identifying European sites potentially affected. East Lothian Council identified thirteen European sites that should potentially be considered in the HRA of the LDP. These were:
- Firth of Forth SPA
 - Forth Islands SPA
 - Imperial Dock Lock, Leith, SPA
 - Isle of May SAC
 - Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC
 - Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC
 - River Teith SAC
 - Moray Firth SAC

Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex dSPA
River Tweed SAC
Fala Flow SPA
Greenlaw Moor SPA
Gladhouse Reservoir SPA

2.7 Background information about each of these thirteen sites was collated and considered in the context of the likelihood of connectivity pathways between policies and proposals in the proposed LDP and the qualifying interests (QI) of each European site (see Appendix A). Based on this assessment, two of the European sites (Moray Firth SAC, and Greenlaw Moor SPA) were excluded from further consideration, as it is not considered that there are pathways linking the proposals in the proposed LDP and the qualifying interests of the European site.

Qualifying Interests

2.8 Qualifying Interests (QI) are the features of international importance that have led to the designation of a European site. These may be habitats and/or species. A list of the Qualifying Interests for each European site considered during the screening stage is included in Appendix A. The effects of the LDP upon the Qualifying Interests are a central part of the screening and appropriate assessment process.

Proposed LDP Policies and Proposals

2.9 The HRA has been conducted alongside development of the East Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP). The initial screening was carried out against version 1.5 of that plan, which was presented to Councillors in November 2015. Amendments to the proposals were made as a result of technical work related to transport and other infrastructure, and to take account of the findings of the HRA process. This version of the HRA record has been produced to accompany version 1.9 of the LDP, which will be presented to Councillors on 6th September 2016.

2.10 The proposed East Lothian LDP contains both policies and spatial proposals.

2.11 Over one hundred policies are included in the proposed LDP, which deal with a variety of topics. Many of these policies are not location-specific, but some are linked to specific geographic locations e.g. proposals for expansion of schools and cemeteries.

2.12 The list of spatial proposals within the proposed LDP covers three types of site:

- Allocations included within the previous East Lothian Local Plan, which have not yet been developed. For these sites, the principle and nature of development has already been agreed, and these sites were subject to HRA as part of the previous plan.
- Allocations included in the Housing Land Audit 2015 and other sites that have come forward as “windfall” sites, and for which planning applications have been received and approved. In many cases these sites have already been built or are at an advanced stage of development. These sites will have been considered for HRA.
- New allocations that have not been included in previous local plans. These have been subject to initial screening through the Strategic Environmental Assessment process, including discussion with SNH, but now require consideration within the HRA process.

Screening for effects

- 2.13 Screening describes the process of identifying which aspects of a plan - either alone or in combination with other policies and plans - need to be considered further for appropriate assessment (SNH, 2015).
- 2.14 Each of the policies and spatial proposals in the proposed LDP has been screened to identify those that may give rise to likely significant effects (LSE) on each of the eleven European sites considered in the appraisal. This process has also identified policies/proposals that will not give rise to LSE on their own, but which will result in Minor Residual Effects (MRE) and hence require consideration for cumulative effects within the LDP and in combination with other policies and plans.
- 2.15 For the screening phase, there is a low threshold for identification of LSE. Effects are considered likely if they cannot be ruled out on the basis of objective information^{2,3}.
- 2.16 The screening method has followed the approach recommended in the SNH Guidance (2015). This is a sequential approach, whereby policies and proposals are assigned to one of the following seven categories:
- 1 = General Policy Statements
 - 2 = Projects referred to in, but not proposed by, the plan
 - 3a = Elements of the plan with no LSE on the European Site as they are intended to protect the natural or built environment
 - 3b = Elements of the plan with no LSE on the European Site as they do not in themselves lead to development or other change.
 - 3c = Elements of the plan that make provision for change, but there is no link or pathway between them and the qualifying interests of a European Site.
 - 3d = Elements of the plan that make provision for change, but there is not likely to be a significant effect, but may give rise to Minor Residual Effects.
 - 3e = Elements of the plan for which effects cannot be determined as the nature and location of any effects is unknown owing to the general nature of the plan.
- 2.17 Those policies/proposals assigned to categories 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 3c and 3e have been screened out from further consideration for effects upon a particular European Site. Elements of the plan that meet criterion 3d have been retained for consideration of cumulative and in combination effects.
- 2.18 Where a policy in the proposed LDP relates to specific locations e.g. for expansion of schools, then the screening is of the individual locations, rather than the policy as a whole.
- 2.19 As noted above, the spatial proposals include some allocations that were included within the previous East Lothian Local Plan, and some sites that have come forward for development since the previous Local Plan was approved (“windfall” sites). These sites have been considered to have been subjected to screening of their effects in their own right and so are only considered for cumulative or in combination effects i.e. they are considered to potentially fall into category 3d - having MRE. New allocations that have not been identified previously have been screened for both LSE and MRE.

² EC, 2000. Section 4.4.2

³ The Waddenzee ruling - European Court of Justice Case C-127/02 dated 7th September 2004

2.20 New proposals and policies with a spatial dimension have been added during the development of the LDP. This includes a number of proposals for upgrading of road junctions. Each new proposal that has a spatial element has been screened as it has been added to the plan.

Screening criteria

2.21 In order for there to be a LSE there must be an impact pathway between the policy/proposal and a European Site. Appendix A includes a list of the impact pathways identified for each of the European sites.

2.22 A number of criteria have been developed to assist in identifying impact pathways for some of the European sites. A precautionary approach has been taken to developing these criteria, to ensure that policies and proposals are not screened out at too early a stage. Further screening will occur as the assessment continues.

Firth of Forth SPA

2.23 A full list of potential impact pathways is included in Appendix A. Based on this analysis, the key impact pathways for the Firth of Forth SPA include:

- Disturbance of qualifying interests at inland roost/feeding sites.
- Disturbance of qualifying interests at the coast.
- Changes to water quality or coastal processes.

2.24 The qualifying interests (QI) of the Firth of Forth SPA are a number of seabird and waterfowl species. Whilst many of these spend all their time at the coast or in the sea, some species are known to use areas of suitable habitat at inland sites as high tide roost sites, or feeding areas. These are: pink-footed goose, and six wader species - curlew, lapwing, grey plover, golden plover, redshank and oystercatcher. Criteria to identify inland areas that may be used by these species have been developed and used in other HRA involving the Firth of Forth (e.g. Falkirk Council, Clackmannanshire Council) and agreed with SNH. These criteria are based on published research into the distances that species will travel to reach inland roosts and the types of habitat that are suitable for foraging and roosting.

2.25 The distribution of qualifying interests around the Firth of Forth is based on research, which was commissioned by SNH and dedicated goose surveys organised by East Lothian Council.

2.26 Data about the use of inland areas around the whole of the Forth Estuary were collected by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) in association with BirdWatch Ireland and the Scottish Ornithologists' Club as part of surveys for the Bird Atlas 2007-11. Data were collected either from 10-km squares or tetrads (2 x 2 km squares). Wader species were mapped within about 5 km, or three tetrads from the coast, whilst pink-footed geese were mapped within approximately 20 km of the coast, or two to three 10 x 10 km squares of the coast. Each tetrad was visited at least twice over the four winter period 2007/08 to 2010/11. These visits occurred in November-December and January-February. Observers could make additional visits if they chose. The counts provide a snapshot in time, and do not provide an indication as to the frequency with which particular sites are used. As these data are provided on a tetrad basis, they do not pinpoint the precise location from which birds were recorded. Some tetrads may also overlap the coast, thus the counts may be a

- representation of coastal high tide roost sites (already considered through the WeBS data), rather than inland sites.
- 2.27 For the screening exercise, no distinction has been made between different habitat preferences of the species that use inland sites; potentially suitable habitat is defined as areas of grassland (all types) or agricultural fields (all cropping regimes). Land use has been assessed from aerial photographs available through Google maps.
- 2.28 The criteria that have been applied to identify spatial proposals that may have an effect are:
- 2.29 Waders (i.e. curlew, redshank, oystercatcher, grey plover, golden plover, lapwing):
- the site is within 5 km of the coast⁴; and
 - the site lies within a tetrad from which that qualifying species has been recorded; and
 - the site appears, based on aerial photographs, to contain potentially suitable habitat.
- 2.30 Small sites (< 3 ha)⁵ in the middle of urban areas have been excluded, as the qualifying interest species favour wide views in order to scan for predators. Some other sites within or adjacent to urban areas have been screened out for species known to be sensitive to disturbance: grey plover, golden plover and lapwing.
- 2.31 Pink-footed goose:
- the site lies within c. 20 km of the coast; and
 - the site lies within a 10 km square/ tetrad from which the qualifying species has been recorded; and
 - the site appears, based on aerial photos, to contain open areas of suitable habitat that are at least 6 ha in size (or combined with adjacent open areas will reach this size).
- 2.32 The East Lothian LDP will result in an expansion in housing stock to accommodate an increasing population. This in turn will increase the level of recreation undertaken, and consequently a potential elevation in the level of disturbance of qualifying interests at roosting and feeding sites, particularly those at the coast. To provide a broad indication of those housing developments that might give rise to elevated levels of coastal recreation, published research into participation in outdoor recreation has been reviewed. Surveys of visits to the outdoors have shown that the greatest proportion are carried out within 2 miles (equivalent to 3.2 km) of home (40%), and 2 - 5 miles (equivalent to 3.2 - 8 km) of home (34%)⁶. Based on these figures it has been decided to use a broad criterion of housing developments within 5 km of the coast, to identify those considered as potentially contributing to recreational activity at the coast. This distance has been measured in a direct line from the boundary of the development to the closest area of coast, and has not, for the screening

⁴ Although some species of wader, e.g. Golden Plover, will travel further inland, a distance of 5 km has been selected for this study.

⁵ RSPB, undated

⁶ TNS, 2014

assessment, taken account of the actual travel distance using roads/footpaths or access points to the coast.

- 2.33 The proposals were also reviewed to identify whether they would lead to changes in coastal water quality as a result of changes to sewage treatment or introduction of untreated discharges. None of the proposals will lead to the need to upgrade existing or install new sewage treatment works to meet quality standards.

Fala Flow and Gladhouse Reservoir SPAs

- 2.34 Pink-footed goose is the qualifying interest at both of these European sites. Whilst the sites are located beyond the boundary of East Lothian, as noted above, pink-footed goose is known to travel up to 20 km between roosting and feeding sites. Maps of feeding areas associated with these roost sites have been published⁷. These maps have been used to assist in the identification of known feeding areas close to spatial proposals included in the LDP.

Screening for cumulative and “in combination” effects with other policies and plans

- 2.35 The cumulative effects of all the policies and plans that give rise to MRE within the proposed East Lothian LDP have been considered. This has involved, for example, considering whether the loss of individually small areas of habitat of potential value to wader species that are a qualifying interest of the Firth of Forth SPA might give rise cumulatively to a LSE as a result of the total area of habitat lost.
- 2.36 Some of the development sites were allocated by previous local plans of form part of the established housing or economic land supply or are windfall proposals that have planning permission. Housing and economic developments on previously undeveloped land have been considered for cumulative effects in relation to habitat loss. Housing developments have also been considered for cumulative effects in relation to recreational use of the coast.
- 2.37 A similar approach has been carried out to consider the total effect of changes arising from the proposed East Lothian LDP and other policies and plans. Individual policies or groups of policies that have been identified as having MRE upon a European site have been screened with the MRE arising from other plans or projects to see if they would act “in combination” to have an LSE upon that European site.
- 2.38 Plans that should be considered for the potential of “in combination” effects are defined in SNH’s Guidance as:
- a) The incomplete parts of projects that have been started but which are not yet completed.
 - b) Projects given consent but not yet started.
 - c) Projects that are subject to applications for consent.
 - d) Projects that are subject to outstanding appeal procedures.
 - e) Any known unregulated projects that are not subject to any consent.
 - f) Ongoing projects subject to regulatory reviews, such as discharge consents or waste management licenses.
 - g) Development that has recently been completed, but where any residual effects may not form part of the environmental baseline.

⁷ Mitchell, 2012

- h) Policies and proposals that are not yet fully implemented in plans that are still in force.
 - i) Draft plans that are being brought forward by other public bodies and agencies.
- 2.39 Some of the other plans considered for “in combination” effects have been subject to their own HRA. Some of these provide clear conclusions on aspects of the plan that give rise to MRE and hence need to be screened in to the “in combination” assessment. However, some plans do not provide a clear list of MRE. In these cases, a judgement was made as to whether there would be MRE arising from the project.
- Appropriate Assessment**
- 2.40 Those proposals that are identified as having a LSE, either alone or in combination with other policies or plans are subject to appropriate assessment.
- 2.41 The “test” is that the plan will not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of a European site. “Integrity” of a site is defined by the Scottish Government as “*the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitat and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.*”⁸ It is judged in terms of the conservation objectives that are set for each European site.
- 2.42 The degree of certainty of conclusions is summarised in the SNH Guidance. This quotes a Court of Session ruling from 1998, which concluded that it is not possible to state an absolute guarantee that there would be no adverse effect on integrity. The competent authority should identify the potential risks, so far as they may be reasonably foreseeable, in the light of such information as can reasonably be obtained, and put in place a legally enforceable framework with the aim of preventing the risks from materialising⁹.
- 2.43 The appropriate assessment is based on existing survey information, reference to published research into the effects of particular activities on qualifying interests, and expert judgement. Data sets that were used during the broad-brush screening stage have been re-analysed together with other existing data sets.
- 2.44 Information about the distribution and numbers of qualifying interests of the Firth of Forth is provided through the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS). Core counts are carried out for lengths of the coast once monthly at high tides, when birds are most easily counted at roosts. Low tide counts are also made for lengths of coast, but these differ to the lengths used during the core counts. Low tide counts are made in at least one winter every six years, with up to four counts being made during the winter period. Core count and Low Tide data have been obtained from BTO.
- 2.45 The screening exercise focussed upon spatial proposals for areas of agricultural land or grassland, which were larger than 6 ha in size and were located within tetrads from which pink-footed goose had been recorded. The appropriate assessment has drawn on additional information sources to determine which

⁸ Scottish Government Circular 6/1995 (Revised June 2000) “Habitats and Birds Directives”.

⁹ WWF-UK Ltd and RSPB v Secretary of State for Scotland *et al.* 1999. 1 C M L R 1021 (1999) Env LR 632. Court of Session, Edinburgh 28th October 1998

areas are actually used by geese. Surveys of feeding sites have been carried out since 2010 by East Lothian Council Ranger Service and volunteers from the Scottish Ornithologists' Club and others. Data comprise *ad hoc* records, biased towards fields visible from main roads; and more systematic surveys of the areas north-west of Haddington and from the Garleton Hills (autumn 2015). Goose numbers are categorised as Low (up to 299 geese), moderate (300 - 399 geese); High (1000 - 2999 geese; and very high (>3000 geese). These thresholds were based on proportions of the average UK goose population between 2006 and 2011 (approximately 300,000). Data are available as grid references. Maps of goose feeding areas have also been produced^{10,11,12}.

- 2.46 Assessment of effects of recreation at the coast has drawn on published survey information about visits to the countryside, and use of the John Muir Way.

RESULTS/CONCLUSIONS OF SCREENING

Results of initial screening and redrafting of policies

- 3.1 Following the initial screening exercise, a number of policies were identified as having potential LSE upon one or more European Sites, or there was some ambiguity about effects, owing to uncertainty about the nature or location of implementation. To address these issues of uncertainty, the policies/proposals were re-drafted to remove ambiguity. In several instances, this was achieved by adding a requirement for HRA to accompany specific applications under those proposals.

- 3.2 This hierarchical approach to HRA is consistent with SNH's Guidance, under certain prescribed circumstances:

In order to ascertain that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of a European site, a plan-making body may only rely on mitigation measures in a lower tier plan if the following three criteria are all met:

- a) The higher tier plan appraisal cannot reasonably predict any effect 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."*

- 3.3 These three points are met for the proposals in this plan, which have been amended.

- 3.4 Following redrafting, the policies were re-screened. To provide an audit trail of amendments, a list of policies that were re-drafted to remove ambiguity of effects are included in Appendix B.

Summary of screening

- 3.5 Appendix C, provided as a separate Excel spreadsheet, is a summary screening matrix for each of the policies and proposals in the proposed LDP. It shows the

¹⁰ Mitchell, 2012

¹¹ Brown & Brown, 2011

¹² Brown, & Brown, 2009

criterion under which different policies/proposals are excluded as having LSE on each of the European sites, and also identifies those policies/proposals that have MRE and hence need to be considered for cumulative and in combination effects. As each European site has a different suite of qualifying interests and connective pathways, there is some variation between sites in the criterion under which some proposals have been screened out.

- 3.6 There are a set of supporting spreadsheets, one for each European site, which provide more detailed information about the screening of individual policies and proposals for each site. A supplementary spreadsheet for the Firth of Forth SPA lists the relevant screening criteria for each spatial proposal i.e. it indicates the presence/absence of qualifying interests, presence of suitable habitat, and distance from the coast of the proposal. These spreadsheets are working documents that provide the audit trail for the decisions summarised in Appendix C. They are updated as polices/proposals are added or amended within the proposed plan.

European sites

- 3.7 A description for the rationale for screening particular European sites in or out of further consideration is provided below.

Firth of Forth SPA

- 3.8 Policies and proposals were identified as having LSE alone or in combination with other projects and plans. Further details are provided in paragraphs 3.22 - 3.26.

Forth Islands SPA

- 3.9 The qualifying interests are sea birds, who spend their time either nesting on the islands, feeding in the waters around the islands, or on migration. Pressures on qualifying interests at the site are linked to invasive species and inter-specific competition. None of the policies or spatial proposals within the proposed East Lothian LDP has a connective pathway to the islands. Development brought forward under one proposal, EGT1: Former Cockenzie Power Station could have LSE, but this has been addressed through amended wording of the proposal. Forth Islands SPA has been screened out of further consideration.

Imperial Dock, Leith SPA

- 3.10 No connective pathways between aspects of the proposed East Lothian LDP and the QI (breeding common terns) have been identified. The tern feeding areas are close to the SPA, and none of the proposals arising from the LDP will have an influence on water quality or availability of prey in that area. Imperial Dock, Leith SPA has been screened out of further consideration.

Isle of May SAC

- 3.11 The qualifying interests are reefs and grey seals. There are no connective pathways between the proposals in the LDP and the reefs. Grey seals come ashore to breed. They feed within the Firth of Forth. None of the proposals within the proposed East Lothian LDP will influence land management or use at the haulout sites on the Isle of May. There are no connective pathways between any of the proposals within the LDP and the QI of the Isle of May. The Isle of May SAC has been screened out of further consideration.

- Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC
- 3.12 There are no connective pathways between the proposals of the East Lothian LDP and the habitats that form the QI of the SAC, owing to the distance between the effects of the plan area and the SAC. The common seals, which are a qualifying interest of the SAC, will not be affected by the proposals as the proposals will not cause a change to marine conditions, and the seals do not haul out on the mainland of East Lothian. The Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC has been screened out of further consideration.
- River Teith SAC
- 3.13 The River Teith SAC is located upstream of East Lothian. Qualifying interests of the River Teith SAC include migratory fish species that will pass the coastline of East Lothian. None of the proposals identified in the proposed LDP will lead to barriers in migration for these species, or a decline in water quality. The only policies within the plan that could lead to development with effects on the estuarine environment are EGT1: Former Cockenzie Power Station and EGT3: Forth Coast Area of Co-ordinated Action. However, there are no details of the nature, type or location of any proposals that will come forward under this policy. In line with the approach set out in paragraph 3.2, the policies have been re-drafted; to require HRA once more detailed proposals become available. The River Teith SAC has been screened out of further consideration.
- Moray Firth SAC
- 3.14 The qualifying interests are subtidal sandbanks and bottlenose dolphin. Although the dolphins are considered resident within the Moray Firth, they do occur further south along the coast. As the proposals will not have an effect on water quality or processes within the Forth Estuary, no connective pathways to the dolphins have been identified. This SAC has been screened out of further consideration.
- Firth of Forth & St Andrews Bay Complex dSPA
- 3.15 The qualifying interests are seabird species that spend most of their time at sea. Some of these species also form a qualifying interest of the Firth of Forth. As the proposals will not have an effect on water quality or processes within the Forth Estuary, no connective pathways have been identified. The Firth of Forth & St Andrews Bay Complex dSPA has been screened out of further consideration.
- River Tweed SAC
- 3.16 A small portion of East Lothian lies within the catchment area of the River Tweed. The location of the catchment area and nature of the land means that there are unlikely to be proposals for development within this area. Any applications are most likely to be linked to wind generation, tourism or telecommunications. Guidance for windfarms within East Lothian has already been published, and subjected to a HRA and AA. This concluded that adverse effects upon the River Tweed could be avoided by specifying appropriate mitigation measures at the project level. Windfarm policies have been drafted to include the need for consideration of effects on European sites. This is in line with the approach set out in paragraph 3.2.
- 3.17 The policy wording for telecommunications developments, coupled with the environmental protection policies within the East Lothian proposed LDP means that effects upon the River Tweed SAC will be avoided. The River Tweed SAC has been screened out of further consideration.

Fala Flow SPA
3.18 The SPA lies beyond the boundary of East Lothian, but pink-footed goose, which are the QI, are known to use feeding areas within East Lothian. Policies and proposals were identified as having potential LSE alone or in combination with other projects and plans. See sections 3.22 - 3.26 for further details.

Greenlaw Moss SPA
3.19 The SPA lies beyond the boundary of East Lothian. The feeding areas thought to be used by the QI associated with the SPA are not located within East Lothian. It is considered that there are no connective pathways between the proposals of the proposed LDP and the QI of the SPA. It has been screened out of further consideration.

Gladhouse Reservoir SPA
3.20 The SPA lies beyond the boundary of East Lothian, but pink-footed goose, which is the QI, are known to use feeding areas within East Lothian. Policies and proposals were identified as having potential LSE alone or in combination with other projects and plans. See sections 3.22 - 3.26 for further details.

Policies/proposals which when considered alone are considered to have an LSE upon a European Site
3.21 As was noted in paragraphs 3.1 - 3.4, some policies were redrafted to remove likely significant effects on their own. This included a number of policies and proposals which enable development, but the precise nature and location has not yet been defined. As there is flexibility over the nature, scale or location of development, and/or mitigation of effects can be included in scheme design, adverse effects on site integrity can be avoided. Developments coming forward under these proposals will be subject to project-specific HRA. Policies which fall into this category are listed in Appendix B.

Combinations of policies/proposals that have been considered for cumulative LSE upon a European Site
3.22 Those proposals within the East Lothian LDP that were identified individually as having MRE upon a European site have been re-screened for their cumulative effects upon those European sites.

3.23 Three European sites: Firth of Forth SPA, Fala Flow SPA and Gladhouse Reservoir SPA were identified as experiencing LSE as a result of the cumulative effects of proposals within the East Lothian proposed LDP. Table 3.1 provides a summary of the nature of these LSE and the European Sites affected. Appendix D contains a detailed list of the combinations of proposals that have been identified as giving rise to these MRE and the qualifying interests affected.

3.24 The potential for LSE on the Firth of Forth SPA caused by cumulative disturbance from construction works at the coast has been considered. Only three of the proposals within the LDP would give rise to disturbance of qualifying interests at the coast:
MIN2: Safeguard Oxwellmains Limestone Quarry (MRE for curlew, golden plover, grey plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank)
Sites in Table PS1:
Edinburgh Road (all QI)
West Seaside (all QI)

3.25 Oxwellmains Limestone Quarry is located close to the coast. It is already operational and recorded bird numbers in the vicinity of the site have been

collected whilst the site is operational. It is at some considerable distance from the two housing sites. Any disturbance arising from the housing developments will be short-term and localised in nature. Much of the development has already taken place. Given the small-scale, localised nature of each cause of disturbance, it is concluded that there are no cumulative LSE.

- 3.26 None of the proposals will give rise to direct discharges into the marine or riverine environments. All properties are to be connected to the existing sewerage network. Consequently, it is concluded that there are no cumulative LSE on the Firth of Forth SPA as a result of pollution.

Table 3.1: LSE arising from cumulative effects upon a named European Site.

European Site	Nature of LSE identified from cumulative effects of elements of the proposed East Lothian LDP
Firth of Forth SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing proposals within 5 km of the coast that could contribute to increased recreational use of the coast (see Appendix D, Table (a) for full list of proposals) • Loss of, or disturbance whilst using inland habitat of potential value as high tide roosting/feeding sites to qualifying interests (wader species) (see Appendix D, Table (a) for full list of proposals and QI affected). • Loss of, or disturbance whilst using, inland habitat of potential value as high tide roosting/feeding sites to qualifying interests (Pink-footed Goose) (see Appendix D, Table (a) for full list of proposals)
Fala Flow SPA	Disturbance of Pink-footed Goose or loss of Pink-footed Goose habitat (see Appendix D, Table (b) for full list of proposals)
Gladhouse Reservoir SPA	Disturbance of Pink-footed Goose or loss of Pink-footed Goose habitat (see Appendix D, Table (c) for full list of proposals).

In combination effects between MRE arising from proposed East Lothian LDP and other policies/plans

- 3.27 MRE arising from the East Lothian proposed LDP have also been considered for possible in combination effects with the MRE arising from other projects and plans. The list of other projects/plans considered for in combination effects is included in Appendix E.
- 3.28 A summary of the screening of in combination effects with other plans is provided in Table 3.2.
- 3.29 In combination LSE have been identified for a single European site; Firth of Forth SPA. Whilst other projects and plans do have MRE upon European sites, the proposed East Lothian LDP does not contribute MRE of the same nature upon those European sites. For example, the Clackmannanshire and Falkirk LDPs (amongst other plans) were identified as having MRE upon the River Teith SAC. However, no MRE upon the River Teith SAC have been identified as a result of proposals within the East Lothian proposed LDP.

Table 3.2: LSE arising from in combination effects with other projects & plans

European Site	Nature of Effect	Projects/plans acting in combination with East Lothian proposed LDP
Firth of Forth SPA	Loss of /disturbance whilst using inland habitat of potential value as high tide roost sites by qualifying interests.	City of Edinburgh Council LDP Falkirk Council LDP Clackmannanshire Council LDP Fife LDP Stirling Council LDP
	Loss of/ disturbance whilst using inland habitat of potential value to Pink-footed Goose.	Falkirk Council LDP Clackmannanshire Council LDP Stirling Council LDP
	Increased disturbance of QI at coast resulting from elevated levels of recreation associated with new housing developments.	Falkirk Council LDP Clackmannanshire Council LDP

Conclusions of screening

- 3.30 Appropriate Assessment is required of the cumulative effects listed in Table 3.1 of the combinations of proposals listed in Appendix D. In order for the plan to progress these must not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of the listed European sites in respect of their conservation objectives. Appropriate Assessment is also required of the effects listed in Table 3.2 that arise from the in combination effects of the other projects and plans listed in that Table.
- 3.31 Some of the proposals within the East Lothian proposed LDP have been brought forward from the previous Local Plan, and have already been subject to Appropriate Assessment. The findings of that previous assessment will be reviewed within the context of the new proposed plan and as there may have been changes in background conditions since the previous assessment was made.

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT IN RELATION TO FIRTH OF FORTH SPA

Housing proposals within 5 km of the coast that could contribute to increased recreational use of the coast

- 4.1 All new housing developments located within 5 km of the coast “as the crow flies” were identified during the screening exercise as potentially contributing to increased recreational use of the coast. This covers proposed housing sites in Musselburgh, Prestonpans, Tranent, Dunbar, North Berwick and the new Blindwells development.

Existing position

- 4.2 The East Lothian coastline is approximately 40 miles long¹³, of which around 75% is owned by East Lothian Council. Most of the coastline can be reached on foot, but activity is concentrated around the following main access points:
The 13 designated coastal car parks managed by the Council:
- Longniddry Bents Nos 1, 2 and 3.
 - Aberlady Bay Local Nature Reserve.
 - Gullane Bents.
 - Yellowcraig.

¹³ East Lothian Council, 2015.

- John Muir Country Park at Tynninghame Links, Linkfield and Shore Road.
- Skateraw.
- Whitesands.
- Barns Ness.
- Thorntonloch.

Access from towns and settlements, e.g.:

- Musselburgh;
- Port Seton;
- North Berwick; and
- Dunbar.

The Core path network:

- Aberlady.
- Gullane.
- Yellowcraig.
- North Berwick.
- Musselburgh.
- Longniddry.
- Prestonpans.
- Port Seton.
- Belhaven Bay.
- Dunbar.

- 4.3 There are no survey data quantifying the level of use of particular parts of the East Lothian coast, but it is possible to make some estimates of visitor activity based on other surveys that have been carried out.
- 4.4 It has been estimated that just over two-thirds (67%) of day-trips in East Lothian are made from people who live in the neighbouring areas of Edinburgh, Midlothian, West Lothian and Borders. This proportion has increased from 52% in 2003 and 59% in 2011¹⁴.
- 4.5 Nearly two-thirds (62%) of all visitors to East Lothian in 2015 included a trip to the beach as part of their visit¹⁵. Whilst this is a slight decrease on the proportion of visitors who made a visit to the beach in 2011 (68%), there has been a significant increase in beach visits since 2003 when 48% of visits included a trip to the beach¹⁶. There has also been an increase in people undertaking activities such as water sports and bird watching¹⁷.
- 4.6 These figures support anecdotal reports that there has been an increase in use of the coastline, both in terms of numbers of users, and the times of day when the coast is used. There is also diversification of activities undertaken, with sports such as surfing and kite surfing gaining popularity.
- 4.7 The completion and branding of the John Muir Trail, which is a 134-mile coast-to-coast route running between Helensburgh in the west through to Dunbar on the east, has also acted to raise the profile of existing paths. Research suggests

¹⁴ LJ Research, 2016

¹⁵ LJ Research, 2016

¹⁶ LJ Research, 2016

¹⁷ LJ Research, 2016

there were between 96,600 - 100,600 visits to the path between Brunstane Burn/ North Berwick/ Dunbar/ East Linton between November 2014 and October 2015¹⁸.

- 4.8 The LDP quotes figures from the Scottish census, showing that the population of East Lothian grew by just under 11% between 2001 and 2011.
- 4.9 Thus, it appears that there is significant and increasing use of the East Lothian coastline, attributable to increased participation in outdoor activities. There does not appear to be a linear relationship between the housing stock in East Lothian and levels of recreational use of the coast, as a substantial and increasing proportion of coastal visits appear to be made by people who are not resident in East Lothian.
- 4.10 All bird species that are a qualifying interest of the Firth of Forth SPA have been recorded in WeBS counts from at least part of the East Lothian coastline on at least one occasion during the five-year period winter 2009/10 to winter 2013/14 (see Appendix F, Table 1).
- 4.11 WeBS data are used to identify “Alerts” for species that have shown a major decline in numbers over the short-, medium-, and long-terms (5, 10 and up to 25 years respectively) and also since site-designation. Where declines exceed 50%, High-Alerts are issued and where declines lie between 25% and 50% Medium-Alerts are issued. Alerts have been issued for 17 of the qualifying interests (see Appendix F, Table 2). Site-specific pressures been identified as a likely cause for three species (Goldeneye, Red-breasted merganser and Golden plover), and possibly also for long-tailed duck¹⁹.
- 4.12 The condition status of the qualifying interest features of the Firth of Forth SPA was last assessed by SNH in 2010. At that time, eleven species were Favourable Maintained; one species was Favourable Recovered; eight species were Favourable Declining; seven species were Unfavourable Declining; and the waterfowl assemblage was considered to be Favourable Declining. Recreation/disturbance was cited as a pressure for only two species; bar-tailed godwit and grey plover which were both assessed as in Favourable Declining condition in 2010.
- 4.13 Based on these two data sets, it appears that the status of the following species is of particular concern within the Firth of Forth, owing to site specific pressures:
Goldeneye
Red-breasted merganser
Golden plover
Bar-tailed godwit
Grey plover.
- 4.14 Goldeneye and Red-breasted merganser are species associated with the sub-tidal area; they do not come ashore during the winter months and hence are not sensitive to increased recreational use of the shoreline, although they would be sensitive to water-based recreation. The declines in numbers of goldeneye (and scaup) on the Forth have been linked to improvements in sewage treatment, as

¹⁸ Stewart *et al*, 2016

¹⁹ Cook, *et al*, 2013

feeding flocks were only recorded at outfalls where sewage continued to be discharged in large quantities.²⁰ It is concluded that these species will not be adversely affected by proposals in the LDP.

- 4.15 Golden plover, Bar-tailed godwit and Grey plover are wader species that feed in the inter-tidal area, retreating to roosts both at the shore and inland at high tide. Consequently, these species are vulnerable to disturbance from coastal recreation. As noted in paragraph 4.13, SNH has identified recreation and disturbance as site-specific pressures within the Firth of Forth SPA for bar-tailed godwit and grey plover by SNH²¹.

Sensitivity to disturbance

- 4.16 Quantifying and predicting the effect of disturbance²² on the behaviour of individual birds is difficult. Variation between species and between individuals of the same species has been recorded. Weather conditions, food supply and condition of the bird also have an influence, as does the type of activity causing the disturbance. There are no agreed methods for relating the effects of disturbance of an individual bird upon its survival or breeding success, and the consequences of effects on an individual bird for the status of the population of that species.
- 4.17 Factors influencing the level of disturbance of shorebirds have been investigated on the Solent. Disturbance was determined by how people behaved and where they went, rather than the actual volume of use. In general terms, disturbance occurred when the activity was within 50 m of a bird, and activities within the intertidal zone were more likely to result in disturbance²³.
- 4.18 Dogs off the lead are a particular source of disturbance, responsible for 27% of disturbance events that involved major flight on the Solent²⁴. Walkers, particularly those accompanied by dogs, were linked to the decline of some wader roost sites around the Moray Firth. The tendency of dog walkers to visit the same area once or twice a day, resulting in frequent disturbance was thought to be a reason for the decline in use of roosts²⁵. Swann (2007) noted that disturbance from just one person and dog could account for decreased use of some roosts.
- 4.19 It has been estimated that there has been an increase in the number of visits to the outdoors taken with a dog from 41% in 2003 to 48% in 2013/14²⁶. Around half of visits to the John Muir Trail (between Brunstane Burn/ North Berwick/ Dunbar/ East Linton) included a dog, and this rose to nearly two-thirds (63%) of visits averaged over the full length of the trail during the winter²⁷.
- 4.20 Table 4.1 shows the occurrence of the three wader species (Bar-tailed godwit, Golden plover, Grey plover) from different WeBS recording sections along the East Lothian coast. The most important area for Bar-tailed godwit is the section

²⁰ Campbell, 1984

²¹ SNH SiteLink website last viewed May 2016

²² Defined as a change in behaviour of a bird

²³ Clarke, *et al*, 2012

²⁴ Clarke, *et al*, 2012

²⁵ Swann, 2007

²⁶ TNS. 2014

²⁷ Stewart *et al*, 2016

of coast between Eastfield to Musselburgh, where the five-winter mean of peak counts represents over 40% of the threshold level required for the site to qualify as of International importance. Aberlady and Gullane Bays; Port Seton to Craigiellaw Point; and Tynninghame Estuary are also important areas. These same stretches of coastline are also important for Golden plover and Grey plover. Whilst access is possible to these lengths of coast, the footpaths are set back from the high tide mark, and in some areas there is limited access to the coast, and/or there are large areas of shore that are exposed at low tide. This means that there are areas that can be used by species that are likely to be at least 100 m from areas most used by people.

Table 4.1: Use of the East Lothian coast by wader species potentially at risk from recreational disturbance

Core Count Section	International importance of the site for each species expressed as the percentage of the international threshold in operation during 2013/14		
	Bar-tailed godwit	Golden plover	Grey plover
Eastfield to Musselburgh	42	3	2
Preston Grange to Port Seton	P	P	P
Port Seton to Craigiellaw Point	14	1	2
Aberlady and Gullane Bays	36	7	N/A
Black Rocks to Eyebroughy			
Eyebroughy to Eelburn	2		
Eelburn to North Berwick Harbour			P
North Berwick to Tantallon	0	1	0
Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands	2	0	1
Tynninghame Estuary	10	0	9
Winterfield to Barns Ness	N/A	N/A	N/A
East Barns to Dunglass	1	0	0

Discussion

- 4.21 Visitor numbers to the East Lothian coast appear to be growing at a rate unrelated to housing development within the Council area. There is anticipated to be a continued increase in numbers, but the greater proportion of this is likely to be visitors from outwith East Lothian.
- 4.22 Disturbance of birds appears to be related to the activities of users, rather than the numbers *per se*. The lengths of coast from which highest numbers of sensitive species have been recorded do include areas of shore which are less accessible, but there is a risk of disturbance to birds in these areas, particularly from unrestrained dogs. This risk is present, irrespective of whether or not the LDP includes proposals for new housing allocations.
- 4.23 Against this background of rising numbers, and disturbance from existing use, it is difficult to be definitive about the additional disturbance that would arise from new housing brought forward under the LDP. It is, however, possible to identify a series of mitigation measures that will ensure that the cumulative effects of disturbance from new housing will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Firth of Forth SPA. These may also act to reduce effects from existing disturbance.

Mitigation

- 4.24 Policy OS3 of the LDP requires that developments of 20 or more dwellings must provide open space of at least 60 m² per dwelling. This includes the provision of natural green space, which provides suitable recreational opportunities close to home and links into the core path network. Provision of good quality recreational opportunities close to housing will reduce numbers visiting the coast.
- 4.25 East Lothian Council currently manages parking at key coastal access points. There are no plans to extend parking provision, which will act as a brake on an increase in visitors arriving by car.
- 4.26 Scottish Power is currently consulting on restoration proposals for two Lagoons at Levenhall Links (Lagoons 6 & 8)²⁸. This will result in the restoration (Lagoon 8) and creation (Lagoon 6) of areas of open water and grassland suitable for use by waders. These proposals are referred to in the East Lothian LDP, but are not proposed by the LDP, although the principle of habitat improvement works in this area is supported by proposal MH18. They have consequently been considered for “in combination” effects with the LDP. The effects of the proposals are considered to be beneficial for the qualifying interests.
- 4.27 Management of recreational use is an operational matter, which is not normally included within a LDP. Various management measures to reduce disturbance from recreation will be implemented.
- 4.28 On the Moray Firth, some wader species became habituated to people, but only where there was some form of physical barrier, such as a wall or ditch, which separated the activity from the roosting/feeding birds²⁹.
- 4.29 A study of existing visitor numbers and disturbance arising from these should be initiated. This information should be used to identify areas of coast where measures are required to reduce disturbance, such as through introduction of barriers, fences, ditches, or planting. The information can also be used to develop refuge areas of coast, which should remain free from disturbance.
- 4.30 Walking within the inter-tidal zone, particularly if accompanied by an unrestrained dog, can cause disturbance to birds. There is some evidence from the Dee Estuary that introducing a team of wardens to reduce disturbance had been successful, as numbers of waders increased, although the potential for recreational disturbance had also increased³⁰. A public awareness programme, which is aimed at minimising the disturbance of wintering birds, particularly from dog walkers, or other groups identified through the visitor activity survey, should be introduced.
- [Loss of, or disturbance whilst using inland habitat of potential value as high tide roosting/feeding sites to qualifying interests \(wader species\)](#)
- 4.31 Six QI of the Firth of Forth SPA have been identified as potentially using inland areas for roosting and feeding (curlew, redshank, oystercatcher, grey plover, golden plover, lapwing). The screening exercise identified areas of potential use in terms of presence of open habitat within a certain distance from the

²⁸https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/policy-partnerships/levenhall-lagoons-consultation/consult_view

²⁹ Swann, 2007

³⁰ Kirby, *et al*, 1993

coast, but did not take account of the individual habitat preferences of the different species. The tetrad data provided by SNH is based on limited survey visits, and hence should be treated with caution, as it provides a short snap-shot of use on potentially only a single date.

- 4.32 No records of known inland roost sites for any of the wader species were identified during this study, but this does not mean that none of the sites are used. However, given the level of bird survey work that occurs in East Lothian, principally for pink-footed goose, it seems reasonable to suppose that if particular areas were used on a frequent basis by large numbers of wader species, these sites would be known.

Curlew

- 4.33 The curlew is included on the Red list as a species of conservation concern in the UK and is identified as Near Threatened by the IUCN. The numbers of overwintering curlew in Great Britain have been decreasing in the medium-term having previously peaked³¹. Within the Forth, numbers of curlew have also declined, but the trend appears to be consistent with the British trend, suggesting that this is not linked to site-specific pressures. Declines are thought to be due to losses in breeding habitat³².
- 4.34 The wintering populations of curlew around the Firth of Forth were assessed as in Favourable Maintained Condition in October 2010³³, with numbers at that time having doubled since 2000³⁴. The five-year (2010/11 - 2014/15) average number of curlew counted for the Forth Estuary is 2944 birds³⁵, which is greater than the population estimate of 1,928 at the time the SPA was classified³⁶.
- 4.35 Curlew are widely distributed both around the shores of the Firth of Forth³⁷ and around the East Lothian coastline. Within East Lothian, they were recorded from 10 of the 12 WeBS core count sections, 41 of the 48 Low Tide Count sectors (See Appendix E, Table 1) and all of the tetrads that cover the coast. The highest numbers recorded during the core counts (expressed as five year mean of annual peak numbers) were recorded from the Tynninghame Estuary. High numbers were also recorded from this area during the Low Tide counts and slightly further north on the coast near Scoughall, with highest numbers during Low Tide counts recorded from Aberlady Bay.
- 4.36 The coastal tetrads from which highest numbers (50+ birds) were recorded cover the coast between the River Esk in Musselburgh and Levenhall Links; between Port Seton and Aberlady; East and West of North Berwick; and around the Tynninghame Estuary and eastwards towards Dunbar. Only three tetrads that do not include any lengths of coast produced counts of 50+ birds. These tetrads cover the area around Direleton and Fenton Barns.
- 4.37 Whilst there are good count data showing the relative distribution of curlew around the coast, there is little information about the particular fields or open areas which are used. In general terms, this species prefers to use high tide

³¹ Cook *et al* 2013

³² Robinson, *et al*, 2015

³³ SNH, SiteLink website, 2011 Last viewed May 2016

³⁴ SNH, 2011

³⁵ Frost *et al*, 2016

³⁶ SNH, 2016

³⁷ Clackmannanshire Council, 2013

roost sites that are on fields or open areas just above the high tide mark and close to major feeding areas. Research has shown a preference for use of improved grassland on farmlands in winter³⁸ and permanent pasture. They will also use playing fields in urban areas.

- 4.38 The majority of proposals in tetrads from which curlew have been recorded are located in areas of tilled land (see Table 4.2), which is unlikely to be used by curlew. Some of the sites, which appear to support grassland, are considered unsuitable for curlew because the areas of grassland are very small and interspersed with buildings (Whin Park/Cockenzie Business Centre & Mid Road Industrial Estate), or because the fields appear to be grazed by livestock (MH2 Land at Old Craighall Village, Musselburgh), or the area appears to be a mixture of grassland and ruderal vegetation (Belhaven Hospital Field), or the field is small and enclosed (Dunbar Station Field).
- 4.39 Four of the proposals have the potential to affect areas of permanent pasture, although the nature and scale of this is unclear. Curlew may use the playing fields of Preston Lodge High School, Dunbar Grammar and North Berwick High school as high tide roosts. Use of land adjacent to Dunbar Station can also not be ruled out.
- 4.40 Details of the extensions required at each of the three schools are still being developed, but are unlikely to result in loss of the playing fields and hence would not represent a change beyond the current situation. Indeed, the North Berwick proposal will result in the use of new land, rather than loss of the existing playing fields. Likewise, details of the platform extension are unknown, and it may not require any new land take.
- 4.41 Given:
- the habitat preferences of curlew in relation to the types of habitat that will be lost to development;
 - the small areas of *potential* habitat that may be affected;
 - the widespread distribution of curlew; and
 - the background of a Favourable Maintained population of curlew within the Firth of Forth SPA;
- it is concluded that there will be no adverse effects upon the curlew qualifying interest of the Firth of Forth SPA arising from the East Lothian LDP.
- Oystercatcher**
- 4.42 Oystercatcher is included on the Amber list of species of conservation concern in the UK and is identified as Near Threatened by the IUCN. The numbers of overwintering oystercatchers in Great Britain have been decreasing over the medium-term³⁹ (Appendix F, Table 2). Declines in Scotland have been particularly pronounced, but the reasons for this are unclear⁴⁰.
- 4.43 The trend in oystercatcher numbers within the Firth of Forth appears to be tracking that of the region and British trends, suggesting that declines are part of a national trend rather than due to site-specific pressures. The wintering populations of oystercatcher around the Firth of Forth were assessed as in

³⁸ Gillings, *et al*, 2008

³⁹ Cook *et al* 2013

⁴⁰ BTO press release, 2012

Favourable Maintained Condition in October 2010⁴¹. The five-year (2010/11 - 2014/15) average winter numbers of oystercatcher counted for the Forth Estuary is 6,263 birds⁴², which is lower than the population estimate of 7,846 at the time of classification⁴³.

- 4.44 Oystercatcher are widely distributed both around the shores of the Firth of Forth and the East Lothian Coast. Within East Lothian, they were recorded from 11 of the 12 WeBS core count sections, 44 of the 48 Low Tide Count sectors (See Appendix F, Table 1) and all of the tetrads that cover the coast. The highest numbers recorded during the core counts (expressed as five year mean of annual peak numbers) were recorded from the stretch of coast between Eastfield to Musselburgh, where the five-year mean peak numbers represented 64% of the number required for the site to qualify as of national importance (Appendix F, Table 3). The importance of this part of the coastline is also demonstrated by the Low Tide Counts; a count of 1090 birds was made along the stretch of coast between Joppa and Musselburgh. Low Tide Counts of over 100 birds were made for Aberlady Bay, Tynninghame Estuary and the coast between Longskelly Point and Cowton Rocks.
- 4.45 Counts within tetrads reflect the importance of the coast. The coastal tetrads from which highest numbers (150+ birds) were recorded cover the areas around Musselburgh, Aberlady and Tynninghame Estuary. In addition, high numbers were recorded west of Dunbar. There are few records from tetrads that do not include any coast; fewer than 20 birds were recorded from tetrads around Direlton and Fenton Barns and from around Huntington.
- 4.46 Oystercatcher, like curlew, shows a preference for areas of grassland, particularly areas of well-established grassland⁴⁴. Also, like curlew, the majority of proposals in tetrads from which oystercatcher have been recorded are located in areas of tilled land (see Table 4.2), which is unlikely to be used by oystercatcher. Some of the sites, which appear to support grassland, are considered unsuitable for oystercatcher because the areas of grassland are very small and interspersed with buildings (Whin Park/Cockenzie Business Centre), or because the fields appear to be grazed by livestock (MH2 Land at Old Craighall Village, Musselburgh), or the area appears to be a mixture of grassland and ruderal vegetation (Belhaven Hospital Field), or the field is small and enclosed (Dunbar Station Field) or receives a high level of disturbance (Gladsmuir Junction, Platform lengthening at Wallyford).
- 4.47 Three of the proposals have the potential to affect areas of permanent grassland, which may be used by oystercatcher: extension of Preston Lodge High School, Dunbar Grammar School and North Berwick High School. These sites have already been discussed in the context of their use by curlew (paragraphs 4.33 - 4.42) and the effects are considered to be similar. Conclusions are, therefore, similar to those reached for curlew.

Redshank

- 4.48 Redshank is included on the Amber list of species of conservation concern in the UK⁴⁵. The numbers of redshank breeding and over-wintering in Great Britain

⁴¹ SNH, 2011

⁴² Frost, *et al*, 2016

⁴³ SNH, 2016

⁴⁴ Heppleston, 1971

⁴⁵ SNH, 2016

have been declining⁴⁶ and there have been declines in the numbers of redshank over-wintering on Firth of Forth SPA (Appendix F, Table 2). These changes broadly follow the trend at the National level, but appear slightly above those at the Regional level⁴⁷, which suggests that conditions for this species within the Forth are deteriorating relative to other sites (SNH). However, the wintering populations of redshank around the Firth of Forth were assessed as in Favourable Maintained Condition in October 2010⁴⁸. The five-year average peak winter numbers of redshank counted for the Forth Estuary is 3,713 birds⁴⁹, which is slightly lower than the population of 4,341 at the time the site was classified as an SPA⁴⁸.

- 4.49 Redshank is widely distributed in low numbers around the shores of the Firth of Forth and the East Lothian Coast. It has been recorded from 9 of the 12 core count sections and 38 of the 48 Low Tide Count sections along the East Lothian coast (Appendix F, Table 3). The tetrad data suggests a limited occurrence of redshank from inland areas.
- 4.50 Highest numbers of redshank were recorded between Eastfield to Musselburgh during the core counts, and from the Tynninghame Estuary during Low Tide Counts. The tetrads from which the highest counts were obtained cover the coast near Musselburgh, Longniddry, and Aberlady Bay. As the data suggest that redshank distribution within East Lothian is closely associated with the coast itself, it is concluded that the proposals will not have an adverse effect upon the redshank qualifying interest of the Firth of Forth SPA.

Lapwing

- 4.51 Lapwing is included on the Red list as a species of conservation concern in the UK and has is identified as Near Threatened by the IUCN. The numbers of over-wintering and breeding lapwing in Great Britain have been decreasing⁵⁰. These declines are thought primarily to be due to losses in breeding habitat.
- 4.52 Numbers of Lapwing within the Firth of Forth have also declined in the medium-term having previously peaked⁵¹. Whilst the trend in lapwing numbers within the Firth of Forth appears to be tracking that of the region and British trends, suggesting that declines are part of a national trend rather than due to site-specific pressures, the magnitude of the decline has been of a sufficient scale for BTO to trigger Alerts for this species for the medium and short-term and since the site was designated (Appendix F, Table 2). Whilst the trends at the site and regional level are similar, BTO reports that numbers of lapwing in the Firth of Forth are making an increasing proportion of the regional totals. This suggests that conditions in the Forth must be fairly favourable for lapwing.
- 4.53 The wintering populations of lapwing around the Firth of Forth were assessed as in Favourable Maintained Condition in October 2010⁵². The five-year (2010/11 - 2014/15) average of wintering peak numbers of lapwing counted for the Forth

⁴⁶ Robinson, 2016

⁴⁷ Cook, *et al*, 2013

⁴⁸ SNH, 2011 SiteLink website Last viewed May 2016

⁴⁹ Frost, *et al*, 2016

⁵⁰ Robinson, 2016

⁵¹ Cook *et al* 2013

⁵² SNH, 2011

Estuary is 2283⁵³ birds, which is fewer than the population estimate of 4,148 birds at the time that the SPA was classified⁴⁸.

- 4.54 Lapwing are distributed widely around the shores of the Firth of Forth, but show a more restricted distribution along the East Lothian coast, being recorded from 7 of the 11 core count sections and only 8 of the 48 Low Tide count sections (Appendix F, Table 1). The tetrad data shows that lapwing records are focussed on the central and western part of the Council area. Moderate numbers (100+) of lapwing were recorded in tetrads lying between Aberlady in the West and Whitekirk in the East, and south towards Longniddry. Only one proposal, NK10 Aberlady West, is located within these tetrads. That proposal is for a site adjacent to the village, which is tilled land and so is likely to be of lower value for lapwing (see below).
- 4.55 To the west, Proposals MH1 - MH4 at Old Craighall, MH9 Land at Wallyford, and MH13 Howe Mire lie within tetrads from which moderate numbers (100+) of lapwings have been recorded. The majority of these proposals are for areas of tilled land.
- 4.56 Several of the proposals are located within tetrads from which low numbers of (20+) Lapwing have been recorded (See Table 4.2).
- 4.57 Research in south-east England showed that lapwings only used less than half of the available fields and that they showed a preference for larger fields (>15 ha)⁵⁴. Lapwings may use both cultivated land and areas of grassland. The Atlas of Wintering Birds states that between November and February the density of lapwing in many areas is higher on grassland than on agricultural land, although the species mainly roosts on cultivated land, especially plough land⁵⁵. Gillings and Fuller⁵⁶ suggest that flocks will feed on cultivated land during the early part of the winter, and then may switch to grassland during late to mid-winter in response to cold weather. A quarter of all lapwing records in a national survey were from cereal crops and grass, but less than 10% of birds were associated with stubbles⁵⁷.
- 4.58 Height of vegetation also seemed to influence choice, with lapwings avoiding cereal fields where the blade height was greater than 110 mm.
- 4.59 Cultivated land appears to be important for lapwings, and areas of such habitat will be lost to some of the developments in the Musselburgh/Wallyford area (e.g. MH1, MH10 - MH11).
- 4.60 The tetrad data provides an indication of the general area that was used at the time of the survey, but is based on limited information and is not site-specific. There are no data to indicate which fields are used, and whether these are used consistently between years. The cropping regime, which is independent of the LDP, will have an important influence on the suitability of fields, and may vary between years.

⁵³ Frost, *et al*, 2016.

⁵⁴ Mason & Macdonald, 1999

⁵⁵ Lack, 1986

⁵⁶ Gillings & Fuller, 1999

⁵⁷ Gillings & Beaven, 2004

- 4.61 Bird survey data to support HRA of outline proposals for sites MH9 and MH10 has been completed⁵⁸. One lapwing was recorded on the site, and a flock of 20 birds were seen in flight to the south of the A1. Low numbers of curlew (10) were also recorded. It was concluded that the proposals would not have an adverse effect upon the Firth of Forth SPA.
- 4.62 To meet the requirements of the Habitats Regulations, mitigation has been built into the LDP to remove any uncertainty about the cumulative effects on lapwings arising from loss of potential inland habitat in the west of East Lothian. This comprises:
- Inclusion of proposal MH18, which promotes habitat creation and enhancement measures for land to the east of Levenhall; and
 - Inclusion of need to conduct project-specific HRA of larger development proposals in e.g. MH1, MH9, MH10 and MH13.
- 4.63 Proposal MH18 promotes habitat creation to the east of Lagoon 6. This area, which is outwith the SPA boundary, will be managed for the benefit of qualifying interests of the SPA, and will act to offset any loss of wader habitat. Works proposed here are additional to habitat measures currently being developed by Scottish Power. The improvement of supporting habitat outwith the boundary of an SPA which is designed to offset any loss of other supporting habitat outwith the boundary of the same SPA has been supported as mitigation by a High Court ruling⁵⁹.
- 4.64 A requirement for HRA (and AA if necessary) has been included in a number of the allocations. These all meet the three “tests” for delegation of assessment to a lower tier of planning, as set out in paragraph 3.2 of this report. None of the allocations is thought to have LSE alone, but there is some uncertainty about cumulative effects, which cannot be addressed within the LDP. This uncertainty arises from a lack of precise knowledge about the use of particular areas by qualifying interests and details of the proposals. Effects can be predicted in a more meaningful way at the masterplan level, and will be informed by bird survey data. Flexibility is available, in terms of how the site is laid out.
- 4.65 Although work to inform a HRA has already been submitted for proposals at MH9 and MH10, the requirement for HRA has been retained in case new proposals are brought forward.
- Golden Plover**
- 4.66 The numbers of Golden Plover over-wintering in Great Britain have been decreasing in the short-term having previously peaked. Numbers over-wintering in Scotland have also decreased, as have numbers over-wintering on the Firth of Forth SPA. This has resulted in the BTO issuing Alerts for this species for the short- and medium-terms and the period since designation (Appendix F, Table 2). The trend of decline within the Forth appears to be similar to that of the Scottish declines, but not the British trend. Numbers in the Forth represent a declining proportion of the Scottish numbers, which suggests that site-specific pressures may be affecting this species.⁶⁰ However, the wintering population of Golden Plover around the Firth of Forth SPA were assessed as in Favourable

⁵⁸ BCM Environmental Services Ltd, 2009; Rudd, 2015

⁵⁹ Hargreaves v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Wyre Borough Council, Cornwall Light and Power Company Ltd (2011) EWHC 1999 (2nd August 2011)

⁶⁰ Cook, *et al*, 2013

Maintained Condition in October 2010. The five-year (2010/11- 2014/15) average of wintering peak numbers of Golden Plover counted for the Forth Estuary is 1072 birds⁶¹, which is fewer than the estimated population of 2,949 birds at the time of classification of the SPA (SNH, 2016).

- 4.67 Golden Plover have been recorded from 9 of the 12 Core Count sections and 13 of the 48 Low Tide Count sections (Appendix F, Table 1). Areas of the coast from which the highest numbers of Golden Plover have been recorded during the Core Counts are between Eastfield to Musselburgh and Preston Grange to Port Seton, and Aberlady Bay. During Low Tide counts, the highest numbers have been recorded sites in Aberlady Bay and Gosford Sands. There is a known golden plover roost at Musselburgh ash lagoons⁶².
- 4.68 Golden plover are often found associated with lapwing⁶³, and there is a large overlap in habitat use by these species⁶⁴. Whilst there is a preference for grassland, particularly permanent, arable land, especially plough land, is often preferred for roosting⁶⁵. Golden plovers show a greater preference for cereals than lapwings, but avoid cereal fields where the blade height exceeds 9 mm⁶⁶.
- 4.69 Grassland is the main habitat for only three of the proposals within tetrads from which golden plover have been recorded, and at least two of these areas are unlikely to be suitable for golden plover owing to their size and their proximity to human disturbance (Station Road Field, and proposals to extend the railway platform in Dunbar).
- 4.70 Golden plover have also been recorded from tetrads in the west of East Lothian (inland from Musselburgh), which also supported lapwings. As noted for lapwings, although effects on these species arising from the cumulative loss of habitat from developments is considered unlikely (see paragraph 4.61 above), mitigation as set out in paragraphs 4.62 - 4.64, has been included within the LDP to remove any uncertainty over effects.

Grey Plover

- 4.71 Grey plover is included on the Amber list as a species of conservation concern in the UK. The numbers of Grey plover that over-winter in Great Britain have been stable in the short-term having previously declined. Numbers of this species over-wintering within Scotland and on the Firth of Forth SPA have been decreasing in the medium-term having previously peaked. This has led the BTO to issue Alerts for the short- and medium-terms and the period since designation (Appendix F, Table 2). The trend on the site appears to be tracking the Scottish trend, although not the British trend. The proportion of Scottish birds found on the Forth is declining suggesting that site-specific pressures may be affecting this species⁶⁷.
- 4.72 The wintering populations of Grey Plover around the Firth of Forth were assessed as in Favourable Declining Condition in October 2010⁶⁸. Game or

⁶¹ Cook, *et al*, 2013

⁶² East Lothian Council. Undated.

⁶³ Fuller in Lack, 1986

⁶⁴ Mason & Macdonald, 1999

⁶⁵ Fuller & Lloyd, 1981

⁶⁶ Mason & Macdonald, 1999

⁶⁷ Cook, *et al*, 2013

⁶⁸ SNH, 2011

fisheries management; recreation/disturbance; and natural events, were identified as site pressures on this species. The five-year (2010/11 - 2014/15) average numbers of Grey Plover counted for the Forth Estuary is 271 birds⁶⁹, which is fewer than the population estimate of 724 at the time the SPA was classified⁷⁰.

- 4.73 Grey plover has an almost exclusively coastal distribution within East Lothian. It has been recorded in low numbers from 9 of the 12 Core Count Sections and from 28 of the 48 Low Tide Count Sections (Appendix F, Table 1). Highest numbers in Core Count sections have been recorded from the Tynninghame Estuary, and highest Low Tide Counts have been recorded from Gosford Sands. The tetrads from which the highest numbers were recorded are close to Musselburgh and Tynninghame Bay. As none of the proposals will affect coastal locations, it is concluded there will be no adverse effects upon the integrity of the grey plover qualifying interest of the Firth of Forth SPA arising from loss of potential inland habitat.

Loss of, or disturbance whilst using, inland habitat of potential value as high tide roosting/feeding sites to qualifying interests (pink-footed goose)

- 4.74 Pink-footed goose is included on the Amber list of birds of conservation concern. The migratory populations of pink-footed goose around the Firth of Forth were assessed as in Favourable Maintained Condition in October 2010⁷¹.
- 4.75 Aberlady Bay is one of two significant roosts on the Firth of Forth (the other being Skinflats). The birds disperse to inland feeding sites during the day, which means they can be under-recorded during WeBS core and low tide counts. Broadly speaking, goose activity is concentrated north of the A1, extending roughly north and east from Longniddry. Particularly high concentrations have been recorded between Longniddry and Aberlady; in the area north of Coates Farm; and inland from Gullane, Dirlton and North Berwick.
- 4.76 Use of fields by pink-footed goose is influenced by the cropping regime and changes throughout the winter in response to food availability. They will feed on a variety of crops including stubble fields, potato remains, beet remains, grass, and winter-sown cereals⁷². Researchers have shown that there can be a preference for stubble fields in the autumn and early winter and grassland later in the winter⁷³. In East Lothian, peak numbers of pink-footed goose are recorded in the autumn and preferred foodstuff is spilt grain in stubble fields, with unharvested potatoes being an important secondary foodstuff, especially around Aberlady⁷⁴. Pink-footed geese tend to use fields close to the roost sites first, moving further away as the food supply becomes depleted, or they are disturbed. Disturbance plays a significant role in the choice of feeding sites; geese prefer to use fields away from roads⁷⁵.
- 4.77 Goose feeding records collected by East Lothian Council have been compared with the spatial locations within the proposed East Lothian LDP. Five of the spatial proposals coincide or lie close to records for pink-footed geese use.

⁶⁹ Frost, *et al*, 2016

⁷⁰ SNH, 2016

⁷¹ SNH, 2011

⁷² Gill, 1996

⁷³ Stenhouse, 1996; Bell, 1988

⁷⁴ Cranswick, 1992

⁷⁵ Gill, 1996

- 4.78 There is a single record from October 2011 of 800 pink-footed geese feeding on stubble at NT446758. This lies within the area allocated for PS1 Longniddry. This site appears to be one of the most westerly feeding sites recorded and there are no other records of goose feeding from nearby. Consequently, the site is not considered to be an important feeding area.
- 4.79 There is a single record of 90 pink-footed geese feeding on grass to the north-west (NT584772) of DR8 Pencraig Hill, East Linton, which dates from February 2013. The site is located towards the southern recorded range of feeding sites. As it has only been used on a single occasion by a small number of geese, it is not considered an important feeding area.
- 4.80 There are three proposals within Gullane, which overlap or lie adjacent to known pink-footed geese feeding areas:
- NK7 Saltcoats, Gullane:
 - NK8: Fenton Gait East, Gullane
 - NK9: Fenton Gait South, Gullane
- 4.81 Between 500 and 2000 geese were recorded on one day in October 2015 from various locations around NT490824 and NT491821. The northernmost of these locations lies within the southern boundary of NK7 Saltcoats. There are other feeding records to the south and east of the site.
- 4.82 Looking at the distribution of feeding records, it appears that the area to the east and south of Gullane is one of the main feeding areas for pink-footed goose. The westward extent of this feeding area may be influenced by disturbance from the edge of the village. The proposed developments, particularly NK7, would result in the loss of a field used for feeding and also bring disturbance closer to the feeding area. This is predicted to reduce the attractiveness of this area to foraging geese.
- 4.83 The loss of a single field is not considered to be sufficient to influence the survival of geese to the extent that it would have an adverse effect upon the integrity of the Firth of Forth SPA. This is particularly the case given the background of goose populations being in favourable condition, and the fact that the use of particular fields will vary depending on the cropping regime.
- 4.84 There is some uncertainty about the level of disturbance that would result cumulatively from the three proposals (NK7, NK8, NK9) and whether this would result in a decline in goose numbers or use of the area leading to an adverse effect upon the integrity of the Firth of Forth SPA. The quality of food available and the closeness of the feeding areas to the roost site will act as a powerful draw to the geese. Many birds, including geese, will tolerate “predictable” movements along roads and paths, but are less tolerant of pedestrians walking through fields.
- 4.85 To remove uncertainty about effects, mitigation has been included within the LDP. HRA and Appropriate Assessment will be required for proposals NK7, NK8 and NK9. This is required to consider, in particular, the cumulative effect of development of all three allocations. It is considered that this mitigation meets the tests set out in paragraph 3.2 of this report. The project-level Appropriate Assessment will be informed by surveys of goose use and feeding behaviour in

the area. There is flexibility and scope for inclusion of mitigation to reduce effects, for example, through planting visual barriers between the developments and the feeding areas. There is also scope, if necessary, for developers to identify mitigation measures such as supplementary feeding or habitat improvements off-site to offset any increase in disturbance or loss of feeding areas. Provision of habitat improvement measures outwith the boundary of an SPA to offset effects to other habitat outwith the boundary of the same SPA can be considered as mitigation⁷⁶.

- 4.86 There are some additional pink-footed goose records from grid references that are within a few hundred metres of proposed spatial allocations, but these are separated from the proposed sites by major landscape features such as the A1 and the A199 and so are not considered to contribute to cumulative effects.
- 4.87 An appropriate assessment was carried out to accompany the Blindwells Development Framework⁷⁷. Low numbers of pink-footed goose were seen to fly over the site, and some goose droppings were found by the pond. However, it was concluded that the site was not important for this species, and that the proposals would not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of the pink-footed goose qualifying interest of the Firth of Forth SPA.

⁷⁶ Hargreaves v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Wyre Borough Council, Cornwall Light and Power Company Ltd (2011) EWHC 1999 (2nd August 2011)

⁷⁷ Scott Wilson, 2010

Table 4.2: Wader species recorded from tetrads containing spatial allocations, and associated habitat (determined through examination of aerial photos and images on google maps) N.B. the presence of a species within a tetrad is NOT necessarily an indication that birds use habitat within the proposal area; factors such as disturbance or management may make the site unattractive.

	Habitat	Curlew	Oystercatcher	Redshank	Grey Plover	Golden Plover	Lapwing	Comments
ED2 Part A: Preston Lodge High School	Permanent improved grassland	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	Site considered too disturbed to support golden plover & lapwing
ED6 Part A: Dunbar Grammar	Permanent improved grassland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Site considered too disturbed to support golden plover, grey plover & lapwing
ED7 Part A North Berwick High School expansion	Permanent improved grassland	✓	✓	✓	✓			Site considered too disturbed to support grey plover
ED7 Part Bii Law Primary School additional campus land	Permanent grassland	✓	✓	✓	✓			Site considered too disturbed to support grey plover
OS5 New Cemetery locations:								
Dunbar	Tilled land/ woodland	✓	✓	✓				
Direlton Cemetery extension	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	

	Habitat	Curlew	Oystercatcher	Redshank	Grey Plover	Golden Plover	Lapwing	Comments
Whitekirk	Grassland	✓						
T3: Segregated Active Travel Corridor	Various	?	?	?	?	?	?	Route passes through various habitats and many tetrads
T9: Safeguarding of Land for Larger Station Car Parks								
Musselburgh	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Longniddry	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
T10: Safeguarding Land for Platform Lengthening								
Musselburgh	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Wallyford	Permanent grassland/ Tilled land	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Prestonpans	Tilled land/ grassland	✓				✓	✓	
Longniddry	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dunbar	Grassland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
T11: Safeguard Land for improvements to Musselburgh Station	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
T15: Old Craighall A1 (T) Junction improvements	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
T17: A1(T) Interchange Improvements								
Salter's Road	Tilled land		✓				✓	
Bankton Junction	Tilled land/ woodland						✓	
Gladsmuir junction	Mainly tilled land, some permanent		✓					

	Habitat	Curlew	Oystercatcher	Redshank	Grey Plover	Golden Plover	Lapwing	Comments
	grassland							
MH1. Craighall, Musselburgh	Mainly tilled land. Small area of grassland & scrub	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
MH2: Land at Old Craighall Village, Musselburgh	Grazed grassland	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
MH3: Land at Old Craighall Junction South West, Musselburgh	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
MH4: Land at Old Craighall Junction, Musselburgh	Scrub/ disturbed land	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
MH7. Pinkie Mains (intensification) Musselburgh	Tilled land	✓			✓	✓	✓	
MH8. Levenhall, Musselburgh	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
MH9. Land at Wallyford	Tilled land		✓			✓	✓	
MH10. Land at Dolphingstone	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
MH12. Barbachlaw, Wallyford	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
MH13. Howe Mire	Tilled land	✓						
MH14. Land at Whitecraig south	Tilled land	✓						
MH15. Land at Whitecraig North	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓				
PS1. Longniddry South	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sites listed in Table								

	Habitat	Curlew	Oystercatcher	Redshank	Grey Plover	Golden Plover	Lapwing	Comments
PS1:								
Mid Road Industrial Estate	Partially developed/ small grassland areas/ ruderal vegetation	✓				✓	✓	
Whin Park/Cockenzie Business Centre	Partially developed/ small grassland areas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
BW1. Blindwells new settlement	Tilled land/ wetland	✓	✓*	✓	✓*	✓*	✓*	
BW2. Safeguarded Blindwells Expansion Area	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
TT1. Windygoul South, Tranent	Tilled land					✓		
TT4. Lammermoor Terrace, Tranent	Tilled land	✓				✓	✓	
TT7. Macmerry North	Tilled land		✓			✓	✓	
TT11. Elphinstone West	Tilled land					✓		
DR2. Hallhill North, Dunbar	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
DR5. Land at Newtonlees, Dunbar	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
DR6. Beveridge Row Belhaven, Dunbar	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
DR7. Land at Spott Road, Dunbar	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
DR11. St John's Street, Spott	Tilled land	✓	✓					
Sites listed in Table DR1								
Station Road Field	Grassland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

	Habitat	Curlew	Oystercatcher	Redshank	Grey Plover	Golden Plover	Lapwing	Comments
Belhaven Hospital Field	Grassland/ruderal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
NK1. Mains Farm, North Berwick	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
NK3. Gilsland, North Berwick	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓	✓			
NK4. Land at Tantallon Road, North Berwick	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓	✓			
NK5. Land at Ferrygate Farm, North Berwick	Tilled land	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
NK10. Aberlady West	Tilled land		✓	✓			✓	

Note: * Species not recorded during species surveys to inform an Appropriate Assessment to accompany the development Framework for Blindwells⁷⁸.

⁷⁸ Scott Wilson. 2010.

FALA FLOW SPA AND GLADHOUSE RESERVOIR SPA

- 5.1 Maps showing the feeding areas used by pink-footed goose associated with Fala Flow SPA and Gladhouse Reservoir SPA are available (Mitchell, 2012).
- 5.2 Few of the mapped feeding areas for pink-footed goose that are a qualifying interest of Gladhouse Reservoir SPA are within East Lothian, and these overlap with feeding areas mapped for Aberlady Bay. Based on the scale of maps that are available, it does not appear that any of the proposals within the East Lothian LDP are for locations mapped as feeding areas for pink-footed geese that roost at Gladhouse Reservoir.
- 5.3 It has been suggested that pink-footed geese roosting at Fala Flow SPA, disperse to feeding sites within 5 km of the site⁷⁹, although other maps suggest that the northern extent of the feeding area may extend into East Lothian⁸⁰. These feeding areas overlap with sites identified as feeding areas for geese that roost at Gladhouse Reservoir and Aberlady Bay. Based on the scale of maps, the only proposal within the LDP that has been identified as lying within the mapped feeding areas is PS1 Longniddry. Effects of loss of this area have been considered in paragraphs 4.77.
- 5.4 It is concluded that the proposals will not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of the pink-footed goose qualifying interest of Fala Flow SPA or Gladhouse Reservoir SPA.

IN COMBINATION EFFECTS BETWEEN MRE ARISING FROM EAST LOTHIAN PROPOSED LDP AND OTHER POLICIES/PLANS

- Loss of /disturbance whilst using inland habitat of potential value as high tide roost sites by qualifying interests.*
- 6.1 Wading birds that are a qualifying interest of the Firth of Forth SPA are found at various locations around the Forth coastline. These species will tend to use inland roost sites that are close to their main coastal feeding areas, to reduce energy expenditure during the winter. Each of the LDPs listed in Table 6.1 will result in the loss of small areas of potential habitat for qualifying interests, although there is limited information as to whether any of these areas are used. In combination effects would only be anticipated if the scale of loss of habitat within one local authority area acted to displace birds to use high tide roost sites within an adjoining local authority.
- 6.2 The scale of loss of potential habitat for wader species was discussed in paragraphs 4.33 - 4.72. There is limited information as to whether any of these sites are actually used by any of the qualifying interests, and the majority of sites are considered to probably be unsuitable, owing to their habitat. However, even under a “worst case” scenario, no displacement of waders to inland roosting sites beyond the boundary of East Lothian is anticipated. It is concluded there will be no adverse effects upon the integrity of the Firth of Forth SPA.

⁷⁹ Brown & Brown, 2011

⁸⁰ Mitchell, 2012

- Loss of/ disturbance whilst using inland habitat of potential value to Pink-footed Goose.
- 6.3 The proposals will not result in any displacement of feeding geese to neighbouring local authority areas. There will be no adverse effects upon the integrity of the Firth of Forth SPA.
- Increased disturbance of QI at coast resulting from elevated levels of recreation associated with new housing developments.
- 6.4 MRE were identified for three qualifying interest species as a result of recreational use of the coast: Golden plover, bar-tailed godwit and grey plover. Golden plover and bar-tailed godwit were also identified as receiving MRE from proposals arising from the Falkirk LDP⁸¹, but were not identified as sensitive to disturbance from proposals arising from the Clackmannanshire LDP⁸². The scale of the combined residual effects arising from each plan will not result in adverse effects upon the integrity of the Firth of Forth SPA.

CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The “test” of effects on integrity is made by reference to the Conservation Objectives of a European Site. The Conservation Objectives for the Firth of Forth SPA, Fala Dam SPA and Gladhouse Reservoir were set out in Appendix A.
- 7.2 With the inclusion of the mitigation measures outlined above, the proposals within the East Lothian LDP will not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of the:
- Firth of Forth SPA,
 - Fala Dam SPA; and/or
 - Gladhouse Reservoir SPA
- either alone or in combination with other projects and plans.

⁸¹ Falkirk Council, 2015

⁸² Clackmannanshire Council, 2013

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Qualifying Interests	Condition Status	Conservation Objectives	Site Pressures	Connectivity pathways, vulnerability & potential effects of plan	Conclusions
Lesser black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>)* Roseate tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) Seabird assemblage *indicates seabird assemblage qualifier only	Favourable Maintained Favourable Maintained Favourable Maintained Unfavourable Declining Unfavourable Declining Unfavourable Recovering	the long term: <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 	(guillemot, kittiwake, razorbill)	qualifying interests at their breeding or feeding sites.	
Imperial Dock Lock, Leith SPA					
Breeding populations: Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Favourable Maintained	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term: <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 	None identified	The SPA lies to the west of East Lothian. Potential connective pathways are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals that would affect the quality of feeding habitat/availability of prey for common terns (e.g. effects on sediment levels). 	Include within screening exercise
Isle of May SAC					
Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> Reefs	Favourable Maintained Favourable Maintained	To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extent of the habitat on site Distribution of the habitat within site Structure and function of the 	Presence/changing extent of invasive non-native species & water management water Dependant Pressure- morphological alteration (Reefs)	The SAC lies offshore from East Lothian. Potential connective pathways are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals that will have an effect on the grey seals, which are a qualifying feature of the SAC; Proposals that would lead to changes in water quality or habitat structure of the reefs. 	Include within screening exercise.

Qualifying Interests	Condition Status	Conservation Objectives	Site Pressures	Connectivity pathways, vulnerability & potential effects of plan	Conclusions
		habitat <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 			
Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC					
Estuaries Intertidal mudflats and sandflats Subtidal sandbanks Common seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Not assessed Favourable Maintained Favourable Maintained Unfavourable Declining	<p>Habitats: To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</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>Species: To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of the species as a viable component of the site 	<p><u>Recreation/disturbance</u> (common seal)</p> <p><u>Game/fisheries management</u> (Intertidal mudflats and sandflats)</p>	The SAC boundary lies over 20 miles to the north of East Lothian. Potential connective pathways are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals that could have an effect on common seals, which are a qualifying interest of the SAC. 	Include within screening exercise.

Qualifying Interests	Condition Status	Conservation Objectives	Site Pressures	Connectivity pathways, vulnerability & potential effects of plan	Conclusions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 			
Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC					
Large shallow inlets and bays Intertidal mudflats and sandflats Reefs Sea caves Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	Not assessed Not assessed Not assessed Favourable Maintained Favourable Maintained	<p>Habitats: To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:</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>Species: To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of the species as a viable component of the site 	No negative pressures	The eastern boundary of East Lothian lies less than 20 miles from the northern boundary of the SAC. Potential connective pathways are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals that would have an effect on grey seals, which are a Qualifying Interest of the SAC. 	Include within screening exercise.

Qualifying Interests	Condition Status	Conservation Objectives	Site Pressures	Connectivity pathways, vulnerability & potential effects of plan	Conclusions
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 			
River Teith SAC					
River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>	Favourable Maintained Favourable Maintained Unfavourable Declining Unfavourable recovering	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species 	<p><u>Forestry operations</u> (salmon, brook lamprey, river lamprey, sea lamprey)</p> <p><u>Invasive species</u> (salmon)</p> <p><u>Water quality</u> (salmon, brook lamprey, river lamprey, sea lamprey)</p> <p><u>Water management</u> (flow regulation, abstraction, point source pollution) (brook lamprey, river lamprey, sea lamprey)</p>	<p>The SAC lies approximately 60 km (measured along the course of the Forth) to the west of East Lothian. Some of the Qualifying Interests are migratory and will pass the shores of East Lothian. Potential connective pathways are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals that will alter water quality; • Proposals that will act as barriers to migration. 	Include within screening exercise.
Moray Firth SAC					
Subtidal sandbanks Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Favourable Maintained Favourable Recovered	<p>Habitats:</p> <p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:</p>	No negative pressures	This site is located in excess of 100 miles as the crow flies from East Lothian, and significantly further by sea. Whilst Bottlenose dolphin is a mobile species, there are few reports of this species within the Firth of Forth ⁸³	No further screening required.

⁸³ Thompson, 2011. Thompson, P. M., Cheney, B., Ingram, S., Stevick, P., Wilson, B. & Hammond, P. S. (Eds). 2011. Distribution, abundance and population structure of bottlenose dolphins in Scottish waters. Scottish Government and Scottish Natural Heritage funded report. *Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 354*

Qualifying Interests	Condition Status	Conservation Objectives	Site Pressures	Connectivity pathways, vulnerability & potential effects of plan	Conclusions
		<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 <p>No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat</p> <p>Species: To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are established then maintained in the long term:</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 			
Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex dSPA					
Red-throated diver <i>Gavia stellata</i> Slavonian grebe <i>Podiceps auritus</i> Little gull <i>Larus minutus</i> Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> Arctic tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> Common eider <i>Somateria mollissima</i> Long-tailed duck <i>Clangula hyemalis</i> Common scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> Velvet scoter <i>Melanitta fusca</i> Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i> Red-breasted merganser <i>Mergus</i>	Not assessed	Under development	Not Known	This is a new marine site designated for species that spend most/all of their time at sea. Potential connective pathways are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals that will alter water quality; • Proposals that will create disturbance/changes to habitat quality offshore. 	

Qualifying Interests	Condition Status	Conservation Objectives	Site Pressures	Connectivity pathways, vulnerability & potential effects of plan	Conclusions
<p><i>serrator</i> Northern gannet <i>Morus bassanus</i> Manx shearwater <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i> Atlantic puffin <i>Fratercula arctica</i> European shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> Black-legged kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> Common guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i> Black headed gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> Common gull <i>Larus canus</i> Herring gull <i>Larus argentatus</i></p>					
River Tweed SAC					
<p>Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i></p>	<p>Unfavourable No Change Favourable Maintained Unfavourable No Change Favourable Maintained Unfavourable No Change Unfavourable No Change</p>	<p>Habitats: To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:</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>Species: To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species</p>	<p><u>Agricultural operations</u> (salmon) <u>Climate change</u> (salmon) <u>Invasive species</u> (salmon) <u>Over-grazing</u> (salmon) <u>Water management</u> (abstraction, morphological alteration, point source pollution, diffuse source pollution) (salmon) <u>Water management</u> (morphological alteration, point source pollution, flow regulation, diffuse source pollution, abstraction) (brook lamprey) <u>Forestry operations</u> (otter) <u>Recreation/disturbance</u> (otter) <u>Water management</u> (morphological alteration, flow regulation, diffuse source pollution, abstraction, point source pollution) , (river lamprey) <u>Water quality</u> (river lamprey) <u>Invasive species</u> (rivers with floating vegetation)</p>	<p>A small part of the Tweed catchment lies within the boundary of East Lothian. Potential connective pathways are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proposals that would alter water quality in the Tweed catchment; • proposals that would influence ability of migratory and mobile QI (e.g. otter) to use headwaters of tributaries of the Tweed. 	<p>Include within screening exercise.</p>

Qualifying Interests	Condition Status	Conservation Objectives	Site Pressures	Connectivity pathways, vulnerability & potential effects of plan	Conclusions
		<p>that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site • Distribution of the species within site • Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species • Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species • No significant disturbance of the species 			
Fala Flow SPA					
Pink-footed goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Favourable Maintained	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</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 	No negative pressures	<p>Site lies outwith the boundary of East Lothian. The qualifying interests have been recorded as foraging within East Lothian⁸⁴. Potential connective pathways are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of foraging areas. 	Include within screening exercise.
Greenlaw Moor SPA					
Pink-footed goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Favourable Maintained	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p>	No Negative Pressures	<p>Site lies outwith the boundary of East Lothian. The qualifying interests have not been recorded as foraging within East Lothian⁸⁵.</p>	No potential connectivity, screened out of further consideration.

⁸⁴ Mitchell, 2012

⁸⁵ Mitchell, 2012

Qualifying Interests	Condition Status	Conservation Objectives	Site Pressures	Connectivity pathways, vulnerability & potential effects of plan	Conclusions
		<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 			
Gladhouse Reservoir SPA					
Pink-footed goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Unfavourable Declining	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</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 	Water management - flow regulation	<p>Site lies outwith the boundary of East Lothian. The qualifying interests have been recorded as foraging within East Lothian⁸⁶. Potential connective pathways are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of foraging areas. 	Include within screening exercise.

⁸⁶ Mitchell, 2012

APPENDIX B: POLICIES WHICH WERE REDRAFTED TO AVOID AMBIGUITY AND ACHIEVE CERTAINTY OVER EFFECTS

Policy	Reason
TOUR1: Archerfield Estate, Dirlerton	This policy is carried forwards from the previous local plan. It is a general policy statement in support of golf based tourism, and does not specify the nature and type of any development that may arise from the policy, and may just support existing development. The policy relates to an area that is adjacent to the coast, and which lies in a tetrad where high numbers of two qualifying interests (pink-footed goose and curlew) have been recorded. Some forms of development consistent with the policy can be implemented, but others could give rise to LSE.
TOUR3: Dunbar Castle Vaults	This policy is carried forwards from the previous local plan, where it was screened out of the HRA. It is aimed at enabling access to the vaults under the castle, without promoting any particular form of development. The proposal is for a coastal location and a number of qualifying interest species of the Firth of Forth SPA have been recorded from the tetrad (pink-footed goose, curlew, Golden plover, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Oystercatcher and Redshank).
T3: Segregated Active Travel Corridor	An indicative route has been produced, which broadly follows existing transport routes, and looks to avoid habitats used by qualifying interests of the Firth of Forth SPA. As the route has yet to be finalised, deviations from the proposed route will need to be screened for likely effects upon European sites.
T9: Safeguarding of Land for Larger Station Car Parks; T10: Safeguarding Land for Platform lengthening; T11 Safeguarding of land for Musselburgh “Parkway” station; T12 Railway Station Safeguarding at East Linton	These policies relate to allowing expansion of public transport links. Whilst these are likely to be situated adjacent to existing developments, no boundaries have yet been defined, and the safeguarded areas may extend into areas of potentially suitable habitat for up to seven of the Qualifying Interests of the Firth of Forth SPA. There is insufficient information at this stage to be able to assess whether these adjoining areas are used by Qualifying Interests.
T13: East Coast Main Line: Four Track Section, New Rail Station and Vehicular Overbridge	This proposal allows for the expansion of the capacity of the rail network. An indicative location has been identified, but this has not yet been fixed. As there is uncertainty about the location, proposals will have to be screened for HRA.
T14: Longniddry-Haddington Route Safeguard	The policy is safeguarding an existing access route, but also makes provision for development of supporting infrastructure - the nature and location of which is unknown. The route itself in its current form is unlikely to be supporting habitat for the QI of the Firth of Forth SPA, but adjoining locations could be supporting habitat.
T15: Old Craighall A1(T) Junction Improvements	This policy allows for changes to the road layout. As the precise locations have not been agreed, the need for screening for HRA has been included to provide certainty about effects.
T17: A1(T) Interchange Improvements	This policy allows for upgrades of existing junctions, or contributions to these. The precise location of works is not known.

Policy	Reason
T18: Land Safeguard for Trunk Road Interchange at Adniston and Eastern Tranent By-pass	Policy allows for junction upgrade, but there is flexibility about location.
WD1: Windfarms; WD2: Smaller scale wind turbine development; WD3: All Wind Turbines	These three policies set out general criteria that will be used to assess the acceptability of applications for either windfarms or individual turbines.
EGT1: Land at Former Cockenzie Power Station	The policy safeguards the site for thermal energy generation in line with requirements set out in NPF3. However, there are no details of the nature or type of generation that might be introduced. As the site is adjacent to the coast, there is the potential for effects upon European sites.
EGT3: Forth Coast Area of Co-ordinated Action	This policy enables the onshore infrastructure necessary for offshore energy generation. At this stage the nature, type and location(s) of any proposals under this policy are unknown. However, there is the potential for certain types of activity or locations to have Likely Significant Effects or Minor Residual Effects.
DC4: New Build housing in the Countryside	This is a criteria-based policy that allows new housing in the countryside. At this stage it is difficult to know where proposals might be located. There is potential for proposals in areas that are important high tide roost sites for Qualifying Interests.
DC5: Housing as enabling development	This is a criteria-based policy that allows new housing in the countryside, if it enables other benefits. At this stage it is difficult to know where proposals might be located. There is potential for proposals in areas that are important high tide roost sites for Qualifying Interests.
DC6: Development in the coastal area	General criteria for when development in the coastal area will be permissible.
CH9: High Street/Inch View, Prestonpans	This policy is carried forwards from the previous local plan, when it was screened out as being a protective policy. This is a criteria-based policy, which sets out factors to be considered if development comes forward in certain areas but does not on its own promote or enable development in these areas, or specify the type or location of development that may be acceptable.
MIN9: Supporting Information	The policy sets out the information that may be required to support applications for mineral extraction.
OS5: Potential Cemetery extensions Dunbar Cluster - Land adjacent Deer Park Cemetery; Dirlton Graveyard; Whitekirk Cemetery	Some of the areas of land that adjoin these cemeteries are of potential value to qualifying interests.
MH1: Land at Craighall, Musselburgh	This allows for mixed use development near Musselburgh. This allocation is one of several that could result in the loss of potential habitat for wader species, particularly lapwings. Mitigation is possible, once the

Policy	Reason
	nature and scale of any effects is understood through a project-specific HRA/AA.
MH9: Land at Wallyford; MH10: Land at Dolphingstone; & MH13: Land at Howe Mire, Wallyford	These three developments may contribute to the cumulative loss of potential habitat for wader species. Mitigation is possible, once the nature and scale of any effects is understood through a project-specific HRA/AA. Information to inform the HRA has been submitted with an application for these sites.
NK7: Saltcoats, North Berwick; NK8: Fenton Gait East, Gullane; NK9: Fenton Gait South, Gullane.	These three developments to the south and east of Gullane have the potential to have cumulative effects upon pink-footed geese as a result of loss of and disturbance to feeding areas. Mitigation is possible, once the nature and scale of any effects is understood through a project-specific HRA/AA. This may include the need to provide mitigation measures off-site.

APPENDIX C: SUMMARY OF SCREENING OF POLICIES/PROPOSALS IN THE PROPOSED LDP AGAINST EUROPEAN SITES.

Appendix C is provided as a separate spreadsheet containing two worksheets:

Summ screen edit: This sheet provides a summary of the screening conclusions for each proposal within the East Lothian LDP for Likely Significant Effects (alone) upon each of the European sites. Screening criteria have followed those set out in SNH's guidance for appropriate assessment of local plans (SNH, 2015). The reasons for screening out particular proposals are indicated using the following numbering system:

1 = General Policy Statements

2 = Projects referred to in, but not proposed by, the plan

3a = Elements of the plan with no LSE on the European Site as they are intended to protect the natural or built environment

3b = Elements of the plan with no LSE on the European Site as they do not in themselves lead to development or other change.

3c = Elements of the plan that make provision for change, but there is no link or pathway between them and the qualifying interests of a European Site.

3d = Elements of the plan that make provision for change, but there is not likely to be a significant effect, but may give rise to Minor Residual Effects.

3e = Elements of the plan for which effects cannot be determined as the nature and location of any effects is unknown owing to the general nature of the plan.

Proposals marked in red are considered to have LSE on the relevant European site.

Proposals marked in brown are those that have Minor Residual effects and hence require consideration for cumulative effects within the plan, or in combination effects with other projects and plans

Further explanation of the criteria used in screening is provided in Section 2 of the HRA record.

MRE Cuml effects: This sheet lists those proposals that have been identified to have Minor Residual Effects and need to be considered cumulatively and in combination with other projects and plans for Likely Significant Effects upon European sites.

Proposals marked in red are considered to have LSE on the relevant European site. Proposals marked in orange are considered to have MRE, and hence require screening for cumulative and in combination effects.

Explanation and Key

This spreadsheet contains two worksheets:

proposal within the East Lothian LDP for Likely Significant Effects (alone) upon each of the European sites. Screening criteria have followed those set out in SNH's guidance for appropriate assessment of local plans (SNH, 2015). The reasons for screening out particular proposals are indicated using the following numbering system:

1 = General Policy Statements

2 = Projects referred to in, but not proposed by, the plan

3a = Elements of the plan with no LSE on the European Site as they are intended to protect the natural or built environment

3b = Elements of the plan with no LSE on the European Site as they do not in themselves lead to development or other change.

3c = Elements of the plan that make provision for change, but there is no link or pathway between them and the qualifying interests of a European Site.

3d = Elements of the plan that make provision for change, but there is not likely to be a significant effect, but may give rise to Minor Residual Effects.

3e = Elements of the plan for which effects cannot be determined as the nature and location of any effects is unknown owing to the general nature of the plan.

Proposals marked in red are considered to have LSE on the relevant European site.

Proposals marked in brown are those that have Minor Residual effects and hence require consideration for cumulative effects within the plan, or in combination effects with other projects

Further explanation of the criteria used in screening is provided in Section 2 of the HRA record.

MRE Cuml effects: This sheet lists those proposals that have been identified to have Minor Residual Effects and need to be considered cumulatively and in combination with other projects and plans for Likely Significant Effects upon European sites.

Summary of findings of screening for all European Sites																			
Policy/Proposal	Comments	Firth of Forth SPA	Forth Islands SPA	Imperial Dock, Leith SPA	Isle of May SAC	Firth & Tay Eden Estuary SAC	Berwickshire & North Northumberland Coast SAC	River Teith SAC	Moray Firth SAC	Firth of Forth & St Andrews Bay complex dSPA	River Tweed SAC	Fala Flow SPA	Greenlaw Moor SPA	Gladhouse Reservoir SPA					
General Urban Development Policies																			
TC1: Town centre first principle		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TC2: Town and local centres		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TC3: Protection of local facilities		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TC4: Hot food outlets		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
RCA1: Residential Character and Amenity		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Planning for Employment																			
EMP1: Business and Employment Locations	Individual locations assessed	3e	3e	3e	3e	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
EMP2: Operational Harbours		1																	
Tourism Policies																			
TOUR1: Archerfield Estate, Dirlon	General policy. No development identified. Mitigation added to remove uncertainty.	1	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
TOUR2: Belhaven Chalets		3b	3b	3b	3b	3b	3b	3b	3b	3b	3c	3b	3c	3b	3b	3b	3b	3b	3b
TOUR3: Dunbar Castle Vaults	Mitigation added to remove uncertainty.	3b	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
TOUR4: Hotels and Guest Houses		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3c	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Planning for Housing																			
HOU1: Established Housing Land		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HOU2: Maintaining an Adequate 5-Year Effective Housing Land Supply	Assessed under specific locations	3e	3e	3e	3e	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3e	3c	3e	3c	3e	3c	3e	3e
HOU3: Affordable Housing Quota		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HOU4: Affordable Housing Tenure Mix		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HOU5: Residential Care & Nursing Homes - Change of Use		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HOU6: Residential Care and Nursing Homes - Location		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HOU7: Housing in Multiple Occupation		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HOU8: Gypsy/Travellers' Sites		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Education, Community & Health and Social Care Facilities																			
SECF1: Safeguarded Education and Community Facilities		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Musselburgh Cluster Education Proposals																			
ED1 Part A: School at Wallyford	Precise location not established, but will lie within one of the Wallyford allocations, so will be assessed as part of them.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
ED1 Part B: Primary and pre-school provision Wallyford & Craighall	Assessed as part of the spatial allocations for those areas (MH1, MH9, MH10, MH11)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
ED1 Part C: Campus land at Whitecraig	To be assessed as part of MH11	1	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
ED1 Part D: Education provision		3e	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
ED2: Prestonpans Cluster Education Proposals																			
ED2 part A Preston Lodge High School	Within tetrad from which Golden plover, oystercatcher, redshank, lapwing, curlew recorded, but as urban site golden plover & lapwing are screened out	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
ED2 Part B		3e	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
ED3: Blindwells Cluster Education Proposals																			
ED3 Part A	Assessed as part of overall Blindwells proposal	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
ED3 Part B	Assessed as part of overall Blindwells proposal	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
ED4: Tranent Cluster Education Proposals																			
ED4 part A: expansion Ross High School	School is located in a tetrad with records for low numbers of lapwing (<20) and PFG (100+), and has grassland nearby. However, as these species are sensitive to human disturbance, it is unlikely they utilise any suitable habitat near the school and it has been screened out of MRE for Firth of Forth SPA	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
ED4 Part B i. Windygoul Primary	School is on edge of built-up area with agricultural land adjoining. Occurs in a tetrad from which high numbers of PFG have been recorded (1000+). Golden plover also recorded from tetrad. Both species are sensitive to disturbance. Owing to proximity of school expansion area to school buildings it has been screened out for MRE on Firth of Forth SPA and Fala Flow SPA.	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
ED4 Part B ii. Elphinstone Primary	School is located on edge of built-up area with agricultural land adjoining. OI recorded from the tetrad are PFG (<100), Golden plover (250+), Lapwing (100+) and oystercatcher (<20). The expansion would be within the school grounds, which total less than 1 ha of grassland. Site is screened out of MRE on Firth of Forth SPA owing to small area and high levels of disturbance. Site lies within foraging area of Fala Flow SPA, but is screened out owing to small size and disturbance.	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
ED4 Part C		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
ED5: Haddington Cluster Education Proposals																			
ED5 Part A Knox Academy		3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
ED5 Part B Letham Mains	Assessed as part of HN1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
ED5 Part C		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
ED6: Dunbar Cluster Education Proposals																			
ED6 Part A Dunbar Grammar	Existing school is near the coast, and occurs in a tetrad from which lapwing, golden plover, curlew, grey plover, redshank, oystercatcher, and PFG have been recorded. School lies adjacent to areas of grassland of sufficient size to support waders. Site considered too small/disturbed for some OI: PFG, grey plover, golden plover, lapwing, curlew.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
ED6 Part B general provision	No specific locations have been provided	3e	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
ED7: North Berwick Cluster Education proposals																			

Musselburgh	Occurs in tetrad from which 6 QI of the Firth of Forth SPA have been recorded. Potentially suitable habitat adjoins station. Site is also within foraging distance of Gladhouse Reservoir and Fala Flow SPAs. MRE loss of inland PFG habitat; loss of inland wader habitat (curlew, golden plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank). Mitigation added to remove uncertainty.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3d	3c	3d	
Longniddry	Precise location of any extension is unknown. The existing car park is within a mainly built-up area, but there may be some scope for expansion. Land to the east of the railway line is identified for housing as part of PS1 and effects of developing that area will be considered as part of that proposal. The land east of the line is within a tetrad from which 7 QI of the Firth of Forth SPA have been recorded and potentially suitable habitat nearby. Site lies within foraging distance of Fala Flow SPA. Mitigation added to remove uncertainty.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3d	3c	3c	
Drem	Occurs in tetrad from which PFG - a QI of the Firth of Forth SPA and Fala Flow SPA have been recorded and potentially suitable habitat nearby (although some existing disturbance). Mitigation added to remove uncertainty.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3d	3c	3c	
<i>T10: Safeguarding Land for Platform Lengthening</i>		Assessed under each location														
Musselburgh	Occurs in tetrad from which 6 QI of the Firth of Forth SPA have been recorded. Potentially suitable habitat adjoins station. Site is also within foraging distance of Gladhouse Reservoir and Fala Flow SPAs. MRE loss of inland PFG habitat; loss of inland wader habitat (curlew, golden plover, lapwing, oystercatcher,	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3d	3c	3d
Wallyford	Occurs in tetrad from which 6 QI of the Firth of Forth SPA been recorded and potentially suitable habitat adjoins station. Also within foraging distance of Fala Flow SPA. MRE loss of inland PFG habitat; loss of inland wader habitat (curlew, golden plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank). Mitigation added to remove uncertainty.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3d	3c	3c	
Prestonpans	Occurs in tetrad from which 4 QI of the Firth of Forth SPA have been recorded and potentially suitable habitat nearby. Site lies within foraging distance of Fala Flow SPA. MRE loss of PFG inland habitat; loss of inland wader habitat (curlew, golden plover, lapwing). Mitigation added to remove uncertainty.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3d	3c	3c	

Longniddry	SPA have been recorded and potentially suitable habitat nearby. Site lies within foraging distance of Fala Flow SPA. MRE inland PFG habitat; loss of inland wader habitat (curlew, golden plover, grey plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank). Mitigation added to remove uncertainty.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3d	3c	3c
Drem	Forth SPA and Fala Flow SPA have been recorded and potentially suitable habitat nearby (although some existing disturbance). Mitigation added to remove uncertainty.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
Dunbar	SPA have been recorded, some potentially suitable habitat nearby. MRE loss of inland PFG habitat; loss of inland wader habitat (golden plover, grey plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank, lapwing, curlew). Mitigation added to remove uncertainty.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
T11: Safeguard Land for improvements at Musselburgh Station	SPA have been recorded. Potentially suitable habitat adjoins station. Site is also within foraging distance of Gladhouse Reservoir and Fala Flow SPAs. MRE loss of inland PFG habitat; loss of inland wader habitat (curlew, golden plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank). Mitigation added to remove uncertainty.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3d	3c	3d
T12: Railway Station Safeguarding At East Linton	Precise location unknown, but occurs in a tetrad from which PFG have been recorded. MRE loss of inland PFG habitat. Mitigation added to remove uncertainty.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3d?
T15: Old Craighall A1(T) Junction Improvements	Will require works to existing road and junction. Will require encroachment into adjoining agricultural land. Low numbers of PFG recorded from tetrad, but site too small to be used by this species. Curlew, golden plover, oystercatcher, redshank and lapwing recorded from tetrad. Mitigation added to remove uncertainty.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
<i>T17: A1(T) Interchange Improvements</i>															
Salter's Road	Precise details not known. Site is <5km from coast and is in tetrad from which some OI been recorded. Lies adjacent to MH9. MRE loss of inland wader habitat (lapwing, oystercatcher). Site considered too disturbed to support PFG. Mitigation added to remove uncertainty.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
Bankton Interchange	Considered too disturbed for PFG. Mitigation added to remove uncertainty.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
Gladsmuir	Low numbers PFG & oystercatcher. Mitigation added to remove uncertainty.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
List of Spatial Proposals															
<i>Musselburgh Cluster:</i>															

MH1. Craighall, Musselburgh	MRE for loss of PFG habitat; loss of habitat for waders(Curlew, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank, golden plover). MRE for coastal recreation. SNH screened in.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3d	3c	3d
MH2. Land at Old Craighall Village, Musselburgh	MRE for loss of PFG habitat; loss of habitat for waders(Curlew, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank, Golden plover). SNH screened in.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3d	3c	3d
MH3. Land at Old Craighall Junction South West, Musselburgh	MRE for Curlew, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank, golden plover & recreational disturbance at the coast. Site considered too small to support PFG	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
MH4. Land at Old Craighall Junction, Musselburgh	MRE for loss of habitat for waders (Curlew, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank, Golden plover). Site considered too small for PFG. Employment only. SNH screened in. Mitigation added to remove uncertainty.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
MH5. Former Edenhall Hospital, Musselburgh	MRE coastal disturbance only. SNH screened out	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
MH6. Pinkie Mains, Musselburgh	Site included in previous Local Plan and was screened out for effects on PFG, but identified as having MRE for coastal disturbance of QI. PFG, Curlew, grey plover, golden plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank recorded from tetrad. Recreational disturbance at the coast	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3d	3c	3d
MH7. Pinkie Mains (Intensification), Musselburgh	MRE for curlew, golden plover, grey plover, lapwing. Recreational disturbance at coast. SNH screened in	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
MH8. Levenhall, Musselburgh	MRE for curlew, golden plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank. PFG screened out owing to size. Coastal recreation. SNH screened in.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
MH9. Land at Wallyford	Previous HRA available & screened out. Included in previous Local Plan. MRE for PFG, golden plover, lapwing, oystercatcher & recreational disturbance at coast. SNH screened in. Mitigation added to remove uncertainty.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3d	3c	3d
MH10. Land at Dolphingstone	MRE for PFG, curlew, golden plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank; recreational disturbance at coast. SNH screened in. Mitigation added to remove uncertainty.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3d	3c	3d
MH11 Education: New Secondary Education Establishment Wallyford (included within land allocation MH9 & MH10 so not assessed separately)															
MH12. Barbachlaw Wallyford	Site spans two tetrads, only one of which contains PFG and some of the waders. MRE for PFG, curlew, golden plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank. Coastal recreational disturbance. SNH screened in.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3d	3c	3d

BW1. Blindwells New Settlement	Included within previous Local Plan & was identified as having MRE for coastal disturbance of QI. HRA been conducted for site. MRE for loss inland PFG habitat; inland wader habitat (curlew, golden plover, grey plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank). MRE recreational disturbance.	3d?	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3d	3c	3c
BW2. Safeguarded Blindwells Expansion Area	MRE for loss inland PFG habitat; inland wader habitat (curlew, golden plover, grey plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank). MRE recreational disturbance.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3d	3c	3c
<i>Tranent Cluster:</i>														
TT1. Windygoul South - Tranent	Adjoins other potential sites. QI are PFG and Golden plover, which are sensitive to disturbance. Screen in for recreational disturbance at coast. SNH screened in.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3d	3c	3c
TT4. Lammermoor Terrace, Tranent	MRE loss of inland wader habitat (curlew, golden plover, lapwing); MRE recreational disturbance. SNH screened in. Screened out for PFG owing to size of site.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
TT5. Bankpark Grove, Tranent	MRE for coastal disturbance. Site considered too small to support PFG & too disturbed to support lapwing. SNH screened in	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
TT7. Macmerry North	Site lies in tetrad with high numbers of PFG and is large enough to support this species. Golden plover, Lapwing and Oystercatcher recorded from tetrad. MRE recreational disturbance at coast. SNH screened in	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3d	3c	3c
TT9. Gladsmuir East	Site lies in a tetrad from which PFG & GP have been recorded. Although the proposed site is small, it is part of a larger area of habitat. However, the proximity of this field to built up areas means that the site has been screened out as likely to support either PFG or PG owing to disturbance. MRE recreational disturbance at coast.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
TT11. Elphinstone West	MRE recreation disturbance at coast. Site is within a tetrad from which Golden plover has been recorded, and contains agricultural land. Site may be too disturbed or unsuitable for this species. SNH screened out	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
<i>Sites in Table TT1</i>														
73-77 High St. Tranent	MRE recreational impacts. Already consented; replacement development of farm steading.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
22-24 Bridge St.	MRE coastal development. Already consented; replacement development.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
Land at Elder Street	MRE coastal disturbance. Already consented; replacement development.	3d	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c	3c
<i>Dunbar Cluster:</i>														

APPENDIX D: LSE IDENTIFIED FROM CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF POLICIES/PROPOSALS WITHIN THE PROPOSED EAST LoTHIAN LDP

(a) Firth of Forth SPA

LSE on qualifying interest features of the Firth of Forth SPA	Combinations of policies/proposals giving rise to cumulative LSE
<p>Proposals within 5 km of the coast that could contribute to increased recreational use of the coast</p>	<p>Polices/Proposals for coastal development:</p> <p><u>Musselburgh allocations:</u> MH1. Craighall, Musselburgh MH2: Land at Old Craighall Village, Musselburgh MH5: Former Edenhall Hospital, Musselburgh MH6: Pinkie Mains, Musselburgh MH7. Pinkie Mains (intensification), Musselburgh MH8. Levenhall, Musselburgh MH9. Land at Wallyford MH10. Land at Dolphingstone MH12. Barbachlaw Wallyford MH13. Howe Mire MH14. Land at Whitecraig south MH15. Land at Whitecraig North</p> <p>Sites in Table MH1: Brunton Wireworks Monktonhall Terrace Drumhohr Avenue Salters Road</p> <p><u>Prestonpans allocations:</u> PS1. Longniddry South PS2. Land at Dolphingstone North, Prestonpans</p> <p>Sites listed within Table PS1: Edinburgh Road West Seaside Cockenzie House Seton East Steading</p> <p><u>Blindwells</u> BW1. Blindwells new settlement BW2. Safeguarded Blindwells Expansion Area</p> <p><u>Tranent Allocations</u> TT1. Housing at Windygoul South - Tranent TT4. Lammermoor Terrace, Tranent TT5. Bankpark Grove, Tranent TT7. Macmerry North TT9. Gladsmuir East TT11. Elphinstone West</p> <p>Sites listed in Table TT1: North Elphinstone Farm Land to south Tranent Mains Farm 73-77 High Street 22-24 Bridge Street Land at Elder Street</p> <p><u>Dunbar Allocations</u> DR1. Hallhill South West Dunbar DR2. Hallhill North, Dunbar</p>

LSE on qualifying interest features of the Firth of Forth SPA	Combinations of policies/proposals giving rise to cumulative LSE
	DR4. Brodie Road, Dunbar DR5. Land at Newtonlees, Dunbar DR6. Beveridge Row Belhaven, Dunbar DR8. Pencraig Hill, East Linton DR10. Innerwick East DR11. St John's Street, Spott Sites included within Table DR1: Abbeylands Abbeylands Garage Bayswell Road Coastguard site Assembly Rooms Station Road Field Belhaven Hospital Road Field Former Gasworks Tynningham Links Little Spott Pleasance Farm Dairy Cottage Thurston Belhaven Road <u>North Berwick Allocations</u> NK1. Mains Farm, North Berwick NK3. Gilstand, North Berwick NK4. Land at Tantallon Road, North Berwick NK5. Land at Ferrygate Farm, North Berwick NK6. Former Fire Training School, Gullane NK7. Saltcoats, Gullane NK8. Fentoun Gait East, Gullane NK9. Fentoun Gait South, Gullane NK10. Aberlady West NK11. Castlemains Direlton Sites in Table NK1: Direlton Court New Mains Camptoun Steading Kingston Farm
Loss of, or disturbance whilst using, inland habitat of potential value as high tide roosting/feeding sites to qualifying interests (wader species)	ED2 Part A: Preston Lodge High School (MRE for curlew, oystercatcher, redshank) ED6 Part A: Dunbar Grammar (MRE for curlew, oystercatcher, redshank) ED7 Part A North Berwick High School expansion (MRE for curlew, oystercatcher, redshank) ED7 Part Bii Law Primary School (MRE for curlew, oystercatcher, redshank) OS5: New cemetery Whitekirk (MRE curlew) OS5: New cemetery Dunbar (MRE curlew, oystercatcher, redshank) OS5: Direlton Cemetery extension (MRE curlew, oystercatcher, redshank, golden plover, lapwing) T3: Segregated Active Travel Corridor (potentially all six wader species)

LSE on qualifying interest features of the Firth of Forth SPA	Combinations of policies/proposals giving rise to cumulative LSE
	<p>T9: Safeguarding of Land for Larger Station Car Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musselburgh (MRE for curlew, golden plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank) • Longniddry (Located within PS1) (MRE for curlew, golden plover, grey plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank) <p>T10: Safeguarding Land for Platform Lengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musselburgh (MRE for curlew, golden plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank) • Wallyford (MRE for curlew, golden plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank) • Prestonpans (MRE for curlew, golden plover, lapwing) • Longniddry (MRE for curlew, golden plover, grey plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank) • Dunbar (MRE for curlew, golden plover, grey plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank) <p>T11: Safeguard Land for improvements to Musselburgh Station (MRE for curlew, golden plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank)</p> <p>T15: Old Craighall A1 (T) Junction improvements (MRE for curlew, golden plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank)</p> <p>T17: Salter’s Road (MRE for golden plover, lapwing, oystercatcher)</p> <p>T17: Bankton Junction (MRE for lapwing)</p> <p>T17: Gladsmuir junction (MRE for oystercatcher)</p> <p><u>Musselburgh allocations</u></p> <p>MH1. Craighall, Musselburgh (MRE for curlew, lapwing, golden plover, oystercatcher & redshank)</p> <p>MH2: Land at Old Craighall Village, Musselburgh (MRE for curlew, lapwing, golden plover, oystercatcher, redshank)</p> <p>MH3: Land at Old Craighall Junction South West, Musselburgh (MRE for curlew, lapwing, golden plover, oystercatcher, redshank)</p> <p>MH4: Land at Old Craighall Junction, Musselburgh (MRE for curlew, lapwing, golden plover, oystercatcher, redshank)</p> <p>MH7. Pinkie Mains (intensification) Musselburgh (MRE for curlew, golden plover, grey plover, lapwing)</p> <p>MH8. Levenhall, Musselburgh (MRE for curlew, golden plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank)</p> <p>MH9. Land at Wallyford (MRE for golden plover, lapwing, oystercatcher)</p> <p>MH10. Land at Dolphingstone (MRE for curlew, golden plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank)</p> <p>MH12. Barbachlaw Wallyford (MRE for curlew, golden plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank)</p> <p>MH13. Howe Mire (MRE for curlew)</p> <p>MH14. Land at Whitecraig south (includes MH16) (MRE for curlew)</p>

LSE on qualifying interest features of the Firth of Forth SPA	Combinations of policies/proposals giving rise to cumulative LSE
	<p>MH15. Land at Whitecraig North (MRE for curlew, oystercatcher, redshank)</p> <p><u>Prestonpans allocations:</u></p> <p>PS1 Longniddry South (MRE for curlew, golden plover, grey plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank)</p> <p>Sites listed within Table PS1:</p> <p><u>Blindwells</u></p> <p>BW1. Blindwells new settlement (MRE for curlew, golden plover, grey plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank) - HRA been conducted, but not seen.</p> <p>BW2. Safeguarded Blindwells Expansion Area (MRE for curlew, golden plover, grey plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank) - HRA been conducted, but not seen.</p> <p><u>Tranent Allocations</u></p> <p>TT1. Housing at Windygoul South - Tranent (includes TT2) (MRE for golden plover)</p> <p>TT4. Lammermoor Terrace, Tranent (MRE for curlew, golden plover, lapwing)</p> <p>TT7. Macmerry North (MRE for golden plover, lapwing, oystercatcher)</p> <p>TT11. Elphinstone West (MRE for golden plover)</p> <p><u>Dunbar Allocations</u></p> <p>DR2. Hallhill North, Dunbar (MRE for curlew, golden plover, grey plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank)</p> <p>DR5. Land at Newtonlees, Dunbar (MRE for curlew, golden plover, grey plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank)</p> <p>DR6. Beveridge Row Belhaven, Dunbar (MRE for curlew, golden plover, grey plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank)</p> <p>DR7. Land at Spott Road, Dunbar (MRE for curlew, golden plover, grey plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank).</p> <p>DR11. St John's Street, Spott (MRE for curlew, oystercatcher)</p> <p>Sites listed in Table DR1:</p> <p>Station Road Field (MRE for curlew, oystercatcher, redshank)</p> <p>Belhaven Hospital Field (MRE for curlew, oystercatcher, redshank)</p> <p><u>North Berwick Allocations</u></p> <p>NK1. Mains Farm, North Berwick (includes NK2) (MRE for curlew, grey plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank)</p> <p>NK3. Gilsland, North Berwick (MRE for curlew, grey plover, oystercatcher, redshank)</p> <p>NK4. Land at Tantallon Road, North Berwick (MRE for curlew, grey plover, oystercatcher, redshank).</p> <p>NK5. Land at Ferrygate Farm, North Berwick (MRE for curlew, grey plover, lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank)</p> <p>NK10. Aberlady West (MRE for lapwing, oystercatcher, redshank)</p>

LSE on qualifying interest features of the Firth of Forth SPA	Combinations of policies/proposals giving rise to cumulative LSE
<p>Loss of, or disturbance whilst using, inland habitat of potential value as high tide roosting/feeding sites to qualifying interests (Pink-footed Goose)</p>	<p>OS5: New cemetery, Dunbar OS5: Direlton Cemetery extension T3: Segregated Active Travel Corridor T9: Safeguarding of Land for Larger Station Car Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musselburgh • Longniddry • Drem <p>T10: Safeguarding Land for Platform Lengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musselburgh • Wallyford • Prestonpans • Longniddry • Drem • Dunbar <p>T11: Safeguard Land for improvements to Musselburgh Station T12: Railway Station Safeguarding at East Linton (location of site is not clear, and there may not be any MRE as a result of this proposal) T17: A1 (T) upgrades - Salter's Road T17: A1 (T) upgrades - Dolphingstone Interchange T17: A1 (T) upgrades - Bankton Junction T17: A1 (T) upgrades - Gladsmuir Junction T23: A198 Bankton & Meadowmill</p> <p><u>Musselburgh allocations</u> MH1. Craighall, Musselburgh MH2: Land at Old Craighall Village, Musselburgh MH6: Pinkie Mains, Musselburgh MH9. Land at Wallyford MH10. Dolphingstone Housing Land Safeguard MH11. New Secondary School Establishment (lies within land allocated for MH10) MH12. Barbachlaw Wallyford MH15. Land at Whitecraig North,</p> <p><u>Prestonpans allocations</u> PS1. Longniddry South</p> <p><u>Blindwells</u> BW1. Blindwells new settlement BW2. Safeguarded Blindwells Expansion Area</p> <p><u>Tranent Allocations</u> TT1. Housing at Windygoul South - Tranent TT7. Macmerry North TT8. Macmerry Business Park East</p> <p><u>Dunbar Allocations</u> DR2. Hallhill North, Dunbar DR8. Pencraig Hill, East Linton</p> <p><u>North Berwick Allocations</u> NK1. Mains Farm, North Berwick NK3. Gilsland, North Berwick</p>

LSE on qualifying interest features of the Firth of Forth SPA	Combinations of policies/proposals giving rise to cumulative LSE
	NK7. Saltcoats, Gullane NK8. Fentoun Gait East, Gullane NK9. Fentoun Gait South, Gullane Sites in Table NK1: Athelstaneford

(b) Fala Flow SPA

LSE on qualifying interest features of Fala Flow SPA	Combinations of policies/proposals giving rise to cumulative LSE
Disturbance of Pink-footed Goose or loss of Pink-footed Goose habitat	T3: Segregated Active Travel Corridor T9: Safeguarding of land for larger Station Car Parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musselburgh • Longniddry T10: Safeguarding Land for Platform Lengthening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musselburgh • Wallyford • Prestonpans • Longniddry T11. Safeguard Land for improvements to Musselburgh Station <u>Musselburgh allocations</u> MH1. Craighall, Musselburgh MH2: Land at Old Craighall Village, Musselburgh MH6: Pinkie Mains, Musselburgh MH10. Dolphinstone Housing Land Safeguard MH12. Barbachlaw Wallyford <u>Prestonpans allocations</u> PS1. Longniddry South <u>Blindwells</u> BW1. Blindwells new settlement BW2. Safeguarded Blindwells Expansion Area <u>Tranent Allocations</u> TT1. Windygoul South - Tranent TT7. Macmerry North

(c) Gladhouse Reservoir SPA

LSE on qualifying interest features of Gladhouse Reservoir SPA	Combinations of policies/proposals giving rise to cumulative LSE
Disturbance of Pink-footed Goose or loss of Pink-footed Goose habitat	T9: Safeguarding of Land for Larger Station Car Parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Musselburgh T10: Safeguarding Land for Platform Lengthening <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Musselburgh T11: Safeguard Land for improvements to Musselburgh station T12: Railway Station Safeguarding at East Linton <u>Musselburgh allocations</u> MH1. Craighall, Musselburgh MH2: Land at Old Craighall Village, Musselburgh MH3: Land at Old Craighall Junction South West, Musselburgh MH6: Pinkie Mains, Musselburgh MH9: Land at Wallyford MH10. Dolphingstone Housing Land Safeguard MH12. Barbachlaw Wallyford

APPENDIX E. POLICIES/PLANS SCREENED FOR “IN COMBINATION” EFFECTS

Status of plans is defined as: a) the incomplete parts of projects that have been started but which are not yet completed; b) projects given consent but not yet started; c) projects that are subject to applications for consent; d) projects that are subject to outstanding appeal procedures; e) any known unregulated projects that are not subject to any consent; f) ongoing projects subject to regulatory reviews, such as discharge consents or waste management licenses; g) development that has recently been completed, but where any residual effects may not form part of the environmental baseline; h) policies and proposals that are not yet fully implemented in plans that are still in force; i) draft plans that are being brought forward by other public bodies and agencies

Plan/proposal	Status ⁸⁷	Main elements	Potential for in combination effects with MRE arising from proposed LDP	Screen
National Planning Framework 3	h	The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets the context for development planning in Scotland over the next 20-30 years and provides a framework for the spatial development of Scotland as a whole. It identifies 14 national developments to deliver the strategy. A Habitats Regulations Assessment and Appropriate Assessment were completed ⁸⁸ .	The Appropriate Assessment of NPF3 identified 7 of the proposals as having potential MRE in respect of European sites considered during the HRA of the proposed East Lothian LDP. These were assessed for cumulative effects upon each of the European sites. The Appropriate Assessment concluded that none of the proposals, in combination would have LSE upon any of the European sites, but there may be MRE in respect of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Berwickshire and North Northumberland coast SAC</u> - MRE on grey seals arising from disturbance (noise & vibration); increased sedimentation; physical damage to habitats/species through collision risk; loss of habitat under dredging spoil; and pollution from oil spills. • <u>Firth of Forth SPA</u> - disturbance from noise & vibration; tall structures causing changes to flight routes & collision risk; displacement of prey; increases in suspended solids & turbidity; loss of habitat; pollution from oil spills. • <u>Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC</u> - MRE on harbour seal arising from disturbance (noise and vibration); reduced availability / displacement of prey or symbiotic species; increased sedimentation; damage to habitats and species through collision risk; loss of habitat under dredging spoil; pollution from oil spills. • <u>Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SPA</u> - disturbance from noise & vibration; displacement of prey species; direct and indirect loss of habitat under structures and as a result of sedimentation. • <u>Forth Islands SPA</u> - disturbance from noise & vibration; tall structures causing changes to flight routes & collision risk; disturbance causing reduced availability / displacement of prey; increases in sedimentation & turbidity; loss of habitats under structures and as a result of sedimentation; pollution from oil spills. • <u>Imperial Dock, Leith SPA</u> - disturbance from noise & vibration; disturbance causing reduced availability / displacement of prey; increases in sedimentation & turbidity; loss of habitats under structures and as a result of sedimentation; pollution from oil spills etc. • <u>Isle of May SAC</u> - disturbance from noise & vibration; displacement of prey species; increases in suspended solids & turbidity; physical damage of habitats through increased vessel movements; loss of habitats under structures and as a result of sedimentation; pollution from oil spills etc. • <u>Moray Firth SAC</u> - disturbance from noise & vibration; displacement of prey species; loss of habitats under structures and as a result of sedimentation; physical damage of habitats through increased vessel movements; loss of habitats under structures and as a result of sedimentation; pollution from oil spills etc. • <u>River Teith SAC</u> - disturbance from noise & vibration; displacement of prey species; increases in suspended solids & turbidity; physical damage to habitats from hydrological changes; loss of habitats under structures and as a result of sedimentation; pollution from oil spills etc. 	In
SESPlan	h	The South East Scotland Plan (SESplan) is a Strategic Development Plan	SESPlan sets out the strategic framework within which the East Lothian LDP is being	Out

⁸⁷ a) the incomplete parts of projects that have been started but which are not yet completed; b) projects given consent but not yet started; c) projects that are subject to applications for consent; d) projects that are subject to outstanding appeal procedures; e) any known unregulated projects that are not subject to any consent; f) ongoing projects subject to regulatory reviews, such as discharge consents or waste management licenses; g) development that has recently been completed, but where any residual effects may not form part of the environmental baseline; h) policies and proposals that are not yet fully implemented in plans that are still in force; i) draft plans that are being brought forward by other public bodies and agencies

⁸⁸ <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00453766.pdf> National Planning Framework 3 Habitat Regulations Appraisal Record The Scottish Government June 2014

Plan/proposal	Status ⁸⁷	Main elements	Potential for in combination effects with MRE arising from proposed LDP	Screen
		covering all land within the administrative boundaries of City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and the West Lothian Councils, and the southern half of Fife Council. The purpose of the Strategic Development Plan is to assess cross boundary issues between the six member authorities: housing, transport, employment, infrastructure and energy. The current plan was published in 2013 ⁸⁹ , with an accompanying HRA. Supplementary Housing Guidance was published in 2014 ⁹⁰ also with an accompanying HRA ⁹¹ .	developed. The HRA of SESPlan included, as mitigation, the need for HRA to be undertaken of each individual LDP developed under the plan. Only potential LSE to be considered at the local scale were identified; no MRE of the plan were identified. Consequently, this plan as a whole, has been screened out of further consideration, although proposals that listed within it, may be screened in through individual LDPs.	
Forth Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plan	i	The Flood Risk Management Plan supplements actions contained in the Flood Risk Management Strategy prepared by SEPA. It sets out measures to be taken to reduce the effects of flooding within the Forth Estuary area, including timescales, funding resources and lead parties. It has been prepared by Edinburgh City Council as the lead authority for flood issues around the Firth of Forth ⁹² . It has an accompanying HRA ⁹³ .	The document is strategic in nature, and lacks detail. Further HRA and AA will be required as proposals are developed. At this stage, there are no residual effects identified from the HRA/AA for consideration "in combination" with the proposed LDP.	Out
Fife Council LDP	i	This sets out spatial proposals and policies for Fife. A draft HRA ⁹⁴ is available.	The HRA concluded that two sites (KDY 039 Inverteil and MET 010 Fife Energy Park) had MRE and required an Appropriate Assessment of their "in combination" LSE upon the integrity of the Firth of Forth SPA. None of the other policies or proposals were considered to have MRE on a Natura 2000 site. The AA of the "in combination" effects concluded that the mitigation applied to the proposals (including the need for scheme specific Appropriate Assessment) and the limited localised loss of intertidal habitat means that there would be no likely significant effect on the Firth of Forth SPA from loss of habitat but there would be a minor residual effect. As there is no anticipated loss of coastal habitat arising from the East Lothian proposed LDP, this has been screened out.	Out
City of Edinburgh Council LDP	i	This sets out spatial proposals and policies for Fife. A HRA has been prepared ⁹⁵ .	The HRE concluded that there would be a cumulative MRE on certain QI of the Firth of Forth SPA arising from the loss of inland habitat of potential value as high tide roost sites.	In
Falkirk Council LDP	h	This sets out spatial proposals and polices for Falkirk. A HRA has been carried out ⁹⁶ .	MRE upon the Firth of Forth SPA were identified in relation to The minor residual effects of the Proposed Plan in relation to: loss of habitat potentially used for feeding/roosting by waders and disturbance of waders; loss of inland habitat potentially used by pink footed geese and disturbance of pink footed geese; increased opportunities for access to and recreation along the coastline; significant recreational disturbance; disturbance or other effects during the construction period; and water pollution for loss of supporting inter-tidal habitat outwith the boundary of the SPA. MRE upon the River Teith SAC were identified in relation to deterioration of water quality for passage of QI; noise and vibration affecting passage of QI; sediment releases leading to deterioration in water quality for passage of QI; hydrodynamic alteration leading to affects upon passage of QI.	In

⁸⁹ SESPlan The Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland. Strategic Development Plan 2013 <http://www.sesplan.gov.uk/assets/Strategic%20Development%20Plan%201/Strategic%20Developme/SESPlan%20Approved%20Plan%20%28Print%20Version%29.pdf> last viewed 25/04/2016

⁹⁰ SESPlan Supplementary Guidance Housing Land November 2014 <http://sesplan2.1cm.me.uk/assets/publications/Housing%20Land%20SG/Housing%20Land%20Supplementary%20Guidance.pdf> last viewed 25/04/2016

⁹¹ SESPlan Housing Supplementary Guidance HRA Record February 2014 <http://www.sesplan.gov.uk/assets/Strategic%20Development%20Plan%201/Strategic%20Developme/Housing%20Land%20Supplementary%20Guidance/Housing%20Land%20SG%20-%20Habitats%20Regulations.pdf> Last viewed online 25/04/2016

⁹² http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/7455/draft_local_flood_risk_management_plan Last viewed 25/04/2016

⁹³ Forth Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plan - HRA Screening Statement of Record, March 2016. http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20006/emergencies_safety_and_crime/1433/flood_risk_management_plan Last viewed 25/04/2016

⁹⁴ FIFE plan. Draft Habitats Regulations Appraisal: Environmental Report Annex 6 Fife Local Development Plan. Proposed Plan. October 2014. http://fife-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/fife_ldp/fifeplan_-_proposed_plan_-_env_rpt_v3/env_rpt_v3?pointId=1414278442733 Last viewed online 25/04/2016

⁹⁵ Proposed Edinburgh Local Development Plan Draft Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record March 2013 http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/131/habitats_regulations_appraisal_march_2013 Last Viewed 25/04/2016

⁹⁶ Falkirk Council Falkirk Local Development Plan Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record May 2015 <https://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/planning-building/planning-policy/local-development-plan/docs/supporting-docs/habitats-regulations-appraisal/01%20HRA%20Record.pdf?v=201508061424> Last viewed 25/04/2016

Plan/proposal	Status ⁸⁷	Main elements	Potential for in combination effects with MRE arising from proposed LDP	Screen
			MRE upon the Forth Islands SPA were identified in relation to significant disturbance of cormorants and shags arising from noise and vibration during construction; increased recreational opportunity at the coast; increased levels of coastal recreation; and increased shipping movements.	
Clackmannanshire Council LDP	h	This sets out spatial proposals and policies for Clackmannanshire. A HRA has been carried out ⁹⁷ .	MRE upon the Firth of Forth SPA were identified in relation to loss of/disturbance to pink-footed goose at inland roost sites; loss of habitat/disturbance to qualifying wader species at inland roost sites; increased recreational disturbance at the coast. MRE upon the River Teith SAC were identified in relation to disturbance of qualifying species when passing adjacent to development site; and changes to water quality arising from pollution during construction.	In
Stirling Council LDP	h	This sets out spatial proposals and policies for Stirling. A HRA has been carried out ⁹⁸ .	MRE upon the Firth of Forth SPA were identified in relation to effects upon water quality arising from developments and disturbance of qualifying interests. MRE upon the River Teith SAC were identified in relation to effects upon water quality.	
West Lothian Local Development Plan Proposed Plan	i	This sets out spatial proposals and policies for West Lothian.	No LSE were identified. A HRA record has not been produced	Out
Borders Council Local Development Plan	h	This sets out spatial proposals and policies for the Borders. A HRA has been prepared ⁹⁹ .	MRE upon the River Tweed SAC were identified in relation to the conservation objectives of the River Tweed SAC associated with material or discharges entering the water as a result of development. As none of the proposals within the East Lothian LDP have been identified as having MRE upon the River Tweed SAC this has been screened out.	Out
Midlothian Local Development Plan	i	This sets out spatial proposals and policies for the Midlothian area. A HRA is in preparation ¹⁰⁰¹⁰¹ .	No LSE or MRE identified.	Out
Forth Replacement Crossing	a	Construction of a new vehicle crossing over the Firth of Forth. The project is part-way through implementation, and is likely to be fully operational at the time that the East Lothian Council LDP becomes operational.	The Forth Replacement Crossing will have MRE on the Firth of Forth SPA in relation to loss of inter-tidal habitat. As the East Lothian LDP does not result in loss of inter-tidal habitat, this has been screened out.	Out
National Renewables Infrastructure Plan	h	The National Renewables Infrastructure Plan (N-RIP) identifies the locations across Scotland with the most potential for manufacturing and construction operations associated with development of the offshore energy industry. The Forth Tay Cluster has been identified as a potential location for turbine manufacture, foundations, cables and installation.	The Plan does not in itself promote or define development to occur within the area. Whilst the general area of ports in the Forth and Tay areas are identified as having potential to support the offshore industry, N-RIP does not specify the location, nature or scale of development, and as such, is too general to be able to determine any likely significant effects upon European sites.	Out
Crystal Rig 3 Wind Farm	c	Extension of existing Crystal Rig windfarm to the north to include Wind farm up to 11 turbines and crane pads, tracks, and other ancillary infrastructure.	Appropriate Assessment undertaken. Mitigation has been included in plan. MRE upon River Tweed SAC. As there are no MRE on the River Tweed SAC arising from the LDP, there will be no in combination effects upon that European Site.	Out
Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Windfarm, Inch Cape Offshore windfarm, Seagreen Alpha offshore windfarm, Seagreen Bravo offshore windfarm	d	A number of windfarms have been consented for the Firth of Forth areas, which are known collectively as "the Forth and Tay Developments". Marine Scotland has undertaken a combined Appropriate Assessment of these windfarms individually and in combination. A recent ruling by the Scottish Court of Session has suggested that the HRA/AA needs to be reviewed and the permissions have been suspended ([2016] CSOH 103).	The combined appropriate assessment concluded that the developments will not on their own or in combination with each other or other developments already licenced, adversely affect the integrity of a number of European sites including Forth Islands SPA, Isle of May SAC, River Teith SAC, provided that stated conditions are complied with. The Firth of Forth SPA was scoped out owing to a lack of connectivity between the QI and the developments. This HRA/AA has been successfully challenged in the Scottish Court of Session. As no details of the revised HRA/AA are available, it is not possible at this stage to carry out an in combination assessment.	Out

⁹⁷ Clackmannanshire Council proposed Local Development Plan Committee Draft August 2013 Habitat Regulations Appraisal Incorporating Appropriate Assessment

Draft October 2013 (v2.1) https://clackmannanshire.citizenspace.com/sustainability-team/local-development-plan/supporting_documents/Draft%20Habitat%20Regulations%20Appraisal.pdf Last viewed 25/04/2016

⁹⁸ Habitats Regulations Appraisal September 2012 Proposed Stirling Local Development Plan http://www.stirling.gov.uk/_documents/temporary-uploads/economy,-planning- and -regulation/ldp-background-info/habitats-regulations-appraisal.pdf Last Viewed 25/04/2016

⁹⁹ Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record Proposed Local Development Plan Scottish Borders Council March 2014 http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/8165/appendix_d_draft_habitats_regulations_appraisal_record Last Viewed 25/04/2016

¹⁰⁰ http://midlothian-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/planningpolicy/mldp/mldp_pp_revised_er?pointId=1410255163689#section-1410255163689 Last Viewed 25/04/2016

¹⁰¹ <http://midlothian-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/planningpolicy/mldp/mldppp?tab=files> Last viewed 18/05/2016

Plan/proposal	Status ⁸⁷	Main elements	Potential for in combination effects with MRE arising from proposed LDP	Screen
ForthWind Offshore Wind Demonstration Project Methil	c	Proposal to construct, operate and decommission two offshore wind turbines, and their associated export cables on the north shore of the Firth of Forth at Methil in Scotland.	An updated HRA has been produced ¹⁰² , which considered LSE upon Forth Islands SPA; Firth of Forth SPA; and Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex draft SPA. The main types of effect considered were: collision with operational turbine blades; and disturbance/displacement during construction. It was concluded that there would be no adverse effects upon the integrity of any of these sites, but the nature and scale of any MRE was not identified. However, the QI considered are those associated with offshore areas, and no effects on these species have been identified as arising from the East Lothian LDP. Consequently, there are no in combination effects.	Out
Levenhall Lagoons	e	Scottish Power is currently consulting on proposals to restore habitat at lagoon 8, and habitat improvements at lagoon 6.	One of the lagoons lies within the SPA and the other adjoins the boundary. The area is already known to be important for birds, including species that are a qualifying interest of the Firth of Forth SPA. The proposals will safeguard and expand the area of suitable habitat for these species.	In

A planning application (06/00328/FUL) was submitted in 2011 for the development of a light aircraft airfield with associated infrastructure near Dirlton. A “shadow” Habitats Regulations Appraisal and Appropriate Assessment was conducted on behalf of the Council by David Tyldesley Associates¹⁰³. The HRA and AA concluded that the proposal would have Likely Significant Effects on both the Firth of Forth SPA and Forth Islands SPA. Based on available information, it was not possible to conclude that the proposals would not have an effect upon the integrity of either the Firth of Forth SPA or the Forth Islands SPA. The assessment was not able to identify the absence of any alternative solutions or reasons of Over-riding Public Importance, and consequently the scheme could not be consented by East Lothian Council. As the application was refused, it has not been considered further here

¹⁰² ForthWind Offshore Wind Demonstration Project, Methil, Fife. Habitats Regulations Appraisal Addendum Ornithology 2B Energy & ForthWind April 2016. <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00498899.pdf> Last Viewed 26/04/2016

¹⁰³ East Lothian Council Habitats Regulations Assessment of Planning Application Ref 06/00328/FUL Application made by East Lothian Aero Club for proposed airfield near Dirlton Final, 27th June 2011

APPENDIX F. TABLE 1: PRESENCE/ABSENCE OF QUALIFYING INTERESTS OF THE FIRTH OF FORTH SPA AROUND THE EAST LoTHIAN COASTLINE SUMMARISED DATA WINTERS 2009/10 TO 2013/14 (BASED ON WEBS DATA)

	Preferred habitat	Condition Status (as of 2010)	Core Count sections	Low tide 2003/04	Low tide 2009/10
Bar-tailed godwit	Intertidal	Favourable Declining	Eastfield to Musselburgh Preston Grange to Port Seton* Port Seton to Craighielaw Point Aberlady and Gullane Bays Eyebroughy to Eel Burn North Berwick to Tantallon Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands Winterfield to Barns Ness* Tynninghame Estuary East Barns to Dunglass	102; 107; 108; 110; 111; 112; 113; 114; 116; 117; 121; 127; 128; 129; 168; 169; 170; 172; 183; 187; 189; 192	168; 169; 170; 171; 172; 173
Common scoter*	Sub-tidal	Unfavourable Declining	Eastfield to Musselburgh Preston Grange to Port Seton* Port Seton to Craighielaw Point Aberlady and Gullane Bays Black Rocks to Eyebroughy Eel Burn to North Berwick Harbour* Eyebroughy to Eel Burn North Berwick to Tantallon Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands Winterfield to Barns Ness Tynninghame Estuary East Barns to Dunglass	102; 103; 104; 107; 112; 130; 131; 186	168; 170; 173
Cormorant*	All habitats	Favourable Maintained	Eastfield to Musselburgh Preston Grange to Port Seton Port Seton to Craighielaw Point Aberlady and Gullane Bays* Eel Burn to North Berwick Harbour Eyebroughy to Eel Burn North Berwick to Tantallon Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands Winterfield to Barns Ness* Tynninghame Estuary East Barns to Dunglass	102; 103; 104; 105; 106; 107; 108; 113;118; 126; 129; 130; 131; 168; 180; 181; 182; 183; 184; 185; 186; 189; 193	
Curlew*	Inter-tidal and non-tidal	Favourable Maintained	Eastfield to Musselburgh Preston Grange to Port Seton Port Seton to Craighielaw Point Aberlady and Gullane Bays* Black Rocks to Eyebroughy* Eyebroughy to Eel Burn* North Berwick to Tantallon Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands Winterfield to Barns Ness* Tynninghame Estuary East Barns to Dunglass	102; 103; 107; 108; 110; 111; 112; 113; 114; 115; 116; 117; 118; 119; 120; 121; 127; 128; 129; 130; 131; 166; 167; 168; 169; 170; 171; 172; 173; 180; 181; 182; 183; 184; 185; 187; 188; 189; 190; 191; 192; 193	168; 169; 170; 171; 172; 173
Dunlin*	Intertidal	Favourable Declining	Eastfield to Musselburgh Port Seton to Craighielaw Point* Aberlady and Gullane Bays* North Berwick to Tantallon Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands	102; 107; 108; 110; 112; 121; 126; 127; 128; 129; 167; 168; 169; 170; 171; 172; 173; 183; 185; 187;	168; 169; 170; 171; 172

	Preferred habitat	Condition Status (as of 2010)	Core Count sections	Low tide 2003/04	Low tide 2009/10
			Winterfield to Barns Ness* Tynninghame Estuary East Barns to Dunglass	189; 192; 193	
Eider*	Sub-tidal	Favourable Declining	Eastfield to Musselburgh Preston Grange to Port Seton Port Seton to Craighielaw Point Aberlady and Gullane Bays Black Rocks to Eyebroughy Eel Burn to North Berwick Harbour Eyebroughy to Eel Burn North Berwick to Tantallon Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands Winterfield to Barns Ness* Tynninghame Estuary East Barns to Dunglass	102; 103; 104; 105; 106; 107; 108; 110; 112; 113; 119; 121; 126; 127; 128; 129; 130; 131; 168; 169; 172; 173; 180; 181; 182; 183; 184; 185; 186; 187; 190; 192; 193	168; 169; 170; 172; 173
Golden plover	Intertidal & non-tidal	Favourable Maintained	Eastfield to Musselburgh Preston Grange to Port Seton Port Seton to Craighielaw Point Aberlady and Gullane Bays North Berwick to Tantallon Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands Winterfield to Barns Ness* Tynninghame Estuary East Barns to Dunglass	102; 108; 113; 117; 118; 120; 121; 167; 168; 169; 170; 173; 180; 193	169; 173
Goldeneye*	Sub-tidal	Unfavourable Declining	Eastfield to Musselburgh Preston Grange to Port Seton* Port Seton to Craighielaw Point Aberlady and Gullane Bays North Berwick to Tantallon Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands Winterfield to Barns Ness* Tynninghame Estuary East Barns to Dunglass	102; 103; 104; 105; 106; 107; 108; 113; 126; 127; 128; 129; 130; 180; 181; 182; 183; 184; 189; 190; 192; 193	169
Great crested grebe*	Sub-tidal	Unfavourable Declining	Eastfield to Musselburgh Port Seton to Craighielaw Point	102; 103; 104; 105; 107	
Grey plover*	Intertidal	Favourable Declining	Eastfield to Musselburgh Preston Grange to Port Seton Port Seton to Craighielaw Point Aberlady and Gullane Bays Eel Burn to North Berwick Harbour North Berwick to Tantallon Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands Winterfield to Barns Ness* Tynninghame Estuary East Barns to Dunglass	102; 108; 113; 114; 116; 117; 119; 121; 126; 127; 128; 129; 130; 131; 168; 169; 170; 171; 172; 173; 180; 183; 184; 185; 187; 189; 192; 193	168; 169; 170; 171; 172; 173
Knot	Intertidal	Unfavourable Declining	Eastfield to Musselburgh Preston Grange to Port Seton* Port Seton to Craighielaw Point Aberlady and Gullane Bays* Eyebroughy to Eel Burn* North Berwick to Tantallon Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands Winterfield to Barns Ness*	102; 110; 112; 121; 130; 131; 168; 170; 171; 172; 173; 180; 182; 183; 185; 189; 192; 193	168; 169; 170; 171; 172; 173

	Preferred habitat	Condition Status (as of 2010)	Core Count sections	Low tide 2003/04	Low tide 2009/10
			Tynninghame Estuary East Barns to Dunglass		
Lapwing*	Intertidal & non-tidal	Favourable Maintained	Eastfield to Musselburgh Port Seton to Craighielaw Point* Aberlady and Gullane Bays* North Berwick to Tantallon Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands Winterfield to Barns Ness* Tynninghame Estuary	114; 119; 121; 167; 171; 172; 183; 187; 191; 192	170; 171
Long-tailed duck*	Sub-tidal	Unfavourable Declining	Eastfield to Musselburgh Preston Grange to Port Seton Port Seton to Craighielaw Point Aberlady and Gullane Bays Black Rocks to Eyebroughy Eel Burn to North Berwick Harbour Eyebroughy to Eel Burn North Berwick to Tantallon Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands Winterfield to Barns Ness Tynninghame Estuary East Barns to Dunglass	102; 103; 104; 106; 107; 131; 186	168; 169; 170; 173
Mallard*	All habitats	Unfavourable Declining	Eastfield to Musselburgh Port Seton to Craighielaw Point* Aberlady and Gullane Bays* Eyebroughy to Eel Burn* Winterfield to Barns Ness* North Berwick to Tantallon Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands Tynninghame Estuary East Barns to Dunglass*	102; 121; 126; 129; 167; 168; 169; 171; 172; 180; 181; 182; 183; 184; 185; 187; 189; 190; 192	169; 170; 171
Oystercatcher*	Intertidal	Favourable Maintained	Eastfield to Musselburgh Preston Grange to Port Seton Port Seton to Craighielaw Point Aberlady and Gullane Bays* Black Rocks to Eyebroughy Eel Burn to North Berwick Harbour* Eyebroughy to Eel Burn North Berwick to Tantallon Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands Winterfield to Barns Ness* Tynninghame Estuary East Barns to Dunglass	102; 103; 104; 105; 106; 107; 108; 110; 111; 112; 113; 114; 115; 116; 117; 118; 119; 120; 121; 125; 126; 127; 128; 129; 130; 131; 167; 168; 169; 170; 171; 172; 173; 180; 181; 182; 183; 184; 185; 186; 187; 189; 192; 193	168; 169; 170; 171; 172; 173
Pink-footed goose	All habitats	Favourable Maintained	Eastfield to Musselburgh* Aberlady and Gullane Bays Black Rocks to Eyebroughy* North Berwick to Tantallon Tynninghame Estuary East Barns to Dunglass	172; 188	
Red-breasted merganser*	Sub-tidal	Favourable Declining	Eastfield to Musselburgh Port Seton to Craighielaw Point Aberlady and Gullane Bays* Black Rocks to Eyebroughy	102; 103; 104; 107; 108; 113; 119; 127; 128; 129; 130; 168; 169; 173; 180; 181;	168; 170; 171; 173

	Preferred habitat	Condition Status (as of 2010)	Core Count sections	Low tide 2003/04	Low tide 2009/10
			Eyebroughy to Eel Burn North Berwick to Tantallon Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands Winterfield to Barns Ness* Tynninghame Estuary East Barns to Dunglass	182; 183; 184; 185; 186; 187; 189; 192; 193	
Redshank	Intertidal & non-tidal	Favourable Maintained	Eastfield to Musselburgh Preston Grange to Port Seton Port Seton to Craighielaw Point Black Rocks to Eyebroughy Aberlady and Gullane Bays* Eyebroughy to Eel Burn North Berwick to Tantallon Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands Winterfield to Barns Ness* Tynninghame Estuary East Barns to Dunglass	102; 103; 107; 108; 110; 111; 112; 113; 114; 115; 116; 117; 118; 119; 121; 126; 127; 128; 129; 130; 131; 169; 171; 172; 173; 180; 181; 182; 183; 184; 185; 186; 187; 188; 189; 190; 191; 192; 193	168; 169; 170; 171; 172; 173
Red-throated diver	Sub-tidal	Favourable Maintained	Eastfield to Musselburgh Preston Grange to Port Seton Port Seton to Craighielaw Point Aberlady and Gullane Bays Black Rocks to Eyebroughy Eyebroughy to Eel Burn North Berwick to Tantallon Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands Winterfield to Barns Ness Tynninghame Estuary East Barns to Dunglass	106; 131; 186	168; 170; 173
Ringed plover*	Intertidal	Favourable Maintained	Eastfield to Musselburgh Preston Grange to Port Seton Port Seton to Craighielaw Point Aberlady and Gullane Bays* Black Rocks to Eyebroughy Eel Burn to North Berwick Harbour North Berwick to Tantallon Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands Winterfield to Barns Ness* Tynninghame Estuary East Barns to Dunglass	102; 104; 105; 106; 108; 110; 112; 127; 128; 129; 169; 171; 172; 180; 181; 183; 192; 193	168; 169; 172
Scaup*	Sub-tidal	Unfavourable Declining	Eastfield to Musselburgh Winterfield to Barns Ness		
Shelduck	All habitats	Favourable Declining	Eastfield to Musselburgh* Port Seton to Craighielaw Point Aberlady and Gullane Bays* Eyebroughy to Eel Burn* Winterfield to Barns Ness* Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands Tynninghame Estuary East Barns to Dunglass	103; 112; 169; 171; 172; 182; 183; 185; 188; 189; 192	168; 169; 170; 171; 172
Slavonian grebe	Sub-tidal	Favourable Declining	Eastfield to Musselburgh Port Seton to Craighielaw Point Aberlady and Gullane Bays Black Rocks to Eyebroughy	102; 103; 106	168; 173

	Preferred habitat	Condition Status (as of 2010)	Core Count sections	Low tide 2003/04	Low tide 2009/10
			Eyebroughy to Eel Burn Tynningame Estuary		
Turnstone	Intertidal	Favourable Maintained	Eastfield to Musselburgh Preston Grange to Port Seton Port Seton to Craighielaw Point Black Rocks to Eyebroughy Aberlady and Gullane Bays Eyebroughy to Eel Burn North Berwick to Tantallon Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands Winterfield to Barns Ness Tynningame Estuary East Barns to Dunglass	102; 103; 104; 105; 107; 108; 110; 111; 112; 113; 114; 116; 118; 119; 120; 121; 125; 126; 127; 128; 129; 130; 131; 168; 169; 171; 172; 173; 180; 181; 182; 183; 184; 185; 187; 189; 192; 193	168; 169; 170; 171; 172; 173
Velvet scoter*	Sub-tidal	Favourable Maintained	Eastfield to Musselburgh Preston Grange to Port Seton Port Seton to Craighielaw Point Aberlady and Gullane Bays Black Rocks to Eyebroughy North Berwick to Tantallon Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands	102; 103; 104; 105; 106	168; 170; 173
Wigeon*	All habitats	Favourable Recovered	Eastfield to Musselburgh Preston Grange to Port Seton* Port Seton to Craighielaw Point Aberlady and Gullane Bays* Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands Winterfield to Barns Ness* Tynningame Estuary East Barns to Dunglass	102; 110; 112; 113; 114; 116; 121; 167; 169; 171; 172; 183; 185; 187; 189; 190; 192; 193	168; 169; 170; 171

APPENDIX F. TABLE 2: BTO SPECIES ALERTS FOR QUALIFYING INTERESTS OF THE FIRTH OF FORTH¹⁰⁴

Species	Short term	Medium term	Long term	Since classification	Possible Reasons
Wigeon					Broad-scale population trend
Mallard					Broad-scale population trend
Scaup					Occurs too infrequently at site to make interpretation of site trend meaningful
Eider					
Long-tailed Duck					Broad-scale population trend, but may be some site-specific pressures, poorly monitored.
Common scoter					Numbers have fluctuated in recent years & poorly monitored treat with caution.
Velvet scoter					Not well monitored, treat with caution
Goldeneye					Alerts likely to be due to site specific pressures
Red-breasted Merganser					Declining trends likely to be due to site specific pressures
Red-throated Diver					
Great Crested Grebe					May be broad-scale redistribution or broad regional pressures
Slavonian Grebe					
Cormorant					Broad-scale population trends
Oystercatcher					Declining numbers, but not sufficient to trigger alerts
Ringed Plover					As above
Golden plover					Site specific pressures
Grey Plover					Broad-scale redistribution or broad regional pressures
Lapwing					Broad scale population

¹⁰⁴ Cook, A.S.C.P., Barimore, C., Holt, C.A., Read, W.J. and Austin, G.E. (2013). Wetland Bird Survey Alerts 2009/2010: Changes in numbers of wintering waterbirds in the Constituent Countries of the United Kingdom, Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). BTO Research Report 641. BTO, Thetford. <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/webs/publications/webs-annual-report>

Species	Short term	Medium term	Long term	Since classification	Possible Reasons
					trends, conditions on site thought to be favourable.
Knot					Broad-scale redistribution or broad regional pressures
Dunlin					Broad scale population trends, conditions on site favourable
Bar-tailed Godwit					Difficult to interpret underlying trend, but site makes up increasing proportion of regional numbers suggesting environmental conditions remain relatively favourable and site is becoming increasingly important
Curlew					Some declines, not enough to trigger alert, site trend tracking Scottish & British trends
Redshank					Declines, but not enough to trigger alerts
Turnstone					Declines, but not enough to trigger alerts

APPENDIX F. TABLE 3. FIVE-WINTER (2009/10 - 2013/14) MEAN OF PEAK COUNTS EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE THRESHOLD (TAKEN FROM WEBS CORE COUNT DATA).

	Curlew	Oystercatcher	Lapwing	Grey Plover	Golden Plover	Redshank
Eastfield to Musselburgh	19%	64%	8%	10%	6%	22%
Preston Grange to Port Seton	1%	1%		2%	P	1%
Port Seton to Craighelaw Point	6%	15%	1%	10%	2%	6%
Aberlady and Gullane Bays	P	P	P	P	P	
Black Rocks to Eyebroughy		P		2%		2%
Eyebroughy to Eel Burn	P	2%				3%
Eel Burn to North Berwick Harbour		P		2%		2%
North Berwick to Tantallon	6%	5%	P	P	2%	
Tantallon to Ravensheugh Sands	10%	6%	2%	7%	P	3%
Tynninghame Estuary	35%	24%	1%	52%	P	
Winterfield to Barns Ness	P		P	P	P	P
East Barns to Dunglass	7%	5%		3%	P	5%
Totals	10	11	7	11	9	9

P - species present, but five-winter mean of peak counts is less than 1% of numbers required to qualify as of international importance

St Baldred's Craule

Tyne Mouth



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