



Sniffer

GLASGOW CITY REGION

Climate Adaptation Strategy: Habitats
Regulations Screening





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HABITATS DIRECTIVE REQUIREMENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1. Sniffer, on behalf of the Climate Ready Clyde (CRC) initiative, is preparing the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of a new Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (the “Strategy”) for the Glasgow City Region (the “City Region”).
- 1.1.2. At the Scoping stage of SEA, and during the consultation stage of the SEA Environmental Report (ER), NatureScot has indicated that a stand-alone Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment (HRSA) should be provided alongside the SEA ER (Appendix A).
- 1.1.3. This document provides the HRSA to accompany the final version of the SEA ER, which has currently been drafted and is being revised following consultation in line with the SEA process.
- 1.1.4. The Strategy covers the area indicated in **Figure 1 – Designated Sites**.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

- 1.1.5. Under the requirements of the European Council Directive 92/43/EEC 'The Habitats Directive' it is necessary to consider whether the Strategy may have significant effects upon sites of nature conservation importance designated/classified under this directive and Council Directive 79/409/EEC 'The Wild Birds Directive'. These sites are collectively referred to in Scotland as 'European sites'¹.
- 1.1.6. This requirement to consider significant effects on European sites is translated into Scottish law through the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended in Scotland) (the 'Habitats Regulations') and has been retained following the December 2020 passing of the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Bill (hereafter the 'EU Continuity Bill'). The amendments to the Habitats Regulations following EU Exit mean that we must continue to apply the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives to how European sites are designated and protected².
- 1.1.7. A full description of the requirements of the Habitats Directive is provided in **Appendix B**.

POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1.8. Under current Scottish Planning Policy (Scottish Government, 2014), the effects of plans and projects on proposed Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance under the 1971 Ramsar Convention), should also be assessed.

¹ The EC Directives refer to Natura 2000 sites; the term 'European sites' is now used to refer to sites in Scotland that are formerly part of the EU's Natura 2000 network following the UK's exit from the EU. See <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/protected-areas/international-designations/european-sites>

² <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/protected-species/legal-framework/habitats-directive-and-habitats-regulations>

THE HRA PROCESS

- 1.1.9. The process by which likely significant effects on European and Ramsar sites are identified and assessed is termed 'Habitats Regulations Appraisal' (HRA).
- 1.1.10. HRA is a four-stage process. The first stage, screening, assesses whether the plan or project has likely significant effects (LSEs) on the relevant designated sites. Where LSEs are identified in screening, a second HRA stage, Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required.
- 1.1.11. Guidance on the Habitats Directive (European Commission, 2000) sets out the step-wise approach which should be followed to enable Competent Authorities to discharge their duties under the Habitats Directive and provides further clarity on the interpretation of Articles 6 (3) and 6 (4). The four stages are further described as follows.
- Stage 1: Screening: the process which identifies whether effects upon a European site of a plan or project are possible, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and considers whether these effects are likely to be significant.
 - Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment: the detailed consideration of the effect on the integrity of the European Site of the plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, with respect to the site's conservation objectives and its structure and function.
 - Stage 3: Assessment of alternative solutions: the process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan or project that avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the European Site.
 - Stage 4: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse effects remain: an assessment of whether the development is necessary for imperative reasons of over-riding public interest (IROPI) and, if so, of the compensatory measures needed to maintain the overall coherence of the European Site network.
- 1.1.12. The precautionary principle is applied at all stages of the HRA process. In relation to screening this means that projects or plans where effects are considered likely and those where uncertainty exists as to whether effects are likely to be significant must be subject to the second stage of the HRA process, Appropriate Assessment.
- 1.1.13. This document presents information to enable the screening assessment required as part of Stage 1 of the HRA process, to establish whether or not the Strategy will have a likely significant effect upon European and Ramsar sites.
- 1.1.14. Screening of plans has the following purposes (Tyldesley and Associates 2015)
- a) Identify all aspects of the plan which would have no effect on a European site, so that that they can be eliminated from further consideration in respect of this and other plans;
 - b) identify all aspects of the plan which would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site (i.e. would have some effect, because of links/connectivity, but which are minor residual), either alone or in combination with other aspects of the same plan or other plans or projects, which therefore do not require 'appropriate assessment'; and
 - c) identify those aspects of the plan where it is not possible to rule out the risk of significant effects on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This provides a clear scope for the parts of the plan that will require appropriate assessment.
- 1.1.15. A description of the relevant Interventions from the Strategy and the designated sites identified are provided within Sections 2 and 3 respectively. Consideration of potential effects of the Interventions

upon the designated sites and whether these are likely to be significant is provided within Section 4, including an assessment of potential in-combination effects.

- 1.1.16. It should be noted that some Interventions are unlikely to lead directly to or to enable plans or development projects that would in themselves have the potential for likely significant effects (LSEs) on the European or Ramsar sites in the Strategy area. Where this is the case, they are not considered in the detailed screening assessment. A brief justification for the inclusion or exclusion of each intervention is provided in **4.2.2**.
- 1.1.17. Implications relating to biodiversity for the Strategy that arise from the SEA ER (Consultation Draft) could be broadly classed as mitigation for LSEs on European and Ramsar sites, where they are not essential or intrinsic elements of the Strategy. In accordance with the ruling outlined in [CJEU C-323/17³](#), mitigation cannot be included within the screening process in HRA; only essential or intrinsic elements of the plan or project would be considered at screening. Guidance from NatureScot on the above ruling elaborates on this point: *'If the plan or project does contain essential or intrinsic elements that could reduce or eliminate its impact on a European site then it would be unreasonable to isolate them from the rest of the proposal when screening for LSE'* (Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), undated). This latter point, around the intrinsic elements of the Strategy (interventions), is key to the screening approach.

1.2. GUIDANCE

1.2.1. The following guidance is drawn upon in this document:

- Managing Natura 2000 Sites, the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2000).
- Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission, 2002);
- Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans: Guidance for Plan-making Bodies in Scotland (David Tyldesley and Associates, 2015);
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission, 2000a);
- Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle (European Commission 2000b);
- NatureScot guidance on the handling of mitigation in Habitats Regulations Appraisal (Scottish Natural Heritage⁴, undated); and
- NatureScot guidance on assessing connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SNH, 2016).

1.2.2. Relevant case law is also referred to as appropriate through the document.

³ Case C323/17 of the Court of Justice of the European Union: People Over Wind and Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta

⁴ Published under NatureScot's former operating name Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

2. THE GLASGOW CITY REGION CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

2.1. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.1. CRC has voluntarily committed to developing the Strategy as an innovative and ambitious way to drive Glasgow City Region's transformational adaptation approach, particularly in sectors and systems that work at the regional scale (e.g. infrastructure, housing, transport, economic development and land use planning) and which require collective, concerted, collaborative effort to adapt.
- 2.1.2. This Strategy forms a key milestone in the transition over the next ten years to a City Region that it is resilient and prepared for the changes ahead.

2.2. STRATEGY CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW

- 2.2.1. The Strategy is intended to set the strategic framework for adaptation to build resilience to the range of possible climate futures in the City Region in line with the goals set out in the Theory of Change¹, which state:
- People shape their own lives and places so they are climate ready.
 - Actors collectively create the right conditions for the City Region to become climate ready.
 - Glasgow City Region is made climate ready by the way resources, services and assets are directed and used.
- 2.2.1. These will be supported by seven principles from the Theory of Change which cut across the outcomes in the Strategy:
- **Intrinsic value of nature:** Nature / biodiversity has tangible cultural and spiritual value and efforts to build climate resilience should do so in ecological, as well as human, communities.
 - **More of the same will not do:** An effective response to climate change will require a revolutionary and systemic approach.
 - **Climate and social justice:** People's lives can be made healthier and happier, and inequality/vulnerability lessened by efforts to build climate resilience.
 - **Revolution in understanding:** There needs to be a 'revolution in understanding' the potential impacts of climate change, and the adaptation options available to a much wider cohort of people and communities.
 - **Revolution in planning:** There needs to be a 'revolution in planning'. We must rethink how we use land and space and where and what we build, with planners and developers empowered to prioritize climate resilience.
 - **Revolution in finance:** There needs to be a 'revolution in finance' to ensure that the funds and resources necessary to build climate resilience are made available.
 - **Recognising uncertainty:** Our future is uncertain; we need to reduce global heating and plan for worst-case scenarios, recognizing that climate change is not a linear process.

- 2.2.2. The Strategy will address the priority areas of climate change risk and opportunity as set out in Glasgow City Region's first Climate Risk and Opportunity Assessment⁵.

2.3. VISION, OBJECTIVES AND INTERVENTIONS

- 2.3.1. The Strategy seeks to ensure the City Region's economy, society and environment is not only prepared, but continues to flourish in the face of the impacts arising from the climate crisis. In this context, the overarching vision is: ***"A Glasgow City Region that flourishes in the future climate"***. The Strategy outlines how CRC members and wider actors in the City Region achieve this vision, in line with the conditions set out in the Theory of Change for a climate ready City Region.
- 2.3.2. As such, the Strategy Objectives are to:
- Strategy Objective 1 - seeks to build the region's social, economic, and environmental resilience to climate change.
 - Strategy Objective 2 - Outlines the processes and early interventions needed to manage climate risks and realise opportunities in line with our Theory of Change.
 - Strategy Objective 3 – Provides a strategic framework for adaptation in and by the Glasgow City Region that fits alongside and supports key plans, policies, and activities to enable delivery.
 - Strategy Objective 4 – Sets out how we will deepen and expand collaboration and collective impact by working together and engaging, equipping, and enabling citizens and organisations to play their role in realising the vision.
 - Strategy Objective 5 - Sets out how progress in increasing climate resilience will be monitored, evaluated, and learnt from to improve policies, strategies, programmes and projects.
- 2.3.3. These objectives will be achieved through a number of interventions that have been subject to assessment as part of the HRA Screening.

STRATEGY INTERVENTIONS

- 2.3.4. The Strategy sets out a series of interventions⁶ that address individual or multiple conditions and changes identified in the Theory of Change. To develop the interventions in the Strategy, CRC built on recommendations from the existing evidence base on climate risk and adaptation and clustered them to an initial set of draft interventions.
- 2.3.5. The interventions were then refined and further developed by evaluating the extent to which they aligned with the Theory of Change, drawing in wider perspectives from stakeholders, and undertaking systems analysis, Impact Assessment and Multi Criteria Analysis; all of which enhanced and strengthened the interventions further. The interventions draw on both Glasgow City Region's own climate risk and opportunity assessment, the UK's emerging Third Iteration of the Climate Change Risk Assessment analysis, and the different types of decisions and early adaptation. They recognise:

⁵ Climate Ready Clyde, Climate Risk and Opportunity Assessment for Glasgow City Region, 2018 [online] available at: <http://climatereadyclde.org.uk/climate-risk-and-opportunity-assessment-for-glasgow-city-region-key-findings/>

⁶ 'A strategic package of activities designed to achieve intermediate outcomes and contribute to our long-term outcomes

- The benefits of early low and no-regret adaptation to address current risks and build early resilience;
- The need to intervene early in decision that have long lifetimes (notably land-use and infrastructure) with climate smart development; and
- The need to start planning for the longer term using an adaptive management framework (i.e. using an iterative approach that recognises uncertainty) that includes more transformational actions.

2.3.6. There are 11 interventions, and these are outlined in **Table 2-1** below along with their sub-interventions.

Table 2-1 - Adaptation Strategy Interventions

Interventions
<p>1. Reform and reshape governance mechanisms so they respond to adaptation needs, nurture new leadership and create expectations in society</p> <p>1.1 - A detailed review of the new institutional landscape needed for adaptation</p> <p>1.2 - A broader coalition of actors Mobilized to deliver the Adaptation Strategy</p> <p>1.3 - Adaptation leadership at all levels that is nurtured and developed</p> <p>1.4 - News arts, media and cultural organisations telling stories about the climate crisis and opportunities to adapt</p>
<p>2. Develop the ability of organisations, businesses and communities to adapt</p> <p>2.1 – An enhanced programme to increase awareness of the potential impacts of climate change on organisations and communities and opportunities to adapt</p> <p>2.2 - Establishment of a City Region working group/forum and mentoring programme</p> <p>2.3 -Targeted community capacity building for adaptation</p>
<p>3. Increase adaptation finance through leverage and innovation</p> <p>3.1 – Strategic use of public sector funds to attract private sector investment</p> <p>3.2 - A Regional Adaptation Finance Strategy and Action Plan</p> <p>3.3 – Mapping and measurement of regional adaptation finance flows</p> <p>3.4 - Piloting of new approaches to transformative adaptation finance</p>
<p>4. Enable and equip individuals and communities to participate in adaptation, focusing on the most vulnerable</p> <p>4.1 - A shared understanding of how current community engagement is structured for adaptation</p> <p>4.2 - Increased community involvement in the region's adaptation governance, decision-making, planning, and delivery</p> <p>4.3 - Resource, training and education for communities and young people to shape their places</p> <p>4.4 - Collaborations between organizations, communities, artists, and cultural practitioners to stimulate creative and relevant adaptation responses</p>
<p>5. Embed reflection, monitoring, evaluation, and learning into adaptation action</p> <p>5.1 - Learning by doing – building in active reflection and learning process with Climate Ready Clyde encouraging</p>

Interventions

- 5.2 – Encourage large organisations to sign up to relevant international reporting initiatives
- 5.3 – Alignment of planning assumptions between domestic adaptation planning and the emerging Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) / Investor regimes
- 5.4 - Learning and knowledge exchange with other cities and regions

6. Adapt the Clyde corridor for the twenty-second century

- 6.1 - Work through Clyde Mission to govern the climate risks for the entire river corridor
- 6.2 – An iterative adaptation pathway for the Clyde developed
- 6.3 - The climate resilience of the river corridor reflected as a national priority

7. Enhance early warning and preparedness for floods and heatwaves

- 7.1 - Extension of the flood warning scheme in the Glasgow City Region
- 7.2 - Implementation of an integrated climate alert warning system for Glasgow City Region
- 7.3 - Continued delivery of strategic Flood Risk Management activities
- 7.4 - A regional property flood resilience and resistance installation programme
- 7.5 - Exploration of new insurance models

8. Ensure everyone's homes, offices, buildings, and infrastructure are resilient to future climate impacts

- 8.1 – Adaptation embedded in Glasgow City Region's net zero transition
- 8.2 – Creation of an adaptation forum for Glasgow City Region infrastructure
- 8.3 – Adaptation of existing infrastructure, with policies and regulation to require all new investment to be climate resilient
- 8.4 – Strengthening of adaptation requirements in the planning system
- 8.5 - Creation of a regional retrofit framework for climate resilience
- 8.6 – Creation of a framework for adapting cultural heritage assets
- 8.7 - Lobby UK and Scottish Governments to reform infrastructure investment frameworks
- 8.8 – Evaluation of future adaptation infrastructure needs

9. Deliver nature-based solutions for resilient, blue-green ecosystems, landscapes, and neighbourhoods

- 9.1 – Identify regional priorities for nature-based solutions
- 9.2 - Delivery of the regional Strategic Green Network
- 9.3 - Creation of the Clyde Climate Forest
- 9.4 – Increase investment in targeted habitat restoration
- 9.5 – Roll out of large-scale green and blue infrastructure projects to demonstrate benefits to communities – either through new green infrastructure, or removal of public realm
- 9.6 – Support for local infill and expansion of nature-based solutions to strengthen the regional network
- 9.7 - Develop and accelerate blue and green Infrastructure financing

Interventions

10. Enhance regional decision-making and establish Glasgow City Region as a global research and knowledge hub for adaptation

10.1 - Enhanced adaptation research through open invitation to collaborate and publicly available research priorities

10.2 - Glasgow City Region established as a living lab for climate adaptation

10.3 - Convene an Expert Advisory Committee on Adaptation

11. Begin the transition to an economy resilient to future climate impacts

11.1 – Adopt a climate smart regional economic development approach

11.2 - Delivery of a just, climate resilient transition which nurtures adaptation skills

11.3 - Climate-resilient supply chains as part of a net zero, circular economy

11.4 – An SME⁷ support plan

⁷ SME – defined as 'small and medium-sized enterprises'

3. RELEVANT DESIGNATED SITES

- 3.1.1. As shown on **Figure 1 – Designated Sites**, there are 20 European and Ramsar sites within 10km of the area covered by the Strategy. There are also two European sites designated for geese within 20km of the same area. These latter sites are included in line with NatureScot guidance on assessing connectivity with SPAs. All 22 designated sites are listed in **Table 3-1**. This table also summarises known negative pressures on these sites, collated from NatureScot’s Sitelink website⁸.
- 3.1.2. Qualifying features of these sites are as presented on [Sitelink](#)⁹ and [JNCC](#)¹⁰.
- 3.1.3. The Habitats Directive provides further interpretation of the meaning of ‘favourable conservation status’ within Article 1 parts a, e and i as provided in Appendix B.
- 3.1.4. Specific conservation objectives for Ramsar sites are not available. Where relevant, objectives for overlapping SPAs designated for the same features as Ramsar sites are applied.
- 3.1.5. The following sites also occur between 2km and 10km from the Strategy area. These sites present no connectivity to the Strategy area and are not considered:
- Airds Moss SAC
 - Bankhead Moss, Beith SAC
 - Blawhorn Moss SAC
 - Cockinhead Moss SAC
 - Crainengar SAC
 - Dykeneuk Moss SAC
 - Moffat Hills SAC (part)
 - River Tweed SAC (some headwater areas only)
- 3.1.6. The southern portion of the Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA, which is designated for breeding golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), is not considered as it has no connectivity to the Strategy area, and is also 20km from the nearest part of the Strategy area.

⁸ Note that pressures and threats from the JNCC (2016) Natura 2000 data forms are not used here, as the JNCC no longer reports to the EU on the status of European sites on behalf of all administrations of the UK.

⁹ NatureScot’s database provides details of protected sites across Scotland, including European and Ramsar sites.

¹⁰ Joint Nature Conservation Committee, co-ordinates nature conservation action at a UK level with devolved administrations and was formerly responsible for reporting to the EU on behalf of the UK on the status of European sites.

Table 3-1 – European and Ramsar Sites

Site	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Known Negative Pressures on Qualifying Features	Condition Assessment (SPAs and SACs)
Inner Clyde Ramsar A 1,824.9 ha site: long narrow, heavily industrialized estuary near Glasgow on the west coast of Scotland, consisting mostly of tidal mudflat with a shoreline of unmanaged semi-natural coastal vegetation; saltmarsh is also present.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In winter, the site supports internationally important numbers of redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>.	Not available. Where the area of the Ramsar overlaps with that of Inner Clyde SPA, the objectives for the SPA are considered to apply to the Ramsar site also, for the purposes of this assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recreation/ disturbanceGame/fisheries management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">n/a
Loch Lomond Ramsar A 236.9 ha site covering land around the River Endrick where it joins Loch Lomond, and several of the loch's islands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Non-breeding population of Greenland white-fronted geese <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>; at least 1.1% of GB population.The site supports several scarce and one British Red Data Book wetland plants; and also three rare species of invertebrates.	Not available. Where the area of the Ramsar overlaps with that of Loch Lomond SPA, principally on the mainland around the River Endrick, the objectives for the SPA are considered to apply to the Ramsar site also, for the purposes of this assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recreation/ disturbanceDevelopmentOver-grazing (deer)Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">n/a
Black Cart SPA A 55.5 ha site which comprises a 3 km tidal stretch of the Black Cart Water, and its associated floodplain, directly north of Glasgow Airport in Renfrewshire. Boundary is coincident with Black Cart SSSI ¹¹ .	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Non-breeding population of international importance of whooper swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>.¹²	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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; andTo 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 siteDistribution of the species within siteDistribution and extent of habitats supporting the speciesStructure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the speciesNo significant disturbance of the species	None listed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Favourable declining
Gladhouse Reservoir SPA A 186.6 ha site the Gladhouse Reservoir SPA lies in the Moorfoot Hills of the Southern Uplands of Scotland. It is a public water-supply reservoir, with limited aquatic and emergent vegetation. The reservoir is the largest freshwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Population of European importance of the migratory species: pink-footed goose¹³ <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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; andTo 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No proactive managementWater management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Unfavourable declining

¹¹ SSSIs, or Sites of Special Scientific Interest, are nationally designated sites under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended in Scotland). They are not themselves directly subject to HRA but can often form components of European sites.

¹² 220 individuals at designation, 95 individuals at Third SPA Review (Stroud et al. (eds) 2016).

¹³ 3,008 individuals at designation, 360 individuals at Third SPA Review (Stroud et al. (eds) 2016).

Site	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Known Negative Pressures on Qualifying Features	Condition Assessment (SPAs and SACs)
body in the Lothians and is surrounded by both coniferous and mixed woodland and grassland. It has a number of small islands. The boundary of the SPA is coincident with the Gladhouse Reservoir SSSI.		<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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ No significant disturbance of the species		
Inner Clyde SPA A 1813.7 ha site which is a long, narrow, heavily industrialised estuary on the west coast of Scotland. The Inner Clyde SPA extends 20km westward from Newshot Island to Craigendoran Pier on the north shore and to Newark Castle on the south shore. It contains extensive intertidal flats which support large numbers of wintering waterfowl. Boundary is coincident with Inner Clyde SSSI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Non-breeding population of international importance of redshank¹⁴.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and▪ To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:<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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Recreation/ disturbance▪ Game/fisheries management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Favourable maintained
Loch Lomond SPA A 508.2 ha site covering an area of woodland, mire and open water at the south-eastern corner of the loch and a cluster of four wooded islands in the southern half of the loch. The Loch Lomond SPA comprises Inchtavannach and Inchconnachan SSSI, Inchmoan SSSI, Inchcruin SSSI and the mainland area of the Endrick Mouth & Islands SSSI.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Non-breeding population of European importance of Greenland white-fronted geese¹⁵.▪ Breeding population of European importance of capercaillie <i>Tetrao urogallus</i>¹⁶.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and▪ To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:<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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Recreation/ disturbance: both species▪ Development: Greenland white-fronted geese▪ Over-grazing (deer): capercaillie▪ Climate change: capercaillie	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Greenland white-fronted geese: favourable maintained▪ Capercaillie: unfavourable declining

¹⁴ 1,918 individuals at designation, 1,873 individuals at Third SPA Review (Stroud et al. (eds) 2016).

¹⁵ 237 individuals at designation and 152 at Third SPA Review (Stroud et al. (eds.) 2016.).

¹⁶ 33 lekking makes at designation and one lekking male at Third SPA Review (Stroud et al. (eds.) 2016.).

Site	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Known Negative Pressures on Qualifying Features	Condition Assessment (SPAs and SACs)
<p>Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands SPA</p> <p>A 26,832.5 ha site comprises three adjacent upland areas (situated to the north and south of the town of Muirkirk, and the northern Lowther Hills), together with Airds Moss, a low-lying blanket bog situated between the two upland areas of north and south Muirkirk. The predominant habitats include semi-natural areas of blanket bog, acid grassland and heath.</p> <p>The boundaries of the SPA are coincident with those of North Lowther Uplands SSSI, Blood Moss and Slot Burn SSSI, Garpel Water SSSI, Ree Burn and Glenbuck Loch SSSI and coincident with those of Muirkirk Uplands SSSI, except for the exclusion of the Upper Heilar and Tarmac forestry plantations on Airds Moss and the exclusion of Blood Moss, south of Dalblair</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Breeding golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>¹⁷▪ Breeding and non-breeding hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>¹⁸▪ Breeding merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>¹⁹▪ Breeding peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>²⁰▪ Breeding short-eared owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>²¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and▪ To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:<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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Burning: golden plover hen harrier, merlin▪ Game/fisheries management: hen harrier, merlin▪ Agricultural operations: hen harrier, merlin▪ Forestry operations: golden plover, merlin▪ Climate change: golden plover▪ Under-grazing: golden plover▪ Over-grazing: hen harrier	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Golden plover: unfavourable declining▪ Hen harrier: unfavourable declining▪ Merlin: unfavourable no change▪ Peregrine: unfavourable no change▪ Short-eared owl: Favourable maintained
<p>Renfrewshire Heights SPA</p> <p>An 8,940.8 ha area of upland moorland south of Greenock. The area is mainly covered by blanket mire, wet and dry heaths, and rough grassland. Much of the heath and mire is dominated by dwarf shrubs, especially heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>.</p> <p>The boundaries of the SPA are coincident with those of the Renfrewshire Heights SSSI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Breeding hen harrier²²	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and▪ To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:<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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Burning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Unfavourable declining

¹⁷ 175 breeding pairs at designation and 123 at Third SPA Review (Stroud et al. (eds.) 2016.).

¹⁸ 29 breeding pairs at designation and seven at Third SPA Review (Stroud et al. (eds.) 2016.).

¹⁹ 12 breeding pairs at designation and five at Third SPA Review (Stroud et al. (eds.) 2016.).

²⁰ Nine breeding pairs at designation and three at Third SPA Review (Stroud et al. (eds.) 2016.).

²¹ 30 individuals at designation and 26 at Third SPA Review (Stroud et al. (eds.) 2016.).

²² One breeding pair at designation, which was following the Second SPA Review; as such these figures are current for the Third SPA Review (Stroud et al. (eds.) 2016.).

Site	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Known Negative Pressures on Qualifying Features	Condition Assessment (SPAs and SACs)
Slamannan Plateau SPA A 590.9 ha site east of Cumbernauld. It consists of two small lochs and their surrounding peatlands and associated areas of rough and improved grassland. These habitats support roosting and feeding Taiga bean geese during periods in winter. Overlaps with West Fannyside Moss SAC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Non-breeding taiga bean geese <i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>²³	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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; andTo 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 siteDistribution of the species within siteDistribution and extent of habitats supporting the speciesStructure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the speciesNo significant disturbance of the species	None listed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Favourable maintained
Westwater SPA A 49.8 ha site located 320m above sea level in the Pentland Hills. It is an artificial reservoir forming part of the Lothian water supply. The boundary of the SPA is coincident with Westwater Reservoir Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Population of European importance of the migratory species: pink-footed goose²⁴ <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>Non-breeding waterfowl assemblage (in excess of 20,000 individuals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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; andTo 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 siteDistribution of the species within siteDistribution and extent of habitats supporting the speciesStructure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the speciesNo significant disturbance of the species	None listed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Favourable maintained
Black Loch Moss SAC A 107.5 ha site that is one of the least-disturbed active raised bogs remaining in the central belt of Scotland and consists of a large area of undamaged bog surface that is almost continuously dominated by bog-mosses, including <i>Sphagnum papillosum</i> and occasional <i>S. magellanicum</i> . The site is formed on a distinct slope and also has some characteristics of blanket bogs.	Annex I habitats (under Habitats Directive) that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Active raised bog (priority habitat) Also supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Degraded raised bogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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; andTo ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Extent of the habitat on siteDistribution of the habitat within site	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Over-grazing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Unfavourable no change

²³ 276 individuals at designation, which was following the Second SPA Review; as such these figures are current for the Third SPA Review (Stroud et al. (eds.) 2016.).

²⁴ 31,127 individuals at designation and 32,666 at Third SPA Review (Stroud et al. (eds.) 2016.).

Site	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Known Negative Pressures on Qualifying Features	Condition Assessment (SPAs and SACs)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 		
Braehead Moss SAC A 122.2 ha site comprising of peat bog in the central belt of Scotland has complex origins in that it has arisen from peat developing in two separate basins, which have now fused. In the area where peat has merged, the vegetation has affinities to 7130 Blanket bogs. The upper and lower bogs are dominated by hummocks largely formed of <i>Sphagnum</i> spp., including <i>S. fuscum</i> and <i>S. imbricatum</i> , and are rich in heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> and cottongrasses <i>Eriophorum</i> spp. Soft <i>S. cuspidatum</i> hollows also occur.	Annex I habitats (under Habitats Directive) that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active raised bog (priority habitat) Also supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degraded raised bogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 To ensure for the qualifying habitats 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 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burning Natural event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unfavourable recovering
Clyde Valley Woods SAC A 432.9 ha site which represents the most extensive complex of woodland gorges with <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests in Scotland. Although, like all Scottish sites, Clyde Valley Woods is beyond the northern distribution limit of lime <i>Tilia</i> spp. it possesses otherwise characteristic features of the <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> . Ground flora typical of the <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> is found in these woods, with some southern species such as herb-Paris <i>Paris quadrifolia</i> and pendulous sedge <i>Carex pendula</i> also present.	Annex I habitats (under Habitats Directive) that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines (priority habitat) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 To ensure for the qualifying habitats 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 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invasive species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beech Conifers European Larch Himalayan balsam Japanese Knotweed Rhododendron Snowberry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Favourable maintained
Coalburn Moss SAC A 223.7 ha site, Coalburn Moss retains an extensive primary dome, although this is now confined by two abandoned railway lines. The site contains one of the larger tracts of vigorous bog-moss-dominated vegetation in the Central Belt of Scotland, with distinctive wet <i>Sphagnum</i> hollows.	Annex I habitats (under Habitats Directive) that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active raised bog (priority habitat) Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grazing Invasive species The above vulnerabilities are for both habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active raised bog: favourable maintained Degraded raised bogs: unfavourable recovering

Site	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Known Negative Pressures on Qualifying Features	Condition Assessment (SPAs and SACs)
Typical bog-mosses include <i>Sphagnum papillosum</i> and <i>S. magellanicum</i> . Hare's-tail cottongrass <i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i> , cranberry <i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i> and reindeer-moss lichen <i>Cladonia</i> spp. are also common. The hollows, rich in <i>S. cuspidatum</i> , are occasionally fringed by great sundew <i>Drosera anglica</i> . Some of the margins of the site also support wetland communities.	primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degraded raised bogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure for the qualifying habitats 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 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 		
Cranley Moss SAC A 101.6 ha site comprising a 'classic' raised bog, with a distinct and clearly defined active dome rising from a flat flood-plain long since converted to agricultural use. Much of the bog margin is intact, but although marshy ground surrounds parts of the site, most of the original lagg fen transition is thought to have been reclaimed. The bog has extensive Sphagnum carpets, which show vigorous growth throughout. <i>Sphagnum imbricatum</i> is found here.	Annex I habitats (under Habitats Directive) that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active raised bog (priority habitat) Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degraded raised bogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 To ensure for the qualifying habitats 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 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under-grazing: active raised bog Invasive species: degraded raised bogs Water management: degraded raised bogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active raised bog: unfavourable no change Degraded raised bogs: unfavourable recovering
Endrick Water SAC 236.6 ha The population of river lamprey is of particular importance because, unlike other populations which migrate to the sea, they remain in freshwater as adults, feeding on freshwater fish in Loch Lomond. This is the only instance of this unusual behavioural trait recorded in the UK.	Annex II species (under Habitats Directive) are a primary reason for site selection: River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> Annex II species (under Habitats Directive) present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> 	For qualifying species the objectives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term: <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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural operations Game/ fisheries management Invasive species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giant hogweed Himalayan balsam Japanese Knotweed Water management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unfavourable recovering
Loch Lomond Woods SAC A 1,440.2 ha site and one of three sites representing old sessile oak woods in the most bryophyte-rich zone in the UK, the	Annex I habitats (under Habitats Directive) that are a primary reason for selection of this site:	For qualifying habitats the objectives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forestry operations: western acidic oak woodland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Western acidic oak woodland: unfavourable declining Otter: favourable maintained

Site	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Known Negative Pressures on Qualifying Features	Condition Assessment (SPAs and SACs)
<p>south-west Highlands zone. This extensive block of woodland in western Scotland comprises a mosaic of woodland types, including ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>, elm <i>Ulmus</i> spp. and alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> woodland, which adds to the ecological variation of the site. Pedunculate oak <i>Quercus robur</i>, rather than sessile oak <i>Quercus petraea</i>, is locally abundant, and the oak stands intergrade in places with ash-elm stands, and with alder at flushed sites by the loch. The stands on the islands include areas that have been less subject to grazing than many other examples of this type of woodland.</p> <p>Boundaries are coincident with Conic Hill SSSI, Rowardennan Woodlands SSSI, Pollochro Woods SSSI and West Loch Lomondside Woodlands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles (western acidic oak woodland) <p>Annex II species (under Habitats Directive) present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> 	<p>contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure for the qualifying habitats 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 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>For qualifying species the objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term: <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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invasive species (beech, European larch, conifers, rhododendron): western acidic oak woodland Over-grazing (cattle, deer, goats): western acidic oak woodland Climate change: otter Development: otter Recreation/disturbance: otter 	
<p>North Shotts Moss SAC</p> <p>A 53.8 ha site comprising two now separate but previously linked bogs form this site in the central belt of Scotland. Hassockrigg Moss supports areas of pronounced surface patterning with extensive <i>Sphagnum</i> carpets, including locally frequent <i>S. magellanicum</i>. Cranberry <i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i> occurs occasionally. A small area of lagg fen lies around the edge of the bog. The adjacent North Shotts Moss supports a high diversity of <i>Sphagnum</i> species with further areas of ridge and hollow patterning on the mire expanse and lagg fen occurring at the margins.</p> <p>Boundary coincident with the section of Hassockrigg and North Shotts Mosses that is south of Calderhead Road.</p>	<p>Annex I habitats (under Habitats Directive) that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active raised bog (priority habitat) <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degraded raised bogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 To ensure for the qualifying habitats 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 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None listed for active raised bog. Dumping/storage of materials: degraded raised bog. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Favourable maintained: active raised bog Unfavourable no change: degraded raised bog

Site	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Known Negative Pressures on Qualifying Features	Condition Assessment (SPAs and SACs)
Red Moss SAC A 75.9 ha site comprising three areas of active raised bog together with associated lagg fen communities. The slightly domed areas of mire support typical raised bog vegetation with a good cover of <i>Sphagnum</i> including frequent <i>S. imbricatum</i> hummocks and occasional <i>S. fuscum</i> . Cranberry <i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i> also occurs.	Annex I habitats (under Habitats Directive) that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active raised bog (priority habitat) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 To ensure for the qualifying habitats 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 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Other' listed; not specified further 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unfavourable recovering
Upper Nithdsale Woods SAC 99.6 ha site This complex of sites located on the River Nith and tributaries represents Tilio-Acerion forest in south-west Scotland. The individual sites are small, but regionally important due to the highly fragmented nature of remnant semi-natural woodland in this part of Scotland. The woods are ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> -dominated with a dense hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> understorey, and a rich herbaceous ground flora characteristic of the habitat type.	Annex I habitats (under Habitats Directive) that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 To ensure for the qualifying habitats 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 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invasive species Over-grazing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unfavourable declining
Waukenwae Moss SAC A 154.3 ha site in the central belt of Scotland has extensive areas of active raised bog. It displays some of the best <i>Sphagnum</i> -hollow patterning to be found in bogs in this part of Scotland and also has several hummocks of <i>Sphagnum imbricatum</i> . The bulk of the site is relatively intact, having suffered little from marginal domestic peat-cutting. Boundary coincident with Waukenwae Moss SSSI	Annex I habitats (under Habitats Directive) that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active raised bog (priority habitat) Also supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degraded raised bogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 To ensure for the qualifying habitats 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 habitat Processes supporting the habitat Distribution of typical species of the habitat Viability of typical species as components of the habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural operations (drainage ditches) Grazing (cattle, goats, sheep) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Favourable recovered

Site	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Known Negative Pressures on Qualifying Features	Condition Assessment (SPAs and SACs)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat 		
<p>West Fannyside Moss SAC A 33.6 ha site adjacent to the south shore of Fannyside Lochs. Boundary is coincident with West Fannyside Moss SSSI.</p>	<p>Annex I habitats (under Habitats Directive) that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blanket bog (priority habitat) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 To ensure for the qualifying habitats 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 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 	None listed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Favourable maintained

4. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

- 4.1.1. The Strategy is not directly connected with, or necessary for the management of any of the European or Ramsar sites presented in Section 3. It has not been conceived solely to further the conservation of these sites and nor is it essential to the management of the sites. Therefore, further consideration of the Strategy within the HRA process is required.

4.2. CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTS IN ISOLATION

- 4.2.1. Using the information included within Sections 2 and 3 the Strategy has been screened to identify whether there are potential effect pathways between the Strategy and the designated sites which are likely to result in significant effects upon the designated sites. These likely significant effects (LSEs) are described in **Table 4-1**.

- 4.2.2. The following interventions and their sub-interventions, in light of the known pressures on the designated sites listed in **Table 3-1**, are unlikely to result in any conceivable effect on any of the designated sites. There is no direct or indirect pathway for any of these interventions to result in likely significant effects on the conservation objectives for the qualifying interests of any site. As such, these interventions are excluded from further consideration in the screening assessment:

1. Reform and reshape governance mechanisms so they respond to adaptation needs, nurture new leadership and create expectations in society
2. Develop the ability of organisations, businesses and communities to adapt
3. Increase adaptation finance through leverage and innovation
4. Enable and equip communities to participate in adaptation, focusing on the most vulnerable
5. Embed reflection, monitoring, evaluation, and learning into adaptation action
7. Enhance early warning and preparedness for floods and heatwaves
10. Enhance regional decision-making and establish Glasgow City Region as a global research and knowledge hub for adaptation
11. Begin the transition to an economy resilient to future climate impacts

- 4.2.3. The following interventions and their sub-interventions are included in the screening:

6. Adapt the Clyde Corridor for the 22nd Century
8. Ensure everyone's homes, offices, buildings, and infrastructure are resilient to future climate impacts
9. Deliver nature-based solutions for resilient, blue-green ecosystems, landscapes and neighbourhoods

- 4.2.4. Given the high-level nature of the Strategy, where the same LSEs are identified for multiple designated sites, the sites are presented together in **Table 4-1** below for ease of reading and to reduce repetition within the document.

Table 4-1 – Screening for Likely Significant Effects of Strategy Interventions on European and Ramsar Sites

Intervention	Site	Description of Effects	Likely Significant Effects?
6. Adapt the Clyde corridor for the twenty-second century 6.1 - Work through Clyde Mission to govern the climate risks for the entire river corridor 6.2 – An iterative adaptation pathway for the Clyde developed 6.3 - The climate resilience of the river corridor reflected as a national priority	Inner Clyde Ramsar Loch Lomond Ramsar Black Cart SPA Gladhouse SPA Inner Clyde SPA Loch Lomond SPA Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands SPA Renfrewshire Heights SPA Slamannan Plateau SPA Westwater SPA	<p>The intervention in itself is unlikely to result in LSEs for the qualifying interests of any SPA or Ramsar site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sub-intervention 6.1 provides for new governance mechanisms and has no direct or indirect LSE on any of the qualifying interests for these sites. ▪ Sub-intervention 6.2 has the potential to lead to action plans and developments that focus on long-term management of coastal, river and surface water risks; prioritise natural solutions (green and blue infrastructure); and use of vacant and derelict land for flood management. Any plan or project that is developed in line with this sub-intervention would be required to undergo HRA in their own right. The sub-intervention in itself does not result in LSEs; it will not result in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deterioration of qualifying species habitats • disturbance to qualifying species, or changes to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – distribution of species, – distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species, – change to structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species. ▪ Sub-intervention 6.3 provides links to development that may affect the qualifying interests of these SPA and Ramsar sites in that the Clyde corridor would be recognised as a national planning priority in the forthcoming National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). However, this sub-intervention does not in itself result in LSEs. The upcoming NPF4 will be required, in accordance with the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, to include a mandate that all developments secure positive benefits for biodiversity. As such, any developments that sit under this sub-intervention and meet the requirements of the 2019 Act are unlikely to result in LSEs (see also Tyldesley and Associates 2015); they would also require to undergo project-level HRA. 	No
	<p><i>Sites designated for active raised bog and/or degraded raised bog:</i> Black Loch Moss SAC Braehead Moss SAC Coalburn Moss SAC Cranley Moss SAC North Shotts Moss SAC Red Moss SAC Waukenwae Moss SAC</p> <p><i>Sites designated for woodland priority habitat types (see Table 3-1):</i> Clyde Valley Woods SAC Loch Lomond Woods SAC</p> <p><i>Designated for blanket bog:</i> West Fannyside Moss SAC</p> <p><i>Designated for otter:</i> Loch Lomond Woods SAC</p>	<p>The intervention in itself is unlikely to result in LSEs for the qualifying interests of any SAC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sub-intervention 6.1 provides for new governance mechanisms and has no direct or indirect LSE on any of the qualifying interests for these sites. ▪ Sub-intervention 6.2 has the potential to lead to action plans and developments that focus on long-term management of coastal, river and surface water risks; prioritise natural solutions (green and blue infrastructure); and use of vacant and derelict land for flood management. Any plan or project that is developed in line with this sub-intervention would be required to undergo HRA in their own right. The sub-intervention in itself does not result in LSEs; it will not result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For sites designated for their habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 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 – To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Extent of the habitat on site</i> – <i>Distribution of the habitat within site</i> – <i>Structure and function of the habitat</i> – <i>Processes supporting the habitat</i> 	No

Intervention	Site	Description of Effects	Likely Significant Effects?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Distribution of typical species of the habitat</i> – <i>Viability of typical species as components of the habitat</i> – <i>No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And for sites designated for their species, sub-intervention 6.2 will not result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – deterioration of qualifying species habitats – disturbance to qualifying species, or changes to <i>distribution of species</i>, – <i>distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species</i>, – <i>change to structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species</i>. <p>Sub-intervention 6.3 provides links to development that may affect the qualifying interests of these SACs in that the Clyde Corridor would be recognised as a national planning priority in the forthcoming National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). However, this sub-intervention does not in itself result in LSEs. The upcoming NPF4 will be required, in accordance with the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, to include a mandate that all developments secure positive benefits for biodiversity. As such, any developments that sit under this sub-intervention and meet the requirements of the 2019 Act are unlikely to result in LSEs; they would also require to undergo project-level HRA.</p>	
<p>8. Ensure everyone's homes, offices, buildings, and infrastructure are resilient to future climate impacts</p> <p>8.1 – Adaptation embedded in Glasgow City Region's net zero transition</p> <p>8.2 – Creation of an adaptation forum for Glasgow City Region infrastructure</p> <p>8.3 – Adaptation of existing infrastructure, with policies and regulation to require all new investment to be climate resilient</p> <p>8.4 – Strengthening of adaptation requirements in the planning system</p> <p>8.5 - Creation of a regional retrofit framework for climate resilience</p> <p>8.6 – Creation of a framework for adapting cultural heritage assets</p> <p>8.7 - Lobby UK and Scottish Governments to reform infrastructure investment frameworks</p> <p>8.8 – Evaluation of future adaptation infrastructure needs</p>	<p>Inner Clyde Ramsar</p> <p>Loch Lomond Ramsar</p> <p>Black Cart SPA</p> <p>Gladhouse SPA</p> <p>Inner Clyde SPA</p> <p>Loch Lomond SPA</p> <p>Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands SPA</p> <p>Renfrewshire Heights SPA</p> <p>Slamannan Plateau SPA</p> <p>Westwater SPA</p>	<p>The intervention in itself is unlikely to result in LSEs for the qualifying interests of any SPA or Ramsar site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sub-intervention 8.1 states an overall goal of ensuring that the pathway to net zero is resilient to climate changes ahead. ▪ Sub-intervention 8.2 is focused on knowledge-sharing ▪ Neither of the above sub-interventions have any direct or indirect pathway for conceivable effects on any of the SPAs or Ramsar sites, particularly in light of the known pressures on the sites' qualifying interests (Table 3-1). <p>The following three sub-interventions have the potential to facilitate projects that would themselves require HRA at project level in line with the Habitats Regulations. There is insufficient detail for meaningful further assessment at the Strategy level, and any development or action plans that will be able to inform changes in a proposal (including rejecting it outright) if necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sub-intervention 8.3 may facilitate development projects involving refurbishment of existing infrastructure. ▪ Sub-intervention 8.4 provides for climate resilience to be included in planning policy and regulation. ▪ Sub-intervention 8.5 may also facilitate development projects involving refurbishment of existing infrastructure and buildings. ▪ These three sub-interventions do not in themselves result in LSEs, i.e., there is no conceivable pathway at Strategy level for them to result in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deterioration of qualifying species habitats • disturbance to qualifying species, or changes to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – distribution of species, – distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species, – change to structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species. ▪ Sub-intervention 8.6 is focused on cultural heritage assets and does not present any conceivable pathway for LSEs on the SPAs and Ramsar sites. 	No

Intervention	Site	Description of Effects	Likely Significant Effects?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-intervention 8.7 is framed around lobbying for investment reform and does not present any conceivable pathway for LSEs on the SPAs and Ramsar sites. Sub-intervention 8.8 provides for a review of future adaptation infrastructure needs and does not present any conceivable pathway for LSEs on the SPAs and Ramsar sites. The sub-intervention provides for evaluation as well as identification of infrastructure needed for climate adaptation. Such evaluation would include HRA of any infrastructure development identified in the review. 	
	<p><i>Sites designated for active raised bog and/or degraded raised bog:</i> Black Loch Moss SAC Braehead Moss SAC Coalburn Moss SAC Cranley Moss SAC North Shotts Moss SAC Red Moss SAC Waukenwae Moss SAC</p> <p><i>Sites designated for woodland priority habitat types (see Table 3-1):</i> Clyde Valley Woods SAC Loch Lomond Woods SAC Upper Nithsdale Woods SAC</p> <p><i>Designated for blanket bog:</i> West Fannyside Moss SAC</p> <p><i>Designated for otter:</i> Loch Lomond Woods SAC</p> <p><i>Designated for fish:</i> Endrick Water SAC</p>	<p>The intervention in itself is unlikely to result in LSEs for the qualifying interests of any SAC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-intervention 8.1 states an overall goal of ensuring that the pathway to net zero is resilient to climate changes ahead. Sub-intervention 8.2 is focused on knowledge-sharing Neither of the above sub-interventions have any direct or indirect pathway for conceivable effects on any of the SACs, particularly in light of the known pressures the sites' qualifying interests (Table 3-1). <p>The following three sub-interventions have the potential to facilitate projects that would themselves require HRA at project level in line with the Habitats Regulations. There is insufficient detail for meaningful further assessment at the Strategy level, and any development or action plans that will be able to inform changes in a proposal (including rejecting it outright) if necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-intervention 8.3 may facilitate development projects involving refurbishment of existing infrastructure. Sub-intervention 8.4 provides for climate resilience to be included in planning policy and regulation. Sub-intervention 8.5 may also facilitate development projects involving refurbishment of existing infrastructure and buildings. These three sub-interventions do not in themselves result in LSEs, i.e., there is no conceivable pathway at plan level for them to result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For sites designated for their habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 To ensure for the qualifying habitats 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 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 And for sites designated for their species, sub-interventions 8.3 to 8.5 will not result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> deterioration of qualifying species habitats disturbance to qualifying species, or changes to distribution of species, distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species, 	No

Intervention	Site	Description of Effects	Likely Significant Effects?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>change to structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species.</i> 	
<p>9. Deliver nature-based solutions for resilient, blue-green ecosystems, landscapes, and neighbourhoods</p> <p>9.1 – Identify regional priorities for nature-based solutions</p> <p>9.2- Delivery of the regional Strategic Green Network</p> <p>9.3 - Creation of the Clyde Climate Forest</p> <p>9.4 – Increase investment in targeted habitat restoration</p> <p>9.5 – Roll out of large-scale blue and green infrastructure projects to demonstrate benefits to communities – either through new green infrastructure or removal of hard landscaping or public realm</p> <p>9.6 - Support for local infill and expansion of nature-based solutions</p> <p>9.7 - Develop and accelerate blue and green infrastructure financing</p>	<p>Inner Clyde Ramsar</p> <p>Loch Lomond Ramsar</p> <p>Black Cart SPA</p> <p>Inner Clyde SPA</p> <p>Loch Lomond SPA</p> <p>Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands SPA</p> <p>Renfrewshire Heights SPA</p> <p>Slamannan Plateau SPA</p>	<p>The following sub-interventions will not directly result in LSEs on any of the SPAs or Ramsar sites, but they do have clear potential to facilitate development projects, primarily habitat creation and blue/green infrastructure projects, that would require detailed HRA at project level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sub-intervention 9.1 requires identification of priority areas for blue and green infrastructure. The identification process itself will not result in LSEs on the qualifying species of the SPAs and Ramsar sites, or on the distribution, extent, structure, function and supporting processes of the habitats that support the qualifying species. ▪ Sub-interventions 9.2 and 9.3 have potential to be of benefit for some of these sites, rather than resulting in LSEs. Specifically, the woodland habitats that support capercaillie in Loch Lomond Ramsar and Loch Lomond SPA, may benefit from actions aimed at maximising the Strategic Green Network's contribution to climate adaptation (sub-intervention 9.2). Similarly, creation of the Clyde Climate Forest (sub-intervention 9.3) has potential to provide carbon offsetting for capercaillie that are a qualifying feature of the Loch Lomond SPA; and golden plover in the Muirkirk and North Lowther Upland SPA may indirectly benefit from such offsetting. The forest's creation is to focus on high heat risk areas, connecting habitats and focus on the most socially vulnerable areas, making it highly unlikely that planting would occur (for example) on goose foraging habitats in any SPAs. Detailed creation plans for the Clyde Climate Forest would require project-level screening for HRA. ▪ Sub-intervention 9.4 is directly focused on habitat restoration for natural flood management, including in peatland, wetlands, and transitional habitats. It also requires contend promotion of ancient and native woodland restoration, and consideration of transitional habitats such as saltmarsh in natural flood management. As such, this sub-intervention is likely to present potential benefits to the supporting habitats of the qualifying interest of the SPAs and Ramsar sites considered herein, rather than presenting any conceivable pathways for LSEs. ▪ Sub-intervention 9.5 is focused on roll out of large-scale blue and green infrastructure projects. There is potential for LSEs from delivery of any projects aligned with this sub-intervention. Any such projects would require project-level HRA in line with the Habitats Regulations, notably those projects where removal of hard landscaping is potentially likely to occur within or adjacent to designated sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inner Clyde SPA and Ramsar and Black Cart SPA, due to their locations in and near urban areas, would all be likely to experience LSEs as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Distribution of qualifying species within the sites – Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species – Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species – Disturbance of the species • It has not been possible to definitively conclude no LSE for sub-intervention 9.5 due to insufficient detail at this time to enable a more in-depth analysis to the degree required for appropriate assessment. It will only be possible to undertake this level of assessment once specific projects are proposed and/or once sufficient detail is available at the plan level to enable a thorough and robust analysis to be carried out. 	No

Intervention	Site	Description of Effects	Likely Significant Effects?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> However, sitting as this sub-intervention does within the overall purpose of intervention 9, which is focused on <i>resilient, blue-green ecosystems, landscapes and neighbourhoods</i>, it is reasonable to defer further stages of HRA for this sub-intervention to project or plan level. This approach falls in line with guidance set out in sections 5.27 to 5.30 of Tyldesley and Associates (2015) as to how avoidance of adverse effects on site integrity can be considered in detailed HRA at a lower tier plan (or project) level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HRA of the sub-intervention cannot reasonably assess the effects on European sites in a meaningful way. The results of any development plan, action plan or project level HRAs will be able to inform changes in a proposal (including rejecting it outright) if necessary; and The HRA of any detailed development plans or action plans and projects will be required as a matter of law or government policy. The intrinsic nature of the Strategy and the status of sub-intervention 9.5 as an intrinsic element of it can also be taken into consideration herein Sub-intervention 9.6 focuses on local delivery and a common approach to open space strategies and local development plans. These strategies and plans are required, within the sub-intervention, to define where blue and green infrastructure can provide resilience for surface water management and high temperatures. In itself therefore, sub-intervention 9.6 does not present any conceivable pathway for LSEs on the SPAs and Ramsar sites. The plans and strategies that align with sub-intervention 9.6 would require their own detailed HRAs in line with the Habitats Regulations. Sub-intervention 9.7 is framed around finance of green and blue infrastructure projects, and in itself presents no conceivable pathway for LSEs on any of the SPAs or Ramsar sites. Any projects so financed would be subject to project-level HRA in line with the Habitats Regulations. 	
	<p><i>Sites designated for active raised bog and/or degraded raised bog:</i> Black Loch Moss SAC Braehead Moss SAC Coalburn Moss SAC Cranley Moss SAC North Shotts Moss SAC Red Moss SAC Waukenwae Moss SAC</p> <p><i>Sites designated for woodland priority habitat types (see Table 3-1):</i> Clyde Valley Woods SAC Loch Lomond Woods SAC Upper Nithsdale Woods SAC</p> <p><i>Designated for blanket bog:</i> West Fannyside Moss SAC</p> <p><i>Designated for otter:</i> Loch Lomond Woods SAC</p> <p><i>Designated for fish:</i> Endrick Water SAC</p>	<p>The following sub-interventions will not directly result in LSEs on any of the SACs, but they do have clear potential to facilitate development projects, primarily habitat creation and blue/green infrastructure projects, that would require detailed HRA at project level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-intervention 9.1 requires identification of priority areas for blue and green infrastructure. The identification process itself will not result in LSEs on the qualifying interests of the SACs. Any areas so identified would, once projects within them had been defined, be included in project level HRA in line with the Habitats Regulations. Sub-interventions 9.2 and 9.3 have potential to be of benefit for some of these sites, rather than resulting in LSEs. Specifically, the woodland habitats in Clyde Valley Woods SAC and Loch Lomond Woods SAC may benefit from actions aimed at maximising the Strategic Green Network's contribution to climate adaptation (sub-intervention 9.2). Similarly, creation of the Clyde Climate Forest (sub-intervention 9.3) has potential to provide indirect benefits through carbon offsetting for otter that are a qualifying feature of the Loch Lomond Woods SAC and are vulnerable to climate change. The forest's creation is to focus on high heat risk areas, connecting habitats and focus on the most socially vulnerable areas, making it highly unlikely that planting would occur (for example) on bog habitats in any SACs. Detailed creation plans for the Clyde Climate Forest would require project-level screening for HRA. Sub-intervention 9.4 is directly focused on habitat restoration for natural flood management, including in peatland, wetlands, and transitional habitats. It also requires contend promotion of ancient and native woodland restoration, and 	No

Intervention	Site	Description of Effects	Likely Significant Effects?
		<p>consideration of transitional habitats such as saltmarsh in natural flood management. As such, this sub-intervention is likely to present potential benefits to the qualifying interests of the SACs considered herein, rather than presenting any conceivable pathways for LSEs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-intervention 9.5 is focused on roll out of large-scale blue and green infrastructure projects. There is potential for LSEs from delivery of any projects aligned with this sub-intervention. Any such projects would require project-level HRA in line with the Habitats Regulations, notably those projects where removal of hard landscaping is potentially likely to occur within or adjacent to designated sites • It has not been possible to definitively conclude no LSE for sub-intervention 9.5 due to insufficient detail at this time to enable a more in-depth analysis to the degree required for appropriate assessment. It will only be possible to undertake this level of assessment once specific projects are proposed and/or once sufficient detail is available at the plan level to enable a thorough and robust analysis to be carried out. • However, sitting as this sub-intervention does within the overall purpose of intervention 9, which is focused on <i>resilient, blue-green ecosystems, landscapes and neighbourhoods</i>, it is reasonable to defer further stages of HRA for this sub-intervention to project or plan level. This approach falls in line with guidance set out in sections 5.27 to 5.30 of Tyldesley and Associates (2015) as to how avoidance of adverse effects on site integrity can be considered in detailed HRA at a lower tier plan (or project) level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The HRA of the sub-intervention cannot reasonably assess the effects on European sites in a meaningful way. – The results of any development plan, action plan or project level HRAs will be able to inform changes in a proposal (including rejecting it outright) if necessary; and – The HRA of any detailed development plans or action plans and projects will be required as a matter of law or government policy. ▪ The intrinsic nature of the Strategy and the status of sub-intervention 9.5 as an intrinsic element of it can also be taken into consideration herein Sub-intervention 9.6 focuses on local delivery and a common approach to open space strategies and local development plans. These strategies and plans are required, within the sub-intervention, to define where blue and green infrastructure can provide resilience for surface water management and high temperatures. In itself therefore, sub-intervention 9.6 does not present any conceivable pathway for LSEs on the SACs. The plans and strategies that align with sub-intervention 9.6 would require their own detailed HRAs in line with the Habitats Regulations. ▪ Sub-intervention 9.7 is framed around finance of green and blue infrastructure projects, and in itself presents no conceivable pathway for LSEs on any of the SACs. Any projects so financed would be subject to project-level HRA. 	

4.3. POTENTIAL IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS

- 4.3.1. Given that likely significant effects of the Strategy alone are screened out, or in the case of sub-intervention 9.5 deferred to lower tier plan (*sensu* Tyldesley and Associates 2015) or project level it should be noted that, in line with European Commission (2000a) guidance on the provisions of Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive, there would be no additional requirement to carry out in-combination screening. Article 6.3 states:
- ‘Any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall undergo an Appropriate Assessment to determine its implications for the site. The competent authorities can only agree to the plan or project after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned’*
- 4.3.2. In line with the conclusions for sub-intervention 9.5, screening of lower tier development plans, action plans and projects should include consideration of the plans and policies listed in Appendix B of the SEA ER.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1. The Strategy is concluded as having no likely significant effect on the European and Ramsar sites assessed herein, for the following reasons:
- 5.1.2. One of the seven principles that cut across the key outcomes of Strategy is the principle of the *intrinsic value of nature: Nature / biodiversity has tangible cultural and spiritual value and efforts to build climate resilience should do so in ecological, as well as human, communities*. This principle is an intrinsic element of the Strategy. In reference to guidance from NatureScot (SNH, undated) on the approach to mitigation in plans and policies following the ‘People over Wind’ ruling [CJEU C-323/17](#), the Strategy in itself therefore has an intrinsic element that has potential benefits for European and Ramsar sites. The Strategy also highlights the need for activity to be within ecological limits and the conclusions of the Dasgupta review on the economics of biodiversity (Dasgupta, 2021). Furthermore, the Strategy recognises that ‘*Addressing the climate risks to people involves recognising that we are inherently related to and reliant upon our natural environment. The actions we take also offer the potential to enhance our natural environment, building the resilience of habitats and ecosystems and therefore in turn our own.*’ This intrinsic purpose also has potential benefits for European and Ramsar sites. As such, in reference to SNH (undated) guidance noted above, it would be unreasonable to isolate this intrinsic purpose from the rest of the Strategy when screening for LSEs.
- 5.1.3. The Strategy includes interventions and sub-interventions that can lead to, or facilitate lower tier development or actions plans, or projects, that would in themselves require HRA under the terms of the Habitats Regulations. However, such plans and projects would be integral to achieving the overall purpose of the Strategy, particularly given the aforementioned principle of the intrinsic value of nature. Again, it would be unreasonable to isolate these intrinsic elements from the rest of the Strategy when screening for LSEs. For interventions 6, 8 and 9, one expected long-term outcome of the Strategy is that, if the Glasgow City Region is made climate ready by the way resources, services and assets are directed and used, then ecological systems will be resilient.
- 5.1.4. Additional discussion of the above conclusion for the 11 interventions of the Strategy is given below:
- 5.1.5. Interventions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10 and 11 present no direct or indirect pathways to result in likely significant effects on the conservation objectives for the qualifying interests of any site.
- 5.1.6. Intervention 6, *adapting the Clyde Corridor for the 22nd Century*: the focus of this intervention is on governance mechanisms, action plans and projects that prioritise natural solutions to climate change, and recognition of the River Corridor’s climate resilience as a national priority. These focus areas have no conceivable pathway for LSEs. Furthermore, the intrinsic elements of the intervention, as for the Strategy in general, have potential benefits for European and Ramsar sites, including removing or reducing existing pressures associated with climate change – a direct pressure for two of the sites.
- 5.1.7. Intervention 8, *Ensure everyone’s homes, offices, buildings, and infrastructure are resilient to future climate impacts* in itself is unlikely to result in LSEs for the qualifying interests of any SAC. The sub-interventions herein range from broad knowledge sharing (sub-intervention 8.2, creation of an adaptation forum for City Region infrastructure), to adaptation of existing infrastructure (sub-intervention 8.3), to lobbying for more appropriate infrastructure investment frameworks (sub-intervention 8.7). Again, none of these elements in themselves have any conceivable pathway for

LSEs. Furthermore, where they have the potential to facilitate projects that would themselves require project-level HRA, the sub-interventions are insufficiently detailed for meaningful further appraisal at Strategy level; and they are also intrinsic elements of the Strategy that itself has an overall purpose that is of potential benefit to the European and Ramsar sites considered in this assessment.

- 5.1.8. Intervention 9 *Deliver nature-based solutions for resilient, blue-green ecosystems, landscapes, and neighbourhoods* is an intrinsic element of the Strategy that has potential to benefit European and Ramsar sites. Some sub-interventions have clear potential benefits, for example creation of the Clyde Climate Forest (sub-intervention 9.3) and increased investment in targeted habitat restoration (sub-intervention 9.4). One sub-intervention, 9.5, has potential to lead to plans and projects with LSEs. However, it is again an intrinsic element of the Strategy and has an overall nature that has potential to benefit some of the designated sites. Sub-intervention 9.5 also meets the broader criteria (Tyldesley and Associates 2015) for consideration of any relevant mitigation measures to be deferred to lower tier plans or projects:
- a) the higher tier plan appraisal - this 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.

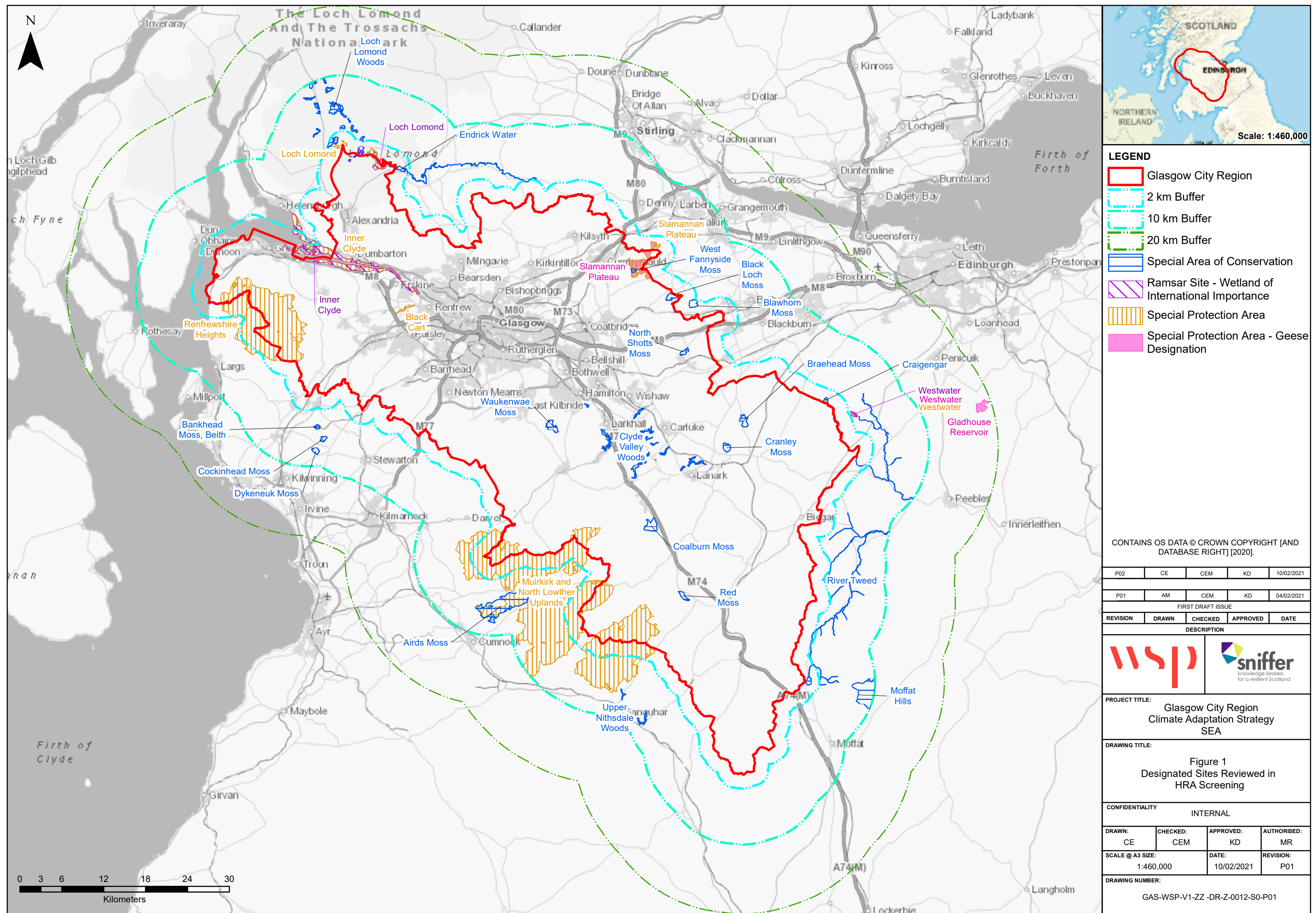
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7. FIGURES

Figure 1 – Designated Sites



Appendix A

CONSULTATION RESPONSES





The SEA Scoping Response from NatureScot is provided below, along with subsequent communications on this Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment.

McParland, Caroline

From: Dave Lang <Dave.Lang@nature.scot>
Sent: 01 February 2021 14:43
To: McParland, Caroline; SEA_GATEWAY
Cc: Roberts, Mike; Eleanor Pratt
Subject: RE: Glasgow City Region – Climate Change Adaptation Strategy - Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Thank you Caroline. The scope of your Appraisal seems to be fine and I would be happy to provide comment on a draft by towards the end of February.
Look forward to receiving it.
Dave L.

From: McParland, Caroline <Caroline.McParland@wsp.com>
Sent: 29 January 2021 13:07
To: Dave Lang <Dave.Lang@nature.scot>; SEA_GATEWAY <SEA_GATEWAY@nature.scot>
Cc: Roberts, Mike <Mike.Roberts@wsp.com>; Eleanor Pratt <Eleanor@sniffer.org.uk>
Subject: Glasgow City Region – Climate Change Adaptation Strategy - Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment

Your Ref: CNS/SEA/SSEA/01587

Dear Mr Lang,

Thank you for your response to the SEA Scoping Report for the Glasgow City Region – Climate Change Adaptation Strategy on 8th October 2020. In light of your comments, I am preparing a separate Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment (HRSA) to parallel the SEA Environmental Report. A draft of the HRSA would be available for your comment by mid-February 2021.

I would be most grateful if you could indicate your availability to provide feedback you may have on the HRSA by late February 2021; and that screening for LSEs on the below European and Ramsar sites, as outlined in the Draft SEA Environmental Report, will be sufficient for the HRSA.

RAMSAR	Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	Special Protection Areas (SPA)
Loch Lomond Inner Clyde	Black Loch Moss Braehead Moss Clyde Valley Woods Coalburn Moss Cranley Moss Loch Lomond Woods North Shotts Moss Waukenwae Moss West Fannyside Moss Red Moss	Black Cart Loch Lomond Renfrewshire Heights Slamannan Plateau Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands Inner Clyde

A brief search on Sitelink for SPAs designated for geese within 20km of the Glasgow City Region also indicates the presence of the below two sites. It is highly unlikely that there would be any conceivable pathway for effects on these sites arising from the Strategy, but these can be briefly included in the HRSA in line with NatureScot's guidance on assessing connectivity with SPAs.

Gladhouse Reservoir SPA
Westwater SPA

Many thanks for your comments so far and I look forward to hearing further from you in due course.

Best regards,

Caroline McParland.

Dr. Caroline McParland MRSB CBiol MCIEEM CEnv
Technical Director Ecology

Upcoming annual leave : 2nd February 2021



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Tha am post-dealain seo agus fiosrachadh sam bith na chois

McParland, Caroline

From: Dave Lang <Dave.Lang@nature.scot>
Sent: 25 February 2021 13:56
To: McParland, Caroline
Cc: Kit England; Eleanor Pratt; Roberts, Mike
Subject: RE: Glasgow City Region – Climate Change Adaptation Strategy - Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Caroline.

I would be happy to meet for a brief chat on the content of this Screening Report. However unless there are some real surprises in there we would be expecting to concur that a high level document such as this – and one aimed at addressing climate change to boot – would not be likely to have any significant effects on any European Site or Sites. Thanks,
Dave L.

From: McParland, Caroline <Caroline.McParland@wsp.com>
Sent: 22 February 2021 12:53
To: Dave Lang <Dave.Lang@nature.scot>
Cc: Kit England <Kit@sniffer.org.uk>; Eleanor Pratt <Eleanor@sniffer.org.uk>; Roberts, Mike <Mike.Roberts@wsp.com>
Subject: RE: Glasgow City Region – Climate Change Adaptation Strategy - Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment

Dear Dave,

As promised, I attach our HRA Screening for the GCR Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. Once you have had a chance to read through the document, please could we have a short meeting to discuss prior to any written comments you may have.

The screening report is based on the Consultation Draft Strategy, and any relevant comments that NatureScot have separately provided on the Strategy will be incorporated into the final version of the attached, as well as any comments that you may have on the screening report itself.

Best regards,

Caroline.

Dr. Caroline McParland MRSB CBiol MCIEEM CEnv
Technical Director Ecology

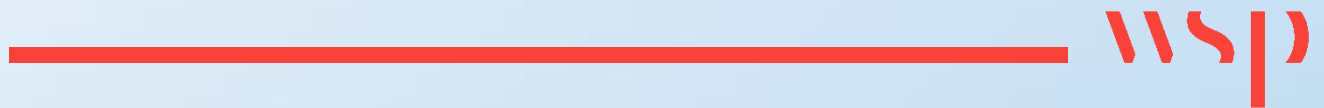


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Appendix B

HABITATS DIRECTIVE REQUIREMENTS



LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Article 6 (3) the Habitats Directive sets out the need for ‘Appropriate Assessment’ of plans or projects which have potential to affect the integrity of a European Site (including Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and candidate SAC (cSAC) sites such as those in proximity to the Project):

- *‘Any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall undergo an Appropriate Assessment to determine its implications for the site. The competent authorities can only agree to the plan or project after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned’* (Article 6.3).

7.1.1. As the purpose of the Natura 2000 network is preservation of examples of species and habitats across Europe, rather than preservation of individual sites, Article 6 (4) allows for exceptional circumstances where negative effects may be permitted. This reads:

- *‘If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest²⁵, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.’* (Article 6.4). In such cases the Member State must take appropriate compensatory measures to ensure that the overall coherence of the N2000 Network is protected.

The Habitats Directive is translated into Scottish law for reserved matters through the Conservation (Natural habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) (‘The Habitats Regulations’); Regulation 48 (1) states that ‘A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which—

(a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and

(b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site,

—must make an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for that site in view of that site’s conservation objective.’

²⁵ An exact definition of ‘imperative reasons of overriding public interest’ is not provided, but EC guidance states ‘It is reasonable to consider that the “imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of social and economic nature” refer to situations where plans or projects envisaged prove to be indispensable:

- *within the framework of actions or policies aiming to protect fundamental values for the citizens’ life (health, safety, environment);*
- *within the framework of fundamental policies for the State and the Society;*
- *within the framework of carrying out activities of economic or social nature, fulfilling specific obligations of public service.’*

Like the Habitats Directive, the Habitat Regulations also make allowance for projects or plans to be completed if they satisfy 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI)'²⁶. Regulation 49 relates to such situations.

In Scotland, the Scottish Parliament has now passed the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Bill (hereafter the EU Continuity Bill), meaning that Scottish legislation in relation to devolved matters – including environmental matters - will remain aligned with EU law. As such, the Habitats Regulations apply to plans and projects that may have significant effects on sites designated under the Habitats Directive and the Wild Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC). The Habitats Regulations place a duty upon 'Competent Authorities' to consider the potential for effects upon such sites prior to granting consent for projects or plans. These sites are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

²⁶ '(a) reasons relating to human health, public safety or beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment; or .
(b) any other reasons which the competent authority, having due regard to the opinion of the European Commission, consider to be imperative reasons of overriding public interest.'

DEFINITIONS OF FAVOURABLE CONSERVATION STATUS

'(a) conservation means a series of measures required to maintain or restore the natural habitats and the populations of species of wild fauna and flora at a favourable status as defined in (e) and (i);.....

(e) conservation status of a natural habitat means the sum of the influences acting on a natural habitat and its typical species that may affect its long-term natural distribution, structure and functions as well as the long-term survival of its typical species within the territory referred to in Article 2. The conservative status of a natural habitat will be taken as "favourable" when:

- *- its natural range and areas it covers within that range are stable or increasing, and*
- *- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and*
- *- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable as defined in (i);*

(i) conservation status of a species means the sum of the influences acting on the species concerned that may affect the long-term distribution and abundance of its populations within the territory referred to in Article 2; The conservation status will be taken as "favourable" when:

- *- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and*
- *- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and*
- *- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis'.*



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