South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan

Main Issues Report





2017

Habitats Regulations Appraisal

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Content

1 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) Record is to set out sufficient information on the Main Issues Report (MIR) and the development of the South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2 (SLLDP) to satisfy the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EC Habitats Directive. This Plan will replace the existing South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan prepared by the Council and adopted in 2015.

Requirements of the Habitats Regulations for Local Development Plan

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that any plan or project, which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site, but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to an 'appropriate assessment' of its implications for the European site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of that assessment, and subject to the provisions of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, the competent authority (i.e. in this context South Lanarkshire Council as the plan-making body) shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, having obtained the opinion of the general public.

1.2 The requirements of the Directive have been transposed into domestic legislation in Scotland by The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, as amended (abbreviated here after as the 'the Habitats Regulations'). The process of a Habitats Regulations Appraisal encompasses the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. The Habitats Regulations set out a step-by-step sequence of statutory procedures to be followed, which are designed to test the potential effects of plans and projects on European sites. This process provides a rigid structure, as shown in **Figure 1**, which is integrated into the plan-making procedure.

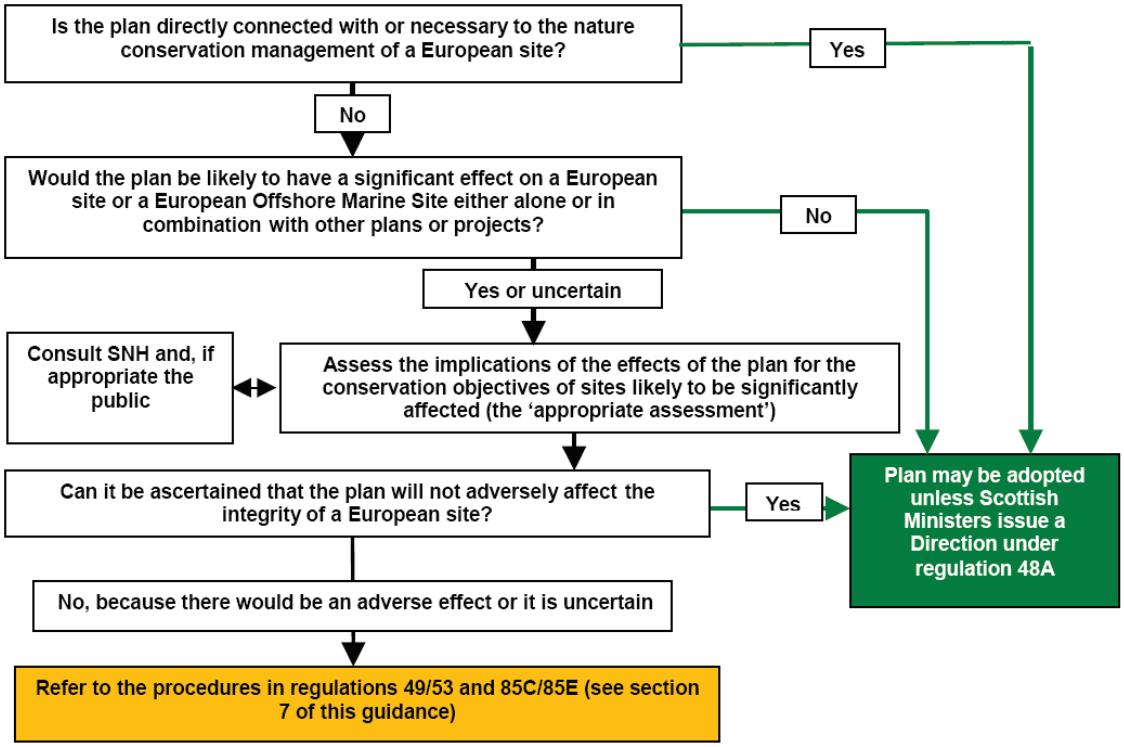


Figure 1: Procedures required by Regulation 48 and 45B of the Habitats Regulations.

1.3 Following a ruling by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in October 2005, Development Plans, such as the proposed SLLDP should be subject to assessment in the same way as

individual projects require assessment, under the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive.

1.4 The Habitats Regulations require the Council (as the Competent Authority) to consider prior to submitting the SLLDP:

- whether the plan is likely to have a significant effect on such site(s); and
- where this is the case an appropriate assessment has been carried out of the likely impacts.

1.5 The Council has followed the guidance in Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans: Guidance for Plan-Making bodies in Scotland Version 3.0 January 2015 in undertaking the HRA for the SLLDP.

Natura 2000 is the Europe-wide network of Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation, in all Member states, that is intended to provide protection for bird species and assemblages in accordance with the Birds Directive, and for the species and habitats listed in Annexes 1 and 2 of the Habitats Directive.

1.6 The Habitats Directive applies the precautionary principle to SPAs and SACs, therefore the SLLDP can only be permitted after ascertaining that all aspects of the plan will not adversely affect the integrity of any identified designated site(s) and that the interest features are maintained so as to avoid deterioration of both habitats and significant disturbance of species.

1.7 Under the provisions of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, where it cannot be shown that a plan or project will not have a significant effect on the integrity of a site (where there are no priority habitats) these may still be permitted, if there are no alternatives to them and the 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' test substantiates that they should go ahead. In such cases, compensation will be required to ensure the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network is protected.

1.8 There is a legislative requirement to assess the potential impacts associated with the development of the proposed SLLDP, as such the HRA has been started at the early MIR stages and will be continued and presented for consultation at the later stages of developing the policies within the SLLDP.

2 Habitats Regulations Appraisal Process

2.1 The purpose of this appraisal is to assess the impacts of the both the MIR and the proposed SLLDP. Within the MIR the HRA will consider the potential for likely significant effects on European sites through the screening of the proposed 'call for sites' development sites and the development of the policy direction including the preferred and alternative options as set out in the MIR. At the MIR stage of developing options, the potential implications for European sites will not be discussed at any length (i.e. through to the Appropriate Assessment stage) but will inform the options set out in the MIR. The associated SEA will provide further information to inform the options taken forward within the development of the SLLDP. The development sites put forward through the MIR will be screened for their potential for likely significant effects on European sites (as set out in the guidance – **Stage 5** to **7**), to inform the site selection process. Following on from the MIR stage, the potential for likely significant effects on European sites will be assessed for the policies set out within the SLLDP Proposed Plan and the development sites taken forward (i.e. **Stage 5** onwards).

2.2 The aim of the HRA is to assess both the MIR and SLLDP against the conservation objectives and qualifying features of the relevant European sites. The assessment will determine whether the proposed SLLDP would not adversely affect the integrity of any site within South Lanarkshire area (and adjacent Authorities) in terms of the nature conservation objectives of the site. If any negative effects remain after mitigation has been identified then other options will be examined to determine whether these would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European Site.

Methodology of the Assessment Process

2.3 The Habitats Regulations set out a step-by-step sequence of statutory procedures to be followed. The sequence is a series of steps which are designed to test the potential effects of plans and projects on European sites. The HRA for the SLLDP has been followed in sequence as set out in the SNH Guidance 2015 in order to comply with the requirements of the Directive. The sequence set out in the SNH Guidance provides a systematic structure to the appraisal process, as shown in **Figure 2**.

2.4 Undertaking the HRA at the MIR stage allows for the assessment to include screening potential development sites, whilst at the same time inform the policy options that would be taken forward to the SLLDP. The Guidance prescribes a recommended methodology and reporting process, this procedure has been replicated within the HRA.

2.5 The scope and content of the HRA has been developed through consultation with SNH and by taking into consideration the following documents:

- European Commission, Managing Natura 2000 Sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC;
- European Commission (2001), Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Nature 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC;
- Scottish Government (2013) Circular 6 2013 Development Planning;
- Scottish Natural Heritage (2015) Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans: Guidance for plan-making bodies in Scotland.

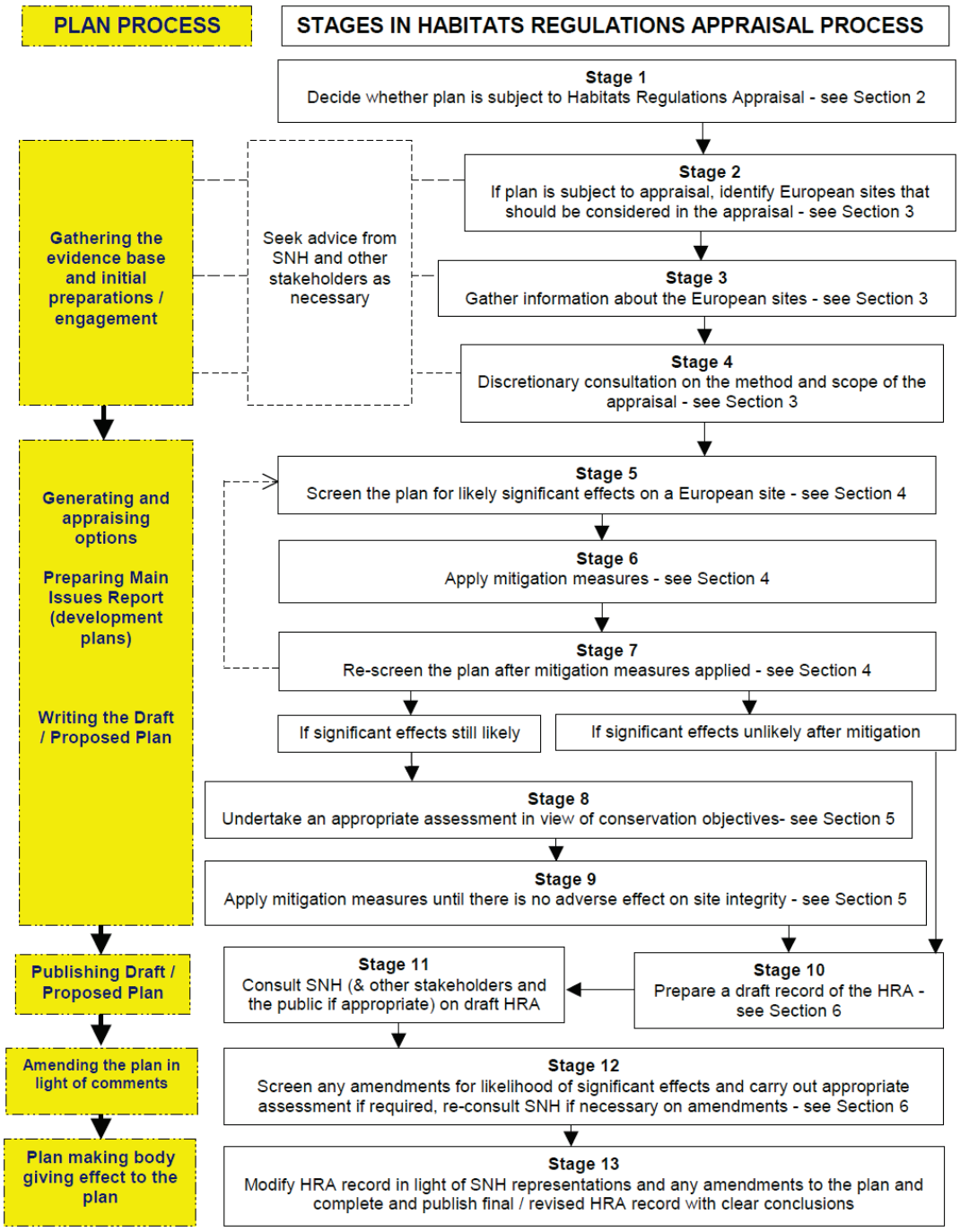


Figure 2. Key stages of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal Process followed through the development of the South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment

2.6 The SLLDP has been subject to SEA in accordance with the requirements of the EC SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. This report has been prepared in conjunction with the SEA and provides a more detailed assessment of the potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites.

3 South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2

Background to the Local Development Plan

3.1 Preparation of the SLLDP is a requirement of Part 2 of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006. This requires planning authorities to prepare local development plans for all parts of their area and allows for different local development plans to be prepared for different purposes for the same part of any authority area.

3.2 The proposed SLLDP 2 will consist of a series of policies and justification for them, aimed at directing and managing developments that support the move towards a more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable society. The proposed SLLDP 2 will, therefore, focus on supporting sustainable economic growth and the development of quality sustainable places. These policies will be supported by maps outlining proposed development sites and constraints. As SLLDP 1 was recently adopted in 2015 only those policy areas where change is required will be addressed in SLLDP2. A key change will be the incorporation of Minerals policies within LDP2. The Council currently has a separate Minerals LDP adopted in 2012. With the demise of the coal industry in South Lanarkshire a decision has been taken to no longer produce a separate Minerals Local Development Plan but to include appropriate policies within LDP2 and produce a separate Statutory Supplementary Guidance document dealing with all aspects of mineral development that remain relevant within South Lanarkshire.

Content of the plan

3.3 The SLLDP is a spatial strategy based upon the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan's wider framework for the development across the area which focuses on the principles of a low carbon economy, of competitiveness and growth based on sustainable development and emphasises the key future economic role of the city-regions. The SLLDP will build on these principles and develop a plan that conforms to the SDP principles and meets the aims and objectives of other South Lanarkshire strategies such as the Council Plan, the Sustainable Development Strategy, Economic Strategy, the Local Housing Strategy and the Local Transport Strategy. This will be presented by maps of the area and a written statement setting out the key policies and proposals of the SLLDP.

3.4 The adopted LDP is accompanied by ten Statutory Supplementary Guidance documents which set out more detailed policy and guidance in support of the policies within the LDP. These SG were all subject to HRA process. As Statutory SG falls with the plan, these documents will be refreshed and subject to public consultation. The HRA for the existing SG will be updated as part of this process. In addition new SG for Minerals Development will be prepared and will be subject to HRA.

Proposed policy context of the Local Development Plan

3.5 The SLLDP will link to existing Plans, Policies and Strategies (PPS), whilst at the same time it is intended that it will be influenced and have an influence on future strategic development planning by the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority in preparing and updating the Strategic Development Plan (GCVSDP). The SLLDP is directly and indirectly influenced by a number of international, national and regional PPS (see **Figure 3**).

3.6 Scottish planning authorities are legally required to prepare and keep up-to-date plans relating to the development and use of land within their boundaries, reflecting European and National legislative requirements. The MIR focuses on areas where there is significant change in policy direction since the previous local plan was prepared and adopted. The MIR sets out the main issues arising from both consultation and engagement with the community, key agencies and

stakeholders and from the need to address the way in which economic, social and environmental conditions have changed since the preparation of the previous Local Development Plan. It describes how these issues can be addressed in the SLLDP along with possible alternatives. It is important to note that it is not a draft plan and does not include any policies and proposals; rather it sets out the Council's preferred approach for dealing with the issues raised. However, unlike previous MIR it does identify site specific potential development opportunities.

Figure 3 General relationship between South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan and other International, National and Regional PPS.

4 Habitats Regulations Appraisal

4.1 The Scottish Government guidance requires the responsible authority to determine which, if any, elements of the plan would be likely to have a significant effect on any interest/feature of any European site. During the preparation of the SLLDP the MIR is produced which sets out the main issues and options being considered.

4.2 Generally it is not possible at this stage to discuss any detailed implications for European sites however the initial stages of the assessment have been carried out for the MIR and presented through the draft HRA for early consultation with SNH alongside the MIR. This report covers **Stages 2** to **5** of the proposed assessment outline (see **Figure 2**), identifying the sites to be covered by the appraisal (**Stage 2**), gathering information on sites (**Stage 3**) and consultation on the method and scope of the appraisal (**Stage 4**). The initial assessment carried out for the MIR identified that a number of the suggested development sites proposed through the 'call for sites' have the potential to adversely impact Natura sites and that further assessment would be required to determine impacts on the sites qualifying interests, and to propose adequate mitigation measures. Therefore the draft HRA has also undertaken **Stage 5** to screen the potential development sites for likely effects on Natura sites.

Stage 1 - Identifying the need for a HRA

4.3 In accordance with SNH guidance (**Stage 1** of the Guidance) the SLLDP was identified as a local development plan and therefore based on this information, a Habitats Regulations Appraisal was required.

Stage 2 - Identifying European Sites

4.4 The first main stage of the HRA is to identify European sites that should be considered in the appraisal. The identification of relevant sites was conducted in consultation with SNH, through the initial SEA scoping process. The following sites have been identified as having the potential to be affected by the plan and are thus relevant to the assessment:
Table 4.1 European Sites

European sites within the plan area	**Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)** Braehead Moss Cranley Moss Coalburn Moss Red Moss Waukenwae Moss Clyde Valley Woodlands (small area also within North Lanarkshire) Craigengar (mainly within West Lothian, but small areas within South Lanarkshire & Scottish Borders) **Special Protection Areas (SPAs)** Muirkirk & North Lowther Uplands (also extends into East Ayrshire & Dumfries & Galloway)
European sites outside the plan area but which have hydrological links to South Lanarkshire	**Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)** River Tweed (located in the Scottish Borders and Northumberland, with small undesignated tributaries

	located within South Lanarkshire) **Special Protection Areas (SPAs)** Inner Clyde **(**Located within Argyll and Bute / Renfrewshire / West Dunbartonshire / Inverclyde. but linked to South Lanarkshire via the River Clyde.
European sites outside the plan area but which could be affected by increased deposition of air pollutants arising from proposals within South Lanarkshire	**Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)** North Shotts Moss
European sites outside the plan area but which have ecological connectivity to South Lanarkshire for other reasons	**Special Protection Areas (SPAs)** Westwater (Located within the Scottish Borders. As many of the pink-footed geese which are a qualifying interest of the SPA feed on the Clyde floodplain between Lamington and Carstairs Junction, there are significant ecological links between the site and the plan area)

4.5 There are no Ramsar sites identified within South Lanarkshire. Westwater and Inner Clyde are Ramsar sites. However all Ramsar sites are also Natura sites and/or Sites of Special Scientific Interest and are protected under the relevant statutory regimes - and therefore Westwater and Inner Clyde only need to be considered under the SPA designation. **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2** provides detailed information for SAC and SPA sites (respectively) and their qualifying interests.

Stage 3 – Gathering information about the European Sites

4.6 Information about the relevant European sites identified in **Stage 2**, including details of the qualifying interests, conservation objectives and site condition, was obtained from SNH's *SiteLink* with additional information obtained from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). Map based information on the presence and boundaries of European sites were originally obtained from SNH and subsequently provided through the Council's internal GIS system. This identified proposed development sites and their connectivity to the European sites.

4.7 The qualifying interests potentially affected vary between the different European sites. It is necessary to consider how the plan's policies and proposals may affect the achievement of the conservation objectives for each qualifying interest of each site. In undertaking the appraisal the following were considered;

- the condition of the qualifying interests
- the pressures for change acting upon them, and
- the ways in which they may be vulnerable to changes likely to come from the plan being assessed.

Stage 4 – proposed method and scope of the appraisal

4.8 Although there is no requirement to consult at this stage, the intention of this draft HRA is to provide SNH with a basis of the methodology to-date for the MIR of the Local Development Plan. The draft HRA provides the initial scope for identifying the development sites within the MIR and the European sites potentially affected.

4.9 The aim of this informal consultation is to help focus the appraisal on the key issues and effects that could potentially impede or influence the plan and avoid undertaking unnecessary work. In addition to agreeing the list of European sites potentially affected (**Stage 2** above), the Council intends to adopt the method set out within the SNH Guidance. In addition the Council has undertaken early work on screening, providing a list of potential development sites which may require (if taken on to the Development Plan) further appraisal. The draft HRA also considers parts of the MIR including preferred and alternative options in relation to whether they could have a potential likely significant effect on a European site.

Stage 5 – Screening the Plan for likely significant effects

Call for Sites

4.10 Through the preparation of the MIR, the Council invited landowners, developers and agents to bring forward any sites for consideration for inclusion in the SLLDP. This generated *c.* 112 sites identified as potential development sites for the allocations of land in addition to that already identified through the adopted Local Development Plan. These sites require to be considered against emerging spatial strategy, impact on infrastructure and environmental considerations.

4.11 These sites have been assessed against a number of different criteria including flooding, landscape, accessibility, location, development capacity and environmental constraints. All of the sites and their assessment are included in the Site Assessment Technical Report which accompanies the MIR. Each of the potential development sites contained within the MIR have also been assessed through the HRA to identify any site (or the combination of sites) that would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site. The sites were assessed against the European sites described in detail in **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2**. This is summarised in table 1.

Table 1: Potential for effects on European sites through 'Call for sites' submissions.

European Site	**Qualifying features**	**Pressure on European site (*potential mitigation measures*)**	**Risk Assessment**
Braehead Moss SAC	**Annex I Habitats** Active Raised Bog Degraded raised bog still capable of natural regeneration	This peat bog has complex origins in that it has arisen from peat developing in two separate basins, which have now fused, therefore development that affects the local hydrology of the basins could affect the integrity of the site.	None of the proposed development sites have connectivity to the SAC to cause likely significant effects on the European site
Clyde Valley Woodlands SAC	**Annex I Habitats** Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines	Clyde Valley Woods represents the most extensive complex of woodland gorges with *Tilio-Acerion* forests. Local development could potentially result in greater fragmentation of the ancient woodland, potentially affecting the integrity of the SAC. *Potential mitigation measures could include reducing in the size of proposed development*	**Potential Impact –** There are a number of sites located close to the European site: HM12/001 c. 500m CL10/005 c. 800m These sites can be screened out as they have no connectivity with the SAC HM12/003 c. 430m HM11/004 c.110m CL21/002 c.230m

European Site	Qualifying features	Pressure on European site (*potential mitigation measures*)	Risk Assessment
		sites that are considered close to the boundary of the SAC, with the removal of all those sites that directly encroach within the boundary of the SAC and those sites that could result in further fragmentation of the supporting habitats within the Clyde Valley SSSI.	CL38/003 c.300m CL/38/004 c. 500m CL38/005 c. 500m It is considered that any impacts from these sites would be too restricted to undermine the Conservation Objectives. There is one proposed development site located adjoining the boundary of the European Site CL/21/001 The location and size of this development site could cause likely significant effects on the European Site and further assessment would be required if it were to be included in the Plan CL41/004 could also impact the Clyde Valley Woods if significant emissions are a feature of the proposed industrial end use.
Coalburn Moss SAC	**Annex I Habitats** Active Raised Bog Degraded raised bog still capable of natural regeneration	Coalburn Moss retains an extensive primary dome, although this is now confined by two abandoned railway lines. The site contains large tracts of vigorous bog-moss-dominated vegetation. Development close to the raised bog could potentially affect the hydrology of the site. *Potential mitigation measures should ensure that the development site and associated drainage does not impinge on the hydrology of the SAC*	**Potential impact –** Two sites CL41/002 and CL41/004 are within 1km of SAC boundary. CL41/002 considered unlikely to have significant impact CL41/004 potential to indirectly impact Coalburn Moss if the potential industrial use of the site included the type of activity that would generate regular emissions

European Site	Qualifying features	Pressure on European site (*potential mitigation measures*)	Risk Assessment
Craigengar SAC	**Annex I Habitats** European dry heaths Species-rich *nardus* grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe) **Annex II Species** Marsh Saxifrage (*saxifrage hirculus*) (largest population in Scotland)	Craigengar contains a large population of marsh saxifrage *Saxifraga hirculus* in base-rich flushes in an area of upland heather moorland. The maintenance of the population of yellow marsh saxifrage at this site is dependent upon the continuation of low-intensity extensive grazing, and the avoidance of damaging drainage operations that could potentially affect richness of the SAC.	None of the proposed development sites have connectivity to the SAC to cause likely significant effects on the European site
Cranley Moss SAC	**Annex I Habitats** Active Raised Bog Degraded raised bog still capable of natural regeneration	Cranley Moss is a 'classic' raised bog, with a distinct and clearly defined active dome rising from a flat flood-plain long since converted to agricultural use. Much of the bog margin is intact, with most of the original lagg fen transition reclaimed. Development close to the site could potentially affect the hydrology of the SAC.	None of the proposed development sites have connectivity to the SAC to cause likely significant effects on the European site
Red Moss SAC	**Annex I Habitats** Active Raised Bog	Red Moss is a small site comprising three slightly domed areas of active raised bog together with associated lagg fen communities. Development close to the site and associated fen area could potentially affect the hydrology of the SAC.	None of the proposed development sites have connectivity to the SAC to cause likely significant effects on the European site
Waukenwae Moss SAC	**Annex I Habitats** Active Raised Bog Degraded raised bog still capable of natural regeneration	Waukenwae Moss has extensive areas of active raised bog displaying *Sphagnum*-hollows and hummocks. Development close to the site could potentially affect the hydrology of the SAC.	None of the proposed development sites have connectivity to the SAC to cause likely significant effects on the European site

European Site	Qualifying features	Pressure on European site (*potential mitigation measures*)	Risk Assessment
Muirkirk & North Lowther Uplands SPA	**Qualifying Species** Golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*), breeding Birds Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), non-breeding Birds Merlin(*Falco columbarius*), breeding Birds Peregrine(*Falco peregrinus*), breeding Birds Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), breeding Birds	Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands comprises of upland habitats and Airds Moss, a low-lying blanket bog. The predominant habitats include semi-natural areas of blanket bog, acid grassland and heath, with a range of blanket bog and wet heath types. There are 3 areas of the SPA located within South Lanarkshire, with small foraging areas for the qualifying species located out with the SPA boundary.	None of the proposed development sites have connectivity to the SAC to cause likely significant effects on the European site
River Tweed SAC	**Annex I Habitats** Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion Fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation **Annex II Species** Atlantic Salmon Otter Sea Lamprey Brook Lamprey River Lamprey	The Tweed is a species-rich river and estuary habitat, with the high ecological diversity reflects the mixed geology of the catchment. Although the SAC out-with South Lanarkshire there are smaller tributary burns located within South Lanarkshire. The main impacts on the river network are from point source pollution, acidification and eutrophication, river-works and bankside management. Development close to the tributary burns would potentially affect the status of the river network, through disturbance to the ecology and nutrient status of the water.	None of the proposed development sites have connectivity to the SAC to cause likely significant effects on the European site
Westwater SPA	**Qualifying Feature – aggregations of non breeding birds** Pink footed goose (*Anser Brachyrhychus*) Waterfowl assemblage	Westwater Reservoir is an artificial water supply reservoir providing a winter roost for many wildfowl. The geese feed in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA. Although the SAC is located out-with South Lanarkshire, significant feeding areas are located within South Lanarkshire. *Potential mitigation measures could restrict the timing of development to reduce potential*	**Potential Impact -** There are a number of proposed development sites located within 20km of Westwater and therefore have connectivity with the SPA, including; CL04/001 CL04/002 CL/04003 CL/12/001 CL12/002 CL23/001 CL23/002 CL23/003 CL23/004 CL55/001

European Site	Qualifying features	Pressure on European site (*potential mitigation measures*)	Risk Assessment
		disturbance between September to April, with height restrictions imposed on those sites directly within the flight path of the qualifying feature.	CL58001 CL58/002 CL61/001 CL68/002 On an individual basis the location and size of these development sites is not considered to cause likely significant effects on the European Site as any impacts would be too restricted to undermine the Conservation Objectives.
Inner Clyde SPA	**Qualifying Species** Redshank (Tringa totanus) non breeding	The Inner Clyde is a long, narrow, heavily industrialised estuary on the west coast of Scotland. The Inner Clyde SPA covers 1826 ha within the local authority areas of Argyll and Bute, West Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde. It contains extensive intertidal flats which support large numbers of wintering waterfowl Including an internationally important wintering population of redshank (Tringa totanus). The site is outwith South Lanarkshire however there is potential connectivity via the River Clyde. Physical or chemical pollution could move downstream to intertidal areas used by wintering redshank and any physical changes to the River Clyde might alter sediment dynamics.	**Potential impact** Two sites are located on the banks of the River Clyde: CR01/001 CR02/008 These are previously developed sites in an area with a history of contamination therefore there is potential for redevelopment to cause downstream pollution. However it is considered that either of these sites alone would not give rise to a likely significant effect on the SPA This is because a) the sites are relatively small b) The sites are >15km upstream and there would be significant dilution of any pollutants before they reached the site c) Any development would have to meet accepted drainage standards

MIR Policy direction and potential development sites

4.12 Screening has been carried out on the proposed policy direction set out within the MIR in order to identify those policies not likely to have a significant effect on a European site, and to ensure that those areas of the plan that pose a potential risk of significant effects to a European site are 'screened in' and subject to further assessment as the SLLDP is developed. All policies proposed for inclusion in the Proposed Plan will be screened to assess whether they will have a significant effect on European sites..

4.13 In this MIR the Council has gone a stage further than previously and identified a limited number of development sites which could potentially be released through the LDP. These stage 2

sites will be subject to further technical analysis to assess their effectiveness and deliverability. In addition extensions are proposed to two settlements and a number of existing areas of housing in the countryside are proposed to be formally identified as settlements. An initial HRA assessment of these potential developments is set out in **table 2** below and further assessment will be undertaken on those which are included as proposals in the Proposed Plan.

Table 2: Potential development sites, boundary and designation changes proposed in MIR screened for their potential effects on European sites and the potential for further assessment

Proposal	description	HRA assessment - scoping
Bridge St/Somervell St Cambuslang	Proposed Development Framework Site – mixed uses	Site is on banks of River Clyde. This is a previously developed site in an area with a history of contamination therefore there is potential for redevelopment to cause downstream pollution and affect Inner Clyde SPA. **Assessment** - it is considered that this site would not give rise to a likely significant effect on the SPA due to - its relatively small size - its distance from SPA which will enable dilution of any pollutants - the proposed development will require to meet SEPA standards for drainage
Blairbeth Golf Course Rutherglen	Proposed Development Framework Site – residential development and urban park	No obvious links to the qualifying interests of any sites.
Hurlawcrook Road East kilbride	Proposed Development Framework site – Community stadium	No obvious links to the qualifying interests of any sites.
Redwood Crescent East Kilbride	Proposed Development Framework Site – Retail/commercial mixed use	No obvious links to the qualifying interests of any sites.
St James Centre East Kilbride	Proposed Development Framework Site – Retail/commercial/residential mixed use	No obvious links to the qualifying interests of any sites.
Carlisle Road/Borland Drive Larkhall	Proposed Development Framework Site – Retail/commercial mixed use	Approximately 250m from Clyde Valley Woodlands SAC **Assessment** – Possibility of construction dust affecting SAC. Sensitivity of the SAC to this is likely to be low here though given small size of the development site and presence of roads between the site and SAC. Also site lies to east of SAC away from prevailing wind direction. Suggest that any impacts would be too restricted to undermine the Conservation Objectives. Unlikely to be any recreational pressure as site is for retail/commercial use
University of the West of Scotland Almada Street Hamilton	Proposed Development Framework Site – residential/mixed use	No obvious links to the qualifying interests of any sites
DAKS Larkhall (Previously Development Framework	Residential Masterplan Site	Approximately 350m from Clyde Valley Woodlands SAC.

site)		**Assessment** - Possibility of construction dust affecting SAC. Sensitivity of the SAC to this is likely to be low here though due to presence of roads between the site and SAC and also site lies to east of SAC away from prevailing wind direction. Suggest that any impacts would be too restricted to undermine the Conservation Objectives. Potential for increased recreational use of the SAC however Morgan Glen is also a LNR (not yet designated) so public access will be channelled to the existing provision within LNR and away from the more sensitive parts of the SAC.
Peel Road Thorntonhall	Residential Masterplan Site	No obvious links to the qualifying interests of any sites
East Overton Extension Strathaven	Residential Masterplan Site	No obvious links to the qualifying interests of any sites
Glassford Road, Strathaven	Residential Masterplan Site	No obvious links to the qualifying interests of any sites
East Whitelaw, Cambuslang	Residential Masterplan Site	No obvious links to the qualifying interests of any sites
Nerston East	Settlement boundary extension (existing development)	No obvious links to the qualifying interests of any sites
Balgray Road Lesmahagow	Settlement boundary extension – proposed industrial site	No obvious links to the qualifying interests of any sites, but potential to indirectly impact Coalburn Moss and Clyde Valley Woods SAC if the potential industrial use of the site included the type of activity that would generate regular emissions - light industrial use likely to be of less of an issue. **Assessment**- The type of industrial processes cannot be specified at this stage, further assessment will be required when a planning application is submitted.A reference to impacts on Coalburn Moss and Clyde valley Woodlands will be be included in the development requirements appendix of the MIR and Proposed Plan in relation to this site.
Blair Cross near Crossford	New Settlement (existing development)	Approximately 280m from Clyde Valley Woodlands SAC **Assessment** – Proposal is to identify existing area of housing as a settlement. This does not involvenew development as no additional sites in or adjacent to the settlement are identified.Therefore the proposal as shown in the MIR is not considered to have direct impacts on Conservation Objectives of SAC. It is noted that the identification of this area as a 'settlement' may increase the future possibility of new development however it is not possible to identify when this may be implemented, the scale of development or where effects may occur. It should therefore be possible to screen this

		proposal out.
Devonburn near Lesmahagow	New Settlement (existing development)	No obvious links to the qualifying interests of any sites
Kaimend near Carnwath	New Settlement (existing development)	Located within 20km of Westwater and therefore has connectivity with the SPA Assessment – Proposal is to identify existing area of housing as a settlement. This does not involvenew development as no additional sites in or adjacent to the settlement are identified. Therefore the proposal as shown in the MIR is not considered to have direct impacts on Conservation Objectives of SAC. It is noted that the identification of this area as a 'settlement' may increase the future possibility of new development however due to the proximity to roads and shelterbelts it is not considered there will be potential Likely Significant Effects.
Limekilnburn near Hamilton	New Settlement (existing development)	No obvious links to the qualifying interests of any sites
Bouverie Street Rutherglen	Redesignation of Industrial area to general urban (potential social housing site)	No obvious links to the qualifying interests of any sites
Stonehouse Village Centre	Amendments to village centre boundary to reflect the current location of shops and commercial premises	No obvious links to the qualifying interests of any sites
Fernhill Neighbourhood Centre Rutherglen	Amendment to neighbourhood centre boundary to include community centre	No obvious links to the qualifying interests of any sites
Hallside East, Newton	Proposed housing site	No obvious links to the qualifying interests of any sites
Westwoodhill Recreation Ground East Kilbride	Proposed housing site	No obvious links to the qualifying interests of any sites
West of Redwood Drive East Kilbride	Proposed housing site	No obvious links to the qualifying interests of any sites
Backmuir Woods Blantyre/Bothwell/Uddingston wedge Cadzow Glen Hamilton Low Parks Holmhills Cambuslang James Hamilton Loch East Kilbride Jocks Burn Carluke Millheugh and Greenhall Blantyre Milton Carluke Mossneuk East Kilbride Neilsland and Earnock Hamilton Stonehouse Park Udston and Glenlee Westburn Road Cambuslang	Proposed LNRs	It is considered that the proposed LNRs can be screened out as they are intended to conserve and enhance the natural environment.
Symington off Abington Road	Potential rail station	Site is 21km from the Westwater SPA and there are no feeding records of pink footed geese within c.1.5km. It is considered this site could be screened out on the basis of lack of connectivity.

Law off Waterlands Road	Potential Rail station	No obvious links to the qualifying interests of any sites
East Nerston	New priority greenspace/green network site	No obvious links to the qualifying interests of any sites
Avon Road Larkhall	Green Network designation	Adjoins Clyde Valley Woodlands SAC. **Assessment –** It is proposed to add green network designation over an existing vacant site at this location. This is to ensure that any future development of this land makes provision for green network. It is considered that this proposal can be screened out as it is intended to conserve and enhance the natural environment

5. Conclusions

5.1 An HRA screening process has been undertaken on the proposals contained within the MIR to determine the broad implications for European sites that must be considered during the production of the Proposed Plan. On the basis of this analysis, it is concluded that:

- All policies within the proposed plan will require to be screened for their likelihood of significant effects on European sites, regardless of whether these result from the preferred or alternative options set out in the MIR.
- One site proposed through the Call for Sites process (CL21/001) has been identified as having a likely significant effect on the Clyde Valley Woods SAC. Consideration of possible mitigation will be required if this site is proposed to be taken forward to the Proposed Plan.
- No other sites proposed through the Call for Sites process are predicted to have a likely significant effect on any European site on their own. However, depending on which sites from the Call for Sites process are taken forward for inclusion, in-combination assessments may be required in respect of the Inner Clyde SPA, Westwater SPA, Clyde Valley Woods SAC and Coalburn Moss SAC at the Proposed Plan stage.

Appendix 1 – Special Areas of Conservation

Braehead Moss (122.6ha). This site is designated for supporting extensive areas of Active Raised Bog and areas of degraded bog that has potential for regeneration. The peat bog has arisen from peat developing in two separate basins, which have now fused. The upper and lower bogs are dominated by hummocks largely formed of *Sphagnum* spp., including *S. fuscum* and *S. imbricatum*, and are rich in heather *Calluna vulgaris* and cottongrasses *Eriophorum* spp. Soft *S. cuspidatum* hollows also occur.

Qualifying Interests
Annex I Habitats
Active Raised Bog*
Degraded raised bog still capable of natural regeneration
(*Priority Habitat)

Site Condition
Bogs (wetland) - Active Raised Bog – Unfavourable recovering
Bogs (wetland) -Degraded Raised Bog – Favourable recovered

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

Vulnerability Status
Most of this intermediate raised bog with peripheral areas of degraded bog is owned by Scottish Natural Heritage. SNH has taken steps to increase public awareness of the site through liaison with schools and villages in the area. It is essential that water levels within the main expanse of the bog are maintained at current levels and raised where possible. Grazing levels need to be controlled at appropriate levels to ensure the bog surface does not become damaged through poaching. Areas of birch and conifer scrub developing on the bog need to be removed as they will result in the further modification of the vegetation in these areas (in particular the loss of bog mosses) through shading and nutrient enrichment from the accumulation of fallen needles/leaves. A high density of scrub on a bog also causes the bog to dry out through evapo-transpiration and interception of rainfall. Heather should also be controlled as although it is a typical part of raised bog vegetation, too much of it reduces the opportunities for other flowering plants and bog mosses to grow.

Clyde Valley Woods (434.66ha) This SAC is designated as it supports the Annex 1 habitat: Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines. The site represents the most extensive complex of woodland gorges with Tilio-Acerion forests in Scotland. Although, like all Scottish sites, Clyde Valley Woods is beyond the northern distribution limit of lime Tilia spp. it possesses otherwise characteristic features of the Tilio-Acerion. Ground flora typical of the Tilio-Acerion is found in these woods, with some southern species such as Herb Paris Paris *quadrifolia* and pendulous sedge *Carex pendula* also present.

Qualifying Interests
Annex I Habitats
Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines*
(*Priority Habitat)

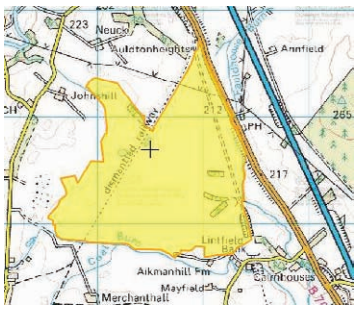
Site Condition:
Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland – Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes - Favourable Maintained

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

Vulnerability Status
Invasion of woodlands by non-native tree and shrub species and to a lesser extent non-native herbs can lead to changes in the character and diversity of ground flora and prevent the regeneration of native species. In this case, the extent of the spread of non-native species is localised and occurs mainly near the edges of the woods. In some localised areas there is grazing pressure from sheep or cows and there is also some uncontrolled dumping of refuse. The newly revised National Nature Reserve management plan aims to encourage native broad-leaved woodlands, as do management plans and management agreements covering other parts of the site

Coalburn Moss (224.32ha). This site is designated as it supports extensive areas of the Annex 1 habitat, Active Raised Bog, as well as also supporting areas of degraded bog that has potential for regeneration. Coalburn Moss retains an extensive primary dome, although this is now confined by two abandoned railway lines. The site contains one of the larger tracts of vigorous bog-moss-dominated vegetation in the Central Belt of Scotland, with distinctive wet Sphagnum hollows. Typical bog-mosses include *Sphagnum papillosum* and *S. magellanicum*. Hare's-tail cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum*, cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccos* and reindeer-moss lichen *Cladonia* spp. are also common. The hollows, rich in *S. cuspidatum*, are occasionally fringed by great sundew *Drosera anglica*. Some of the margins of the site also support wetland communities.



Qualifying Interests
Annex I Habitats
Active Raised Bog*
Degraded raised bog still capable of natural regeneration
(*Priority Habitat)

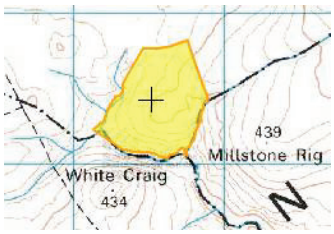
Site Condition
Bog (wetland) - Active Raised Bog – Favourable Maintained
Bog (wetland) - Degraded Raised Bog – Unfavourable Recovering

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

Vulnerability Status
The majority of this raised bog is owned by Forestry Commission Scotland and a Management Plan has been developed for the site. Ditch damming, tree and scrub removal and the replacement of stock-proof boundary fencing has been carried out recently. Controlled grazing has also been re-introduced to the site.

Craigengar (37.31ha) The majority of this site is situated in West Lothian with only a small section extending into South Lanarkshire and the Scottish Borders. This site maintains a number of habitats present as a qualifying feature but the primary reason for site selection is that it contains the largest population of marsh saxifrage *Saxifraga hirculus* in Scotland. It is the largest single colony outside the North Pennines, supporting, in 1999, an estimated 9,666 plants in base-rich flushes in an area of upland heather moorland.



Annex I Habitats
European dry heaths
Species-rich *nardus* grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and sub mountain areas in continental Europe)*

Annex II Species
Marsh Saxifrage (*saxifrage hirculus*) (largest population in Scotland)
(*Priority Habitat)

Site Condition
Dwarf shrub heath (Upland) – Dry heaths - Unfavourable No Change
Calcareous grassland (Upland) – Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas - Unfavourable declining
Vascular plants – Marsh saxifrage (Saxifraga hirculus) - Unfavourable No Change

Conservation objectives - habitats
To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

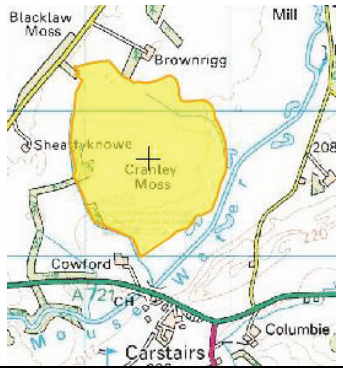
- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

Conservation objectives – species
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 the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

Vulnerability Status
Continued management of burning, grazing and relict drainage plays an important role in maintaining site interests. It is important that any changes to the current regime are carefully considered, particularly in relation to those features currently in unfavourable condition. A Management Agreement is in place.

Cranley Moss (101.27ha). This site is designated as it supports extensive areas of the Annex 1 habitat, Active Raised Bog, as well as also supporting areas of degraded bog that has potential for regeneration. Cranley Moss in the central belt of Scotland is important because it is a 'classic' raised bog, with a distinct and clearly defined active dome rising from a flat flood-plain long since converted to agricultural use. Much of the bog margin is intact, but although marshy ground surrounds parts of the site, most of the original lagg fen transition is thought to have been re-claimed. The bog has extensive Sphagnum carpets, which show vigorous growth throughout. *Sphagnum imbricatum* is found here.



Qualifying Interests **Annex I Habitats** Active Raised Bog* Degraded raised bog still capable of natural regeneration (*Priority Habitat)	**Site Condition** **Bog (wetland) -** Active Raised Bog –Unfavourable No Change **Bog (wetland) -** Degraded Raised Bog – Unfavourable Recovering

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

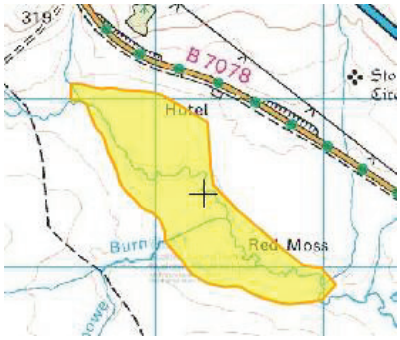
To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

Vulnerability Status

This active raised bog and areas of degraded bog are the subject of management agreements to conserve and promote the development of the diversity of peatland habitats. The agreements control drainage and grazing, make provision for the removal of invasive tree scrub and protect the site from the burning of vegetation and the extraction of peat. It is essential that water levels within the main expanse of the bog are maintained at current levels and raised where possible. Grazing levels need to be controlled at appropriate levels to ensure the bog surface does not become damaged through poaching. Areas of birch and conifer scrub developing on the bog need to be removed as they will result in the further modification of the vegetation in these areas (in particular the loss of bog mosses) through shading and nutrient enrichment from the accumulation of fallen needles/leaves. A high density of scrub on a bog also causes the bog to dry out through evapo-transpiration and interception of rainfall.

Red Moss (75.86ha). Red Moss is a small site in South Lanarkshire. It comprises of three areas of active raised bog together with associated lagg fen communities. The slightly domed areas of mire support typical raised bog vegetation with a good cover of Sphagnum including frequent *S. imbricatum* hummocks and occasional *S. fuscum*. Cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccos* also occurs.



Annex I Habitats
Active Raised Bog*
(*Priority Habitat)

Site Condition
Bog (wetland) - Active Raised Bog – Unfavourable Recovering

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

Vulnerability Status
All but 0.5 hectares of the site has been managed under three Management Agreements (which expire in 2012 and 2013). Management measures are part of the SNH South Scotland Bog Scheme (SSBS) and include: the installation of approximately 80 plastic piling dams within eroding ditch areas of the site; fencing off dangerous wet areas of the site; maintaining light grazing access throughout the site; opening up access to the areas of willow scrub to allow controlled grazing which should suppress undesirable expansion of the scrub.

River Tweed (3379.59ha). The River Tweed SAC expands across several borders including Northumberland, Scottish Borders with some of the upper tributary water bodies originating in South Lanarkshire. The SAC consists of tidal rivers, estuaries, mud flats, sand flats, lagoons (including saltwork basins), inland water bodies (standing water, running water), bogs, marshes, water fringed vegetation, fens and broad-leaved deciduous woodland. The Tweed is the most species-rich example, of a river with *Ranunculus* in Scotland, and the only selected in Scotland. The river has a high ecological diversity which reflects the mixed geology of the catchment. The river supports a very large, high-quality salmon population, with sub-catchments in both Scotland and England. The river system provides extensive habitat for otters, with the extensive tributary burns provide good feeding habitat.

Annex I Habitats
Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation

Annex II Species
Atlantic salmon Salmo salar
Otter Lutra lutra
River lamprey Lampetra fluviatilis
Sea Lamrey
Brook Lamprey

Site Condition
Atlantic salmon - Favourable Maintained
Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot - Unfavourable No change
Sea lamprey - Unfavourable No change
Brook lamprey - Favourable Recovered
River lamprey - Favourable Recovered
Otter - Favourable Maintained

Conservation objectives for the following Qualifying Habitat:

- Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot

To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat (listed below) thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and to ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

Conservation objectives for the following Qualifying Species:

- Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar)
- Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus)
- Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri)
- River lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis)
- Otter (Lutra lutra)

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 the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and

To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

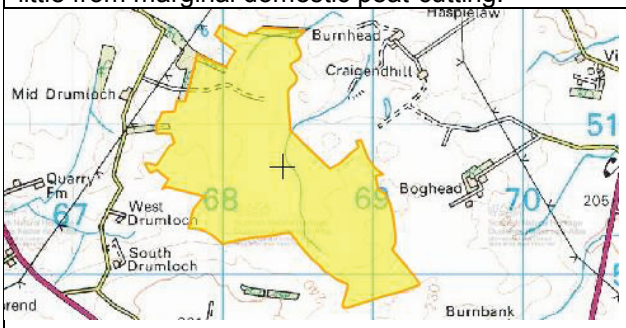
- Population of the species, including range of genetic types for salmon, as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

Vulnerability Status

The main impacts on the river are from pollution, acidification and eutrophication, river-works and bankside management, genetic pollution and disease, abstraction and impoundment management. Aspects of pollution and eutrophication from point-sources are addressed in Scotland through current

SEPA regulations and will be enhanced through the Water Framework Directive which will also tackle diffuse pollution. River-works are controlled by fisheries legislation, planning control and guidance through Tweed Forum River-Works Subgroup. Water resource management will also be addressed by WFD. Problems arising from potential genetic pollution of native fish populations will also be subject to existing statutory controls. Current standards of forestry practice already minimise impacts. In England, aspects of pollution and eutrophication from point sources, impoundment management and river-works are addressed by the Environment Agency. The River Tweed Catchment Management Plan, SSSI consents and Habitats Directive regulation will combine to effect long-term protection of the site and its features.

Waukenwae Moss (155.49ha). Waukenwae Moss has extensive areas of active raised bog. It displays some of the best Sphagnum-hollow patterning to be found in bogs in this part of Scotland and also has several hummocks of *Sphagnum imbricatum*. The bulk of the site is relatively intact, having suffered little from marginal domestic peat-cutting.



Annex I Habitats	Site Condition
Active Raised Bog* Degraded raised bog still capable of natural regeneration (*Priority Habitat)	**Bogs (wetland) -** Active Raised Bog – Favourable recovered **Bog (wetland) -** Degraded Raised Bog – Unfavourable Recovering

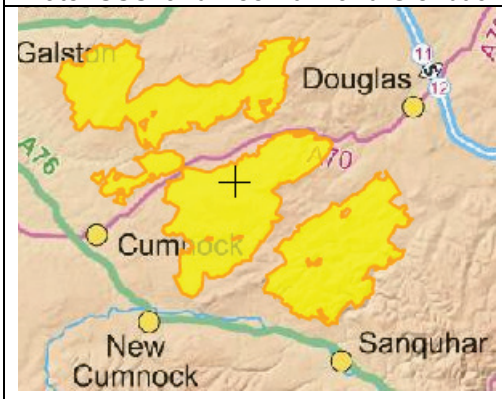
To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitats thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
To ensure for the qualifying habitats that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Extent of the habitat on site
- Distribution of the habitat within site
- Structure and function of the habitat
- Processes supporting the habitat
- Distribution of typical species of the habitat
- Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
- No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

Vulnerability Status
There has been recent work under SNH's South Scotland Bogs Scheme to block ditches using plastic piling dams. In some other areas, ditches dug across the middle of the bog have naturally become blocked with bog mosses, and this process of natural recovery is likely to continue without active intervention. Besides the support for land managers through SNH's South Scotland Bog Scheme (SSBS), positive management works have been funded on some parts of the site through a variety of schemes including Countryside Premium Scheme, Rural Stewardship Scheme (RSS) and SNH Management Agreements. These schemes have allowed for a reduction in stocking levels and the erection of fencing to control grazing on parts of the site.

Appendix 2 – Special Protection Area

Muirkirk & North Lowther Uplands (26,330 ha) The SPA is an extensive area of moorland extending south from near Darvel in South Ayrshire to near Kirkconnel in Dumfries and Galloway. Three areas of the SPA lie within South Lanarkshire – south of Glentaggart, west of Glespin, around Logan Reservoir and west of Glengavel Reservoir. It is of outstanding interest for its variety of upland habitats and breeding birds. There are large tracts of blanket bog, wet and dry heaths and upland grasslands which support a rich variety of moorland breeding birds. The SPA is of international importance and has been designated for its breeding short eared owl, hen harrier, merlin, peregrine and golden plover and its wintering population of hen harriers. The SPA takes in the Muirkirk Uplands Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and North Lowther Uplands SSSI together with Blood Moss and Slot Burn SSSI, Garpel Water SSSI and Ree Burn and Glenbuck Loch SSSI.



Qualifying Species

Golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*), breeding Birds

Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), breeding Birds

Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), non-breeding Birds

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), breeding Birds

Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*), breeding Birds

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), breeding Birds

Site Condition

Golden plover (Pluvialis apricaria) – Unfavourable Declining

Hen harrier (Circus cyaneus) (breeding and non–breeding) – Unfavourable Declining

Merlin (Falco columbarius) – Unfavourable No change

Peregrine (Falco peregrinus) – Unfavourable No change

Short-eared owl (Asio flammeus) – Favourable Maintained

Conservation objective for the following Qualifying Species:

Golden plover (Pluvialis apricaria)
Hen harrier (Circus cyaneus)
Merlin (Falco columbarius)
Peregrine (Falco peregrinus)
Short-eared owl (Asio flammeus)

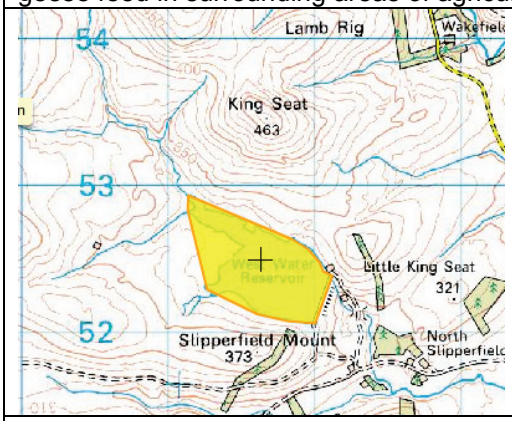
To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and
To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

Vulnerability Status

Breeding raptors and golden plover are potentially vulnerable to disturbance from agricultural practices, game management and recreational activites (including walking and birdwatching) on the site. Potential threats to the moorland include degradation, loss of heather and peat erosion through inappropriate muirburn, overgrazing, public/vehicular access and the spread of bracken. It is important that any land management practices – existing and proposed – and any land use changes are carefully planned to avoid disturbance to nesting and wintering locations.

Westwater (49.77 ha) Westwater Reservoir is located in the Pentland Hills of southern Scotland. It is an artificial reservoir forming part of the Lothian water supply. Westwater regularly provides a winter roost for many wildfowl, including large numbers of Pink-footed Geese *Anser brachyrhynchus*. The geese feed in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA.



Qualifying Species
Pink-footed goose (Anser brachyrhynchus), non-breeding
Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding

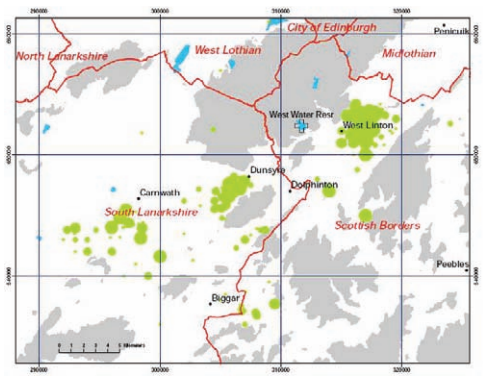
Site Condition
Pink-footed goose (Anser brachyrhynchus), non-breeding – Favourable Maintained
Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding – Favourable Maintained

Conservation objective for the following Qualifying Species:
Pink-footed goose (Anser brachyrhynchus), non-breeding
Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding
To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and
To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species
- No significant disturbance of the species

Vulnerability Status
Shooting is now prohibited within the SPA boundary although consents are in place to allow for legal pest control. Shooting continues to take place outwith the site boundary on flight paths leaving the roost. Fishing currently has a closed period over the critical winter months for the bird interests. This should continue in order to minimise disturbance to the roost. Public access has previously been discouraged for understandable reasons. However, the site and its features can be enjoyed if access is taken responsibly in line with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. Information boards, signage and publications may help to promote a greater understanding of the site and prevent unintentional disturbance.

Pink-footed geese are one of the qualifying interests of the Westwater Reservoir SPA. The geese are generally present between September and April. Areas of South Lanarkshire within 20km of the SPA are within the core winter foraging range of the geese. Individual development proposals within this area could have a likely significant effect on the SPA. Early autumn (late Sept/early Oct) appears to be the peak arrival time for geese at the SPA. The two main directions geese arrived from are south/south-south west/south west (relating to the Biggar/Broughton, Dunsyre valley and Carnwarth/Libberton areas) and the North East/East-North East/East (relating to the West Linton area), with approximately 70% of the geese arrived at the roost from the South Lanarkshire side.



The Map shows the locations of the main feeding areas for the geese found in South Lanarkshire. The feeding areas are particularly concentrated around:

- Biggar/Broughton valley
- Dunsyre valley
- The Meetings/Carnwath to Libberton and Carstairs

The initial arrival of the birds in autumn can to lead to the occurrence of some substantial feeding flocks, in particular in the Meetings area of the Clyde. More recently reduced flock numbers have been observed.
(Map reproduced from Brown, A.W. & Brown, L.M. (2007) *West Water Reservoir SSSI Pink-footed Goose Study 2004-05 to 2006-07*. SNH Commissioned Report GAL7736)

Inner Clyde: The Inner Clyde is a long, narrow, heavily industrialised estuary on the west coast of Scotland. The Inner Clyde SPA covers 1826 ha and extends 20km westward from Newshot Island to Craigendoran Pier on the north shore and to Newark Castle on the south shore, within the local authority areas of Argyll and Bute, West Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde. It contains extensive intertidal flats which support large numbers of wintering waterfowl. The Inner Clyde SPA qualifies under Article 4.2 by regularly supporting an internationally important wintering population of redshank (Tringa totanus). This is one of the highest density wintering populations of redshank in Britain

http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/documentview.jsp?p_pa_code=8514&p_Doc_Type_ID=45 For map please follow above link	**Qualifying Species** Redshank (Tringa totanus) non breeding	**Site Condition** **Redshank (Tringa totanus)** non breeding **–** Favourable Maintained

Conservation objective for the following Qualifying Species:

Redshank (Tringa totanus)

To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species (listed below) or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and
To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term:

- Population of the species as a viable component of the site
- Distribution of the species within site
- Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species
- Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species

No significant disturbance of the species

Vulnerability Status
The EU Habitats and Birds Directives oblige governments to avoid, in SACs and SPAs the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species, as well as disturbance of the species for which the area has been designated. The SSSI site management statement for Inner Clyde identifies a number of activities which could affect the conservation objectives for the site. Please see SNH website for further details.
http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/documentview.jsp?p_pa_code=1701&p_Doc_Type_ID=3

South Lanarkshire
Local Development Plan
Main Issues Report

South Lanarkshire Council
Community and Enterprise Resources
Planning and Economic Development
Montrose House, 154 Montrose Crescent
Hamilton ML3 6LB
www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.
Phone 0303 123 1015 or email:
equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk