

# Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan Habitats Regulations Appraisal

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# 1. Introduction and Context

- 1.1 This document has been prepared under the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive and has applied the requirements set out by Scottish Government Policy in the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 as amended. The Directive states that 'any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives'. The directive goes on to say that the plan shall only be agreed if there is no adverse effect on the integrity of any European site after mitigation is considered.
- 1.2 It is The Highland Council's responsibility to prepare this Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) record. Its purpose is to consider whether the policies and proposals within the Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan 2 (IMFLDP2) are likely to have a significant effect on any European site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects. During the preparation of this document engagement was undertaken with NatureScot who helped identify and address any potential effects.
- 1.3 Where a likely significant effect has been identified, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, appropriate assessment has been undertaken and mitigation measures provided to reduce the likely significant effect and avoid adversely affecting the integrity of the site. [NatureScot](#) data has been used to identify the need for and inform the definition of mitigation measures. This HRA record includes mitigation identified as necessary to include in the plan. The assessment concludes that with appropriate safeguarding and mitigation added to the local development plan, IMFLDP2 will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site.
- 1.4 This HRA record will be placed on the Council's website alongside the IMFLDP2. This HRA record including appropriate assessment has been compiled using the best available information and any subsequent planning applications will require further assessment to ensure that the integrity of European sites will not be adversely affected. This is a requirement of Policy 57 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan which must be read alongside IMFLDP2 and all relevant supplementary guidance.

## 2. Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan Vision and Spatial Strategy

2.1 The Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP) sets the strategic planning policy context for the IMFLDP2. The HwLDP contains the main policies for determining planning applications in Highland. IMFLDP2 will be one of three area Local Development Plans in Highland. The purpose of the area Local Development Plans is to set out plans and proposals for delivering development reflecting on the unique characteristics and attributes of these three areas.

2.2 The Plan's vision is expressed through four proposed, inter-related headline outcomes, these are presented below.

Environment	The Inner Moray Firth's built, cultural and natural assets will be safeguarded and appropriately managed. Water, waste, heat, land and buildings will be used, re-used, located and designed in a carbon clever way. The environmental quality of all places will be safeguarded and where possible enhanced.
Employment	The Inner Moray Firth economy will be growing, greener, circular and diverse. Local enterprises will be national leaders in the life sciences, sustainable tourism and renewable energy sectors. More traditional sectors such as construction, food and drink and smaller scale general industry will have continued to thrive and provide jobs close to where people live reducing the need to travel.
Growing Communities	Our communities will be sustainable, well-designed places with homes which meet people's needs. More people will want to live in Inverness and the larger towns and villages as they are attractive, safe, socially inclusive and healthy, with thriving centres and better access to services and facilities. Inner Moray Firth communities will function as networks of locally resilient and self-supporting places with equality of access to local resources.
Connectivity	It will be easy to move around and between settlements in the Inner Moray Firth area. Walking and cycling will be the logical choice for most day to day trips, with longer journeys made using an efficient, reliable public transport system and, in rural areas, shared transport and electric vehicles. Sustainable regional, national and global connections will be available from modern bus and rail stations, harbours and Inverness Airport. Improved digital connectivity throughout the Plan area will enable home working for most people, helping to reduce the need to travel.

2.3 IMFLDP2 is the second Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan. It will replace the first Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan (2015) and together with the HwLDP will comprise the 'approved development plan' in statutory terms.

2.4 This HRA considers the vision, policies and proposals set out in the IMFLDP2. Where a planning application for development gives rise to likely significant effects on a European site beyond the scope of that considered in this HRA, an appropriate assessment will be required to be undertaken as set out in Policy 57 of the HwLDP. This could include development proposals on sites allocated in the LDP (giving rise to potential effects that were not foreseen in this HRA) and development proposals on sites not allocated in the LDP (giving rise to potential effects beyond those considered for the policy framework in this appropriate assessment).

2.5 IMFLDP2 can be viewed online at [www.highland.gov.uk/imf](http://www.highland.gov.uk/imf)

### 3. Background Information about European Sites

3.1 The IMFLDP2 area contains a total of 42 European sites that could potentially be affected by the plan. These comprise 18 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (six of which are also Ramsars) and 24 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Each of these European sites has been screened to determine the likelihood of being directly or indirectly affected by development sites specifically identified in the plan. The European sites shown on the map and listed in table 1 below are those that may be potentially affected by the plan, along with reasons for their selection. The remaining European sites that are unlikely to be affected are listed in Appendix 1.

3.2 For more details of European sites located within or close to the plan area see NatureScot’s [Sitelink](#) web application.

**Table 1: Natura Sites Potentially Affected by the Plan**

Natura Site	Reasons for Selection
<b>Special Areas of Conservation</b>	
<b>Conon Islands</b>	Development and construction in Conon Bridge and Maryburgh may impact upon water quality and hydrology and result in further spread of invasive non-native species. May also result in increased recreational disturbance.
<b>Dornoch Firth and Morrich More</b>	Development may result in the deterioration of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new business and industrial development in Tain, Nigg,Whiteness and Highland Deephaven. In particular there is potential for impacts on otters and seals.  There is also potential for impacts from residential development sites north of the A9 in Tain as surface and wastewater discharge from new development could have a significant impact on water quality.

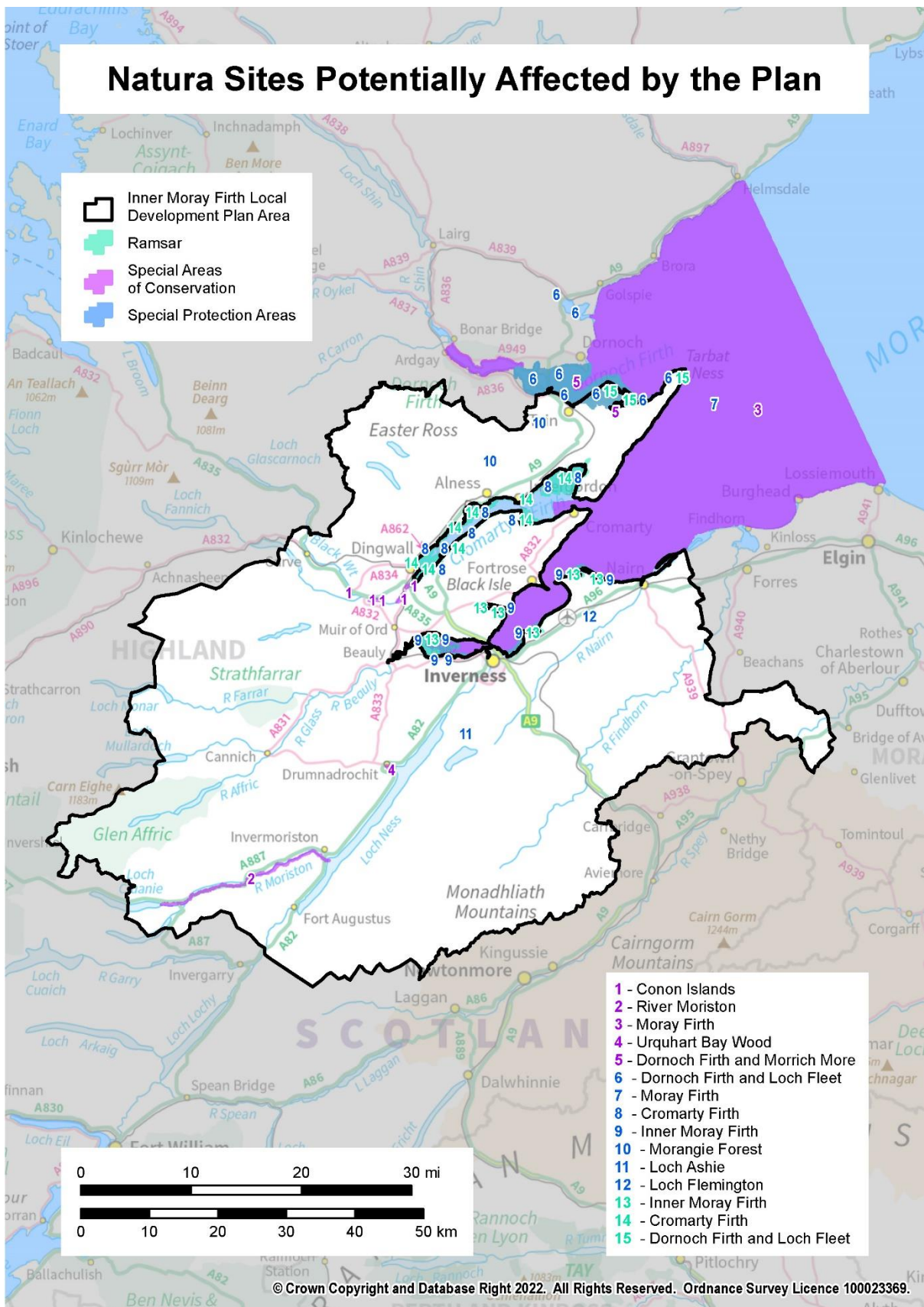
Natura Site	Reasons for Selection
<p><b>Moray Firth</b></p>	<p>Foul water may discharge to the Moray Firth SAC from various development sites across the Plan area and may therefore affect water quality. Development in Nairn and Inverness East may result in the deterioration of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage from recreational activities. Potential for waste water infrastructure impacts from development sites in Inverness to Nairn area.</p> <p>Development may result in impacts on habitats and species due to the creation of additional noise and physical disturbance from marine activities and construction and operational impacts (vibration, pollution, piling and vessel movements) and also alteration to the tidal currents and tidal processes supporting the distribution of subtidal sandbanks of this part of the firth. In particular at Nigg, Highland Deephaven, Whiteness, Fort George and sites adjacent to the firth at the former Longman Landfill site.</p>
<p><b>River Moriston</b></p>	<p>There are a small number of development sites near the River Ness which is the migration route for Atlantic salmon returning to spawn in the River Moriston SAC. The migration of salmon is also critical to the freshwater pearl mussel interest in the River Moriston SAC. Surface and wastewater discharge from new development and disturbance from construction and operation of new development could have a significantly impact on water quality which in turn could have an adverse effect on salmon.</p> <p>Water supply infrastructure impacts on Nairn, Tornagraim, Croy and Inverness leading to potential drawdown in water levels within the Ness catchment and the River Moriston itself with potential effects on qualifying species; connectivity via River Ness and Loch Ness to proposed development in Inverness.</p>
<p><b>Urquhart Bay Woods</b></p>	<p>Any requirement for additional water abstraction for development within and between Inverness to Nairn and subsequent draw down for water in Loch Ness may result in the loss or damage to the alluvial woodland habitats due to changes in the erosion and accretion patterns.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Special Protection Areas</b></p>	

Natura Site	Reasons for Selection
<b>Loch Ashie</b>	Deterioration of habitats required by Slavonian grebe due to the requirement for additional water abstraction to service developments in Nairn – Inverness corridor, including Ardersier, Croy and Tornagrain.
<b>Loch Flemington</b>	<p>Potential for increase in phosphorus discharging to Loch Flemington SPA from development in the water catchment resulting in a detrimental effect on water quality which has potential to affect the grebes supporting habitat.</p> <p>Recreational impacts on qualifying species from increased visitor pressure from development at Tornagrain and Croy.</p>
<b>Morangie Forest</b>	Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to potential recreational disturbance from residents of new housing north the A9 in Tain.
<b>Moray Firth</b>	Pressures associated with disturbance related to industry/harbour works, disturbance related to commercial or recreational water based activities, activities that would cause a deterioration in water quality, damage, loss or deterioration of supporting habitats and alteration to coastal processes.
<b>Special Protection Areas and Ramsars</b>	
<b>Cromarty Firth</b>	Proposed developments around the firth, in particular industrial developments may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new development. Potential for impacts upon water quality and hydrology from residential, business and industrial developments adjacent to the site.
<b>Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet</b>	<p>Development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new development.</p> <p>Potential for impacts upon water quality and hydrology in Tain from increased run off from residential developments north of the A9 and from business and industrial allocations adjacent to the SPA.</p>

Natura Site	Reasons for Selection
Inner Moray Firth	<p>Potential for disturbance to qualifying interests due to increased presence of people including increased recreational pressures and/or off-site feeding habitat deterioration or loss arising from development in Inverness, Beaulieu, Munlochy and Muir of Ord. Economic development allocations at Castle Stuart, Fort George and Inverness Harbour also have potential to result in negative impacts. Redevelopment of Whiteness has the potential to cause the deterioration or complete loss of roost sites and/or feeding habitat within the SPA.</p>



Figure 1: European sites Potentially Affected by the Plan



## **4. Methodology for Assessment**

- 4.1 After consulting the Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans – Guidance for Plan-making Bodies in Scotland Version 3 (January 2015) and the Guidance Note – The handling of mitigation in Habitats Regulations Appraisal – the People over Wind CJEU judgement the methodology explained below was established.
- 4.2 The Highland Council worked closely with NatureScot and used data from NatureScot's SiteLink website to carry out this appraisal gaining the background information regarding qualifying interests and conservation objectives of European sites required to conduct an effective appropriate assessment. NatureScot has also been consulted regarding the wording of policies and proposals and the mitigation measures for any potential adverse effects on site integrity to ensure that the mitigation measures provided are tailored to the conservation objectives and qualifying interests.
- 4.3 All European sites potentially affected by IMFLDP2 have been identified and mapped. All policies and proposals in the plan have been screened both individually and cumulatively to determine the possible effects that may arise due to their implementation. All policies were identified as having no effect or unlikely to have a significant effect have been detailed and reasons for this have been given.
- 4.4 Likely significant effect is defined as any effect that may reasonably be predicted as a consequence of a plan or project that may undermine the conservation objectives of the features for which the site was designated.

## 5. Screening Process

5.1 Discussions took place with NatureScot to screen out the elements of IMFLDP2 that would not be likely to have a significant effect alone on European sites listed in Table 1 above. As a result, the policy tools (detailed in Table 2); policies (detailed in Table 3); projects referred to in, but not proposed by the plan (detailed in Table 4); and proposal sites (detailed in Table 5) screened out are listed below, along with a brief explanation of the reasons for this.

### *Policy Tools and Policies*

**Table 2: Policy tools of IMFLDP2 screened out individually as having no effect on European sites**

<b>Policy Tool</b>	<b>Reason(s) for 'screening out'</b>
IMFLDP2 Vision and Outcomes	Too general – the outcomes do not explain where, when or how the Plan may be implemented, or where any potential effects may occur, or which European sites, if any, may be affected. Locations are defined elsewhere in the plan, and either screened in or out at that stage.
Hinterland Boundary	In comparison to the original Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan only there is one minor expansion to the hinterland boundary in rural Nairnshire. Given that this is an expansion of the hinterland it will provide a more restrictive approach to housing potentially resulting in a decreased likelihood of effects on European sites.

**Table 3: Policies of IMFLDP2 screened out individually as having no effect on European sites**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Reason(s) for 'screening out'</b>
Policy 1: Low Carbon Development	This policy introduces a carbon emission target, beyond Building Standards, for new build development. It is too general as applies all new built development without specifying locations. It is therefore not known which European sites, if any, may be affected. Locations of development are defined elsewhere in the plan, and either screened in or out at that stage
Policy 2: Nature Protection, Preservation and Enhancement	This policy introduces a developer requirement to protect and improve biodiversity. It is too general as applies all new built development without specifying locations. It is therefore intended protect the natural environment.

Policy 3: Water and Waste Water Infrastructure Impacts	This policy is intended to ensure that the provision of water supply and waste water infrastructure to support development promoted in the plan does not adversely impact named European sites. It is therefore intended protect the natural environment.
Policy 4: Greenspace	This policy provides clear and strong protection for identified greenspaces. It is general and provides protection and therefore will not adversely affect any European sites.
Policy 5: Green Networks	This policy provides clear and strong policy for development that affects green networks. It is general and provides protection and therefore will not adversely affect any European sites.
Policy 6: Town Centre First	Introduces a stronger protection for identified town centres. It is not known when or how the aspects of this policy may be implemented, or where any potential affects may occur, or which European sites, if any, may be affected.
Policy 7: Industrial Land	Provides clear and strong protection of existing businesses and industrial land and a supportive framework for such uses elsewhere. It is too general as applies all industrial development without specifying locations. It is therefore not known which European sites, if any, may be affected. Locations of development are defined elsewhere in the plan, and either screened in or out at that stage.
Policy 8: Placemaking	Provides a policy justification for requiring a developer to audit the impact of its application on the quality of the place, where it is proposed. It is too general as applies new built development without specifying locations. It is therefore not known which European sites, if any, may be affected. Locations of development are defined elsewhere in the plan, and either screened in or out at that stage.
Policy 9: Delivering Development and Infrastructure	Seeks to ensure a more coordinated and timeous delivery of infrastructure and community facility capacity in parallel with new development. It is too general as applies new built development without specifying locations. It is therefore not known which European sites, if any, may be affected. Locations of development are defined elsewhere in the plan, and either screened in or out at that stage.
Policy 10: Increasing Affordable Housing	This policy increases the quota of affordable housing to 35% for Inverness City; requires earlier private developer phasing of affordable units; and, supports higher densities for affordable housing developments. It is too general as applies to residential development without specifying locations. It is therefore not known which European sites, if any, may be

affected. Locations of development are defined elsewhere in the plan, and either screened in or out at that stage.

Policy 11: Self and Custom Build Housing

Introduces a quota for serviced plots for the largest (100 plus units) housing sites. It is too general as applies to residential development without specifying locations. It is therefore not known which European sites, if any, may be affected. Locations of development are defined elsewhere in the plan, and either screened in or out at that stage.

Policy 12: Growing Settlements

List criteria that development proposals within defined 'growing settlements' must adhere to. The plan makes clear that although this policy does not include specific reference to the protection of Natura Sites the policy, policy tools and settlement details must all be read alongside the HwLDP and accordance with the development plan will be judged on the basis of both the IMFLDP and the HwLDP.

Policy 13: Accessible and Adaptable Homes

Introduces a quota for wheelchair liveable ground floor units on sites of 50 or more residential dwellings. It is too general as applies to residential development without specifying locations. It is therefore not known which European sites, if any, may be affected. Locations of development are defined elsewhere in the plan, and either screened in or out at that stage.

Policy 14: Transport

Encourages developers to choose sites with good sustainable travel connectivity or if they don't then to secure a contribution from them to improve such connectivity. It is too general as applies to residential development without specifying locations. It is therefore not known which European sites, if any, may be affected. Locations of development are defined elsewhere in the plan, and either screened in or out at that stage.

*Projects*

5.2 A number of strategic and local infrastructure projects are referred to in the Plan that are important for its vision and spatial strategy to be realised. The projects listed below are referred to in the plan but not proposed by plan. They will be subject to their own statutory procedures for planning and implementation and as part of this will undertake separate environmental assessments, including Habitats Regulation Appraisal, where required. As such the projects listed are screened out of this HRA.

**Table 4: Projects screened out of the IMFLDP HRA because although they are referred to in the plan, they are not proposed by the Plan**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Competent Authority Proposer</b>
A9 Dualling Perth to Inverness	Transport Scotland
A96 Dualling Inverness to Aberdeen (including Nairn Bypass)	Transport Scotland
A9/A96 Inshes to Smithton	Transport Scotland
A9/A82 Longman Junction Improvement Scheme	Transport Scotland
Inverness – Nairn Coastal Trail	The Highland Council
Conon Bridge Flood Defences Improvement	The Highland Council
Drumnadrochit Flood Protection Scheme	The Highland Council
River Peffery Flood Protection Study (Dingwall)	The Highland Council

## Proposal Sites

### *Proposal Sites Screened Out*

5.3 The following proposal sites have been screened out for the following reason/s:

*Aspects which make provision for change but which could have no conceivable effect on a European site, because there is no link or pathway between them and the qualifying interests, or any effect would be a positive effect, or would not otherwise undermine the conservation objectives for the site.*

5.4 Accordingly these sites are screened out, both alone and in combination, as they have no effect on any European site.

**Table 5: Proposals with no effect on European sites and therefore screened out for residual effects, alone and in-combination**

<b>Settlement</b>	<b>Proposal Site</b>
<b>Main Settlements</b>	
Alness	All sites except AL07, AL11 and AL15
Ardersier	All sites
Auldearn	All sites
Beaully	BE01, BE02, BE03, BE05 and BE06
Conon Bridge	CB01, CB02 and CB04
Cromarty	CM01 and CM03
Culbokie	All sites
Dingwall	DW02, DW03 and DW05

Dores	All sites
Drumnadrochit	All sites
Evanton	All sites
Fort Augustus	All sites
Fortrose/Rosemarkie	FR02
Invergordon	IG01, IG02 and IG03
Inverness West	INW01, INW02, INW03, INW05, INW06, INW08, INW09, INW10, INW12, INW13
Inverness South	INS01, INS02, INS03, INS04, INS05, INS06, INS07, INS08, INS09, INS11, IN12, INS13, INS15, INS16, INS19, INS20, INS21, INS22, INS23, INS24, INS25, INS26, INS28, INS29, INS30
Inverness Central	INC01, INC02, INC03, INC04, INC05 and INC10
Inverness East	INE01, INE21, INE23 and INE25
Kiltarlity	All sites
Kirkhill	All sites
Muir of Ord	MO4 and MO5
Munlochy	ML01, ML03 and ML04
Nairn	NA02, NA03 and NA07
North Kessock	NK02
Seaboard Villages	SB01 and SB03
Strathpeffer	All sites
Tain	TN01, TN02, TN07, TN08 and TN09
Tomatin	All sites
Tore	All sites

#### *Proposals Screened in for Minor Residual Effects*

5.5 The sites selected in the tables below have been screened in alone for minor residual effects. In this HRA minor residual effects are generally defined as those where surface and wastewater discharge from an allocated development site could have a significant impact on the water quality of a European site. Development allocations which have been determined to potentially have this impact are those that have a waterbody within or close to its boundary that discharge in a European site. These sites have been termed as minor residual effects as the mitigation required is straightforward and generally required as part of most developments, specifically, a public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the European site.

**Table 6(i): Proposal sites within the Plan with minor residual effects out with Inverness**

	<b>European Site/Site Reference</b>	AL07	AV01	AV02	BE04	CM02	DW01	DW04	DW09	FR01	IA02	IG06	IG07	ML02	MO03	NA05	NA06	NK01	NK03	SB02	TN04	TN05	TN06	
Special Areas of Conservation	Conon Islands																							
	Dornoch Firth and Morrich More																					✓	✓	✓
	Moray Firth		✓	✓		✓				✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	River Moriston																							
	Urquhart Bay Woods																							
Special Protection Areas	Loch Ashie																							
	Loch Flemington																							
	Morangie Forest																							
	Moray Firth					✓				✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Special Protection Areas and Ramsars	Cromarty Firth	✓					✓	✓	✓			✓	✓											
	Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet																					✓	✓	✓
	Inner Moray Firth				✓									✓	✓									



**Table 6(ii): Proposal sites within the Plan with minor residual effects within Inverness**

	European Site/Site Reference	INS14	INS18	INS10	INS27	INS17	INW07	INE18	INE09	INE14
Special Areas of Conservation	Conon Islands									
	Dornoch Firth and Morrich More									
	Moray Firth				✓		✓			
	River Moriston	✓		✓		✓				
	Urquhart Bay Woods									
Special Protection Areas	Loch Ashie									
	Loch Flemington									
	Morangie Forest									
	Moray Firth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Special Protection Areas and Ramsars	Cromarty Firth									
	Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet									
	Inner Moray Firth				✓			✓	✓	✓

### *Significant Effects Alone*

5.5 The following proposal sites are screened in as they are likely to have a significant effect on a European site alone, therefore appropriate assessment is required. The table below identifies those proposal sites screened in along with the European site/s they are likely to significantly affect.

**Table 7(i): Sites within the Plan with likely significant effects which require appropriate assessment alone out with Inverness**

	European Site/Site Reference	AL11	AL15	AV03	CB03	CB05	CR01	CR02	DW06	DW07	DW10	DW08	IG04	IG05	MB04	NA01	NA04	WH01	CS01	NG01	FG01	HD01	TN03	TN10	TN11	TG01	IA01	IA02	Loch Flemin gton Water Catchment	Croy Settlement Develop ment Area	
Special Areas of Conservation	Conon Islands				✓	✓																									
	Dornoch Firth and Morrich More																	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓						
	Moray Firth			✓										✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓			
	River Moriston																														
	Urquhart Bay Woods																														
Special Protection Areas	Loch Ashie																														
	Loch Flemin gton						✓	✓																			✓		✓	✓	
	Moran gie Forest																						✓								
	Moray Firth			✓													✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓				
Special Protection	Cromarty Firth	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		✓										



**Table 7(ii): Sites within the Plan with likely significant effects which require appropriate assessment alone within Inverness**

	European Site/ Site Reference	INC06	INC09	INC11	INC07	INC08	INE07	INW11	INW14	INE07	INE05	INE06	INE04	INE03	INE02	INE13	INE15	INE24	INE16	INE20	INE22	INE19	INE10	INE08	INE11	INE17	INE12	All sites Inverness to Nairn	
Special Areas of Conservation	Conon Islands																												
	Dornoch Firth and Morrich More																												
	Moray Firth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
	River Moriston	✓							✓																				✓
	Urquhart Bay Woods									✓																			✓
Special Protection Areas	Loch Ashie																												✓
	Loch Flemington																												
	Morangie Forest																												
	Moray Firth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Special Protection Areas and Ramsars	Cromarty Firth																												
	Dornoch Firth and																												

	Loch Fleet																													
	Inner Moray Firth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	

*Proposals Screened in for Significant Effects In-Combination*

5.6 The following proposal sites are screened in as they are likely to have a significant effect on a European site in-combination, therefore appropriate assessment is required. The table below identifies those sites screened in in-combination, along with the European site/s they are likely to significantly affect.

**Table 8(i): Sites within the Plan with likely significant effect which require appropriate assessment In-Combination Part 1**

European Site/Site Reference	AL11 & AL15	CB03 & CB05	CR01, CR02 & TG01	DW06, DW07, DW08, DW10	IG04 & IG05	MB01, MB03, MB02	MB01, MB03, MB02, CB03 & CB05	MO01 & MO02	NA01 & NA04	NG01, HD01, IG05	WH01, INW14, INC06, CS01, FG01	TN03, TN04, TN05 & TN06	TN10 & TN11	HD01, WH01, NG01	TG01, IA01 & IA02
Conon Islands		✓				✓									
Dornoch Firth and Morrich More													✓	✓	
Moray Firth									✓						✓
River Moriston															
Urquhart Bay Woods															
Loch Ashie															
Loch Flemington			✓												
Morangie Forest												✓			
Moray Firth									✓						✓
Cromarty Firth	✓			✓	✓		✓			✓					
Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet													✓		
Inner Moray Firth								✓			✓				✓

**Table 8(ii): Sites within the Plan with likely significant effect which require appropriate assessment In-Combination Part 2**

<b>Inverness AA in combination</b>		NG01, WH01, INW14, INC06, FG01, CS01 & HD01	NG01, INW14, INC06, CS01, FG01, WH01 (subtidal sandbanks)	NG01, HD01, WH01, INW14, INC06, IG05 (bottlenose dolphin)	INC09, INC11, INC07 & INC08	INE07, INE05, INE06, INE04, INE03, INE02, INE13, INE16, INE20, INE22, INE11, INE17, INE19, INE10, INE08, INE12	INE03, INE11, INE02, INE13, INE15, INE16, INE20, INE22, INE19, INE10, INE08	INC06 & INW14
	<b>European Site/Site Reference</b>							
Special Areas of Conservation	Conon Islands							
	Dornoch Firth and Morrich More							
	Moray Firth		✓	✓	✓		✓	
	River Moriston							✓
	Urquhart Bay Woods							
Special Protection Areas	Loch Ashie							
	Loch Flemington							
	Morangie Forest							
	Moray Firth	✓			✓		✓	
Special Protection Areas and Ramsars	Cromarty Firth							
	Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet							
	Inner Moray Firth				✓	✓	✓	



*In-Combination Assessment of IMFLDP2 with other Relevant Plans*

5.10 The table below sets out other relevant plans that may have in-combination effects with IMFLDP2.

**Table 9: Other relevant plans that may have in-combination effects with IMFLDP2**

<b>Other Plan / Project</b>	<b>Responsible Authority</b>	<b>LSE in combination with IMFLDP2? (Y/N?)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
HwLDP and associated Supplementary Guidance	The Highland Council	N	As stated in Policy 57 of the Highland wide Local Development Plan, when dealing with a planning application for a development (which is likely to have a significant effect on a European site either alone or in combination with other plans and projects) where we are unable to ascertain that a proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site, the proposal will not be granted permission in accordance with the development plan.
Wind Energy Developments	Development Industry/The Highland Council	N	As stated in Policy 57 of the Highland wide Local Development Plan, when dealing with a planning application for a development (which is likely to have a significant effect on a European site either alone or in combination with other plans and projects) where we are unable to ascertain that a proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site, the proposal will not be granted permission in accordance with the development plan.

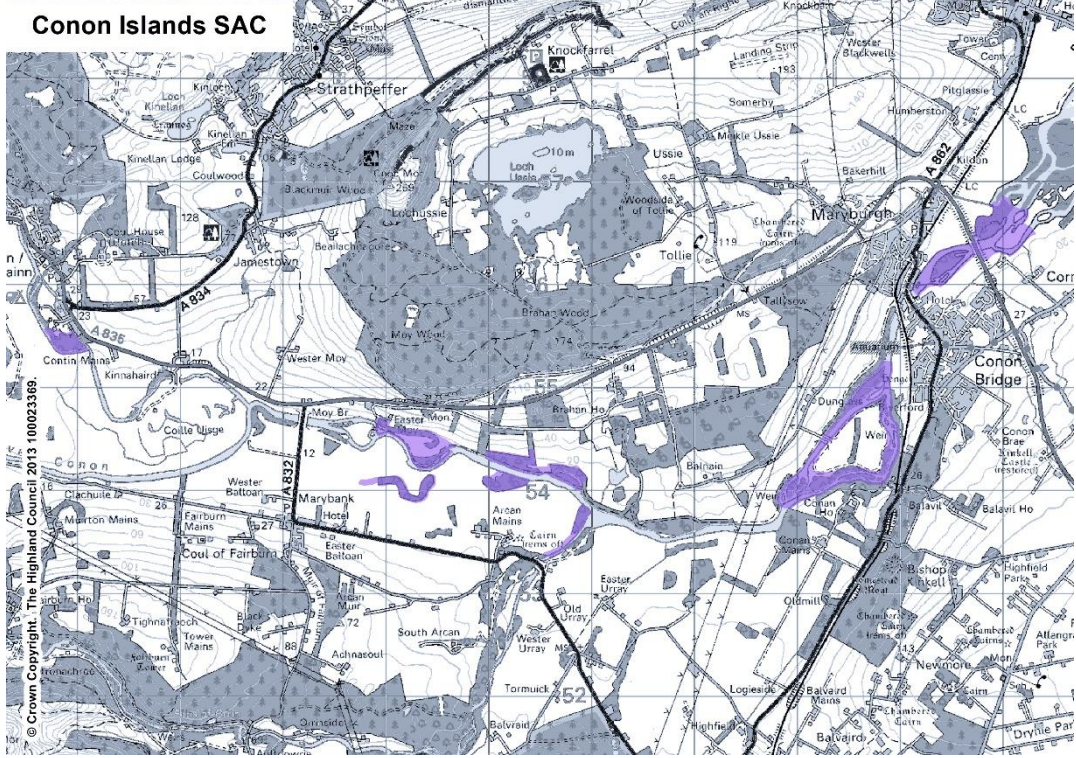
## **6 Appropriate Assessment**

6.1 This part of the HRA record sets out the assessment of those elements of the plan screened in from tables 6-8 alone or in-combination likely to have a significant effect on those European sites identified as being potentially affected by the plan as shown in Figure 1 and Table 1 in light of their conservation objectives, including consideration of mitigation measures.

6.2 Tables 6-8 demonstrate that numerous proposal sites contained within the Plan may adversely affect two or more European sites. In these cases the impacts of the proposal sites been assessed against each relevant European site. In many cases, dependent upon the nature of the European site and the type of development proposed, mitigation required to ensure no adverse effect on the European site is very similar or the same for each of the European sites effected. In these cases the mitigation has been combined to present a succinct explanation of requirements for settlements and individual proposal sites in the Plan. Therefore the mitigation presented against each European site and proposal site may not appear in the Plan exactly as shown in the Appropriate Assessments below, however all aspects of mitigation for each European site potentially effected is included.

1. Conon Islands Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Conon Islands</b>
<b>Designation</b>	<b>SAC</b>
Date of Designation	17 March 2005
Qualifying Interests	Alder woodland on floodplains
Conservation Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To ensure that the qualifying feature of the Conon Islands SAC is in favourable condition and makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status.</li> <li>2. To ensure that the integrity of Conon Islands SAC is restored by meeting objectives 2a, 2b and 2c for the qualifying feature. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2a. Maintain the extent and distribution of the habitat within the site</li> <li>2b. Restore the structure, function and supporting processes of the habitat</li> <li>2c. Restore the distribution and viability of typical species of the habitat</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Condition of the qualifying interests	Unfavourable, no change
Factors currently influencing the site	<p>Negative pressures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Water Management</li> </ul>
Vulnerabilities to change through the potential effects of the plan	Development (and construction) in Conon Bridge and Maryburgh may impact upon water quality and hydrology and result in further spread of invasive non-native species. May also result in increased recreational disturbance.

Extent of Natura Site	 <p>The map displays the Conon Islands SAC boundary in purple, covering areas around Strathpeffer, Marybank, and Conon Bridge. Key features include the River Conon, various woodlands like Brahan Wood and Wester Urray, and several roads such as A834, A836, and A832. The map also shows numerous smaller settlements and landmarks within the region.</p>
Settlement/Site Reference	Impacts and Mitigation
<b>Appropriate Assessment Alone</b>	
Conon Bridge CB03	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development (and construction) may impact upon water quality and hydrology and may result in increased recreational disturbance and introduction of invasive non-native species.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirements to be included for site CB03:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Conon Islands SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Conon Islands SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution and <b>avoiding spread of invasive non-native species</b>.</li> <li>• Recreation Access Management Plan should be prepared to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the Conon Islands SAC as a result of recreational disturbance to qualifying species</li> <li>• Minimum 6m buffer strip planted with native species between River Conon and Conon Bridge site CB03.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>

<p><b>Conon Bridge CB05</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development (and construction) may impact upon water quality and hydrology and may result in increased recreational disturbance and introduction of invasive non-native species.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirements to be included for site CB05:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Conon Islands SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Conon Islands SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution and <b>avoiding spread of invasive non-native species.</b></li> <li>• A Recreation Access Management Plan should be prepared to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the Conon Islands SAC as a result of recreational disturbance to qualifying species</li> <li>• Minimum 6m buffer strip planted with native species between River Conon and Conon Bridge site CB04.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Appropriate Assessment In-Combination</b></p>	
<p><b>Conon Bridge CB03 and CB05</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development (and construction) may impact upon water quality and hydrology and may result in increased recreational disturbance and introduction of invasive non-native species.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirements to be included for site allocations CB03 and CB05:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Conon Islands SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Conon Islands SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution and <b>avoiding spread of invasive non-native species.</b></li> <li>• A Recreation Access Management Plan should be prepared to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the Conon Islands SAC as a result of recreational disturbance to qualifying species</li> <li>• Minimum 6m buffer strip planted with native species between River Conon and Conon Bridge sites CB03 and CB05.</li> <li>• In Conon Bridge settlement text include the following text: There is potential for a number of developments in Conon Bridge (CB03, CB05) to have an adverse effect on the integrity of Conon Islands SAC in-combination. These sites will be required to assess and demonstrate appropriate mitigation measures to ensure avoidance of any adverse effect on the integrity of Conon Islands SAC</li> </ul>

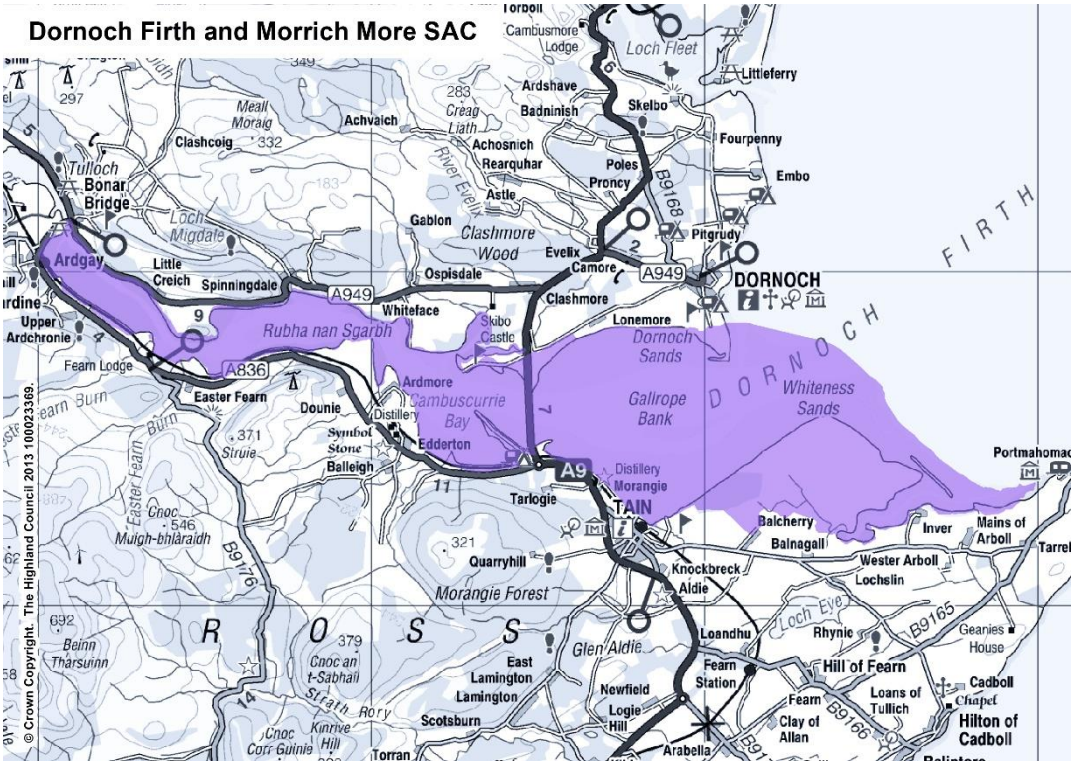
	<p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Maryburgh</b> MB01, MB03, MB02</p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development (and construction) may impact upon water quality and hydrology and may result in increased recreational disturbance and introduction of invasive non-native species.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirements to be included for site allocations MB01, MB02, MB03:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Conon Islands SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Conon Islands SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution and <b>avoiding spread of invasive non-native species.</b></li> <li>• A Recreation Access Management Plan should be prepared to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the Conon Islands SAC as a result of recreational disturbance to qualifying species</li> <li>• In Maryburgh settlement text include the following text: There is potential for a number of developments in Maryburgh (MB01, MB02, MB03, MB05) to have an adverse effect on the integrity of Conon Islands SAC in-combination. These sites will be required to assess and demonstrate appropriate mitigation measures to ensure avoidance of any adverse effect on the integrity of Conon Islands SAC</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>

## 2. Dornoch Firth and Morrich More Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Dornoch Firth and Morrich More</b>
<b>Designation</b>	<b>SAC</b>
Date of Designation	17 March 2005
Qualifying Habitats/Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal dune heathland</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows</li> <li>• Dunes with juniper thickets</li> <li>• Lime-deficient dune heathland with crowberry</li> <li>• Shifting dunes</li> <li>• Estuaries</li> <li>• Dune grassland</li> <li>• Humid dune slacks</li> <li>• Otter</li> <li>• Intertidal mudflats and sandflats</li> <li>• Common seal</li> <li>• Reefs</li> <li>• Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand</li> <li>• Subtidal sandbanks</li> <li>• Shifting dunes with marram</li> </ul>
Conservation Objectives	<p>To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent of the habitat on site;</li> <li>• Distribution of the habitat within site;</li> <li>• Structure and function of the habitat;</li> <li>• Processes supporting the habitat;</li> <li>• Distribution of typical species of the habitat;</li> <li>• Viability of typical species as components of the habitat; and</li> <li>• No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat.</li> </ul> <p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population of the species a viable component of the site</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution of the species within site</li> <li>• Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species</li> <li>• Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species</li> <li>• No significant disturbance of the species</li> </ul>
Condition of the qualifying interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal dune heathland – Unfavourable No change</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Dunes with juniper thickets – Unfavourable Recovering</li> <li>• Lime-deficient dune heathland with crowberry – Unfavourable No change</li> <li>• Shifting dunes – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Estuaries – Condition Not Assessed</li> <li>• Dune grassland – Unfavourable No change</li> <li>• Humid dune slacks – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Otter – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Intertidal mudflats and sandflats – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Harbour Seal – Unfavourable Declining</li> <li>• Reefs – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Subtidal sandbanks – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Shifting dunes with marram – Favourable Maintained</li> </ul>
Factors currently influencing the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural operations</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Statutory undertaker</li> <li>• Recreation/disturbance</li> <li>• Forestry operations</li> <li>• Under grazing</li> <li>• Natural event</li> <li>• Flood defence/coastal defence works</li> </ul>
Vulnerabilities to change through the potential effects of the plan	<p>Development may result in the deterioration of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new development. Potential impact on otters from any development within 250m of a watercourse, coast, loch or pond. Development also may impact upon harbour seal at construction and operational phases (including noise, lighting and ship movements) with potential for injury/mortality from ducted propellers of vessels.</p> <p>Potential for impacts upon water quality and hydrology from development in Tain as a result of increased run off from residential developments north of the A9 and from business and industrial allocations adjacent to the SAC.</p>



Extent of Natura Site	 <p><b>Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC</b></p>
Settlement/Site Reference	Impacts and Mitigation
<b>Minor Residual Effects</b>	
Tain TN04	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Although some distance from Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC watercourses within and surrounding the site flow into the SAC. Surface and wastewater discharge from new development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site TN04:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
Tain TN05	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Although some distance from Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC watercourses within and surrounding the site flow into the SAC. Surface and wastewater discharge from new development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site TN05:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC by public sewer connection and comprehensive</li> </ul>

	<p>sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</p> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
Tain TN06	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Although some distance from Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC watercourses within and surrounding the site flow into the SAC. Surface and wastewater discharge from new development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site TN06:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<b>Appropriate Assessment Alone</b>	
Tain TN10	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development may result in an adverse effect on habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new business development.</li> <li>• Surface and wastewater discharge from new developments could have a significant impact on water quality.</li> <li>• Disturbance to otters and their habitats.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as developer requirements for site TN10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> <li>• Survey indicating whether or not otters are present should accompany any planning application, other than for the modest extension or alteration of an existing building, within 250 metres of a watercourse, coast, loch or pond.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution and mitigation to protect any otters present.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
Tain TN11	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development may result in an adverse effect on habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new business development.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surface and wastewater discharge from new developments could have a significant impact on water quality.</li> <li>• Disturbance to otters and their habitats.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as developer requirements for site TN11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> <li>• Survey indicating whether or not otters are present should accompany any planning application, other than for the modest extension or alteration of an existing building, within 250 metres of a watercourse, coast, loch or pond.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution and mitigation to protect any otters present.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Highland Deephaven HD01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may impact upon harbour seal at construction and operational phases (including noise, lighting and ship movements) with potential for injury/mortality from ducted propellers of vessels.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as developer requirements for site HD01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> <li>• Assessment to consider impact and any required mitigation for harbour seals that use near by haul out sites to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Whiteness WH01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may impact upon harbour seal at construction and operational phases due to disturbance, vessel movements (potential for injury/mortality from ducted propellers of vessels), dredging and disposal and the modification of coastal processes.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as developer requirements for site WH01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution. Potential impact on harbour seals should be addressed.</li> </ul>

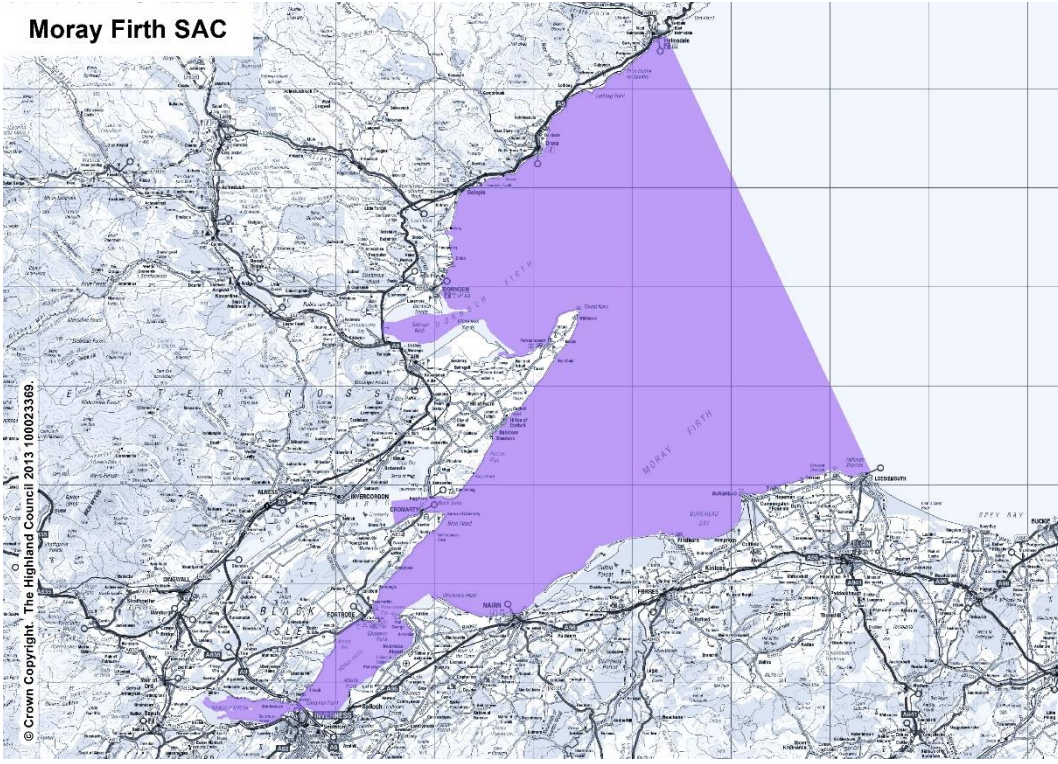
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment to consider impact and any required mitigation for harbour seals that use near by haul out sites to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Nigg NG01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may impact upon harbour seal at construction and operational phases (including noise, lighting and ship movements) with potential for injury/mortality from ducted propellers of vessels.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as developer requirements for site NG01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> <li>Assessment to consider impact and any required mitigation for harbour seals that use near by haul out sites to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Appropriate Assessment In-Combination</b></p>	
<p><b>Tain TN10 &amp; TN11</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new industrial development.</li> <li>Surface and wastewater discharge from new developments could have a significant impact on water quality</li> <li>Disturbance to otters and their habitats</li> </ul> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included within settlement text for Tain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential for development at TN10 and TN11 both alone and in-combination to have an adverse effect on Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC as a result of impacts on water quality. Any development of these sites will require a public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Firth, satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution and an Otter Survey.</li> </ul> <p>Following included as developer requirements for sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>Survey indicating whether or not otters are present should accompany any planning application, other than for the modest extension or alteration of</li> </ul>

	<p>an existing building, within 250 metres of a watercourse, coast, loch or pond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution and mitigation to protect any otters present.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Highland Deephaven HD01, Whiteness WH01, Nigg NG01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may impact upon harbour seal at construction and operational phases (including noise, lighting and ship movements) with potential for injury/mortality from ducted propellers of vessels.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b></p> <p>Following to be included within settlement text for Highland Deephaven, Whiteness and Nigg Economic Development Areas:</p> <p>There is potential for HD01, WH01 and NG01 to have an adverse effect alone and in-combination with a number of development sites, including many of the Plan's Economic Development Areas, on the integrity of the Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC due to potential for additional noise, physical disturbance, alterations to subtidal sand banks and pollution. Specifically HD01, WH01 and NG01 for Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC. Any development proposals at HD01, WH01 and NG01 must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC by demonstrating mitigation measures described in developer requirements for HD01 below.</p> <p>Following included as developer requirements for site HD01, WH01 and NG01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC alone or in-combination by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution. Potential impact on harbour seals should be addressed.</li> <li>• Assessment to consider impact and any required mitigation for harbour seals that use near by haul out sites to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the Dornoch Firth and Morrich More SAC.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site</p>

### 3. Moray Firth Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Moray Firth</b>
<b>Designation</b>	<b>SAC</b>
Date of Designation	17 March 2005
Qualifying Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subtidal Sandbanks</li> <li>• Bottlenose Dolphin</li> </ul>
Conservation Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To ensure that the qualifying features of the Moray Firth SAC are in favourable condition and make an appropriate contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status</li> <li>2. To ensure that the integrity of Moray Firth SAC is maintained or restored in the context of environmental changes by meeting objectives 2a, 2b and 2c for each qualifying feature:</li> </ol> <p><i>For subtidal sandbanks</i></p> <p>2a. Extent and distribution of the habitat within the site</p> <p>2b. Structure and function of the habitat and the supporting environment on which it relies</p> <p>2c. Distribution and viability of typical species of the habitat</p> <p><i>For bottlenose dolphin</i></p> <p>2a. The population of bottlenose dolphin is a viable component of the site</p> <p>2b. The distribution of bottlenose dolphin throughout the site is maintained by avoiding significant disturbance</p> <p>2c. The supporting habitats and processes relevant to bottlenose dolphin and the availability of prey for bottlenose dolphin are maintained</p>
Condition of the qualifying interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bottlenose Dolphin – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Subtidal sandbanks – Favourable Maintained</li> </ul>
Factors currently influencing the site	<p>Impact of boat traffic on dolphins.</p> <p>NatureScot published Conservation and Management Advice in March 2021 which provides advice about the activities that may affect the protected features of Moray Firth SAC and risk achieving Conservation Objectives. It sets out advice to support management for activities which are considered capable of affecting the protected features.</p>
Vulnerabilities to change through the potential effects of the plan	<p>Waste water infrastructure impacts from Nairn, Tornagrain, Croy and Inverness; impact from increased marine traffic both commercial and recreational including potential renewables developments at Whiteness and Nigg, and development at Muirtown and South Kessock, and potentially Inverness Harbour, Invergordon, Highland Deephaven, Castle Stuart, Fort George and Avoch; possible construction and operational impacts (e.g. acoustic vibration, pollution and piling) at sites adjacent to firth, including the former Longman Landfill site.</p>



	<p>Subtidal sandbanks and their associated fauna can be sensitive to physical disturbance and large scale physical change for the seabed as well as changes to water quality and local wave energy regimes.</p>
<p>Extent of Natura Site</p>	<p><b>Moray Firth SAC</b></p>  <p>The map shows the Moray Firth Special Area of Conservation (SAC) highlighted in purple. The area covers the Moray Firth and extends inland to the coast. The map includes geographical features, roads, and place names. A copyright notice on the left side of the map reads: '© Crown Copyright. The Highland Council 2013 100023989.'</p>
<p><b>Settlement/Site Reference</b></p>	<p><b>Impacts and Mitigation</b></p>
<p><b><i>Minor Residual Effect</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Inverness INS27</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Although some distance from the Moray Firth SAC, a water course runs through site which flows to the Moray Firth SAC. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site INS27:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA/Ramsar and Moray Firth SAC by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Firth.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>

<p><b>Inverness</b> INW07</p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Although some distance from the Moray Firth SAC, it is adjacent to the Caledonian Canal which flows to the Moray Firth SAC. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site INW07:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Firth.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Avoch AV01 &amp; AV02</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for sites AV01 &amp; AV02:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SAC by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Cromarty CM02</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for sites CM02:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SAC by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Fortrose FR01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for sites FR01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SAC by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>



<p><b>Nairn NA05 &amp; NA06</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Auldearn Burn runs through NA09 and into the River Nairn. Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for sites NA05 &amp; NA06:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SAC by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>North Kessock NK01 &amp; NK03</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for sites NK01 &amp; NK03:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SAC by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Seaboard Villages SB02</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site SB02:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SAC by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Muir of Ord MO03</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Although some distance from the Moray Firth SAC, a water course runs through site which flows to the Moray Firth SAC. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could lead to sedimentation and pollution entering the SAC and have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site MO03:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SAC by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Appropriate Assessment Alone</b></p>	

<p><b>All sites in Inverness to Nairn Area</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to the requirement for additional waste water discharge for developments in the Inverness to Nairn area.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following policy text to be included in within Policy 3 Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Impacts in the Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In line with Policy 65 of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan, all allocated developments in the Nairn to Inverness corridor are required to connect to the public sewer (as defined in the Sewerage (Scotland) Act 1986). Improvements to the strategic wastewater infrastructure in the area will be required to accommodate the level of development supported in this Plan. Such improvements must ensure that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the bottlenose dolphin qualifying interest of the Moray Firth SAC in terms of the level of waste water treatment, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Avoch AV03</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Increased development and boating activity at the harbour may result in disturbance to qualifying species as a result of cumulative effect of additional boat movements from commercial and/or recreational marine activities. Dredging of its entrance channel could have an adverse effect on the tidal currents and tidal processes supporting the distribution of subtidal sandbanks of this part of the firth.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following text to be included as a developer requirement for site AV03:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the development involves access to the water then it should be done in accordance with the Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code and the Wildlife Safe accreditation scheme and adherence to local codes such as the Dolphin Space Programme, as well as avoidance of any cumulative impact of boat traffic on the Moray Firth SAC.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution as well as method statements and mitigation in relation to dredging and disposal (in accordance with Marine Scotland Guidance and any Nature Scot advice).</li> <li>• Marine Mammal Mitigation Plan</li> <li>• Boat traffic Management Plan</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>

<p><b>Nairn NA01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage from recreational activities (including water-based activities) and foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirements for site NA01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• A Recreation Access Management Plan should be prepared to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC as a result of recreational disturbance to qualifying species. It should include awareness raising of potential impacts of water-based activities, satisfactory provision and/or contribution towards open space, path and green network requirements, including mitigation associated with the Inverness to Nairn Coastal Trail.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Nairn NA04</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage from recreational activities and foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirements for site NA04:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• A Recreation Access Management Plan should be prepared to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC as a result of recreational disturbance to qualifying species. It should include awareness raising of potential impacts of water-based activities, satisfactory provision and/or contribution towards open space, path and green network requirements, including mitigation associated with the Inverness to Nairn Coastal Trail.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>

<p><b>Tornagrain TG01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> There is a watercourse within the site which eventually feeds into the Moray Firth SAC. Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site TG01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness Airport IA01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> There are watercourses within the site which eventually feeds into the Moray Firth SAC. Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site IA01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness Airport IA02</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Site is in close proximity to the Moray Firth SAC and foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site IA02:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>

<p><b>Inverness INC11</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance physical damage and pollution from possible commercial, industrial, waste management and energy-from-waste uses. In particular there could be an impact from water discharges (leachate from the underlying waste deposits) or from the percussive impacts of piling in construction. Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirement to be included for site allocations INC11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any proposal must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by the submission with any application of a Piling Method Statement (in accordance with JNCC guidance).</li> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> <li>• Hydro-Dynamic study to assess the impact of altered flows on sediment movement in the firth in relation to subtidal sandbanks.</li> <li>• Marine Mammal Mitigation Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
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<p><b>Inverness INC07, INC08 &amp; INC09</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance physical damage and pollution from possible commercial, industrial, waste management and energy-from-waste uses. In particular there could be an impact from water discharges (leachate from the underlying waste deposits) or from the percussive impacts of piling in construction. Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirement to be included for site allocations INC07, INC08, INC09:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any proposal must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by the submission with any application of a Piling Method Statement (in accordance with JNCC guidance).</li> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness INE03, INE11, INE02, INE13, INE15, INE16, INE20, INE22, INE19, INE10, INE08</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> There are watercourses within the sites which eventually feed into the Moray Firth SAC. Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for sites: INE03, INE11, INE02, INE13, INE15, INE16, INE20, INE22, INE19, INE10, INE08:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>

<p><b>Inverness INC06</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in impacts on habitats and species due to the creation of additional noise and physical disturbance from commercial and/or recreational marine activities; also construction and operational impacts (vibration, pollution, piling and vessel movements); also alteration to the tidal currents and tidal processes supporting the distribution of subtidal sandbanks of this part of the firth. Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site INC06:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> <li>• Noise and Vibration Mitigation Plan</li> <li>• The developer needs to comply with JNCC piling guidance, Marine Scotland dredging and disposal guidance (both for capital and maintenance spoil)</li> <li>• Boat traffic Management Plan</li> <li>• Hydro-Dynamic study to assess the impact of altered flows on sediment movement in the firth in relation to subtidal sandbanks.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
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<p><b>Inverness INW11</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in disturbance to qualifying species due to the creation of additional noise and disturbance from commercial and/or recreational marine activities. Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site INW11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the development involves access to the water then it should be done in accordance with the Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code and the Wildlife Safe accreditation scheme and adherence to local codes such as the Dolphin Space Programme, as well as avoidance of any cumulative impact of boat traffic on the Moray Firth SAC.</li> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> <li>• Marine Mammal Mitigation Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
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<p><b>Inverness INW14</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in impacts on habitats and species due to the creation of additional noise and physical disturbance from commercial and/or recreational marine activities; also construction and operational impacts (vibration, pollution, piling and vessel movements); also alteration to the tidal currents and tidal processes supporting the distribution of subtidal sandbanks of this part of the firth. Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site INW14:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> <li>• Noise and Vibration Mitigation Plan</li> <li>• The developer needs to comply with JNCC piling guidance, Marine Scotland dredging and disposal guidance (both for capital and maintenance spoil)</li> <li>• Boat traffic Management Plan</li> <li>• A Hydro-Dynamic study to assess the impact of altered flows on sediment movement in the firth in relation to subtidal sandbanks.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
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<p><b>Invergordon IG05</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in impacts on habitats and species due to the creation of additional noise and physical disturbance from commercial and/or recreational marine activities; also construction and operational impacts (vibration, pollution, piling and vessel movements); also alteration to the tidal currents and tidal processes supporting the distribution of subtidal sandbanks of this part of the firth. Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site IG05:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> <li>• Noise and Vibration Mitigation Plan</li> <li>• Oil Spill Contingency Plan.</li> <li>• The developer needs to comply with JNCC piling guidance, Marine Scotland dredging and disposal guidance (both for capital and maintenance spoil)</li> <li>• Boat traffic Management Plan</li> <li>• Hydro-Dynamic study to assess the impact of altered flows on sediment movement in the firth in relation to subtidal sandbanks.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
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<p><b>Whiteness WH01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in impacts on habitats and species due to the creation of additional noise and physical disturbance from commercial and/or recreational marine activities; also construction and operational impacts (vibration, pollution, piling and vessel movements); also alteration to the tidal currents and tidal processes supporting the distribution of subtidal sandbanks of this part of the firth. Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site WH01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The developer needs to comply with JNCC piling guidance, Marine Scotland dredging and disposal guidance (both for capital and maintenance spoil)</li> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> <li>• Boat Traffic Management Plan;</li> <li>• Noise and Vibration Mitigation Plan;</li> <li>• Oil Spill Contingency Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
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<p><b>Castle Stuart CS01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in impacts on habitats and species due to the creation of additional noise and physical disturbance from commercial marine activities (including water-based activities). Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site CS01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> <li>• Noise and Vibration Mitigation Plan</li> <li>• The developer needs to comply with JNCC piling guidance, Marine Scotland dredging and disposal guidance (both for capital and maintenance spoil)</li> <li>• Boat Traffic Management Plan</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
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<p><b>Nigg NG01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Site adjacent to Moray Firth SAC and development may result in impacts on habitats and species due to the creation of additional noise and physical disturbance from commercial marine activities. May also create alteration to the tidal currents and tidal processes supporting the distribution of subtidal sandbanks of this part of the firth. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site NG01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> <li>• <b>Boat Traffic Management Plan;</b></li> <li>• <b>Noise and Vibration Mitigation Plan;</b></li> <li>• <b>Full compliance with appropriate regulatory frameworks for ballast water discharge, dredging and disposal and ship-to-ship transfers; and</b></li> <li>• <b>Oil Spill Contingency Plan</b></li> <li>• The developer needs to comply with JNCC piling guidance, Marine Scotland dredging and disposal guidance (both for capital and maintenance spoil)</li> <li>• Boat traffic Management Plan</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
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<p><b>Fort George FG01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in impacts on habitats and species due to the creation of additional noise and physical disturbance from commercial marine activities and water-based activities. Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site FG01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> <li>• Noise and Vibration Mitigation Plan</li> <li>• The developer needs to comply with JNCC piling guidance, Marine Scotland dredging and disposal guidance (both for capital and maintenance spoil)</li> <li>• Boat traffic Management Plan</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Highland Deephaven HD01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in impacts on habitats and species due to the creation of additional noise and physical disturbance from commercial marine activities. May also create alteration to the tidal currents and tidal processes supporting the distribution of subtidal sandbanks of this part of the firth. Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site HD01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> <li>• Noise and Vibration Mitigation Plan</li> <li>• Oil Spill Contingency Plan.</li> <li>• The developer needs to comply with JNCC piling guidance, Marine Scotland dredging and disposal guidance (both for capital and maintenance spoil)</li> <li>• Boat traffic Management Plan</li> <li>• Hydro-Dynamic study to assess the impact of altered flows on sediment movement in the firth in relation to subtidal sandbanks.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>

<b>Appropriate Assessment In-Combination</b>	
<b>Nairn NA01 &amp; NA04</b>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage from recreational activities and foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as developer requirements for sites NA01 and NA04:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• A Recreation Access Management Plan should be prepared to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC as a result of recreational disturbance to qualifying species. It should include awareness raising of potential impacts of water-based activities, satisfactory provision and/or contribution towards open space, path and green network requirements, including mitigation associated with the Inverness to Nairn Coastal Trail.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<b>Tornagrain TG01, Inverness Airport IA01 &amp; IA02</b>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Watercourses within the sites which eventually feed into the Moray Firth SAC. Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for sites TG01, IA01 &amp; IA03:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>

<p><b>Inverness INC09, INC11, INC07 &amp; INC08</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance physical damage and pollution from possible commercial, industrial, waste management and energy-from-waste uses. In particular there could be an impact from water discharges (leachate from the underlying waste deposits) or from the percussive impacts of piling in construction. Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirements where relevant based on location and nature of uses to be included for site allocations INC07, INC08, INC09, INC11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any proposal must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by the submission with any application of a Piling Method Statement (in accordance with JNCC guidance).</li> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> <li>• <b>Following text to be added to Inverness Central settlement text: There is potential for a number of developments to have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC alone and in-combination as a result of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new business development and from surface and wastewater discharge from development. The following sites have been identified as potentially having significant effect in-combination - INC07, INC08, INC09, INC11. Any developments proposals at sites INC07, INC08, INC09, INC11 must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
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<p><b>Inverness</b>  <b>INE03, INE11,</b>  <b>INE02, INE13,</b>  <b>INE15, INE16,</b>  <b>INE20, INE22,</b>  <b>INE19, INE10,</b>  <b>INE08</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> There are watercourses within the sites which eventually feed into the Moray Firth SAC. Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for sites: INE03, INE11, INE02, INE13, INE15, INE16, INE20, INE22, INE19, INE10, INE08:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> <li>• <b>Following text to be added to Inverness East settlement text: There is potential for a number of developments to have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC alone and in-combination as a result of surface and wastewater discharge from development. The following sites have been identified as potentially having significant effect in-combination - INE03, INE11, INE02, INE13, INE15, INE16, INE20, INE22, INE19, INE10, INE08. Any developments proposals at sites INE03, INE11, INE02, INE13, INE15, INE16, INE20, INE22, INE19, INE10, INE08 must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
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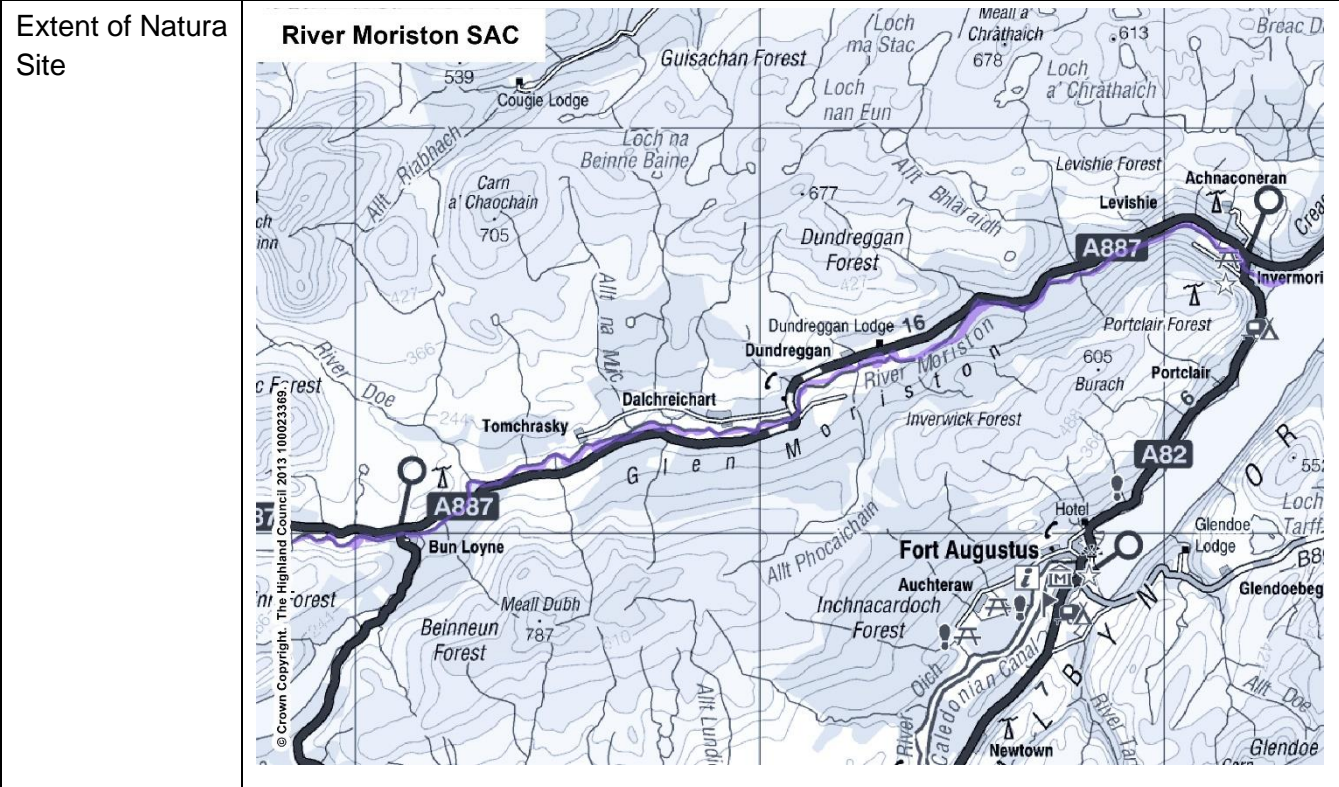
<p><b>NG01, HD01, WH01, INW14, INC06, IG05 (dolphins)</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in impacts on Bottlenose Dolphins and their supporting habitats due to the creation of additional noise, pollution and physical disturbance from commercial marine activities, in particular the cumulative effects of boat traffic in the Moray Firth from potential developments at Nigg, Whiteness, Muirtown, Highland Deephaven and Invergordon, and taking into consideration other existing marinas and harbours.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirement to be included for each site allocation NG01, HD01, WH01, INW14, INC06, IG05:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>There is potential for a number of developments to have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC</b> alone and in-combination as a result of additional noise, pollution and physical disturbance through construction and operation of new business development and from surface and wastewater discharge from development. The following sites have been identified as potentially having significant effect in-combination - NG01, HD01, WH01, INW14, INC06, IG05. Any developments proposals at sites NG01, HD01, WH01, INW14, INC06, IG05 must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC.</li> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> <li>• <b>Boat Traffic Management Plan</b></li> <li>• <b>Noise and Vibration Mitigation Plan;</b></li> <li>• <b>Full compliance with appropriate regulatory frameworks for ballast water discharge, dredging and disposal and ship-to-ship transfers</b></li> <li>• <b>Oil Spill Contingency Plan</b></li> <li>• The developer needs to comply with JNCC piling guidance, Marine Scotland dredging and disposal guidance (both for capital and maintenance spoil)</li> <li>• Hydro-Dynamic study to assess the impact of altered flows on sediment movement in the firth in relation to subtidal sandbanks.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
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<p><b>NG01, INW14, INC06, CS01, FG01, WH01 (sandbanks)</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Subtidal sandbanks can be sensitive to physical disturbance and can be sensitive to changes in water quality. Developments may lead to foul water discharge to Moray Firth SAC and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for sites NG01, IN1W14, 1NC06, CS01, FG01, WH01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>There is potential for a number of developments to have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC</b> alone and in-combination as a result of foul water discharge to Moray Firth SAC. The following sites have been identified as potentially having significant effect in-combination - NG01, IN1W14, 1NC06, CS01, FG01, WH01. Any developments proposals at sites NG01, IN1W14, 1NC06, CS01, FG01, WH01 must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC.</li> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Moray Firth SAC to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> <li>• <b>Boat Traffic Management Plan</b></li> <li>• <b>Noise and Vibration Mitigation Plan;</b></li> <li>• <b>Full compliance with appropriate regulatory frameworks for ballast water discharge, dredging and disposal and ship-to-ship transfers</b></li> <li>• <b>Oil Spill Contingency Plan</b></li> <li>• The developer needs to comply with JNCC piling guidance, Marine Scotland dredging and disposal guidance (both for capital and maintenance spoil)</li> <li>• Hydro-Dynamic study to assess the impact of altered flows on sediment movement in the firth in relation to subtidal sandbanks.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
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#### 4. River Moriston Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>River Moriston</b>
<b>Designation</b>	<b>SAC</b>
Date of Designation	17 March 2005
Qualifying Interests	Freshwater pearl mussel Atlantic salmon
Conservation Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To ensure that the qualifying features of the River Moriston SAC are in favourable condition and make an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status</li> <li>2. To ensure that the integrity of the River Morison SAC is restored by meeting objectives 2a, 2b, 2c for each qualifying feature (and 2d for freshwater pearl mussel)</li> </ol> <p><i>For Freshwater Pearl Mussel</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2a. Restore the population of freshwater pearl mussel as a viable component of the site</li> <li>2b. Restore the distribution of freshwater pearl mussel throughout the site</li> <li>2c. Restore the habitats supporting the freshwater pearl mussel within the site and availability of food</li> <li>2d. Restore the distribution and viability of freshwater pearl mussel hose species and their supporting habitats</li> </ol> <p><i>For Atlantic Salmon</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2a. Restore the population of Atlantic salmon, including range of genetic types, as a viable component of the site</li> <li>2b. Restore the distribution of Atlantic salmon throughout the site</li> <li>2c. Restore the habitats supporting Atlantic salmon within the site and availability of food</li> </ol>
Condition of the qualifying interests	Atlantic Salmon – Unfavourable No change Freshwater pearl mussel – Unfavourable No change
Factors currently influencing the site	Negative pressures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forestry operations</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Over grazing</li> <li>• Water management</li> <li>• Statutory undertaker</li> <li>• Water management</li> <li>• Wildlife crime</li> </ul>
Vulnerabilities to change through the	The River Ness is the migration route for Atlantic salmon returning to spawn in the River Moriston SAC. The migration of salmon is also critical to the freshwater pearl mussel interest in the River Moriston SAC.

<p>potential effects of the plan</p>	<p>If Loch Ness is used to supplement the water supply for the Inverness and Nairn area then this abstraction could result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species. In particular any changes to the water level of Loch Ness must not affect the ability of migrating salmon reaching the River Moriston or food supply via the water margin area.</p> <p>Potential for impacts upon water quality and hydrology from increased run off and pollution and disturbance from construction and operation from development at Inverness Harbour and Merkinch Shore.</p>
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<p>Settlement/Site Reference</p>	<p>Impacts and Mitigation</p>
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**Minor Residual**

<p>Inverness INS17</p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Western boundary of the site lies adjacent to the River Ness which is the migration route for Atlantic salmon returning to spawn in the River Moriston SAC. The migration of salmon is also critical to the freshwater pearl mussel interest in the River Moriston SAC. Surface and wastewater discharge from new development could have a significantly impact on water quality which in turn could have an adverse effect on salmon.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site INS17:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of the River Moriston SAC by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Firth.</li> </ul>
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	<p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness INS10</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Western boundary of the site lies adjacent to the River Ness which is the migration route for Atlantic salmon returning to spawn in the River Moriston SAC. The migration of salmon is also critical to the freshwater pearl mussel interest in the River Moriston SAC. Surface and wastewater discharge from new development could have a significantly impact on water quality which in turn could have an adverse effect on salmon.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site INS10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of the River Moriston SAC by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Firth.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness INS14</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Western boundary of the site lies adjacent to the River Ness which is the migration route for Atlantic salmon returning to spawn in the River Moriston SAC. The migration of salmon is also critical to the freshwater pearl mussel interest in the River Moriston SAC. Surface and wastewater discharge from new development could have a significantly impact on water quality which in turn could have an adverse effect on salmon.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site INS14:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of the River Moriston SAC by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Firth.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Appropriate Assessment Alone</b></p>	
<p><b>All sites in Inverness to Nairn Area</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Water supply infrastructure impacts on Nairn, Tornagrain, Croy and Inverness leading to potential drawdown in water levels within the Ness catchment and the River Moriston itself with potential effects on qualifying species; connectivity via River Ness and Loch Ness to proposed development in Inverness.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following text to be included in within Policy 3 Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Impacts in the Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In considering the need to increase the level of abstraction from existing sources, or the need for other sources of abstraction to accommodate the level of development supported by this Plan, there must be no adverse effect on the integrity of the River Morison SAC, Urquhart Bay Woods SAC and/or Loch Ashie SPA as a result of reduced water levels/flows on the relative qualifying features either alone or in-combination with other plans</li> </ul>

	<p>and projects. Construction Environmental Management Plans and Operational Environmental Management Plan for controlling water quality and sedimentation and water flows, plus mitigating against disturbance when abstracting water and mitigating impacts of reduced or increased water levels.</p> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness INC06</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> North and west boundary of the site lie adjacent to the mouth River Ness which is the migration route for Atlantic salmon returning to spawn in the River Moriston SAC. The migration of salmon is also critical to the freshwater pearl mussel interest in the River Moriston SAC. There is potential for new development to significantly impact on water quality and hydrology from increased run off and pollution and disturbance from construction and operation of new development.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as developer requirements for site INC06:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of the River Moriston SAC by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Firth.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the River Moriston SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution; maintaining water quality and flow and controlling disturbance.</li> <li>• Oil spill management/contingency plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness INW14</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> North and east boundary of the site lie adjacent to the mouth River Ness which is the migration route for Atlantic salmon returning to spawn in the River Moriston SAC. The migration of salmon is also critical to the freshwater pearl mussel interest in the River Moriston SAC. There is potential for new development to impact on water quality and hydrology from increased run off and pollution and disturbance from construction and operation of new development.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as developer requirements for site INW14:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of the River Moriston SAC by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Firth.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the River Morison SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational</li> </ul>

	<p>Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution and controlling disturbance.</p> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Appropriate Assessment In-Combination</b></p>	
<p><b>Inverness</b></p> <p><b>INC06 and</b></p> <p><b>INW14</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> North and west boundary of the site lie adjacent to the mouth River Ness which is the migration route for Atlantic salmon returning to spawn in the River Moriston SAC. The migration of salmon is also critical to the freshwater pearl mussel interest in the River Moriston SAC. There is potential for new development to significantly impact on water quality and hydrology from increased run off and pollution and disturbance from construction and operation of new development.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included within settlement text for Inverness Central and Inverness West:</p> <p>There is potential for a number of developments in central/west Inverness to have an adverse effect on the integrity of the River Moriston SAC alone and in-combination as a result of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new business development and from surface and wastewater discharge from development. The following sites have been identified as potentially having significant effect alone and/or in-combination INC06 and INW14 for River Moriston SAC. Any development proposals on these sites must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the River Morison SAC by demonstrating mitigation measures described in developer requirements for the individual development sites below.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as developer requirements for site INC06 and INW14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of the River Moriston SAC by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Firth.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the River Moriston SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution; maintaining water quality and flow and controlling disturbance.</li> <li>• Oil spill management/contingency plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>



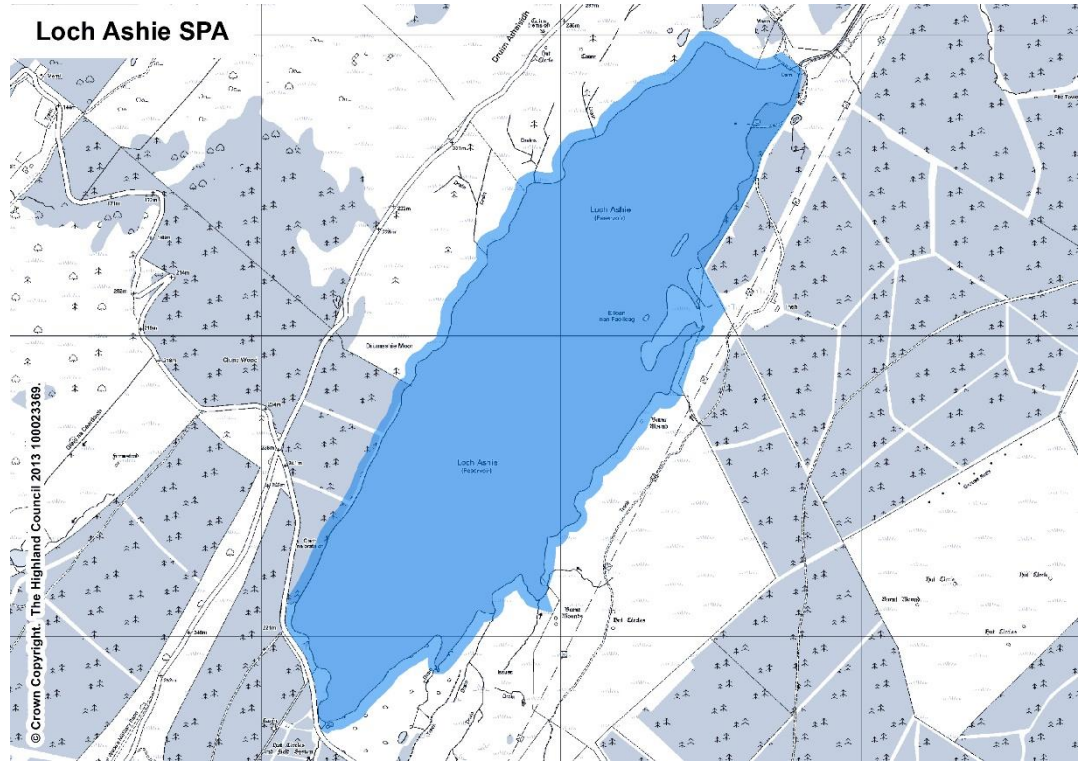
5. Urquhart Bay Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Urquhart Bay Woods</b>
<b>Designation</b>	<b>SAC</b>
Date of Designation	17 March 2005
Qualifying Interests	Alder woodland on floodplains
Conservation Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To ensure that the qualifying feature of Urquhart Bay Wood is in favourable condition and makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status.</li> <li>2. To ensure that the integrity of Urquhart Bay Wood is restored by meeting objectives 2a, 2b and 2c for the qualifying feature. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2a. Maintain the extent and distribution of the habitat within the site</li> <li>2b. Restore, the structure, function and supporting processes of the habitat</li> <li>2c. Restore, the distribution and viability of typical species of the habitat</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Condition of the qualifying interests	Unfavourable, no change
Factors currently influencing the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasive non-native species</li> <li>• Over grazing</li> <li>• Water management</li> </ul>
Vulnerabilities to change through the potential effects of the plan	Any requirement for additional water abstraction for development within and between Inverness to Nairn and subsequent draw down for water in Loch Ness may result in the loss or damage to the alluvial woodland habitats due to changes in the erosion and accretion patterns.

<p>Extent of Natura Site</p>	
<p>Settlement/Site Reference</p>	<p><b>Impacts and Mitigation</b></p>
<p>All sites in Inverness to Nairn Area</p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Any requirement for additional water abstraction for development within and between Inverness to Nairn and subsequent draw down for water in Loch Ness may result in the loss or damage to the alluvial woodland habitats due to changes in the erosion and accretion patterns.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included within Policy 3 Water and Waste Water Infrastructure Impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In considering the need to increase the level of abstraction from existing sources, or the need for other sources of abstraction to accommodate the level of development supported by this Plan, there must be no adverse effect on the integrity of the River Morison SAC, Urquhart Bay Woods SAC and/or Loch Ashie SPA as a result of reduced water levels/flows on the relative qualifying features either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects. Construction Environmental Management Plans and Operational Environmental Management Plan for controlling water quality and sedimentation and water flows, plus mitigating against disturbance when abstracting water and mitigating impacts of reduced or increased water levels.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>

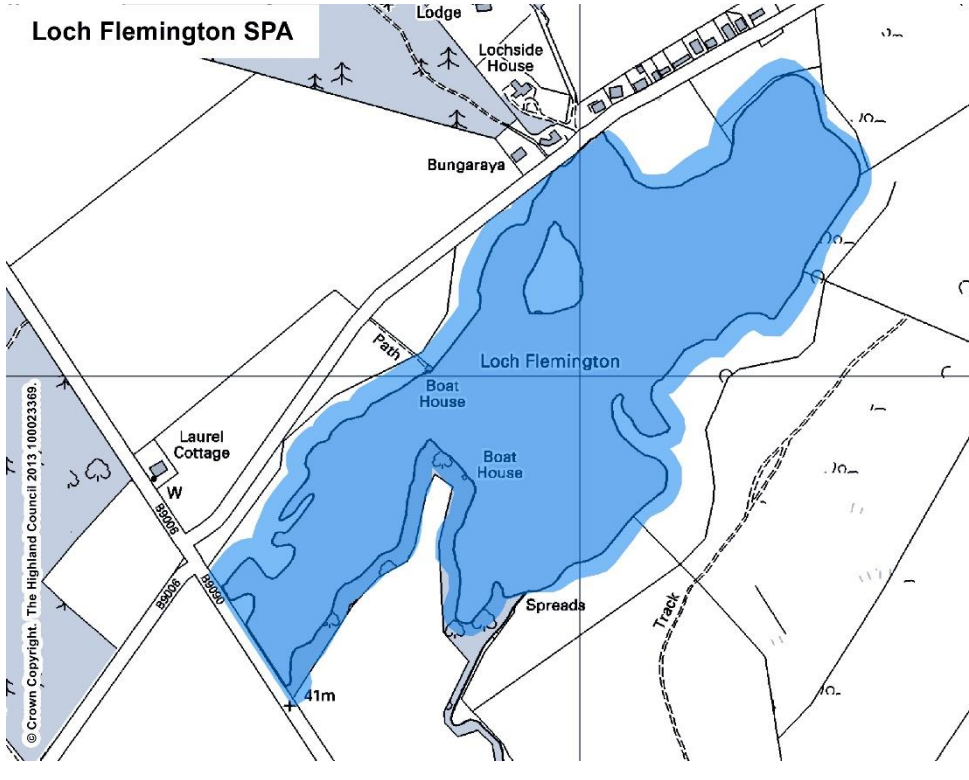
## 6. Loch Ashie Special Protection Area (SPA)

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Loch Ashie</b>
<b>Designation</b>	<b>SPA</b>
Date of Designation	11 August 1997
Qualifying Interests	Slavonian grebe
Conservation Objectives	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population of the species as a viable component of the site;</li> <li>• Distribution of the species within site;</li> <li>• Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species;</li> <li>• Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species;</li> <li>• No significant disturbance of the species.</li> </ul>
Condition of the qualifying interests	Slavonian grebe – Favourable Maintained
Factors currently influencing the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential for disturbance from anglers, water sports or other visitors at key times of year;</li> <li>• Managing changes in water quality and water levels; and</li> <li>• Appropriate fishery management and fluctuation in water levels.</li> </ul>
Vulnerabilities to change through the potential effects of the plan	Deterioration of habitats required by Slavonian grebe due to the requirement for additional water abstraction to service developments in Nairn – Inverness corridor, including Ardersier, Croy and Tornagrain.

<p>Extent of Natura Site</p>	
<p>Settlement/Site Reference</p>	<p><b>Impacts and Mitigation</b></p>
<p>All sites in Inverness to Nairn Area</p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Deterioration of habitats required by Slavonian grebe due to the requirement for additional water abstraction to service developments in Nairn – Inverness corridor, including Ardersier, Croy and Tornagrain. In particular potential for bigger swings in water levels at the site which have the potential to affect the grebes supporting habitat which is sedge beds.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included in within Policy 3 Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Impacts in the Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In considering the need to increase the level of abstraction from existing sources, or the need for other sources of abstraction to accommodate the level of development supported by this Plan, there must be no adverse effect on the integrity of the River Morison SAC, Urquhart Bay Woods SAC and/or Loch Ashie SPA as a result of reduced water levels/flows on the relative qualifying features either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects. Construction Environmental Management Plans and Operational Environmental Management Plan for controlling water quality and sedimentation and water flows, plus mitigating against disturbance when abstracting water and mitigating impacts of reduced or increased water levels.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>

## 7. Loch Flemington Special Protection Area (SPA)

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Loch Flemington</b>
<b>Designation</b>	<b>SPA</b>
Date of Designation	14 March 1997
Qualifying Interests	Slavonian grebe, breeding
Conservation Objectives	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained.</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population of the species as a viable component of the site</li> <li>• Distribution of the species within site</li> <li>• Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species</li> <li>• Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species</li> <li>• No significant disturbance of the species</li> </ul>
Condition of the qualifying interests	Unfavourable, no change
Factors currently influencing the site	<p>Negative pressures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Water management</li> </ul>
Vulnerabilities to change through the potential effects of the plan	Increase in phosphorus discharging to Loch Flemington SPA from development in the water catchment resulting in a detrimental effect on water quality which has potential to affect the grebes supporting habitat.

Extent of Natura Site	
Settlement/Site Reference	Impacts and Mitigation
All development within the water catchment of Loch Flemington SPA	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Increase in phosphorus discharging to Loch Flemington SPA from development in the water catchment resulting in a detrimental effect on water quality which has potential to affect the grebes supporting habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included in within Policy 3 Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Impacts in the Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All development within the water catchment of Loch Flemington SPA must facilitate the ecological recovery of the loch by using appropriate foul drainage arrangements. It must be ensured that there is no overall increase in phosphorous discharge to the catchment. Appropriate solutions include connection to public sewer, diversion of waste water outwith the catchment, upgrading an existing septic tank within the catchment to a higher standard.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<b>Appropriate Assessment Alone</b>	
All development within Croy SDA	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Effects on water quality and hydrology from development in the water catchment of Loch Flemington SPA.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Addition of following placemaking priority for Croy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate the ecological recovery of Loch Flemington by requiring all development within the water catchment of the loch to use appropriate foul drainage arrangements, including mitigation</li> </ul>

	<p>which safeguards water quality and ensures no increase in phosphorous discharge to avoid an adverse effect on the integrity of Loch Flemington SPA.</p> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<b>Tornagrain TG01</b>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Effects on water quality and hydrology from development in the water catchment of Loch Flemington SPA. Increased recreational access to Loch Flemington SPA and Kildrummie Kames SSSI could result in disturbance to breeding Slavonian grebes.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirements to be included for site TG01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Loch Flemington SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and ensures no increase in phosphorous discharge and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Loch (see Policy 3 Water and Waste Water Infrastructure Impacts for further detail)</li> <li>• Satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution, and Recreational Access Management Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<b>Croy CR01 CR01</b>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Effects on water quality and hydrology from development in the water catchment of Loch Flemington SPA. Increased recreational access to Loch Flemington SPA and Kildrummie Kames SSSI could result in disturbance to breeding Slavonian grebes.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirements to be included for site CR01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Loch Flemington SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and ensures no increase in phosphorous discharge and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Loch (see Policy 3 Water and Waste Water Infrastructure Impacts for further detail)</li> <li>• Satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution, and Recreational Access Management Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<b>Croy CR02</b>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Effects on water quality and hydrology from development in the water catchment of Loch Flemington SPA. Increased recreational access to Loch Flemington SPA and Kildrummie Kames SSSI could result in disturbance to breeding Slavonian grebes.</p>

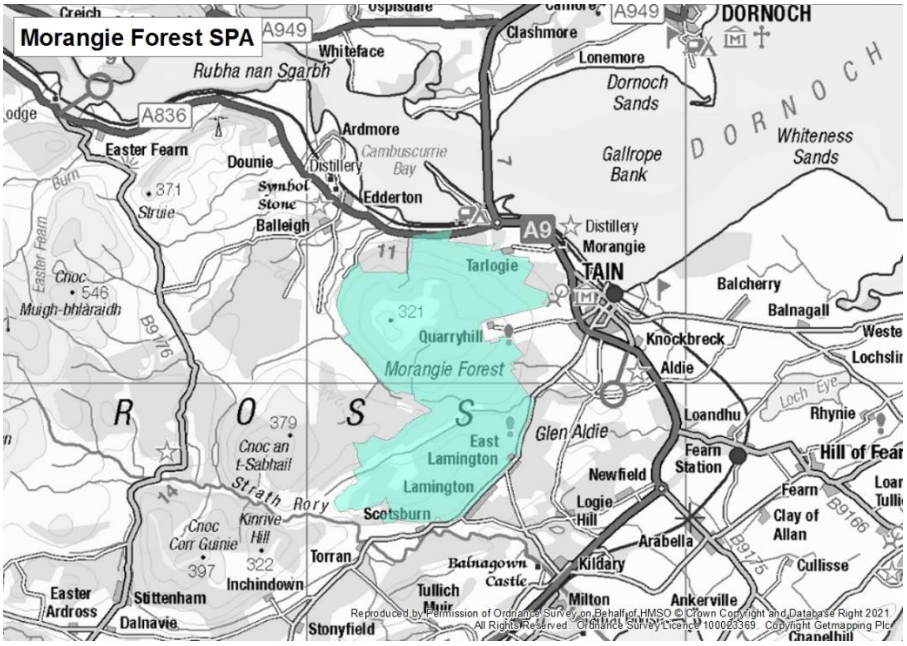


	<p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirements to be included for site CR02:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Loch Flemington SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and ensures no increase in phosphorous discharge and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Loch (see Policy 3 Water and Waste Water Infrastructure Impacts for further detail)</li> <li>• Satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution, and Recreational Access Management Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Appropriate Assessment In-Combination</b></p>	
<p><b>Tornagrain TG01, Croy CR01, Croy CR02</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Effects on water quality and hydrology from development in the water catchment of Loch Flemington SPA. Increased recreational access to Loch Flemington SPA and Kildrummie Kames SSSI could result in disturbance to breeding Slavonian grebes.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following added to Tornagrain and Croy settlement text:</p> <p>There is potential for development at TG01 both alone and in combination with CR01 and CR02 to have an adverse effect of the integrity of Loch Flemington SPA as a result of development effecting water quality and hydrology. Any development proposals at Tornagrain/Croy must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of Loch Flemington SPA alone or in-combination by demonstrating mitigation measures described in developer requirements for TG01, CR01 and CR02 below.</p> <p>Following developer requirements to be included for site TG01, CR01 and CR02:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Loch Flemington SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and ensures no increase in phosphorous discharge and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Loch (see Policy 3 Water and Waste Water Infrastructure Impacts for further detail)</li> <li>• Satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution, and Recreational Access Management Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>



## 8. Morangie Forest Special Protection Area (SPA)

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Morangie Forest</b>
<b>Designation</b>	<b>SPA</b>
Date of Designation	14 March 1997
Qualifying Interests	Capercaillie, breeding
Conservation Objectives	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained.</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population of the species as a viable component of the site</li> <li>• Distribution of the species within site</li> <li>• Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species</li> <li>• Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species</li> <li>• No significant disturbance of the species</li> </ul>
Condition of the qualifying interests	Favourable Maintained
Factors currently influencing the site	<p>Negative pressures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recreation/disturbance</li> </ul>
Vulnerabilities to change through the potential effects of the plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased recreational pressure</li> </ul>

Extent of Natura Site	
Settlement/Site Reference	Impacts and Mitigation
<b>Appropriate Assessment Alone</b>	
Tain TN03	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to potential recreational disturbance from residents of new housing.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirements to be included for site allocation TN03:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Recreation Access Management Plan should be prepared to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the Morangie Forest SPA as a result of recreational disturbance to qualifying species. It should include awareness raising and promoting existing paths that are away from sensitive areas, information on keeping to tracks and keeping dogs on leads during breeding season.</li> <li>• Construction work should not happen between 15 March to 15 May to avoid disturbance of Capercaillie breeding season.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site. There may be a residual likely significant effect, however any cumulative effects arising from a combination of residual effects would be assessed for each individual application. Where these reach a level of adverse effect on site integrity, that and further applications would be refused unless there were imperative reasons of overriding public interest (as defined by the Habitats Regulations) and viable compensation measures could be secured.</p>
<b>Appropriate Assessment In-Combination</b>	

**Tain TN03, TN04,  
TN05, TN06**

**Potential Impact:** Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to potential recreational disturbance from residents of new housing.

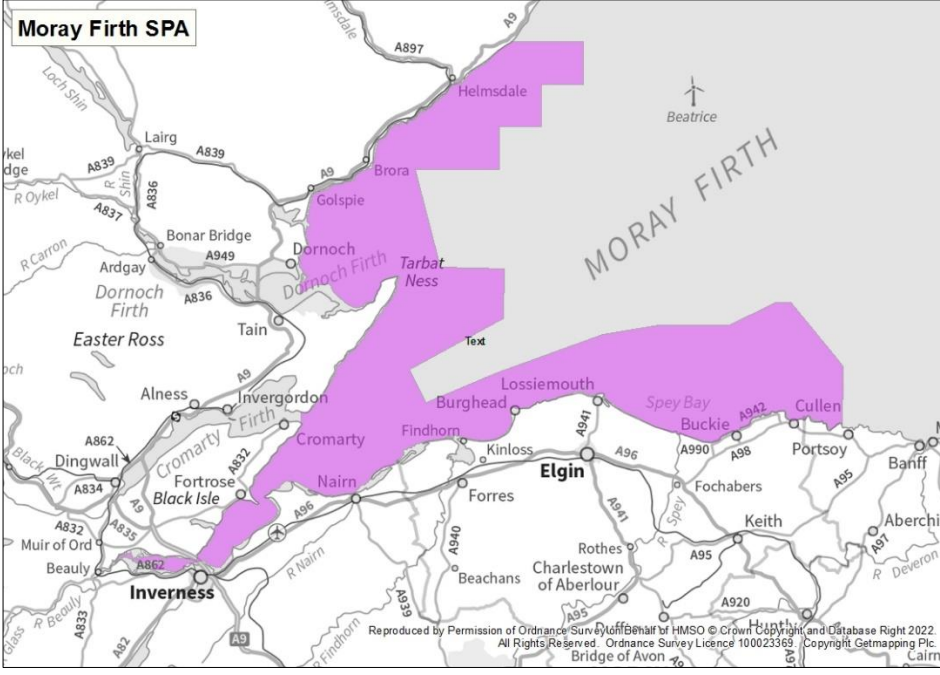
**Mitigation:** Following developer requirements to be included for site allocations TN103, TN04, TN05, TN06:

- A Recreation Access Management Plan should be prepared to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the Morangie Forest SPA as a result of recreational disturbance to qualifying species. It should include awareness raising and promoting existing paths that are away from sensitive areas, information on keeping to tracks and keeping dogs on leads during breeding season.
- Construction work should not happen between 15 March to 15 May to avoid disturbance of Capercaillie breeding season.
- Following text added to Tain Settlement text: There is potential for development at TN03 both alone and in combination with TN04, TN05 and TN06 to have an adverse effect of the integrity of Morangie Forest SPA as a result of loss of habitats and /or species from potential recreational disturbance from residents of new housing. Any development these sites will be required to assess and demonstrate measures which ensure avoidance of any adverse effect of the integrity of Morangie Forest SPA.

**Residual Impact:** There may be a residual likely significant effect, however any cumulative effects arising from a combination of residual effects would be assessed for each individual application. Where these reach a level of adverse effect on site integrity, that and further applications would be refused unless there were imperative reasons of overriding public interest (as defined by the Habitats Regulations) and viable compensation measures could be secured.

## 9. Moray Firth Special Protection Area (SPA)

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Moray Firth</b>
<b>Designation</b>	<b>SPA</b>
Date of Designation	3 December 2020
Qualifying Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great northern diver</li> <li>• Red-throated diver</li> <li>• Slavonian grebe</li> <li>• Common eider</li> <li>• Common goldeneye</li> <li>• Common scoter</li> <li>• Greater scaup</li> <li>• Long-tailed duck</li> <li>• Red-breasted merganser</li> <li>• Velvet scoter</li> <li>• European shag</li> </ul>
Conservation Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To ensure that the qualifying features of the Moray Firth SPA are in favourable condition and make an appropriate contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status.</li> <li>2. To ensure that the integrity of Moray Firth SPA is restored in the context of environmental changes by meeting objectives 2a, 2b and 2c for each qualifying feature. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2a. The populations of qualifying features are viable components of the site.</li> <li>2b. The distribution of qualifying features is maintained throughout the site by avoiding significant disturbance of the species.</li> <li>2c. The supporting habitats and processes relevant to qualifying features and their prey resources are maintained, or where appropriate restored, at the Moray Firth SPA.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
Condition of the qualifying interests	<p>The protected features have not been assessed since designation, however corroborative evidence suggests there is no reason to suspect deterioration in condition since site selection (SNH, 2019). Hence, the feature condition is provided as condition at site selection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great northern diver – favourable</li> <li>• Red-throated diver – favourable</li> <li>• Slavonian grebe – favourable</li> <li>• Common eider – favourable</li> <li>• Common goldeneye – favourable</li> <li>• Common scoter – favourable</li> <li>• Greater scaup – favourable</li> <li>• Long-tailed duck – favourable</li> <li>• Red-breasted merganser – favourable</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Velvet scoter – favourable</li> <li>• European shag – unfavourable at breeding colony SPA; favourable (non-breeding season)</li> </ul>
<p>Factors currently influencing the site</p>	<p>The Moray Firth SPA Conservation and Management Advice package can be accessed at: <a href="https://sitelink.nature.scot/site/10490">https://sitelink.nature.scot/site/10490</a>. This provides details of the conservation and management advice for the SPA, including the threats and pressures that the protected features are sensitive to, and management advice for activities that cause the threats and pressures.</p>
<p>Vulnerabilities to change through the potential effects of the plan</p>	<p>Pressures associated with disturbance related to industry/harbour works, disturbance related to commercial or recreational water based activities, activities that would cause a deterioration in water quality, damage, loss or deterioration of supporting habitats and alteration to coastal processes.</p>
<p>Extent of Natura Site</p>	
<p>Settlement/Site Reference</p>	<p><b>Impacts and Mitigation</b></p>
<p><b>Minor Residual</b></p>	
<p><b>Cromarty CM02</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Foul water will discharge to Moray Firth SPA and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the supporting habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included as a developer requirement for site CM02:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive</li> </ul>

	<p>sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Firth</p> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Fortrose and Rosemarkie FR01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Foul water will discharge to Moray Firth SPA and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included as a developer requirement for site FR01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Nairn NA05 &amp; NA06</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> A watercourse within the site flows into the SPA. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included as a developer requirement for site allocations NA05 &amp; NA06:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>North Kessock NK01 &amp; NK03</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> A watercourse on the boundary of the site flows into the SPA. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included as a developer requirement for site allocations NK01 &amp; NK03:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>

<p><b>Seaboard Villages SB02</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included as a developer requirement for site SB02:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness Airport IA02</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Watercourse within the site which feeds into the Moray Firth SPA. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included as a developer requirement for site IA02:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Appropriate Assessment Alone</b></p>	
<p><b>Avoch AV03</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage, and potential for pollution and sedimentation from possible business and leisure uses.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included as developer requirements for site AV03:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any development must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity on the Moray Firth SPA as a result of pollution, sedimentation or loss of, or damage or disturbance to bird feeding and roosting areas of the SPA or linked to the SPA.</li> <li>• Depending on the nature of proposal, a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan would be required including method statements and mitigation in relation to any piling; capital and maintenance dredging and disposal (in accordance with Marine Scotland Guidance).</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<b>Nairn NA01</b>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage from recreational activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included as developer requirements for site NA01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoidance of any adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA alone or in combination through the preparation of a Recreational Access Management Plan including consideration of water based activities. Plan must include satisfactory provision and/or contribution towards open space, path and green network requirements, including mitigation associated with the Inverness to Nairn Coastal Trail.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<b>Nairn NA04</b>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage from recreational activities. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included as developer requirements for site NA04:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> <li>• Avoidance of any adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA alone or in combination through the preparation of a Recreational Access Management Plan including consideration of water based activities. Plan must include satisfactory provision and/or contribution towards open space, path and green network requirements, including mitigation associated with the Inverness to Nairn Coastal Trail.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<b>Whiteness WH01</b>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> The industrial allocation has the potential to cause the deterioration or complete loss of roost sites and/or feeding habitat within the SPA due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage from industrial activities, and potential for pollution and alterations to habitat as a result of capital and maintenance works through dredging and disposal, vessel movements as well as any modification of coastal processes. Any engineered coastal defences</p>



	<p>along the spit would fall within the SPA and have potential for likely significant effects.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included as developer requirements for site WH01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution, mitigating disturbance, impacts of vessel movements, dredging and disposal and the modification of coastal processes.</li> <li>• Any development should have no adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA including any modification to the natural processes of the spit and associated capital and maintenance dredging and disposal operations</li> <li>• Boat Traffic Management Plan</li> <li>• Noise and Mitigation Plan</li> <li>• Oil Spill Contingency Plan</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Nigg NG01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> May result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to potential pollution and disturbance effects. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included as developer requirements for site NG01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> <li>• <b>Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution and disturbance mitigation.</b></li> <li>• <b>Full compliance with appropriate regulatory frameworks for ballast water discharge, dredging and disposal and ship-to-ship transfers</b></li> <li>• <b>Oil Spill Contingency Plan</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>

<p><b>Tornagrain TG01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Watercourse within the site which feeds into the Moray Firth SPA. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included as a developer requirement for site TG01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness Airport IA01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included as a developer requirement for site IA01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness INW14</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage from construction, increase in boat traffic and/or recreational activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirements to be included for site INW14:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoidance of any adverse effects on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA alone or in combination through the preparation of recreational access management plan including satisfactory provision and/or contribution towards open space, path and green network requirements, including mitigation associated with the Inverness to Nairn Coastal Trail.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation, pollution and disturbance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>

<p><b>Inverness INC06</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage, and potential for pollution from possible commercial, industrial, leisure and recreation uses. Also potential for disturbance and physical damage, pollution and alterations to habitat as a result of the development of an expanded port and marina.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirements to be included for site INC06:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any development must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA as a result of loss of or disturbance to or pollution of bird feeding and roosting areas of the SPA or linked to the SPA.</li> <li>• Submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan including method statements and mitigation in relation to: piling; dredging and disposal (in accordance with Marine Scotland Guidance); sourcing of materials for land raising/reclamation; hydro-dynamic assessment of impacts of altered flows on sediment movement in relation to sub-tidal sandbanks; sedimentation; pollution and disturbance.</li> <li>• Avoidance of any adverse effects on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA alone or in combination through the preparation of recreational access management plan including satisfactory provision and/or contribution towards open space, path and green network requirements, including mitigation associated with the Inverness to Nairn Coastal Trail.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness INC09, INC07, INC08</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage, and potential for pollution from possible commercial, industrial, waste management and energy-from-waste uses.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirement to be included for sites INC09, INC07 and INC08:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any development must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA as a result of disturbance to or pollution of the SPA or adjacent bird feeding and roosting areas linked to the SPA.</li> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA by</li> </ul>

	<p>satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management</p> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness INC11</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance physical damage and pollution from possible commercial, industrial, waste management and energy-from-waste uses. In particular there could be an impact from water discharges (leachate from the underlying waste deposits) or from the percussive impacts of piling in construction. Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SPA and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included within Inverness central settlement text:</p> <p>There is potential for a number of developments in central Inverness to have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA alone and in-combination as a result of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new business development and from surface and wastewater discharge from development. The following sites have been identified as potentially having significant effect alone and/or in-combination INC09, INC11, INC07, INC08 on the Moray Firth SPA. Any development proposals on these sites must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA by demonstrating mitigation measures described in developer requirements for the individual development sites below.</p> <p>Following developer requirements where relevant based on location and nature of uses to be included for site allocations INC11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any proposal must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA by the submission with any application of a Piling Method Statement (in accordance with JNCC guidance).</li> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> <li>• Hydro-Dynamic study to assess the impact of altered flows on sediment movement in the firth in relation to subtidal sandbanks.</li> <li>• Marine Mammal Mitigation Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>

<p><b>Inverness</b></p> <p><b>INE03, INE11, INE02, INE13, INE16, INE20, INE22, INE19, INE10, INE08</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage from recreational activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirement to be included for site allocations INE03, INE11, INE02, INE13, INE16, INE20, INE22, INE19, INE10, INE08:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoidance of any adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA/Ramsar alone or in combination through the preparation of recreational access management plan including satisfactory provision and/or contribution towards open space, path and green network requirements, including mitigation associated with the Inverness to Nairn Coastal Trail.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Fort George FG01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage from construction, operation and recreational activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirement to be included for site FG01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoidance of any adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA alone or in combination through the preparation of recreational access management plan including satisfactory provision and/or contribution towards open space, path and green network requirements, including mitigation associated with the Inverness to Nairn Coastal Trail.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Appropriate Assessment In-Combination</b></p>	
<p><b>Nairn NA01 &amp; NA04</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage from recreational activities. Watercourse close to the sites flows into the SPA.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following text to be included within Nairn settlement text:</p> <p>There is potential for development at NA01 both alone and in-combination with NA04 to have an adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SPA as a result of impacts on water quality and recreational disturbance. Any development of these sites will require a public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to</p>

	<p>deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Firth and a Recreation Access Management Plan including awareness raising of potential impacts of water-based activities, satisfactory provision and/or contribution towards open space, path and green network requirements, including mitigation associated with the Inverness to Nairn Coastal Trail to avoid any adverse effects on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA.</p> <p>Following developer requirements to be included for sites NA01 and NA04:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoidance of any adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA alone or in combination through the preparation of a Recreational Access Management Plan including consideration of water based activities. Plan must include satisfactory provision and/or contribution towards open space, path and green network requirements, including mitigation associated with the Inverness to Nairn Coastal Trail.</li> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Tornagrain TG01, Inverness Airport IA01 &amp; IA02</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Watercourses within the sites which feed into the Moray Firth SPA. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included within Tornagrain and Inverness Airport Economic Development Area settlement text:</p> <p>There is also potential for development at TG01 both alone and in combination with IA01 and IA02 to have an adverse effect of the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA as a result of impacts on water quality and disruption. Any development proposals at Tornagrain and/or Inverness Airport Economic Development Area must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SPA alone or in-combination by demonstrating mitigation measures described in developer requirements for TG01, IA01 and IA02 below.</p> <p>Following to be included as developer requirements for sites TG01, IA01 and IA02:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA by</li> </ul>

	<p>satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</p> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness</b></p> <p><b>INC09, INC11, INC07, INC08</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance physical damage and pollution from possible commercial, industrial, waste management and energy-from-waste uses. In particular there could be an impact from water discharges (leachate from the underlying waste deposits) or from the percussive impacts of piling in construction. Foul water may discharge to Moray Firth SPA and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included within Inverness central settlement text:</p> <p>There is potential for a number of developments in central Inverness to have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA alone and in-combination as a result of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new business development and from surface and wastewater discharge from development. The following sites have been identified as potentially having significant effect alone and/or in-combination INC09, INC11, INC07, INC08 on the Moray Firth SPA. Any development proposals on these sites must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA by demonstrating mitigation measures described in developer requirements for the individual development sites below.</p> <p>Following developer requirements where relevant based on location and nature of uses to be included for site allocations INC07, INC08, INC09, INC11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any proposal must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA by the submission with any application of a Piling Method Statement (in accordance with JNCC guidance).</li> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> <li>• Hydro-Dynamic study to assess the impact of altered flows on sediment movement in the firth in relation to subtidal sandbanks.</li> <li>• Marine Mammal Mitigation Plan.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Nigg NG01, Whiteness WH01, Inverness INW14, INC06, Fort George FG01, Castle Stuart CS01, Highland Deephaven HD01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> These allocations have the potential to cause the deterioration or complete loss of roost sites and/or feeding habitat within the SPA due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage from industrial activities, and potential for pollution and alterations to habitat as a result of capital and maintenance works through dredging and disposal, as well as any modification of coastal processes. Also potential for disturbance and physical damage from recreational activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following to be included within Inverness central and Inverness west and relevant Economic Development Areas text:</p> <p>There is potential for a number of developments in central Inverness to have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA alone and in-combination as a result of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new business development and from surface and wastewater discharge from development. The following sites have been identified as potentially having significant effect alone and/or in-combination NG01, WH01, INW14, INC06, FG01, CS01 and HD01 for the Moray Firth SPA. Any development proposals on these sites must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA by demonstrating mitigation measures described in developer requirements for the individual development sites below.</p> <p>Following developer requirements to be included for sites NG01, WH01, INW14, INC06, FG01, CS01 and HD01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any development should have no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA including any modification to the natural processes of the spit and associated capital and maintenance dredging and disposal operations.</li> <li>• Avoidance of any adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA alone or in combination through the preparation of a Recreational Access Management Plan including consideration of water based activities. Plan must include satisfactory provision and/or contribution towards open space, path and green network requirements, including mitigation associated with the Inverness to Nairn Coastal Trail.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness INE03, INE02, INE13, INE16, INE20, INE22,</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Watercourses close to or within the sites feed into the Moray Firth SPA. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p>

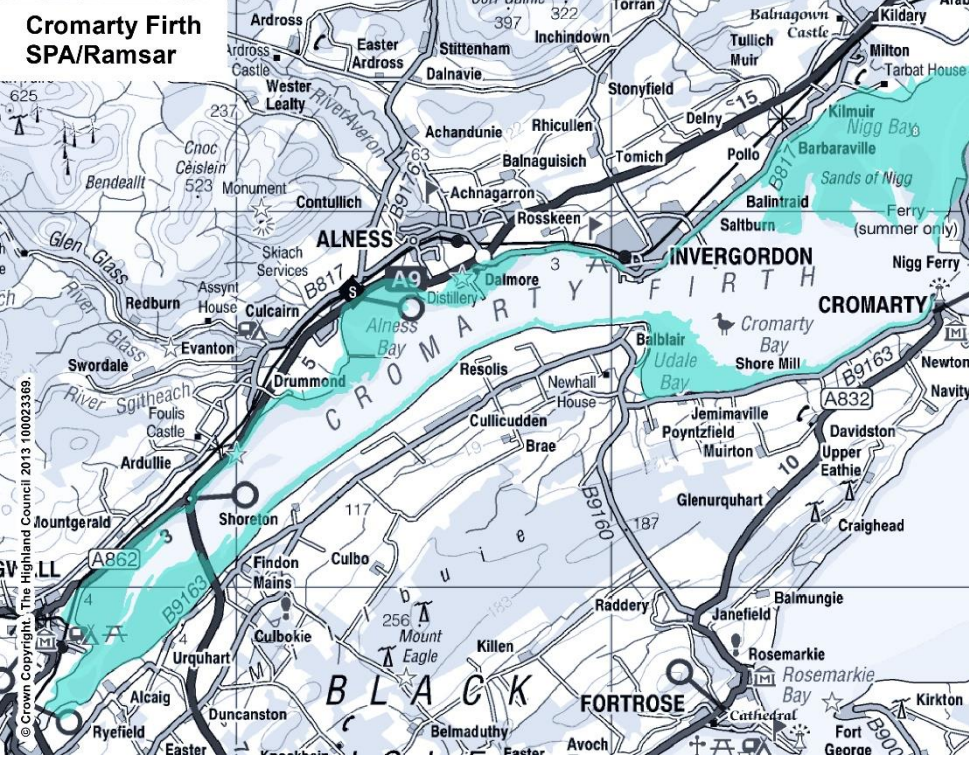


<p><b>INE19, INE10, INE08, INE11</b></p>	<p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following text to be included as a developer requirement for site allocations INE03, INE02, INE13, INE16, INE20, INE22, INE19, INE10, INE08, INE11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Moray Firth SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SPA by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
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## 10. Cromarty Firth Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Cromarty Firth</b>
<b>Designation</b>	<b>SPA and Ramsar</b>
Date of Designation	22 March 1999
Qualifying Interests	<p>SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bar-tailed godwit, non-breeding</li> <li>• Common tern , breeding</li> <li>• Curlew, non-breeding</li> <li>• Dunlin, non-breeding</li> <li>• Greylag goose, non-breeding</li> <li>• Knot, non-breeding</li> <li>• Osprey , breeding</li> <li>• Oystercatcher, non-breeding</li> <li>• Pintail, non-breeding</li> <li>• Red-breasted merganser, non-breeding</li> <li>• Redshank, non-breeding</li> <li>• Scaup, non-breeding</li> <li>• Whooper swan, non-breeding</li> <li>• Wigeon, non-breeding</li> <li>• Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding</li> </ul> <p>Ramsar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding</li> <li>• Greylag goose, non-breeding</li> <li>• Bar-tailed godwit, non-breeding</li> <li>• Intertidal mudflats and sandflats</li> </ul>
Conservation Objectives	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population of the species as a viable component of the site</li> <li>• Distribution of the species within site</li> <li>• Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species</li> <li>• Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species</li> <li>• No significant disturbance of the species</li> </ul>
Condition of the qualifying interests	<p>SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bar-tailed godwit, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Common tern, breeding – Unfavourable Declining</li> <li>• Curlew, non-breeding - Favourable Maintained</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dunlin, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Greylag goose, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Knot, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Osprey, breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Oystercatcher, non-breeding - Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Pintail, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Red-breasted merganser, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Redshank, non-breeding - Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Scaup, non-breeding – Unfavourable No change</li> <li>• Whooper swan, non-breeding - Unfavourable No change</li> <li>• Wigeon, non-breeding - Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding - Favourable Maintained</li> </ul> <p>Ramsar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding - Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Greylag goose, non-breeding - Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Bar-tailed godwit, non-breeding - Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Intertidal mudflats and sandflats - Favourable Maintained</li> </ul>
Factors currently influencing the site	<p>Negative pressures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-native invasive plant species</li> <li>• Recreation/disturbance</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>
Vulnerabilities to change through the potential effects of the plan	<p>Renewables related development proposed for Nigg may have an impact on qualifying interests of the European site. There are other proposed developments around the firth including those at Alness, Maryburgh, Dingwall, Highland Deephaven and Invergordon which may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new development. Potential for impacts upon water quality and hydrology from residential developments and from business and industrial allocations adjacent to the SPA/RAMSAR. Potential for the invasive non-native plant, Common Cord Grass <i>Spartina Anglica</i> to adversely affect saltmarsh habitats if not controlled, which could indirectly affect the SPA bird features.</p> <p>Note this appropriate assessment is for bird features of the SPA only. Non-bird features of this Ramsar are covered by SAC European Designations.</p>

<p>Extent of Natura Site</p>	
<p>Settlement/Site Reference</p>	<p>Impacts and Mitigation</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Minor Residual Effect</b></p>	
<p>Alness AL07</p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Although some distance from Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar, a watercourse along the boundary of the site flows into the SPA. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site AL07:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p>Dingwall DW01</p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Allt Beag watercourse flows into the SPA/Ramsar. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirements for site DW01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which</li> </ul>

	<p>safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</p> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site</p>
<b>Dingwall DW04</b>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Although some distance from Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar, site is adjacent to the River Peffery which flows into the SPA/Ramsar. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site DW04:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<b>Dingwall DW10</b>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Although some distance from Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar, site is adjacent to the Docharty Burn which flows into the River Peffery which ultimately flows into the SPA/Ramsar. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site DW10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<b>Invergordon IG06</b>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Site in close proximity to Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar. Sedimentation and pollution from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site IG06:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>

<p><b>Invergordon IG07</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Site in close proximity to Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar. Sedimentation and pollution from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site IG07:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Appropriate Assessment Alone</b></p>	
<p><b>Alness AL11</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Site adjacent to Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar and development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to potential pollution and disturbance effects. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site AL11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution and mitigation for flood risk.</li> <li>• A Recreational Access Management Plan should be prepared to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar as a result of recreational disturbance to qualifying species.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site</p>
<p><b>Alness AL15</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Site adjacent to Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar and development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to potential pollution and disturbance effects. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site AL15:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA and</li> </ul>

	<p>Ramsar by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution and mitigation for flood risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Recreational Access Management Plan should be prepared to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar as a result of recreational disturbance to qualifying species.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site</p>
<p><b>Highland Deephaven HD01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Site in proximity to Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar and development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to potential pollution and disturbance effects. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirements for site HD01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution and mitigation for disturbance.</li> <li>• <b>Noise Mitigation Plan (including construction and operational phases and disturbance effects)</b></li> <li>• <b>Full compliance with appropriate regulatory frameworks for ballast water discharge, dredging and disposal and ship-to-ship transfers</b></li> <li>• <b>Oil Spill Contingency Plan</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Nigg NG01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Site adjacent to Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar and development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to potential pollution and disturbance effects. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality. Potential for the invasive non-native plant, Common Cord Grass <i>Spartina Anglica</i> to adversely affect saltmarsh habitats if not controlled, which could indirectly affect the SPA bird features.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following text to be included as a developer requirement for site NG01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution, <b>noise, disturbance and avoiding spread of invasive non-native species</b> (Common Cord Grass <i>Spartina Anglica</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Noise Mitigation Plan (including construction and operational phases and disturbance effects)</b></li> <li>• <b>Full compliance with appropriate regulatory frameworks for ballast water discharge, dredging and disposal and ship-to-ship transfers</b></li> <li>• <b>Oil Spill Contingency Plan</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Dingwall DW06</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Site adjacent to Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar. Development (and construction) may impact upon water quality and hydrology.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirements to be included for site DW06:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Dingwall DW07</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Site adjacent to Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar. Development (and construction) may impact upon water quality and hydrology.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirements to be included for site DW07:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>



<p><b>Dingwall DW10</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Although some distance from Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar, site is adjacent to the River Peffery which flows into the SPA/Ramsar. Development (and construction) may impact upon water quality and hydrology.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirements to be included for site DW10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Dingwall DW08</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Site adjacent to Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar. Development (and construction) may impact upon water quality and hydrology. May result in increased recreational disturbance.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirements to be included for site DW08:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> <li>• A Recreational Access Management Plan should be prepared to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar as a result of recreational disturbance to qualifying species.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Invergordon IG04</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Site in close proximity to Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar. Development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new business development. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site IG04:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution, <b>noise and disturbance</b>)</li> <li>• <b>Noise Mitigation Plan (including construction and operational phases and disturbance effects)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Invergordon IG05</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Site adjacent to Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar. Development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new business development. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site IG05:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution, <b>noise and disturbance</b>)</li> <li>• <b>Noise Mitigation Plan (including construction and operational phases and disturbance effects)</b></li> <li>• <b>Full compliance with appropriate regulatory frameworks for ballast water discharge, dredging and disposal and ship-to-ship transfers</b></li> <li>• <b>Oil Spill Contingency Plan</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Maryburgh MB04</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Site in close proximity to Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar. There is potential connectivity if Osprey are using the mature woodland as nesting sites. This is within connectivity distance for this species.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site MB04:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effects on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA/Ramsar by the retention and setback of development from boundary woodland.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Appropriate Assessment In-Combination</b></p>	

<p><b>Alness AL11 &amp; AL15</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Sites adjacent to Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar and development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to potential pollution and disturbance effects.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b></p> <p>Following text added to settlement text for Alness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>There is potential for development at AL11 and AL15 both alone and in-combination</b> to have an adverse effect on the integrity of Cromarty Firth SPA/Ramsar as a result of impacts on water quality, flood risk and recreational disturbance. Any development of these sites will require a public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Firth, mitigation for flood risk and a Recreational Access Management Plan</li> </ul> <p>Following included as developer requirements for sites AL11 and AL15:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution and mitigation for flood risk.</li> <li>• A Recreational Access Management Plan should be prepared to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar as a result of recreational disturbance to qualifying species.</li> <li>• A Recreational Access Management Plan should be prepared to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar as a result of recreational disturbance to qualifying species.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site</p>
<p><b>Dingwall DW06, DW07, DW08, DW09, DW10</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Sites adjacent or in proximity to Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar. Development (and construction) may impact upon water quality and hydrology.</p> <p><b>Mitigation: Following text to be added to Dingwall settlement text:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>There is potential for development at DW06, DW07, DW08, DW09 and DW10 both alone and in-combination with each other</b> to have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar as a result of impacts on water quality. Any development of these sites will require a public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Firth.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site</p>
<p><b>Invergordon IG04 &amp; IG05</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Sites adjacent and in close proximity to Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar. Development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new business development. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b></p> <p>Following included as developer requirements for sites IG04 and IG05:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution, <b>noise and disturbance</b></li> <li>• <b>Noise Mitigation Plan (including construction and operational phases and disturbance effects)</b></li> </ul> <p>Following test to be added to Invergordon settlement text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is potential for development at IG04 and IG05 to have an adverse effect on the integrity of Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar in-combination as a result of potential pollution, sedimentation, noise and disturbance effects. These two sites have been identified as potentially having significant effect in-combination. Any development proposals at IG04 and IG05 must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SAC by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution, <b>noise and disturbance.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site</p>
<p><b>Maryburgh MB02, MB03, MB05 Conon Bridge CB03, CB04</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in impacts on habitats and species due to increased recreational pressure. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b></p> <p>Following included as developer requirements for sites MB02, MB03, MB05, CB03, CB04:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational Access Management Plan to be prepared with a view to the combination of residential development in Maryburgh and Conon Bridge in order that any cumulative adverse effects on</li> </ul>

	<p>the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA/Ramsar as a result of recreational disturbance are avoided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> <li>• In Maryburgh and Conon Bridge settlement text include the following text: There is potential for a number of developments in Maryburgh and Conon Bridge (MB01, MB02, MB03, MB05, CB03, CB04) to have an adverse effect on the integrity of Cromarty Firth SPA/Ramsar in-combination. These sites will be required to ensure avoidance of any adverse effect on the integrity of Cromarty Firth SPA/Ramsar in-combination through the preparation of a recreational access management plan which brings together components relating to open space, paths provision and the wider green network and possible off-site initiatives.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Nigg NG01, Highland Deeplaven HD01, Invergordon IG05</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Sites adjacent to Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar and development of them alone or in-combination may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new business development. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirement to be included for site allocations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution, <b>noise and disturbance</b></li> <li>• <b>Noise Mitigation Plan (including construction and operational phases and disturbance effects)</b></li> <li>• <b>Oil Spill Contingency Plan</b></li> <li>• <b>Full compliance with appropriate regulatory frameworks for ballast water discharge, dredging and disposal and ship-to-ship transfers</b></li> </ul>

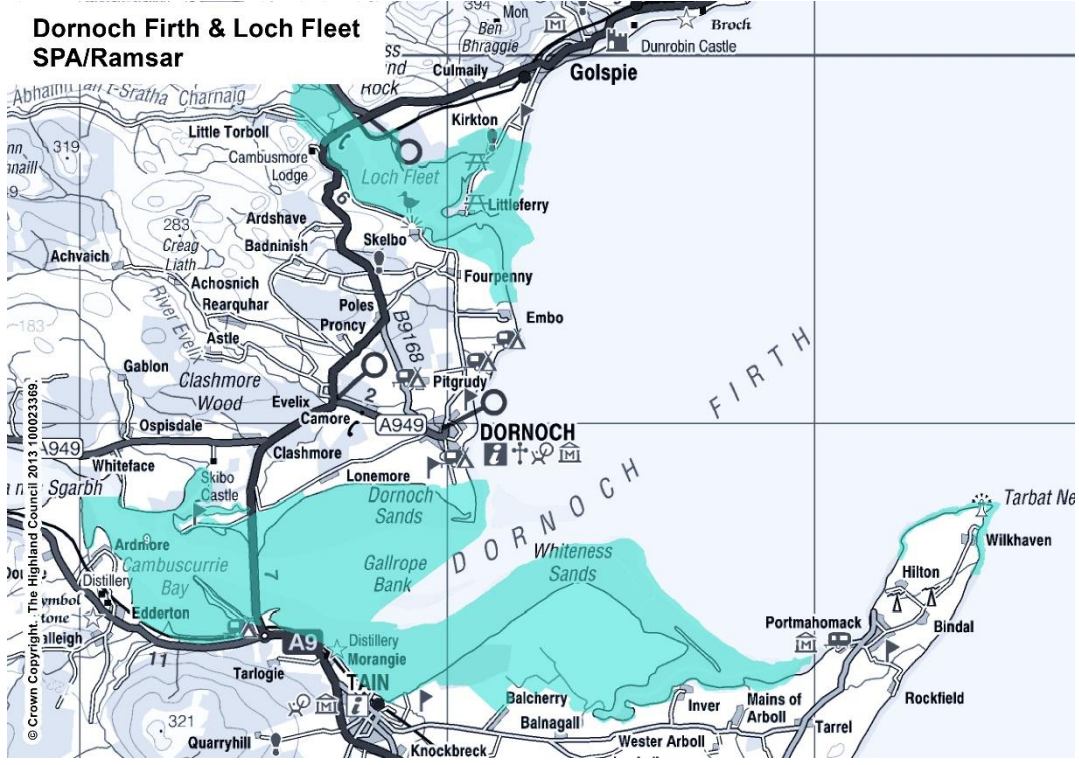
	<p>Following text to be included to the settlement text for Invergordon IG05 and the text EDAs at Nigg NG01 and Highland Deephaven HD01: There is potential for development at Invergordon IG05, Nigg NG01 and Highland Deephaven HD01 to have an adverse effect on the integrity of Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar in-combination as a result of additional noise, pollution, sedimentation and disturbance through construction and operation of new business development and from surface and wastewater discharge from development. Any development of sites at Invergordon IG05, Nigg NG01 and Highland Deephaven HD01 must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Cromarty Firth SPA/RAMSAR by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution, <b>noise and disturbance</b>.</p> <p><b><i>Residual Impact:</i></b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
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11. Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet</b>
<b>Designation</b>	<b>SPA and Ramsar</b>
Date of Designation	24 March 2007
Qualifying Interests	<p>SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Osprey, breeding</li> <li>• Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding</li> <li>• Curlew, non-breeding</li> <li>• Dunlin, non-breeding</li> <li>• Greylag goose, non-breeding</li> <li>• Oystercatcher, non-breeding</li> <li>• Wigeon, non-breeding</li> <li>• Bar-tailed godwit, non-breeding</li> <li>• Teal, non-breeding</li> <li>• Redshank, non-breeding</li> <li>• Scaup, non-breeding</li> </ul> <p>Ramsar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding</li> <li>• Bar-tailed godwit, non-breeding</li> <li>• Greylag goose, non-breeding</li> <li>• Wigeon, non-breeding</li> <li>• Wet woodland</li> <li>• Saltmarsh</li> <li>• Intertidal mudflats and sandflats</li> <li>• Sand dune</li> <li>• Curlew, non-breeding</li> <li>• Dunlin, non-breeding</li> <li>• Harbour seal</li> <li>• Osprey, breeding</li> <li>• Invertebrate assemblage</li> <li>• Otter</li> <li>• Teal, non-breeding</li> <li>• Scaup, non-breeding</li> <li>• Vascular plant assemblage</li> <li>• Oystercatcher, non-breeding</li> <li>• Redshank, non-breeding</li> </ul>
Conservation Objectives	To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed above) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and

	<p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population of the species as a viable component of the site;</li> <li>• Distribution of the species within site;</li> <li>• Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species;</li> <li>• Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species; and</li> <li>• No significant disturbance of the species.</li> </ul>
<p>Condition of the qualifying interests</p>	<p>SPA: All favourable, maintained with the exception of Dunlin, non-breeding which is favourable declining</p> <p>Ramsar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Bar-tailed godwit, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Greylag goose, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Wigeon, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Wet woodland – Unfavourable Declining</li> <li>• Saltmarsh – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Intertidal mudflats and sandflats – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Sand dunes – Unfavourable Declining</li> <li>• Curlew, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Dunlin, non-breeding – Favourable Declining</li> <li>• Harbour seal -Condition not assessed</li> <li>• Osprey, breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Invertebrate assemblage - Condition not assessed</li> <li>• Otter – Condition not assessed</li> <li>• Teal, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Scaup, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Vascular plant assemblage – Condition not assessed</li> <li>• Oystercatcher, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Redshank, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> </ul>
<p>Factors currently influencing the site</p>	<p>Negative pressures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreation/disturbance</li> <li>• Forestry operations</li> <li>• Water management</li> <li>• Natural event</li> <li>• Development</li> <li>• Military activities</li> <li>• Other</li> <li>• Over grazing</li> <li>• Trampling</li> <li>• Agricultural operations</li> <li>• Invasive species</li> <li>• Under grazing</li> </ul>



<p>Vulnerabilities to change through the potential effects of the plan</p>	<p>Development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new development.</p> <p>Potential for impacts upon water quality and hydrology from increased run off from residential developments north of the A9 and from business and industrial allocations adjacent to the SPA.</p> <p>This appropriate assessment is for bird features of the SPA only. Non-bird features of this Ramsar is covered by SAC European Designations.</p>
<p>Extent of Natura Site</p>	
<p>Settlement/Site Reference</p>	<p><b>Impacts and Mitigation</b></p>
<p><b>Minor Residual</b></p>	
<p>Tain TN04</p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Although some distance from Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet SPA watercourses within and surrounding the site flow into the SPA. Surface and wastewater discharge from new development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site TN04:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of the Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>

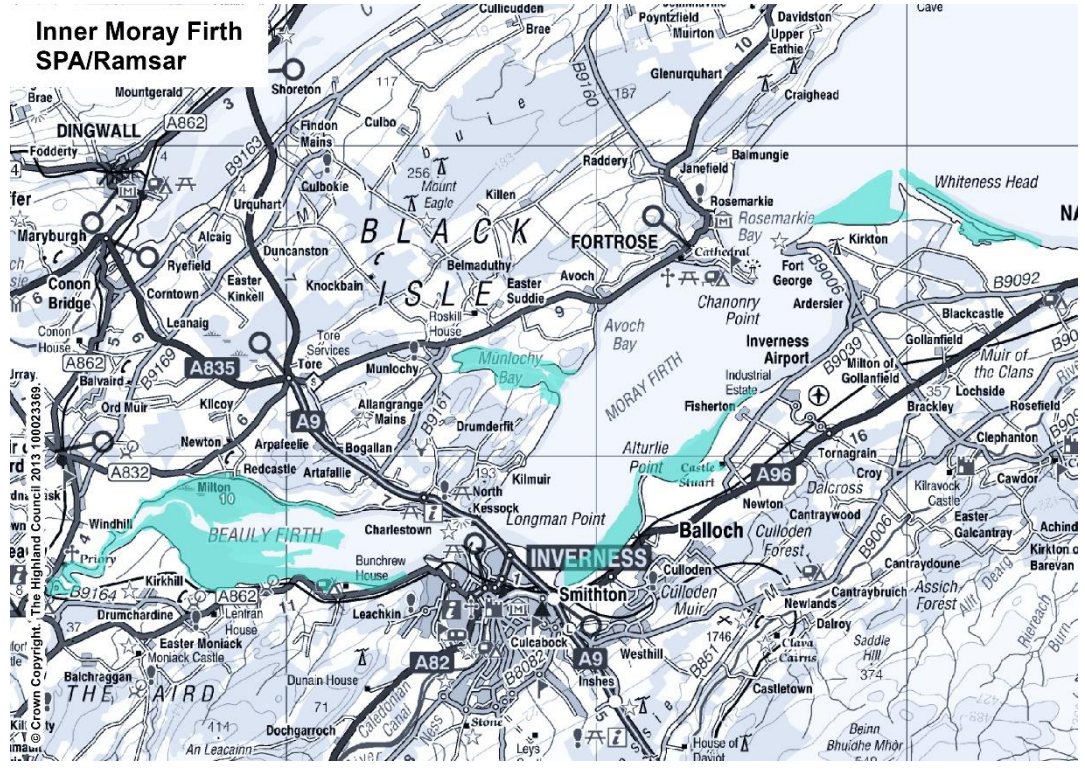
<p><b>Tain TN05</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Although some distance from Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet SPA watercourses within and surrounding the site flow into the SPA. Surface and wastewater discharge from new development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site TN05:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of the Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> <li>• <b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tain TN06</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Although some distance from Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet SPA watercourses within and surrounding the site flow into the SPA. Surface and wastewater discharge from new development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site TN06:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of the Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Appropriate Assessment Alone</b></p>	
<p><b>Tain TN10</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development may result in the deterioration of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new business development.</li> <li>• Surface and wastewater discharge from new developments could have a significant impact on water quality.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as developer requirements for site TN10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of the Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet SPA by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>

<p><b>Tain TN11</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development may result in the deterioration of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new business development.</li> <li>• Surface and wastewater discharge from new developments could have a significant impact on water quality.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as developer requirements for site TN11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of the Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet SPA by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet SPA by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Appropriate Assessment In-Combination</b></p>	
<p><b>Tain TN10 &amp; TN11</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new industrial development.</li> <li>• Surface and wastewater discharge from new developments could have a significant impact on water quality</li> </ul> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following added to settlement text for Tain:</p> <p>There is also potential for development at TN10 and TN11 both alone and in-combination to have an adverse effect on Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet SPA as a result of impacts on water quality. Any development of these sites will require a public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Firth, satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution and an Otter Survey.</p> <p>Following included as developer requirements for sites TN10 &amp; TN11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet SPA to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet SPA by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>

12. Inner Moray Firth Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Inner Moray Firth</b>
<b>Designation</b>	<b>SPA and Ramsar</b>
Date of Designation	22 March 1999
Qualifying Interests	<p>SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common Tern, breeding</li> <li>• Osprey, breeding</li> <li>• Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding</li> <li>• Oystercatcher, non-breeding</li> <li>• Teal, non-breeding</li> <li>• Bar-tailed godwit, non-breeding</li> <li>• Cormorant, non-breeding</li> <li>• Curlew, non-breeding</li> <li>• Goldeneye, non-breeding</li> <li>• Wigeon, non-breeding</li> <li>• Goosander, non-breeding</li> <li>• Greylag goose, non-breeding</li> <li>• Red-breasted merganser, non-breeding</li> <li>• Redshank, non-breeding</li> <li>• Scaup, non-breeding</li> </ul> <p>Ramsar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding</li> <li>• Redshank, non-breeding</li> <li>• Greylag goose, non-breeding</li> <li>• Red-breasted merganser, non-breeding</li> <li>• Bar-tailed godwit, non-breeding</li> <li>• Saltmarsh</li> <li>• Intertidal mudflats and sandflats</li> <li>• Sand dune</li> <li>• Shingle</li> </ul>
Conservation Objectives	<p>To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained.</p> <p>To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population of the species as a viable component of the site</li> <li>• Distribution of the species within site</li> <li>• Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species</li> <li>• No significant disturbance of the species</li> </ul>
Condition of the qualifying interests	<p>SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common Tern, breeding – Unfavourable No change</li> <li>• Osprey, breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Oystercatcher, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Teal, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Bar-tailed godwit, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Cormorant, non-breeding – Unfavourable No change</li> <li>• Curlew, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Goldeneye, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Wigeon, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Goosander, non-breeding – Unfavourable No change</li> <li>• Greylag goose, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Red-breasted merganser, non-breeding – Unfavourable No change</li> <li>• Redshank, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Scaup, non-breeding – favourable Maintained</li> </ul> <p>Ramsar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Redshank, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Greylag goose, non-breeding - Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Red-breasted merganser, non-breeding – Unfavourable No change</li> <li>• Bar-tailed godwit, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Saltmarsh – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Intertidal mudflats and sandflats – Favourable Maintained</li> <li>• Sand dune – Unfavourable No change</li> <li>• Shingle – Favourable Declining</li> </ul>
Factors currently influencing the site	<p>Negative pressures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recreation/disturbance</li> <li>- Other e.g., climate change, food availability</li> </ul>
Vulnerabilities to change through the potential effects of the plan	<p>Potential for disturbance to qualifying interests due to increased presence of people including increased recreational pressures and/or off-site feeding habitat deterioration or loss arising from development in Inverness, Beauly, Munlochy and Muir of Ord. Economic development allocations at Castle Stuart and Fort George also have potential to result in negative impacts. Redevelopment of Whiteness has the potential to cause the deterioration or complete loss of roost sites and/or feeding habitat within the SPA.</p> <p>Note this appropriate assessment is for bird features of the SPA only. Non-bird features of this Ramsar are covered by SAC European Designations.</p>

<p>Extent of Natura Site</p>	
<p>Settlement/Site Reference</p>	<p><b>Impacts and Mitigation</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Minor Residual</b></p>	
<p><b>Beauly BE04</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> A watercourse along the boundary of the site flows into the SPA. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site BE04:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Munlochy ML02</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> A watercourse along the boundary of the site flows into the SPA. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site ML02:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>



<p><b>Inverness INS27</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> A watercourse within the site flows into the SPA. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site INS27:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness INE18</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> A watercourse along the boundary of the site flows into the SPA. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site INE18:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness INE09</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> A watercourse along the boundary of the site flows into the SPA. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site INE09:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness INE14</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> A watercourse within the site flows into the SPA. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site INE14:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to ensure that any adverse effects on the integrity of the SPA and Ramsar are avoided;</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Muir of Ord MO03</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Although some distance from the Inner Moray Firth SPA, a water course runs through site which flows to the SPA. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could lead to sedimentation and pollution entering the SAC and have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site MO03:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<b>Appropriate Assessment Alone</b>	
<p><b>Whiteness WH01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> The industrial allocation has the potential to cause the deterioration or complete loss of roost sites and/or feeding habitat within the SPA due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage from industrial activities, and potential for pollution and alterations to habitat as a result of capital and maintenance works through dredging and disposal, as well as any modification of coastal processes.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirement to be included for site allocation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> <li>Any development should have no adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar including any modification to the natural processes of the spit and associated capital and maintenance dredging and disposal operations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Castle Stuart CS01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage from recreational activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirement to be included for site allocation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoidance of any adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA/Ramsar alone or in combination through the preparation of recreational access management plan including satisfactory provision and/or contribution towards open space, path and green network requirements, including mitigation associated with the Inverness to Nairn Coastal Trail.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Fort George FG01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage from recreational activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirement to be included for site allocation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoidance of any adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA/Ramsar alone or in combination through the preparation of recreational access management plan including satisfactory provision and/or contribution towards open space, path and green network requirements, including mitigation associated with the Inverness to Nairn Coastal Trail.</li> </ul>



	<p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
Inverness INC09	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage, and potential for pollution from possible commercial, industrial, waste management and energy-from-waste uses.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirement to be included for site allocation INC09:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any development must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar as a result of disturbance to or pollution of the SPA or adjacent bird feeding and roosting areas linked to the SPA.</li> <li>• Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
Inverness INC06	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage, and potential for pollution from possible commercial, industrial, leisure and recreation uses. Also potential for disturbance and physical damage, pollution and alterations to habitat as a result of the development of an expanded port and marina.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirement to be included for site allocation INC06:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any development must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar as a result of loss of or disturbance to or pollution of bird feeding and roosting areas of the SPA or linked to the SPA.</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including: prevention of sedimentation and pollution; Piling; Dredging and disposal (in accordance with Marine Scotland Guidance); sourcing of materials for land raising/reclamation; hydro-dynamic assessment of impacts of altered flows on sediment movement in relation to sub-tidal sandbanks.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
Inverness INW14	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage from recreational activities.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirement to be included for site allocation INW14:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoidance of any adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA/Ramsar alone or in combination through the preparation of recreational access management plan including satisfactory provision and/or contribution towards open space, path and green network</li> </ul>

	<p>requirements, including mitigation associated with the Inverness to Nairn Coastal Trail.</p> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<b>Inverness INC11</b>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance physical damage and pollution from possible commercial, industrial, waste management and energy-from-waste uses. In particular there could be an impact from water discharges (leachate from the underlying waste deposits) or from the percussive impacts of piling in construction.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirement to be included for site allocation INC11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any development must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar as a result of disturbance to or pollution of the SPA or adjacent bird feeding and roosting areas linked to the SPA</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European Site.</p>
<b>Inverness INC07</b>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage, and potential for pollution from possible commercial, industrial, waste management and energy-from-waste uses.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirement to be included for site allocation INC07:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any development must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar as a result of disturbance to or pollution of the SPA or adjacent bird feeding and roosting areas linked to the SPA.</li> <li>• Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<b>Inverness INC08</b>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage, and potential for pollution from possible commercial, industrial, waste management and energy-from-waste uses.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirement to be included for site allocation INC08:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any development must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar as a result of disturbance to or pollution of the SPA or adjacent bird feeding and roosting areas linked to the SPA.</li> <li>• Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness</b>  <b>INE07, INE05</b>  <b>INE06, INE04,</b>  <b>INE03, INE02,</b>  <b>INE13, INE16</b>  <b>INE20, INE22,</b>  <b>INE11, INE17,</b>  <b>INE24, INE19</b>  <b>INE12</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage from recreational activities and off-site feeding habitat loss. Watercourses within or close to the sites flows into the SPA. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirement to be included for site allocations INE07, INE05 INE06, INE04, INE03, INE02, INE13, INE16 INE20, INE22, INE11, INE17, INE24, INE19 INE12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoidance of any adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA/Ramsar alone or in combination through the preparation of a recreation access management plan, which brings together components relating to open space, paths provision and the wider green network (including mitigation works in connection with the Inverness-Nairn Coastal Trail).</li> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to ensure that any adverse effects on the integrity of the SPA and Ramsar are avoided;</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness</b>  <b>Airport IA01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> There are watercourses within the site which eventually feeds into the Inner Moray Firth SPA. Foul water may discharge to the SPA and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site IA01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness</b>  <b>Airport IA02</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> There are watercourses within the site which eventually feeds into the Inner Moray Firth SPA. Foul water may discharge to the SPA and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site IA02:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Tornagrain TG01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> There are watercourses within the site which eventually feeds into the Inner Moray Firth SPA. Foul water may discharge to the SPA and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site TG01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Appropriate Assessment In-Combination</b></p>	
<p><b>Muir of Ord MO01 &amp; MO02</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> A watercourse along the boundary of the site flows into the SPA. Surface and wastewater discharge from development could have a significant impact on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for site MO01 &amp; MO02:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of no adverse effect on the integrity of Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar by public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system which safeguards water quality and avoids sedimentation and other pollution reaching the Firth</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Whiteness WH01, Inverness INW14, Inverness INC06, Castle Stuart CS01, Fort George FG01</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage, and potential for pollution from possible commercial, industrial, leisure and recreation uses. Also potential for disturbance and physical damage, pollution and alterations to habitat as a result of the development of an expanded port and marina.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirement to be included for site allocation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any development must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar as a result of loss of or disturbance to or pollution of bird feeding and roosting areas of the SPA or linked to the SPA.</li> <li>• Submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan including method statements and mitigation in relation to: Piling; Dredging and disposal (in accordance with Marine Scotland Guidance); sourcing of materials for land raising/reclamation; hydro-dynamic assessment of impacts of altered flows on sediment movement in relation to sub-tidal sandbanks.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness INC09, INC11, INC07 &amp; INC08</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the deterioration or loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage, and potential for pollution from possible commercial, industrial, leisure and recreation uses. Also potential for disturbance and physical damage, pollution and alterations to habitat as a result of the development of an expanded port and marina.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirements where relevant based on location and nature of uses to be included for site allocations INC07, INC08, INC09, INC11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any development must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar as a result of disturbance to or pollution of the SPA or adjacent bird feeding and roosting areas linked to the SPA.</li> <li>• Submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan including method statements and mitigation in relation to: Piling; Dredging and disposal (in accordance with Marine Scotland Guidance); sourcing of materials for land raising/reclamation; hydro-dynamic assessment of impacts of altered flows on sediment movement in relation to sub-tidal sandbanks.</li> <li>• <b>Following text to be added to Inverness Central settlement text: There is potential for a number of developments to have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA alone and in combination as a result of additional noise, pollution and disturbance through construction and operation of new business development and from surface and wastewater discharge from development. The following sites have been identified as potentially having significant effect in-combination - INC07, INC08, INC09 &amp; INC11. Any developments proposals at sites INC07, INC08, INC09 &amp; INC11 must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Moray Firth SAC.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness INE07, INE05, INE06, INE04, INE03, INE02, INE13, INE15, INE16, INE20, INE22, INE11, INE17, INE19, INE10, INE08, INE12</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage from recreational activities and off-site feeding habitat loss</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirement to be included for site allocations INE07, INE05, INE06, INE04, INE03, INE02, INE13, INE15, INE16, INE20, INE22, INE11, INE17, INE19, INE10, INE08, INE12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoidance of any adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA/Ramsar alone or in combination through satisfactory provision and/or contribution towards open space, path and green network requirements, including mitigation associated with the Inverness to Nairn Coastal Trail</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>

<p><b>TG01, IA01 &amp; IA02</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Watercourses within the sites which eventually feed into the Inner Moray Firth SPA. Foul water may discharge to the SPA and may affect water quality therefore impacting upon the condition of the habitat.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following included as a developer requirement for sites TG01, IA01 &amp; IA03:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sewer connection and comprehensive sustainable urban drainage system to deal with surface water run-off to avoid sedimentation and pollution reaching the Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar to avoid an adverse effect on its integrity</li> <li>• Development proposals must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA and Ramsar by satisfactory submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan and Operational Environmental Management Plan both including prevention of sedimentation and pollution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>
<p><b>Inverness INE03, INE11, INE02, INE13, INE16, INE20, INE22, INE19, INE10, INE08</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Impact:</b> Development may result in the loss of habitats and/or species due to the creation of additional noise, disturbance and physical damage from recreational activities and off-site feeding habitat loss</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> Following developer requirement to be included for site allocations INE03, INE11, INE02, INE13, INE16, INE20, INE22, INE19, INE10, INE08:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoidance of any adverse effect on the integrity of the Inner Moray Firth SPA/Ramsar alone or in combination through satisfactory provision and/or contribution towards open space, path and green network requirements, including mitigation associated with the Inverness to Nairn Coastal Trail.</li> </ul> <p><b>Residual Impact:</b> No residual adverse effect on the integrity of the European site.</p>

## 7 Conclusion

7.5 All European sites potentially affected by IMFLDP2 have been identified and mapped, and all policies, policy tools and proposals contained within the plan have been screened both individually and cumulatively to determine the likelihood of significant effects on these European sites that may arise due to their implementation. Policy tools and policies which have been identified as having no effect on European sites have been listed and detailed in Tables 2 and 3, including reasons for the decision to screen them out. Projects referred to in, but not proposed by IMFLDP2 have been listed in Table 4 and accordingly screened out. Proposals which would have no effect on any European site have been listed in Table 5. The remaining proposals likely to have a significant effect on a European site either alone or in combination were identified and listed in Tables 6-8 as requiring Appropriate Assessment either alone and/or in combination.

7.6 The results of these assessments, including mitigation in the form of added developer requirements to the Plan, have been detailed and reasoned in the European site tables contained in section 6. As a result The Highland Council concludes that, with the mitigation set out in this HRA and Appropriate Assessment, which has been incorporated into the Plan, the policies, policy tools and proposals within IMFLDP2, will either have no likely significant effects on European sites, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, or will not adversely affect the integrity of European sites, again either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.

## Appendix 1

In agreement with NatureScot the European sites listed below have been screened out of the HRA as there is no link or pathway between the qualifying interests and development sites in the plan.

### Special Areas of Conservation

- Ben Wyvis
- Carn nan Tri-tighearnan
- Cawdor Wood
- Culbin Bar
- Dam Wood
- Kinveachy Forest
- Loch Achnacloich
- Loch Ruthven
- Loch Ussie
- Lower Findhorn Woods
- Moidach More
- Monadh Mor
- Monadhliath
- Moniack Gorge
- Ness Woods
- Pitmaduthy Moss
- River Spey
- Slochd
- Strathglass Complex

### Special Protection Areas

- Ben Wyvis
- Darnaway and Lethen Forest
- Glen Affric to Strathconon
- Kinveachy Forest
- Loch Knockie and nearby Lochs
- North Inverness Lochs
- Novar
- West Inverness-shire Lochs

### Special Protection Areas and Ramsars

- Loch Eye
- Loch Ruthven
- Moray and Nairn Coast