

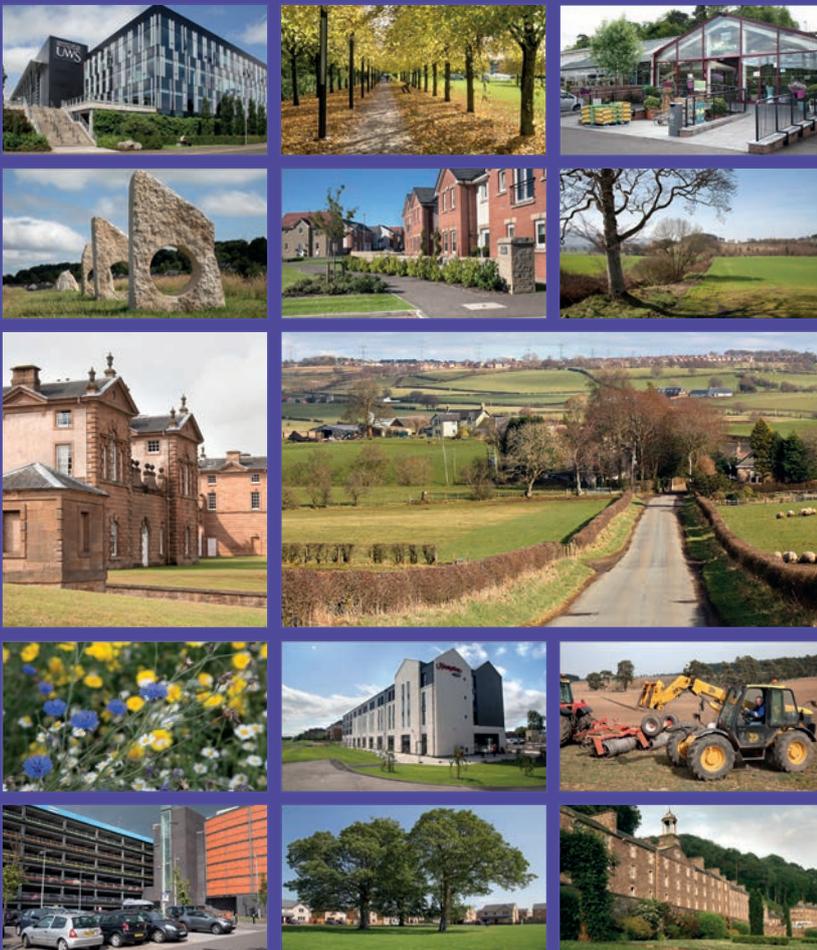
# South Lanarkshire

Planning and Building Standards Services

## Local Development Plan 2

### Habitats Regulations Appraisal Record

January 2021



Community and Enterprise  
Resources



## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>2</b>
	Requirements of the Habitats Regulations for Local Development Plan.....	2
<b>2</b>	<b>Habitats Regulations Appraisal Process</b> .....	<b>4</b>
	Methodology of the Assessment Process.....	4
	Strategic Environmental Assessment.....	5
<b>3</b>	<b>South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan</b> .....	<b>6</b>
	Background to the Local Development Plan.....	6
	Content of the plan.....	6
	Proposed policy context of the Local Development Plan.....	7
<b>4</b>	<b>Habitats Regulations Appraisal</b> .....	<b>10</b>
	Stage 1 - Identifying the need for a HRA.....	10
	Stage 2 - Identifying European Sites.....	10
	Stage 3 – Gathering information about the European Sites.....	11
	Stage 4 – Proposed method and scope of the appraisal.....	11
	Stage 5 – Screening the proposed Plan for likely significant effects .....	12
	Stage 6/7 - Applying Mitigation Measures and Rescreening.....	30
	Stage 8 Appropriate Assessment.....	31
<b>5</b>	<b>Conclusions</b> .....	<b>34</b>
	Appendix 1 – Special Areas of Conservation.....	35
	Appendix 2 – Special Protection Areas.....	45

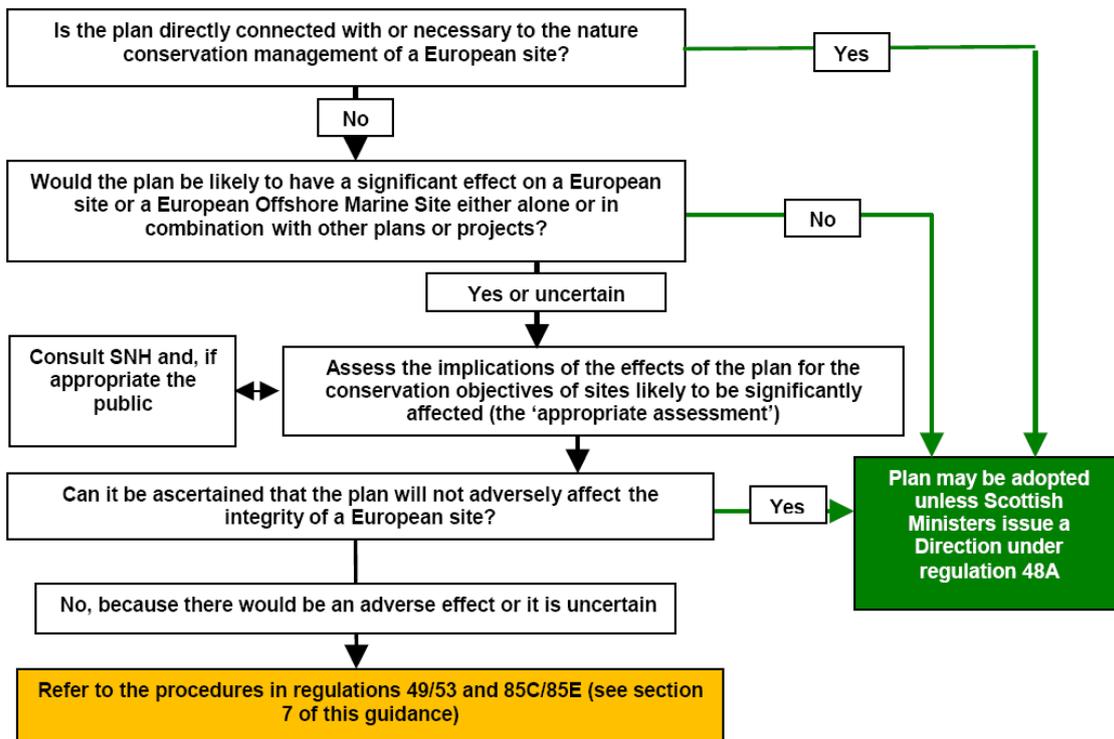
# 1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) Record is to set out sufficient information on the South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) Proposed Plan 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 LDP2.

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 LDP 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 LDP2, as such the HRA was started at the MIR stage with the appraisal of all potential development sites submitted by developers through the 'call for sites' process'. The next stage in the process assessed the policies contained in the Proposed Plan, and the development proposals which have arisen from these policies. The final stage assesses the modifications to the plan following its Examination. The Plan as modified will be submitted to Scottish Ministers as set out in section 97 of Planning Circular 6/2013. This also requires submission of any environmental assessment carried out into the Proposed Plan as modified.

## 2. Habitats Regulations Appraisal Process

2.1 The purpose of this appraisal is to assess the impacts of the LDP2 Proposed Plan, including the modifications to the Plan following its Examination. At the MIR stage the HRA considered the potential for likely significant effects on European sites through the screening of the sites submitted through the 'call for sites' and the development of the policy direction including the preferred and alternative options as set out in the MIR. At the Proposed Plan stage, the potential for likely significant effects on European sites was assessed for the policies set out within the LDP2 and the development sites taken forward (i.e. **Stage 5** onwards). This report assesses the policies and proposals as modified following the LDP Examination and proposed for Adoption by the Planning Authority.

2.2 The aim of the HRA is to assess the LDP2 against the conservation objectives and qualifying features of the relevant European sites. The assessment will determine whether the proposed LDP2 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.

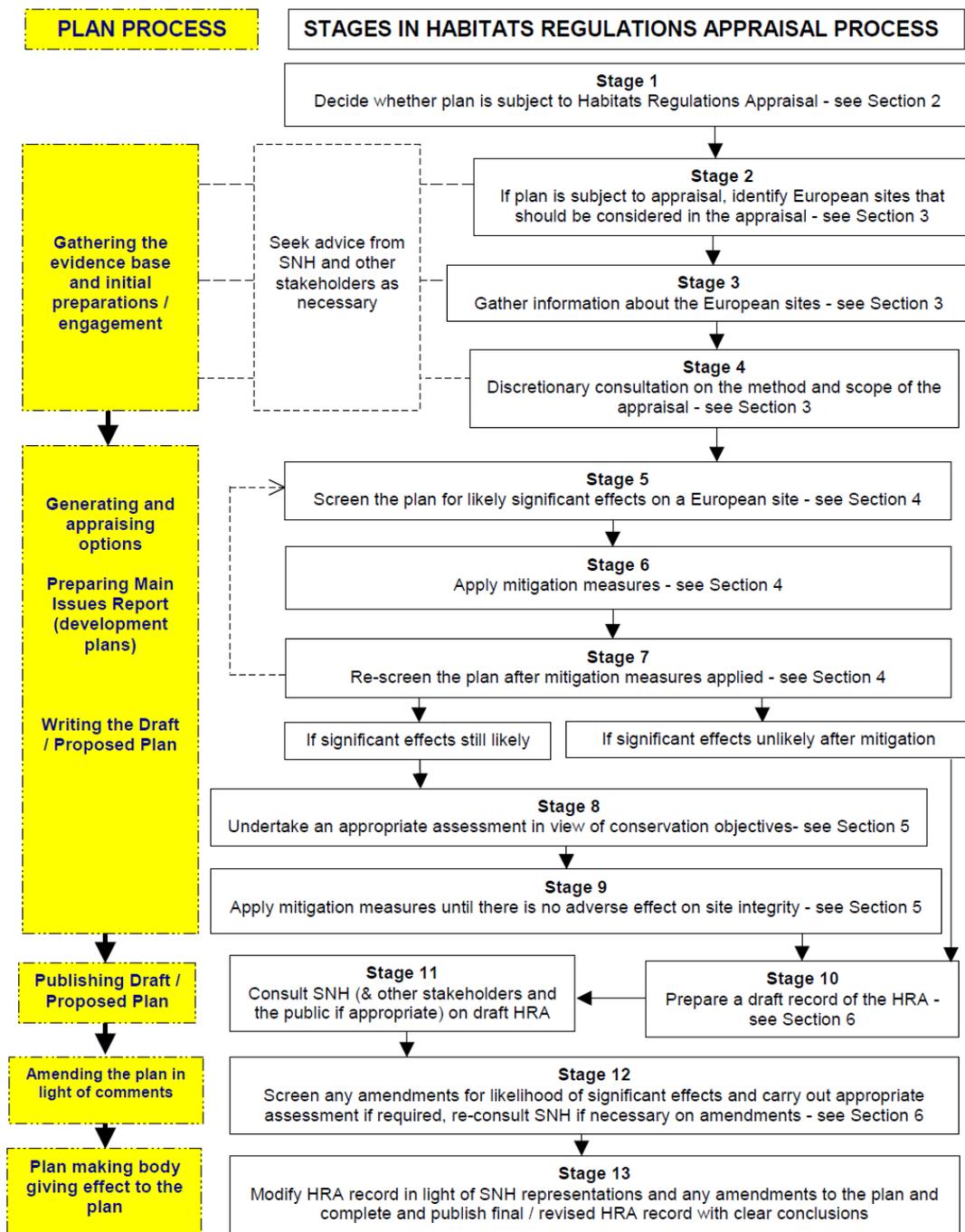
### Methodology of the Assessment Process

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 LDP2 has been followed in sequence as set out in the NatureScot Guidance 2015 in order to comply with the requirements of the Directive. The sequence set out in the NatureScot Guidance provides a systematic structure to the appraisal process, as shown in **Figure 2**.

2.4 Commencing the HRA at the MIR stage allowed for the assessment to include screening potential development sites, whilst at the same time informed the policy options taken forward to the LDP2 proposed plan. 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 NatureScot 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.
- Scottish Government HRA Advice Sheet 1 - Aligning Development Planning procedures with Habitats Regulations Appraisal requirements (Version 1 - July 2012)
- Scottish Government HRA Advice Sheet 2 - Screening general policies and applying simple mitigation measures (Version 1 - July 2012)
- Scottish Government HRA Advice sheet 3 - Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)



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

## Strategic Environmental Assessment

2.6 The SLLDP 2 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 LDP 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 LDP2 consists 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 LDP2 focuses on supporting sustainable economic growth and the development of quality sustainable places. These policies are supported by maps outlining proposed development sites and constraints. A key change from LDP 1 has been the incorporation of Minerals policies within LDP2.

#### Content of the plan

3.3 The LDP2 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 LDP2 conforms to the SDP principles and meets the aims and objectives of other South Lanarkshire strategies such as the Council Plan, the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy, Economic Strategy, the Local Housing Strategy and the Local Transport Strategy. This is presented by maps of the area and a written statement in two volumes setting out the key policies and proposals of the LDP2.

3.4 The LDP2 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 LDP2 is directly and indirectly influenced by a number of international, national and regional PPS (see **Figure 3**).

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



## Proposed policy context of the Local Development Plan

3.5 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 South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan was legally adopted by the Council on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015, although the plan is only 3 years old, the publication of the GCVSDP requires South Lanarkshire to produce a new LDP within 2 years. Therefore the new LDP has been prepared to set the specific policy context for development in the area. The new Plan has not changed significantly from the 2015 Plan and promotes very limited new development compared with previous Plans.

3.6 The MIR set 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 described how these issues can be addressed in the LDP2 along with possible alternatives. It is important to note that it was not a draft plan and did not include any policies and proposals; rather it set out the Council's preferred approach for dealing with the issues raised. However, unlike previous MIR it does identify site specific potential development opportunities.

3.7 The current adopted LDP 2015 is accompanied by ten Statutory Supplementary Guidance (SG) 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. For LDP2 Statutory SG have not been prepared. Instead the policy content from the SGs has been incorporated as Volume 2 of the LDP2. Some of the former SGs will be retained as supporting planning guidance (SPG) but will not contain policies. They will not form part of the statutory LDP but will be a material planning consideration.

3.8 The LDP2 Proposed Plan takes account of the consultation responses to the MIR and sets out the Council's spatial strategy for the next 10 years. This consists of policies and proposals for the development and use of land in South Lanarkshire.

3.9 The Local Development Plan contains the following vision:

**'To promote the continued growth and regeneration of South Lanarkshire by seeking sustainable economic and social development within a low carbon economy whilst protecting and enhancing the environment.'**

This is delivered by 19 main policies and 78 supporting policies. Some of the supporting policies relate to more than one main policy (these are marked with \*). The relationship is shown in table 3.1 as follows:

**Table 3.1** Local Development Plan 2 Policies

Volume 1 Policies		Volume 2 Policies	
1	Spatial Strategy		
2	Climate Change	SDCC1 SDCC2 SDCC3 SDCC4 SDCC5  SDCC6 SDCCX	Vacant, Derelict and Contaminated Land Flood Risk* Sustainable Drainage Systems Sustainable Transport* Waste Management Facilities and Buffer Zones* Renewable Heat* Low and Zero Carbon Emissions from New Buildings (New policy added by Reporter)
3	General Urban Area/Settlements		
4	Green Belt and Rural Area	GBRA1 GBRA2  GBRA3	Rural Design and Development Business Proposals within Green Belt and Rural Area New Equestrian Businesses

		GBRA4 GBRA5 GBRA6 GBRA7 GBRA8 GBRA9 GBRA10 GBRA11	Conversion and Re-use of Existing Buildings Redevelopment of Previously Developed Land Containing Buildings Replacement Houses Small Scale Settlement Extensions (Rural Area only) Development of Gap Sites Consolidation of Existing Building Groups Accommodation Associated with an Existing or Proposed Rural Business Hutting
5	Development Management and Placemaking	DM1 DM2 DM3 DM4 DM5 DM6 DM7  DM8 DM9 DM10 DM11 DM12 DM13 DM14  DM15 DM16 DM17 DM18 DM19 DM20 DM21 DM22 DM23	New Development Design House Extensions and Alterations Subdivision of Garden Ground Conversion of Domestic Buildings Extended Family Accommodation Subdivision of Property for Residential Use Demolition and Redevelopment for Residential Use Enabling Development Hot Food Shops Advertisements Displays Electronic Communications Development Working from Home Mobile Snack Vans Gypsy, travellers and Occupational Travellers Sites Water Supply Foul Drainage and Sewerage Air Quality Noise Management Areas Sterilisation of Mineral Reserves Supporting Information Legal Agreements Enforcement Monitoring
6	Visitor Economy and Tourism	VET1 VET2	Visitor Attractions Visitor Accommodation
7	Community Infrastructure Assessment		
8	Employment	ICD1 ICD2  ICD3 ICD4 ICD5	Strategic Economic Investment Locations Non-conforming Uses in Core Industrial/Business Areas Other Employment Land Use Areas Strategic Office Developments Class 2 Office Developments
9	Network of Centres and Retailing		
10	New Retail/Commercial Proposals		
11	Housing		

12	Affordable Housing		
13	Green Network and Greenspace		
14	Natural and Historic Environment	NHE1 NHE2 NHE3 NHE4 NHE5 NHE6 NHE7 NHE8  NHE9 NHE10 NHE11 NHE12 NHE13 NHE14 NHE15 NHE16 NHE17 NHE18 NHE19 NHE20 NHE21	New Lanark World Heritage Site Archaeological Sites and Monuments Listed Buildings Gardens and Designed Landscapes Historic Battlefields Conservation Areas Natura 2000 Sites National Nature Reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest Protected Species Prime Agricultural Land Peatland and Carbon Rich Soils Water Environment* Forestry and Woodland Tree Preservation Orders Local Nature Reserves Landscape Country Parks Walking, Cycling and Riding Routes* Quiet Areas Biodiversity Geodiversity
15	Travel and Transport	SDCC4 NHE18	Sustainable Transport* Walking, Cycling and Riding Routes*
16	Water Environment and Flooding	SDCC2 NHE12	Flood Risk* Water Environment*
17	Waste	SDCC5	Waste Management Facilities and Buffer Zones*
18	Renewable Energy	SDCC6 RE1 RE2	Renewable Heat* Renewable Energy Biomass
19	Minerals Development	MIN1 MIN2 MIN3 MIN4 MIN5 MIN6 MIN7 MIN8	Settlements Cumulative Impact Restoration Peat Extraction Controlling Impacts from Extraction Sites Community Benefit Bing Reclamation Aggregate Recycling

A number of these policies contain more detailed proposals for new developments.

## 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.

4.2 The LDP2 is now at Modifications to Proposed Plan Stage. The HRA stages remain valid for the Proposed Plan and are therefore replicated below

### Stage 1 - Identifying the need for a HRA

4.3 In accordance with NatureScot guidance (**Stage 1** of the Guidance) the LDP 2 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 NatureScot, through the initial 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

<p>European sites within the plan area</p>	<p><b>Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)</b></p> <p>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 &amp; Scottish Borders)</p> <p><b>Special Protection Areas (SPAs)</b></p> <p>Muirkirk &amp; North Lowther Uplands (also extends into East Ayrshire &amp; Dumfries &amp; Galloway). It is noted that the boundary of this SPA changed during the preparation of LDP2</p>
<p>European sites outside the plan area but which have hydrological links to South Lanarkshire</p>	<p><b>Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)</b></p> <p>River Tweed (located in the Scottish Borders and Northumberland, with small undesignated tributaries located within South Lanarkshire)</p> <p><b>Special Protection Areas (SPAs)</b></p> <p>Inner Clyde (Located within Argyll and Bute / Renfrewshire / West Dunbartonshire / Inverclyde. but linked to South Lanarkshire via the River Clyde.</p>

European sites outside the plan area but which could be affected by increased deposition of air pollutants arising from proposals within South Lanarkshire	<p><b>Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)</b></p> <p>North Shotts Moss</p>
European sites outside the plan area but which have ecological connectivity to South Lanarkshire for other reasons	<p><b>Special Protection Areas (SPAs)</b></p> <p>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)</p>

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 NatureScot'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 NatureScot 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.

4.8 Following discussion with NatureScot it has been agreed that consideration of the Inner Clyde SPA can be discounted from the HRA screening. Strictly speaking, any site that could involve works to watercourses or riverbanks could be argued to have some degree of connectivity to the Inner Clyde. However, the LDP2 proposals that this would apply to are too far away from the SPA and too small scale to have any conceivable effect on it. The relevant sites are identified in the screening tables for completeness.

### Stage 4 – proposed method and scope of the appraisal

4.9 Although there is no requirement to consult at the MIR stage, the draft HRA was submitted to provide NatureScot with a basis of the methodology to-date for the MIR of the Local Development Plan. The draft HRA provided the initial scope for identifying the development sites within the MIR and the European sites potentially affected.

4.10 This informal consultation helped 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 NatureScot Guidance. In addition the Council undertook early work on screening, which identified potential development sites which may require further appraisal if taken forward in the Proposed Plan.

## Stage 5 – Screening the Plan for likely significant effects

4.11 This section sets out the Screening stage of the HRA in relation to the policies and proposals in the Proposed Plan (see table 3.1 for list of policies). This works through the steps set out in paragraphs 4.6 – 4.33 of the Guidance and sets out the findings in a series of tables. Firstly the screening is applied to the policies, then to the detailed proposals emerging from these policies. This includes an assessment of legacy proposals carried forward from previous Local Development Plan which have not yet been implemented. A number of policies in the LDP have been subject to changes to their wording following the Examination of the plan. The assessment below assesses the contents of the Modified Plan.

4.12 Many of the policies within the plan contain a number of elements. Typically, this can include elements which a) outline the Council’s general policy approach to the topic, b) set criteria on which development management decisions will be based, c) identify specific sites where there is a presumption of support for development of a specific nature and d) identify areas where there is a strong likelihood that development will not be supported.

4.13 In view of this, there are several policies within the LDP which do not fit neatly with the screening steps outlined in the NatureScot guidance. In these cases, each element of the policy has been considered against the screening steps. As a result of this approach, some policies are screened out under more than one step

### HRA Stage 5 – Screening Step 1 - Identify and screen out general policy statements including ‘general criteria based policies’

Elements of the LDP screened out under this category are:

Policy	Assessment
<b>Volume 1 Policies</b>	
LDP Vision – ‘To promote the continued growth and regeneration of South Lanarkshire by seeking sustainable economic and social development within a low carbon economy whilst protecting and enhancing the environment.’	General policy statement setting out the Plan’s vision. <b>Screened out.</b>
Policy 1 – Spatial Strategy	Primarily a general statement of policy, but one element of the policy directs development to specific locations. Policy <b>partially screened out</b> under this step, but allocations given further consideration below.
Policy 2 – Climate Change	General criteria based policy. <b>Screened Out</b>
Policy 3 – General Urban Area/Settlements	Partially a general statement of policy but also allows for future development. <b>Screened out</b> under this step and Step 3e (see below).

Policy 4 – Green belt and Rural Area	Partially a general statement of policy, but also allows for future development. <b>Screened out</b> under this step and Step 3e (see below).
Policy 5 - Development Management	General statement of policy/General criteria based policy. <b>Screened out.</b>
Policy 6 –Visitor Economy and tourism	Partially a general statement of policy, but also allows for future development. <b>Screened out</b> under this step and Step 3e (see below).
Policy 7 – Community Infrastructure Assessment	General statement of policy. <b>Screened out</b>
Policy 8 – Employment	Partially a general statement of policy, but also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encourages the development of business through the identification of employment land use areas and appropriate uses</li> <li>• identifies general areas where office developments will be supported</li> </ul> <p>Policy <b>partially screened out</b> under this step, Step 3c and 3e (see below). Employment land use allocations given further consideration below.</p>
Policy 9 – Network of Centres and Retailing	Partially a general statement of policy, but also allows for change in relation to strategic and town centres <b>Screened out</b> under this step and Step 3c (see below).
Policy 10 – New retail/commercial Proposals	General criteria based policy. <b>Screened out</b>
Policy 11 – Housing Land	Partially a general statement of policy, but also includes an expression of support for the development of specific sites. Policy <b>partially screened out under this step</b> , and step 3e but specific site allocations considered further below.
Policy 12 - Affordable Housing and Housing Choice	General statement of policy. <b>Screened out</b>
Policy 13 – Green Network and Greenspace	Partly a general criteria based policy, but includes an element intended to protect the natural and built environment. <b>Screened out</b> under this step and Step 3a (see below).
Policy 15 – Travel and Transport	Contains general statement of policy but also expresses support for the development of new walking, cycling and public transport routes and the safeguarding of existing walking and cycling routes. <b>Screened out</b> under this step, and Step 3e (see below)
Policy 16 – Water Environment and Flooding	Contains general statement of policy, but also makes reference to circumstances where development in the floodplain may be supported. <b>Screened out</b> under this step, and Step 3a (see below)
Policy 17 – Waste	General criteria based policy. <b>Screened out</b> under this step

Policy 18 – Renewable Energy	Partly a general criteria based policy, but makes reference to general locational requirements for developments. <b>Screened out</b> under this step, and Step 3e (see below)
Policy 19 – Minerals Development	General statement of policy. <b>Screened out</b> under this step
<b>Volume 2 Policies</b>	
SDCC4 – Sustainable Drainage Systems SDCC5 – Waste Management Facilities and Buffer Zones (part) GBRA1 – Rural Design and Development GBRA2 – Business proposals within the Green Belt and Rural Area (part) DM 15 – Water Supply DM19 – Sterilisation of Mineral Reserves DM20 – Supporting Information DM21 – Legal Agreements DM22 Enforcement DM 23 – Monitoring RE1 – Renewable Energy MIN 1 – Settlements MIN 2 – Cumulative Impact (part) MIN 3 – Restoration MIN 6 – Community Benefit SDCC x - Low and Zero Carbon Emissions from New Buildings. (new policy added by Reporter	General statements of policy. <b>Screened out</b> under this step: SCDCC5 and GBRA2 <b>partially screened out</b> under this step but also screened out at Step 3 e); MIN2 <b>partially screened out</b> under this step but also screened out at Step 3 a)
GBRA1 – Rural Design and Development GBRA3 – New Equestrian Businesses GBRA4 – Conversion and re-use of existing buildings GBRA5 – Redevelopment of Previously Developed Land Containing Buildings (part) GBRA6 – Replacement Houses GBRA 7 - Small Scale Settlement Extensions (Rural Area only) GBRA8 - Development of Gap Sites GBRA9 - Consolidation of Existing Building Groups GBRA10 - Accommodation Associated with an Existing or Proposed Rural Business GBRA 11 – Hutting DM1 - New Development Design DM2 - House Extensions and Alterations DM3 - Subdivision of Garden Ground DM4 - Conversion of Domestic Buildings DM5 - Extended Family Accommodation (part) DM6 - Subdivision of Property for Residential Use DM7 - Demolition and Redevelopment for Residential Use DM8 – Enabling Development DM10 – Advertisement Displays (part) DM11 Electronic Communications Development (part) DM12 – Working from Home	General criteria –based policies. <b>Screened out</b> under this step GBRA5, DM11, VET1 and VET2 <b>partially screened out</b> at this step but also screened out at Step 3 e) DM10 and DM11 <b>partially screened out</b> at this step but also screened out at Step 3 a) DM5 <b>partially screened out</b> at this step but also screened out at Step 3 b) ICD5 <b>partially screened out</b> at this step but also screened out at Step 3 c)

DM13 – Mobile Snack Vans DM14 - Gypsy, travellers and Occupational Travellers Sites VET1 – Visitor Attractions (part) VET2 – Visitor Accommodation (part) ICD1 – Strategic Economic Investment locations ICD2 - Non-conforming Uses in Core Industrial/Business Areas ICD3 - Other Employment Land Use Areas ICD4 – Strategic Office Developments ICD5 – Class 2 Office Developments (part)	
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**HRA Stage 5 – Screening Step 2 Projects referred to in, but not proposed by, the plan.**

There are no policies which fall under this category. However, the following proposals are screened out at this stage

Allocation	Assessment
Community Growth Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hamilton West</li> <li>• Ferniegair</li> <li>• Larkhall</li> <li>• East Kilbride</li> <li>• Newton</li> <li>• Carluke South East</li> <li>• Carluke Moor Park</li> </ul>	These originate from the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan.  Noted that a previous HRA for the GCVSDP concluded that there may be a likely significant effect on the Clyde Valley Woods SAC from the Carluke Moor Park CGA proposal. However the most recent HRA for Clydeplan (2016) screens this GCA out on the basis that there is no connectivity between the GCA and the SAC.
Strategic Economic Investment Locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clyde Gateway (Shawfield)</li> <li>• Hamilton International Technology Park</li> <li>• Peel Park North, East Kilbride</li> <li>• Poniel</li> <li>• Scottish Enterprise Technology Park, East Kilbride</li> </ul>	These proposals originated from the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan.
New Rail Stations (potential locations)	Proposed by Local Transport Strategy and subject to HRA in 2013: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law</li> <li>• Symington</li> </ul>
City Deal Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cathkin Relief Road</li> <li>• Stewartfield Way East Kilbride</li> <li>• Greenhills Road East Kilbride</li> <li>• Community Growth Areas (East Kilbride, Hamilton, Newton and Larkhall) – see above</li> </ul>	Proposals originate from Glasgow City Region City Deal. Roads proposals previously assessed under Local Transport Strategy and subject to HRA in 2013. CGAs originate from Strategic Development Plan (see above)

Home + (Council housing investment programme)	Individual Sites not listed or mapped in LDP – they come from local housing strategy
Local Outcomes Improvement Plan – Neighbourhood Plans Burnbank/Hillhouse/Udston Strutherhill Whitlawburn and Springhall	These are referred to in LDP but originate from Council's Community Plan

### HRA Stage 5 – Screening Step 3 - No likely significant effects on any European site

- a) Aspects intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity, or to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment.

Policy	Assessment
<b>Volume 1 policies</b>	
Policy 14 - Green Network and Greenspace (Part)	Contains an element intended to protect the Green Network and Greenspace. <b>Partially screened out</b> under this step and step 1.
Policy 15 - Natural and Historic Environment	Intended to protect the natural and built environment. <b>Screened out</b> under this step.
Policy 17 – Water Environment and Flooding	Contains an element intended to protect the water environment. <b>Partially screened out</b> under this step and step 1.

Volume 2 policies	
DM10 – Advertisement Displays (part) DM11 Electronic Communications Development (part) DM18 – Noise Management Areas NHE 1 - New Lanark World Heritage Site NHE2 - Archaeological Sites and Monuments NHE3 - Listed Buildings NHE4 - Gardens and Designed Landscapes NHE5 - Historic Battlefields NHE 6 - Conservation Areas NHE7 - Natura 2000 Sites NHE8 - National Nature Reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest NHE9 - Protected Species NHE10 - Prime Agricultural Land NHE11 - Peatland and Carbon Rich Soils NHE12 - Water Environment and Biodiversity NHE13 - Forestry and Woodland (part) NHE14 – Tree Preservation Orders NHE15 – Local Nature Reserves NHE 16 – Landscape NHE17 – Country Parks	Intended to protect aspects of the natural and built environment. <b>Screened out</b> under this step. DM10 and DM11 <b>partially screened out</b> at this step but also screened out at Step 1. NHE13 and NHE18 <b>partially screened out</b> at this step but also screened out at Step 3 e)

NHE18 - Walking, Cycling and Riding Routes (part) NHE19 – Quiet Areas NHE20 – Biodiversity NHE21 – Geodiversity	
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The following proposals are screened out at this step:

Allocation	Assessment
<p>Proposed Local Nature Reserves: Milton, Carluke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jock’s Burn, Carluke</li> <li>• Holmhills, Cambuslang</li> <li>• Westburn Road, Cambuslang</li> <li>• Blairbeth, Rutherglen</li> <li>• Langlands Moss extension, East Kilbride</li> <li>• James Hamilton Loch, East Kilbride</li> <li>• Mossneuk, East Kilbride</li> <li>• Clyde Corridor/Redlees</li> <li>• Cadzow Glen, Hamilton</li> <li>• Backmuir Woods, Hamilton</li> <li>• Hamilton Low Parks</li> <li>• Millheugh and Greenhall, Blantyre</li> <li>• Neilsland and Earnock, Hamilton</li> <li>• Udston and Glenlea, Hamilton</li> <li>• Stonehouse Park</li> </ul>	<p>None of the proposed Local Nature Reserves has any connectivity with Natura sites. The purpose of LNR designation is to protect and enhance biodiversity and provide places for local people to experience nature. <b>Screened out at this step</b></p>

**b) Which will not in themselves lead to development or other changes**

Policy	Assessment
<b>Volume 2 Policies</b>	
<p>DM17 - Air Quality MIN5 – Controlling Impacts from Extraction Sites DM5 –Extended Family Accommodation (part)</p>	<p>DM17 and MIN5 set out requirements for developers to ensure proposals do not adversely affect air quality and control impacts arising from mineral extraction. DM5 contains an element relating to imposition of planning conditions to control occupation. They will not themselves lead to development or other change eg because they relate to design or other or other qualitative criteria. <b>Screened out at Stage 5 screening step 3 b)</b></p>

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

Policy	Assessment
Policy 9 Network of Centres and Retailing (part)	An element of the policy makes provision for change within strategic and town centres which have no connectivity to any Natura sites and therefore no conceivable effect. <b>Screened out</b> under this step and step 1.

Volume 2 Policies	
DM9 – Hot Food Shops (part) ICD5 – Class 2 Office developments	An element of these policies makes provision for change within strategic and town centres which have no connectivity to any Natura sites and therefore no conceivable effect. <b>Screened out</b> under this step and step 3e.

The following proposals are screened out at this step:

Allocation	Assessment
Devonburn and Limekilnburn new settlements	These sites have no obvious links to the qualifying interests of any European site and are therefore screened out under Step 3c
Nerston East Settlement boundary amendment	This site has no obvious links to the qualifying interests of any European site and is therefore screened out under Step 3c
Blairbeth settlement boundary amendment	This site has no obvious links to the qualifying interests of any European site and is therefore screened out under Step 3c

- d) which make provision for change but which could have no significant effect on a European site (and hence is a minor residual effect) because any potential effects would be insignificant, being so restricted or remote from the site that they would not undermine the conservation objectives for the site.**

Policy	Assessment
Volume 2 Policies	
SDCC1 – Vacant, Derelict and Contaminated Land	Policy supports delivery of implementation plan for Clyde Gateway which is immediately adjacent to the banks of the River Clyde. There is therefore connectivity between the site and the Inner Clyde Special Protection Area via the River Clyde. However any potential effects are considered to be insignificant, being so restricted or remote from the site that they would not undermine the conservation objectives for the site. <b>Screened out at Stage 5 screening step 3 d)</b>

The following proposals are screened out at this step:

Allocation	Assessment
Kaimend new settlement	Located within 20km of Westwater and therefore has connectivity with the SPA. Proposal is to identify existing area of housing as a settlement. This does not involve new development as no additional sites in or adjacent to the settlement are identified. Therefore the proposal 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. <b>Screened out</b> under step 3d.

e) too general, for example, it is not possible to identify where, when or how the policy may be implemented, or where effects may occur, or which sites, if any, may be affected.

Policy	Assessment
Policy 3 – General Urban Areas and Settlements.	Partially a general statement of policy but also allows for some future development within settlements but not possible to determine when or where this may occur. <b>Screened out</b> under this step and Step 1.
Policy 4 - Green Belt and Rural Area	Includes element setting out when development in the Green Belt/Rural Area may be acceptable, but is not site specific. <b>Screened out</b> under this step and Step 1.
Policy 6 – Visitor Economy and Tourism	Includes element expressing support for the development of good quality visitor attractions and accommodation, but does not allocate specific sites for this. Too general to know where, when or how this aspect of the policy may be implemented, or what, if any, European site may be affected. Policy <b>screened out</b> under this step and Step 1
Policy 8 - Employment	Partially a general statement of policy, but also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encourages the development of business through the identification of employment land use areas and appropriate uses (see below)</li> <li>• identifies general areas where office developments will be supported</li> </ul> However it is not known where, when or how this aspect of the policy may be implemented, or what, if any, European site may be affected. <b>Screened out</b> under this step and Step 1.  <b>Employment land use allocations given further consideration below</b>
Policy 11 – Housing Land	Partially a general statement of policy, but also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• supports development of sites identified in Housing Land Audit (see below)</li> <li>• Makes provision for release of further sites for housing should a shortfall arise</li> </ul> However it is not known where, when or how this aspect of the policy may be implemented, or what, if any, European site may be affected. <b>Screened out</b> under this step and Step 1.  <b>Housing land use allocations given further consideration below</b>
Policy 15 – Travel and Transport	Includes element which provides support for the development of walking, cycling and public transport networks, but is too general that it is not known where, when or how this aspect of the policy may be implemented, or what, if any, European site may be affected. <b>Screened out</b> under this step and step 1
Policy 18 – Renewable Energy	Includes element that makes reference to general locational requirements for developments but is too general that it is not known where, when or how this aspect of the policy may be implemented, or what, if any, European site may be affected. <b>Screened out</b> under this step and Step 1.

Volume 2 Policies	
SDCC2 – Flood Risk SDCC4 – Sustainable Transport SDCC5 – Waste Management Facilities and Buffer Zones (part) SDCC6 – Renewable Heat GBRA2 – Business proposals within the Green Belt and Rural Area (part) GBRA5 – Redevelopment of Previously Developed Land Containing Buildings (part) DM9 – Hot Food Shops (part) DM11 Electronic Communications Development (part) DM16 – Foul Drainage and Sewerage VET1 – Visitor Attractions (part) VET2 – Visitor Accommodation (part) NHE13 - Forestry and Woodland (part) NHE18 - Walking, Cycling and Riding Routes (part) RE2 – Biomass MIN 4 – Peat Extraction MIN7 – Bing Reclamation MIN8 – Aggregate Recycling	These policies includes elements that allow for certain types of new development in future but is too general that it is not known where, when or how this aspect of the policies may be implemented, or what, if any, European site may be affected. <b>Screened out</b> under this step (some elements also screened out at Step 1).

The following proposals are screened out at this step:

Allocation	Assessment
Balgray Road Lesmahagow settlement boundary change	While there is no direct connectivity between the site and any Natura site, the potential for indirect connectivity associated with industrial development of the site will depend on the nature of the development proposed. It is not known when or how this may be implemented, where any potential effects may occur or what Natura sites, if any, may be affected. The site is therefore <b>screened out</b> under Step 3e
Blaircross new settlement	Approximately 280m from Clyde Valley Woodlands SAC. Proposal is to identify existing area of housing as a settlement. This does not involve new development as no additional sites in or adjacent to the settlement are identified. Therefore the proposal 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. <b>Screened out</b> under Step 3e.

- The screening of the LDP demonstrates that the LDP Vision and Volume 1 Policies 2, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 17, and 19 are easily screened out.
- Screening of their individual elements also allows Policies 3, 4, 6, 9, 13, 15, 16 and 18 to be screened out.
- All policies in Volume 2 can also be screened out either the policy as a whole or the individual elements
- Aspects of Policies 1, 8, and 11 can also be screened out. However, these policies contain provisions which require further consideration. These are:

Policy	Element Requiring Further Consideration
1 – Spatial Strategy	Promotion of development allocations identified in Table 3.1 and Appendix 3 of the LDP2
8 – Employment	Promotion of employment land use areas identified in Table 4.1 of the LDP2 and Proposals Map.
11 – Housing	Support for development of sites included in the Housing Land Audit and identified on the Proposals Map

## POLICY 1 – SPATIAL STRATEGY

4.14 This policy identifies a series of strategic development opportunities comprising City Deal projects, Strategic Economic Investment Locations (SEILs), Strategic Centres, Community Growth Areas, Development Framework Sites, Residential Masterplan Sites and the Home + Programme and Local Outcomes Improvement Plan Neighbourhood Plans. These are listed in Table 3.1 and Appendix 3 of the LDP.

The allocations identified in the policy that have not previously been screened out are assessed below. New proposals are in bold type and the remainder are legacy items from LDP1.

Allocation	Assessment
Strategic Economic Investment Locations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extension to Poniel SEIL</li> </ul>	No conceivable effect on any Natura site from this proposal has been identified. <b>Screened out</b> at step 3c.
Strategic Centres: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hamiton</li> <li>East Kilbride</li> <li>Lanark</li> </ul>	It is proposed to update existing, or undertake new, Town Centre Action Plans for these centres.  No conceivable effect on any Natura site from these proposals has been identified. <b>Screened out</b> at step 3c.
Community Growth Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carluk moor park</li> </ul>	Noted that a previous HRA for the GCVSDP concluded that there may be a likely significant effect on the Clyde Valley Woods SAC from this proposal. However the most recent HRA for Clydeplan (2016) screens this GCA out on the basis that there is no connectivity between the GCA and the SAC. <b>Screened out at Step c.</b>
Development Framework Sites	The following proposals are assessed as having no connectivity to, and therefore no conceivable effect on, any Natura site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>East Kilbride Town Centre</li> <li>University of West of Scotland Almada Street</li> <li>University of West of Scotland (HITP)</li> <li>Hurlawcrook Road, East Kilbride</li> <li>St James Centre north, East Kilbride</li> <li>Duchess Road, Farme Cross</li> <li>Birkwood Estate, Lesmahagow</li> </ul> These proposals are therefore <b>screened out</b> under Step 3c.  The following proposal is also assessed as having no conceivable effect on any Natura site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market Road, Biggar</li> </ul>

This site lies within the core winter foraging range of pink-footed geese associated with the Westwater SPA. Although there is a record of feeding geese from the same grid square, the location and nature of the site makes it unsuitable for use by feeding geese. There will therefore be no direct loss of feeding habitat. The position of the site within the existing built up area means the possibility of disturbance to feeding geese is also discounted. This proposal is therefore also **screened out** under Step 3c.

The following proposal is also assessed as having no conceivable effect on any Natura site:

- Clyde Gateway, Rutherglen
- Bridge St/Somervell St, Cambuslang

Clyde Gateway and the proposed DFS at Bridge St/Somervell St is immediately adjacent to the banks of the River Clyde. There is therefore indirect connectivity between the sites and the Inner Clyde Special Protection Area via the River Clyde. However any potential effects are considered to be insignificant, being so restricted or remote from the site that they would not undermine the conservation objectives for the site. **Screened out at Stage 5 screening step 3d**

The following proposal is assessed as making provision for change but which would have no significant effect:

- Bellfield, Coalburn

The development site lies approximately 300m south west of the Coalburn Moss SAC. There will therefore be no direct impacts on the SAC. With regard to indirect impacts, consideration of soil mapping data indicates that the proposed development site does not lie on peat. The Coal Burn, which lies between the development site and the SAC has also been noted as providing a secure boundary for the SAC against waterborne pollution. As such, no indirect hydrological impacts are predicted. Appendix 3 Development Priorities requires a 500m buffer zone from the edge of the SAC where there should be no development. Other significant indirect impacts associated with development of the site (e.g. dust deposition) are therefore not predicted. While the disused railway line through the development site may provide a potential access route to the SAC, it is noted from the Coalburn Moss SSSI (the boundaries of which are the same as for the SAC) Management Statement that a management objective for the site is to continue to encourage access for educational and recreational purposes by maintaining access along the railway tracks. It is therefore not considered that this is likely to undermine the Conservation Objectives for the site. In view of the above, the site is screened out at step 3d.

For the following proposals, it is concluded that effects cannot be fully identified at this time.

- Langlands West, East Kilbride
- Law Hospital, Law

	<p>The sites are allocated for mixed uses, including industrial use. Although the LDP promotes development/change in these areas, it is not known when or how, in terms of industrial use, this may be implemented, where any potential effects may occur or what Natura sites, if any, may be affected. While there is no direct connectivity between these sites and any Natura site, the potential for indirect connectivity associated with industrial development of these sites will depend on the nature of the development proposed. As such, these sites are <b>screened out</b> under Step 3e.</p>
<p>Primary School Modernisation Programme and new nursery provision</p>	<p>The primary schools covered by this programme are either already developed, under construction or have detailed planning consent.</p> <p>The site locations for the new nurseries are not yet finalised and are therefore not listed or mapped in the LDP. It is therefore not possible to identify where, when or how the element of policy may be implemented, or where effects may occur, or which sites, if any, may be affected. <b>Screened out</b> under Step 3e.</p>
<p>Residential Masterplan Sites</p>	<p>The following Residential Masterplan Sites are subject to a current planning consent and are omitted from further assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Braidwood House, Braidwood</li> <li>• Bothwellbank Farm, Bothwell</li> <li>• East Whitlawburn Cambuslang</li> </ul> <p>The following Residential Masterplan Sites are assessed as having no connectivity to, and therefore no conceivable effect on, any Natura site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upper Braidwood, Braidwood</li> <li>• East Overton Extension Strathaven</li> <li>• Glassford Road Strathaven</li> <li>• Angus Terrace Douglas</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the following Residential Masterplan Site is also assessed as having no conceivable effect on any Natura site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manse Rd, Forth</li> </ul> <p>This site lies within the core winter foraging range (20km) of pink-footed geese, a qualifying interest of the Westwater SPA. However, there are no records of feeding birds in this area, either on the site itself or in the surrounding area where disturbance could occur. Following discussion with NatureScot it has been concluded that any development associated with this proposal would not affect the qualifying interests of the SPA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West of Bellefield Road, Lanark</li> </ul> <p>Addition of new residential masterplan site by Reporter. This site was subject to HRA when it came in as a 'call for sites' submission.</p> <p>The site is c. 300m from Clyde Valley woodlands SAC. It was <b>screened out at Step 3c</b> It is considered that any impacts</p>

	from the site would be too restricted to undermine the Conservation Objectives. The above sites are therefore <b>screened out</b> under Step 3c
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**POLICY 1 - CONCLUSIONS**

4.15 On the basis of the above assessment, it is considered that the allocations associated with Policy 1 will have no likelihood of a significant effect on any Natura site.

**POLICY 8 – EMPLOYMENT**

4.16 This policy encourages the development of business in South Lanarkshire, partly through the identification of employment land use areas. These areas are listed in Table 4.1 of the LDP and shown on the Proposals Map.

It is not possible to screen Policy 8 out from further consideration until these individual allocations are checked for the likelihood of significant effects. The allocations are therefore assessed below:

Allocation	Assessment
Development Framework Sites	As for Policy 1.
Core Industrial & Business Areas	<p>Core industrial and business areas in Clyde Gateway are covered by Clyde Gateway assessment (see above) The following Core Industrial and Business Sites are subject to a current planning consent and are therefore omitted from this assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edinburgh Rd, Carnwath</li> <li>• Birkhill area, Lesmahagow</li> </ul> <p>The following Core Industrial and Business Areas are assessed as having potential indirect connectivity but are too remote, and therefore have no conceivable effect on Firth of Clyde Natura site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hamilton Farm Area, Cambuslang</li> <li>• Cambuslang Investment Park area, Cambuslang</li> <li>• Westburn Farm area, Cambuslang</li> <li>• Former Hoover area (west), Cambuslang</li> </ul> <p>The above sites are therefore <b>screened out</b> under Step 3d</p> <p>For the following sites, it is concluded that although the LDP promotes development/change in these areas, it is not known when or how this may be implemented, where any potential effects may occur or what Natura sites, if any, may be affected. While there is no direct connectivity between these sites and any Natura site, the potential for indirect connectivity associated with industrial development of these sites will depend on the nature of any development proposed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Off Station Rd area, Biggar</li> <li>• Off Vere Rd, Kirkmuirhill</li> <li>• Roadmeetings area, Carluke</li> <li>• Glebe IE, Douglas</li> <li>• Climpy Rd area, Forth</li> <li>• Caldwellside IE, Lanark</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gateside IE, Lesmahagow</li> <li>• Lesmahagow IE, Lesmahagow</li> <li>• Lesmahagow IE, Lesmahagow (Extension)</li> <li>• Poniel East of M74, south of Lesmahagow</li> <li>• Smyllum area, (Caldwellside Ext), Lanark</li> <li>• Station Rd area, Law</li> <li>• Milton IE, Lesmahagow</li> <li>• Law Place area, East Kilbride</li> <li>• Howard Court, East Kilbride</li> <li>• Redwood Avenue area, East Kilbride</li> <li>• Linwood Avenue area, East Kilbride</li> <li>• College Milton area, East Kilbride</li> <li>• Kelvin &amp; Langlands IE, East Kilbride</li> <li>• West of Redwood Drive area, East Kilbride</li> <li>• Hamilton Rd area, Strathaven</li> <li>• Caledonia Place area, Strathaven</li> <li>• Off A725 area (north of Whistleberry Rd), Blantyre</li> <li>• Forrest Street area, Blantyre</li> <li>• Auchinraith Rd area, Blantyre</li> <li>• Whistleberry Industrial Park, Blantyre</li> <li>• Glasgow Rd area, Blantyre</li> <li>• Park Burn IE, Bantyre</li> <li>• Allanshaw IE, Hamilton</li> <li>• Whitehill Rd area (railway sidings), Hamilton</li> <li>• Bothwell Rd IE South, Hamilton</li> <li>• Cadzow IE, Hamilton</li> <li>• Larkhall South area – Canderside</li> <li>• Larkhall (Strutherhill, Shaws Rd), Larkhall</li> <li>• Grays Rd area, Uddingston</li> <li>• Fallside Rd area, Uddingston</li> <li>• Bothwell Park IE, Uddingston</li> </ul> <p>These sites are therefore <b>screened out</b> under Step 3e</p>
Other Employment Land Use Areas	<p>The following Other Employment Land Use Areas are assessed as having no connectivity to, and therefore no conceivable effect on, any Natura site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Hillhouse IE, Rutherglen</li> <li>• Cathcart Rd area, Rutherglen</li> </ul> <p>The above sites are therefore <b>screened out</b> under Step 3c</p> <p>For the following sites, it is concluded that although the LDP promotes development/change in these areas, it is not known when or how this may be implemented, where any potential effects may occur or what Natura sites, if any, may be affected. While there is no direct connectivity between these sites and any Natura site, the potential for indirect connectivity associated with industrial development of these sites will depend on the nature of the development proposed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Castlehill IE, Carluke</li> <li>• Baxter Lane area, Lanark</li> <li>• Harestanes IE, Upper Braidwood</li> <li>• Stroud Rd area (North of Stroud Rd), East Kilbride</li> <li>• Glenburn Rd (JVC site), East Kilbride</li> <li>• Albion Way, East Kilbride</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Braeview Place area, East Kilbride</li> <li>• Blantyre IE, Blantyre</li> <li>• Allanshaw IE (Peacock Drive area), Hamilton</li> <li>• Fullwood Park area, Hamilton</li> <li>• Peacock Cross Rd area, Hamilton</li> <li>• Hillhouse area, Hamilton</li> <li>• Bothwell Rd IE North, Hamilton</li> <li>• Craighead School, Hamilton</li> <li>• Dunedin Rd, Larkhall</li> </ul> <p>These sites are therefore <b>screened out</b> under Step 3e</p>
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**ASSESSMENT OF POLICY 8 – CONCLUSIONS**

4.17 It is considered that the allocations associated with Policy 8 can be screened out as having no likelihood of a significant effect on any Natura site at this stage.

**POLICY 11 – HOUSING**

4.18 This policy expresses the Council’s support for development of the sites identified in the Housing Land Audit and shown on the LDP proposals map. The baseline housing land audit for this purpose is 2019. It is not possible to screen Policy 11 out from further consideration until these individual allocations are checked for the likelihood of significant effects. A number of the allocated sites currently benefit from a valid planning consent. These sites are therefore not considered further in this assessment. Those sites which do not have a current consent or that are proposed through the LDP are considered below:

Allocation	Assessment
Housing Land Supply Sites (2019) without current planning consent	<p>The following sites are assessed as having no connectivity, and therefore no conceivable effect, on any Natura site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loch Avenue, Braidwood</li> <li>• 52 Carlowrie Avenue, Blantyre</li> <li>• St Joseph’s Primary School, Blantyre</li> <li>• Blantyre Vics off John Street, Blantyre</li> <li>• Lightburn Rd, Cambuslang</li> <li>• Cairns Phases 2-3, Cambuslang</li> <li>• Arkle Terrace, Cambuslang</li> <li>• Woodland Crescent, Cambuslang</li> <li>• Bridge Street, Cambuslang</li> <li>• Carluke High School, Carluke</li> <li>• Roadmeetings Hospital site, Carluke</li> <li>• Mounthilly Rd, Chapelton</li> <li>• Broadlees Garage, Chapelton</li> <li>• Netherton Road, East Kilbride</li> <li>• Hunter Primary School, East Kilbride</li> <li>• Bosfield Corner, East Kilbride</li> <li>• Murray House, East Kilbride</li> <li>• Carnegie Hill, East Kilbride</li> <li>• Stroud Road, East Kilbride</li> <li>• Eaglesham Road, East Kilbride</li> <li>• North and West Garrion, Garrion</li> <li>• Wellhall Road, Hamilton</li> <li>• Mill Road, Hamilton</li> <li>• Hope Street, Hamilton</li> <li>• Campbell Street, Hamilton</li> <li>• 92-94 Cadzow Street, Hamilton</li> </ul>

- Cadzowgait, Hamilton
- 129 Low Waters Road, Hamilton
- Purdie Street, Hamilton
- Alness Street, Hamilton
- Hollandbush, Hamilton
- Peacock Cross, Hamilton
- Vogue Cinema, Hamilton
- Brandon Street, Hamilton
- St Andrews Church, Hamilton
- Brandon Street, Hamilton
- Hyndford road, Hyndfordbridge
- Carlisle Rd, Kirkmuirhill
- Glengowan Primary, Larkhall
- Keir Hardy Road, Larkhall
- Wilson Street/Firbank Avenue, Larkhall
- Machan Avenue, Larkhall
- Glengonnar Street, Larkhall
- Gallowhill, Lanark
- Delves Road, Lanark
- Castlegate, Lanark
- Vogue Cinema, Lanark
- Royal Oak, Lanark
- Law Primary School, Law
- Milton Farm, Lesmahagow
- Wellburn Farm Phase A & B, Lesmahagow
- Balgray Rd, Lesmahagow
- Balgray Rd Phase 2, Lesmahagow
- Hallside East, Newton
- Fernhill Phase 2, Rutherglen
- Fernbrae Avenue, Rutherglen
- Blairbeth Park, Rutherglen
- Duchess Road, Rutherglen
- Montford Avenue, Rutherglen
- Bouverie Street, Rutherglen

The above sites are therefore all **screened out** under Step 3c.

The following site is assessed as being likely to have a significant effect on a Natura site:

- West of Mill Rd, Thankerton

This proposal lies within 20km of the Westwater SPA. This places it within the core winter foraging range of pink-footed geese associated with the SPA. Analysis of goose distribution data prepared by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust shows that there are records of feeding geese in close proximity to the site. Development of the site could therefore lead to:

- i) Loss of feeding habitats supporting pink-footed geese, and
- (ii) Disturbance of feeding geese.

- Former Craigbank Primary Avon Road, Larkhall

The site is immediately adjacent to the Clyde Valley Woods SAC and therefore may result in a number of impacts on the site including physical damage to trees, chemical effects of development (e.g. from dust during construction) and disturbance.

	<b>Mitigation for these sites requires to be considered under Stage 6.</b>
Other LDP Housing proposals	<p>The following new housing proposal, as set out in the LDP, is considered to have no connectivity, and therefore no conceivable effect, on any Natura site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West of Redwood Drive, East Kilbride (now a residential masterplan site)</li> </ul> <p>The above site is therefore <b>screened out</b> under step 3c.</p> <p>The following new housing proposal was added by the Reporter following the LDP Examination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bellefield Road, Lanark (Residential Masterplan site)</li> </ul> <p>The site is c. 300m from Clyde valley woodlands SAC. It is <b>screened out at Step 3c</b> It is considered that any impacts from the site would be too restricted to undermine the Conservation Objectives</p>

## ASSESSMENT OF POLICY 11 - CONCLUSIONS

4.19 On the basis of the assessment of Policy 11, it is considered that the majority of allocations associated with Policy 11 will have no likelihood of a significant effect on any Natura site. The exceptions to this are the allocations at:

- West of Mill Rd, Thankerton
- Former Craighbank Primary Avon Road, Larkhall

The first site has been assessed as having a likely significant effect on the qualifying species of the Westwater SPA.

The second site has a likely significant effect on the qualifying interests of the Clyde Valley Woodlands SAC. Mitigation measures therefore require to be considered under Stage 6 for these sites.

## IN-COMBINATION ASSESSMENT

### In-Plan In-Combination Effects

4.20 As part of the assessment, those policies and proposals which are considered to have no likely significant effect individually (Step 3d) are assessed for their in-combination effects. This assessment is presented below.

#### *Inner Clyde SPA*

4.21 A number of sites have potential indirect connectivity with Inner Clyde SPA. Following discussion with NatureScot it has been agreed that consideration of the Inner Clyde SPA can be discounted from the HRA screening. Strictly speaking, any site that could involve works to watercourses or riverbanks could be argued to have some degree of connectivity to the Inner Clyde. However, the LDP proposals that this would apply to are too far away from the SPA and too small scale to have any conceivable effect on it either individually or in-combination.

#### *Coalburn Moss*

4.22 Only one proposal contained in the plan, a Development Framework Site at Coalburn, has been assessed as having no likely significant effect, and hence a minor residual effect, on the Coalburn Moss SAC. It is therefore concluded that there will be no significant in-combination effects on this site.

#### *Westwater SPA*

4.23 Only one proposal associated with the plan is considered to have no likely significant effect, and hence a minor residual effect, on the Westwater SPA.:

- New Settlement boundary at Kaimend

4.24 This site does not directly impact on any areas known to be utilised by foraging geese associated with the SPA. It is therefore considered that there is no likelihood of a significant cumulative impact from these proposals on the availability of feeding areas for the geese. The key issue to be considered is instead the cumulative indirect effects of these proposals, particularly in relation to the potential for significant disturbance of the geese.

4.25 Individually, the site is considered to be sufficiently distant from areas known to be used by feeding geese that disturbance would be unlikely to occur. It is therefore concluded that there will be no significant in-combination effects on the Westwater SPA from this proposal.

### In-Combination Effects with other Plans and Projects

4.26 In-combination effects with the following other plans and projects have been considered in this assessment. Where available, this is based on the findings of other HRAs.

Plan/Project	HRA available?	Minor Residual Effects on Relevant European Sites identified?	Significant in-combination effects with South Lanarkshire LDP?
Glasgow City LDP	yes	No.	No.
East Renfrewshire LDP	Yes	No effects identified.	No.
East Ayrshire LDP	Yes	No effects identified at present.	No.
Dumfries & Galloway LDP	Yes – Proposed Plan	No effects identified.	No.
Scottish Borders LDP	Yes	3 Sites in Borders identified with potential LSE for Westwater SPA	There is a potential in-combination effect in terms of loss of foraging and disturbance to feeding geese, but given the small scale of the sites and the availability of feeding areas within 20km of the SPA, these are not considered significant effects.
West Lothian LDP	yes	Not known, but not thought to identify any connectivity.	No.
North Lanarkshire Area-wide Local Plan	Yes	No.	No.
South Lanarkshire Local Transport Strategy (LTS) 2013	Yes	Yes	<b>Coalburn Moss:</b> No. There are no policies or proposals within the LDP which are considered to have a minor residual effect on this SAC. Therefore there is no likelihood of significant in-combination effects.

			<p><b>River Tweed SAC:</b> No. There are no policies or proposals within the LDP which are considered to have a minor residual effect on this SAC. Therefore there is no likelihood of significant in-combination effects.</p> <p><b>Waukenwae Moss SAC:</b> No. There are no policies or proposals within the LDP which are considered to have a minor residual effect on this SAC. Therefore there is no likelihood of significant in-combination effects.</p> <p><b>Clyde Valley Woods SAC:</b> No. There are no policies or proposals within the LDP which are considered likely to lead to a significant effect in combination with those of the LTS.</p> <p><b>Westwater SPA:</b> No. There are no policies or proposals within the LDP which are considered likely to lead to a significant effect in combination with those of the LTS.</p>
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## Stage 6/7 – Applying Mitigation Measures and Rescreening

### SCREENING RESULTS AND MITIGATION

4.27 Following the assessment of the LDP policies and proposals, it can be concluded that much of the LDP is unlikely to have any significant effect on Natura sites, either alone or in-combination.

However, it has not been possible to screen out all elements of the plan and therefore consideration must be given to measures to mitigate likely significant effects associated with the following elements:

Policy	Proposal/Aspect Requiring Mitigation	Natura Site Affected and Mitigation
11 - Housing	Residential sites at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West of Mill Rd, Thankerton</li> <li>Former Craigbank Primary Avon Road, Larkhall</li> </ul>	<p><i>Westwater SPA</i></p> <p>No simple mitigation has been identified in respect of this site. It is therefore taken forward to the appropriate assessment stage</p> <p><i>Clyde Valley Woodlands SAC</i></p> <p>No simple mitigation has been identified in respect of this site. It is therefore taken forward to the appropriate assessment stage</p>

## Stage 8 – Appropriate Assessment

### APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT: POLICY 11 & ASSOCIATED PROPOSALS

#### Westwater SPA

4.28 The Westwater SPA is located 2.2km from the South Lanarkshire boundary within West Lothian. As noted in Appendix 2 of this Record, the qualifying interest for Westwater SPA relevant to South Lanarkshire relates to **aggregations of non breeding birds** Pink footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*). The Conservation Objectives for the species are:

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

The most recent assessment (2016) considers this feature of the SPA to be in 'Favourable Maintained' condition.

#### Scope of Assessment

4.29 The issues in South Lanarkshire relate to the effect on geese when they are outwith the SPA in foraging/feeding areas. Due to the distant location of the proposed developments from the SPA, it is clear that no direct or indirect influences on the SPA itself would occur. When considering the effect on habitat used by the SPA qualifying species and disturbance to the qualifying species outside the SPA itself, the relevant considerations are the impact this could have on the site's Conservation Objectives on population viability and possibly also distribution of the species within the site. Maintaining habitats for the species and avoiding disturbance outside the SPA itself are not legitimate Conservation Objectives of the site in their own right.

4.30 It is therefore considered that the proposed development would have no impact on maintenance of the following SPA conservation objectives and that no further consideration requires to be given to these in this assessment:

- To avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species or significant disturbance to the qualifying species, thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained; and
- To ensure for the qualifying species that the following are maintained in the long term
  - Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species;
  - Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species.
  - No significant disturbance of the species

Consideration is therefore given to impacts of the proposals on the following conservation objectives:

- 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

4.31 A reduction in available feeding areas, either through direct habitat loss or displacement arising from disturbance associated with construction activities and occupation of the developments, could lead to a reduction in the numbers of geese that habitat out with the SPA could support. This could affect the population of the species as a viable component of the SPA and consequently also potentially have an adverse impact on the distribution of the species within the site.

## Habitat Loss

4.32 Pink-footed geese are highly susceptible to human disturbance. Research suggests that they avoid feeding in fields less than 6 hectares (ha) in size and fields that are close to roads. The development proposals are without exception located on the edge of already built up areas. It is therefore considered unlikely that any of the land required for these developments constitutes land which would be used by feeding geese. As such, it is considered that there will be no direct loss of feeding habitat due to these proposals.

## Impacts of displacement

4.33 Displacement effects could arise from two sources – the construction and subsequent occupation of the developments.

4.34 With regard to construction, noise generated from these types of sites will mainly be in the early stages of construction when ground works are being undertaken and will therefore be comparatively short lived. In addition, the noise produced by this kind of work does not generally involve the percussive types of sound that are the most disturbing to birds e.g. blasting or pile driving. If disturbance during construction does occur, it could result in the temporary displacement of geese during the construction period. The potential for temporary displacement of geese means the proposals are regarded as being likely to have a significant effect on the SPA. However, a temporary displacing of birds from a particular feeding area would only lead to an adverse impact on the integrity of the SPA if the availability of feeding areas was a limiting factor on the number of geese using the SPA as a roost. There does not appear to be a shortage of suitable foraging habitat in a 20km radius of the Westwater SPA, including in other areas of South Lanarkshire (notably those areas associated with the Clyde floodplain). For this reason, it is also concluded that any small scale reduction in feeding habitat availability caused by longer term displacement effects (i.e. geese may feed further back from the development sites once completed than they do at present) would not adversely affect the integrity of the SPA.

4.35 Subsequent occupation of the developments could also lead to displacement through increased human activity in the area. However, the areas around the proposed developments are not the most important feeding areas for the geese, presumably due to their proximity to already built up areas, roads and railways. The presence of these features suggests that geese utilising areas close to them are habituated to a comparatively high level of background noise and activity. It is therefore concluded that the likelihood of significant additional disturbance from these comparatively small developments is small. Again however, should displacement occur, this will be restricted to the times when disturbing activities are being carried out. As above, the temporary displacement of birds from a particular feeding area would only lead to an adverse impact on the integrity of the SPA if the availability of feeding areas was a limiting factor on the number of geese using the SPA as a roost.

4.36 These proposals, both individually and cumulatively, are therefore not considered likely to lead to effects which will limit the number of geese the SPA can support. It is therefore concluded that the proposals will not adversely impact on the population viability of the species. As such, there is also no reason why the proposals themselves would influence the distribution of the species within the site. The SPA itself would remain unaffected by any impacts of these developments and geese would be able to continue to use any part of the site for roosting.

## Conclusion

4.37 On the basis of the foregoing, it is concluded that these Conservation Objectives for the SPA will not be undermined by the proposals, either alone or in combination with each other. As such, it is concluded that Policy 11 and the proposals associated with it will not adversely affect the integrity of the Westwater SPA.

## Clyde Valley Woodlands SAC

4.38 The Clyde Valley Woods SAC is comprised of 11 discrete sites within the North and South Lanarkshire Council areas. As noted in Appendix 2 of this Record, the qualifying interest for the Clyde Valley Woods SAC is its **mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes**, which is considered a priority habitat. The Conservation Objectives for the site are:

- To avoid deterioration of the qualifying habitat thus ensuring that the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for each of the qualifying features; and
- To ensure for the qualifying habitat that the following are maintained in the long term:
  - Extent of the habitat on site
  - Distribution of the habitat within site
  - Structure and function of the habitat
  - Processes supporting the habitat
  - Distribution of typical species of the habitat
  - Viability of typical species as components of the habitat
  - No significant disturbance of typical species of the habitat

The most recent assessment (2002) considers the qualifying habitat of the SAC to be in 'Favourable Maintained' condition.

### Scope of Assessment

4.39 The proposed development site lies immediately adjacent to the Avondale SSSI section of the SAC at Larkhall. The site is currently partly amenity grassland and scrub, providing an effective buffer to the SAC woodland. While there would be no direct impact on the SAC from the allocation, given its proximity to the SAC the allocation for housing could have indirect impacts. It is considered appropriate to consider these potential indirect impacts against all Conservation Objectives for the site.

Size of buffer	Reason for buffer
15m (minimum)	To protect woodland from the effects of development such as run-off, noise, damage to tree roots etc. There is no discussion about how the figure of 15m was reached. (UK)
50m	To protect woodland from encroachment activities from adjacent housing, such as waste disposal, garden extension. This paper specifies that the buffer should be wooded. (Canada)
100 – 200m	To protect plant species from the effects of vehicle emissions from roads (UK).
300m	To protect woodland bird species from the effects of roads (Spain).
400m	To protect woodland bird species from the effects of urban development (Spain).
?	Lightly wooded buffer around existing woodland to protect the core from impacts of development (UK)

### Assessment

4.40 The allocation is approximately 5m from the SAC boundary at its closest point and therefore there would be no direct effects on the Conservation Objectives of the site.

4.41 For most of the eastern side of the SAC, the side on which the allocation is located, there is existing adjacent housing. However, for most of the length of this boundary, there is a wooded buffer between the SAC and the housing of 30m - 70m.

4.42 Housing development near to ancient woodlands, such as those found in the Clyde Valley Woods SAC, can introduce a range of potential impacts. The Woodland Trust (2012) publication *Impacts of development on nearby ancient woodland: addendum*, which reviews the literature on the potential impacts of development adjacent to ancient woodland, broadly identifies these as:

1. Chemical effects – pollution getting into the woodland from run-off from gardens, cars etc.
2. Noise disturbance
3. Light pollution
4. Trampling, erosion and damage to vegetation
5. Dumping of rubbish
6. Dumping of non-native (sometimes invasive) plants and plant waste
7. Recruitment of non-woodland plant species

A range of different buffer zones are described in order to attempt to mitigate and manage these impacts:

4.43 In view of this, it is concluded that any development proposals for the site must incorporate **a buffer zone of at least 15 metres** to avoid root damage. This reflects the *maximum* root protection area applicable under British Standard 5837: Trees in relation to construction (which specifies the area equivalent to a circle

with a radius 12 times the diameter of the trunk at breast height, capped to an area of 707m<sup>2</sup>) and recommendations from recent (2018) guidance from Forestry Commission and Natural England<sup>1</sup>. NatureScot have also advised during consultations on this assessment that anything less than a buffer of 15m will result in direct, measureable and unacceptable impacts to the SAC qualifying habitat.

4.44 However, **a larger buffer zone is likely to be needed where assessment shows other impacts are likely to extend beyond 15 metres**. Woodland Trust guidance states that as a precautionary principle, “a minimum 50 metre buffer should be maintained between a development and [the] ancient woodland, including through the construction phase, unless the applicant can demonstrate very clearly how a smaller buffer would suffice”. This 50 metre buffer relates to impacts on the woodland habitat from effects such as the trampling of woodland vegetation, pollution from construction activities or new gardens, driveways and roads.

## Conclusion

4.45 It is therefore considered at this stage that, while it is possible to identify a minimum buffer required, it is not possible to specify an exact size of buffer required at the site. To ensure that it can be concluded that the LDP would have no adverse impact on the integrity of the Clyde Valley Woods, the following modifications to the plan are therefore required:

- The addition of a case-specific policy caveat, stating that:

*“To be in accordance with this local development plan, and for permission to be granted, detailed proposals, including applications for planning permission in principle, for the Avon Road site must retain an undeveloped buffer between the site and the Clyde Valley Woods SAC. Any application for planning permission must demonstrate that this buffer, which must be a minimum 15m wide, is of sufficient extent to ensure that potential indirect effects associated with housing development, as identified in The Woodland Trust (2012) publication Impacts of development on nearby ancient woodland: addendum, would not adversely affect the mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes of the Clyde Valley Woods SAC, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.”*

## 5. Conclusions

5.1 On the basis of the foregoing assessment, it is concluded that:

- The majority of policies and proposals in the Proposed Plan can immediately be screened out on the basis that they are not likely to have any significant effects on any Natura sites.
- One policy (Policy 11) with a number of associated proposals has been identified as likely to have a significant effect on the Westwater SPA and Clyde Valley Woodlands SAC. Following an appropriate assessment, it has been concluded that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the sites from the implementation of this Policy or its associated proposals.

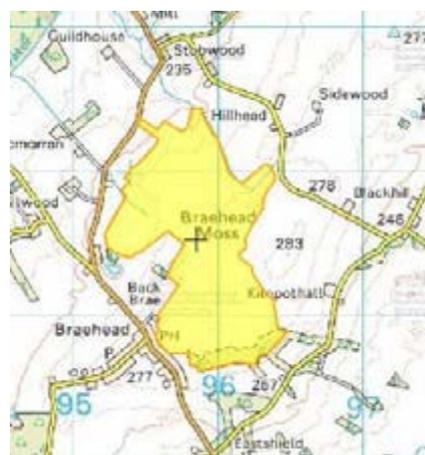
**5.2 Overall, it is therefore concluded that with the adoption of the measures set out in this HRA within the LDP2 where required, there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site from the implementation of the South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2.**

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<sup>1</sup> ‘Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees: protecting them from development’:

## 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. NatureScot 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.

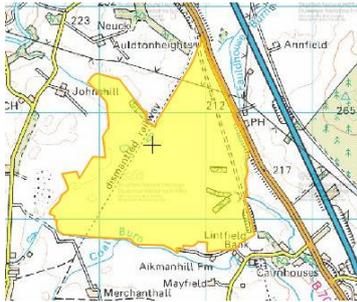
### Threats and Pressures (those in **bold** specifically relevant to LDP)

Pressures affecting site condition  
(from NatureScot Sitelink)  
Burning, natural event

General threats & pressures  
(from JNCC website)



**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.

**Threats and Pressures** (those in **bold** specifically relevant to LDP)

Pressures affecting site condition  
 (from NatureScot Sitelink)  
 Invasive species, grazing

General threats & pressures  
 (from JNCC website)

**Human induced changes to hydrology**, utility & service lines, invasive non-native species, **roads, paths & railroads**, forest planting on open ground, fire & fire suppression, **air pollution & air-borne pollutants, structures & buildings in the landscape, mining & quarrying, changes in abiotic conditions**, grazing.

**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.

**Threats and Pressures** (those in **bold** specifically relevant to LDP)

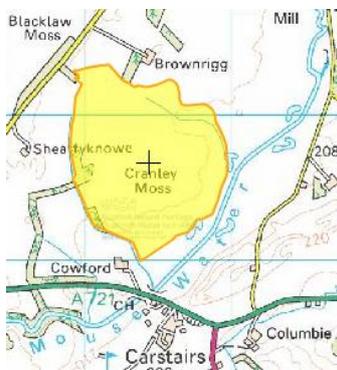
Pressures affecting site condition  
(from NatureScot Sitelink)

Dry heaths and Marsh saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*)- Over-grazing  
Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas – Trampling

### General threats & pressures

(from JNCC website) All features - **Changes in abiotic conditions, air pollution & air-borne pollutants, outdoor sport and leisure activities, recreational activities**, problematic native species, invasive non-native species, fire & fire suppression, **renewable abiotic energy use, roads, paths and railroads, human induced changes to hydrology**, biocenotic evolution, succession, grazing, forest planting on open ground, hunting & collection of wild animals (JNCC)

**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

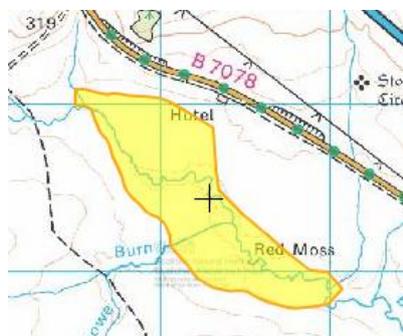
This active raised bog and areas of degraded bog are the subject of management agreements to conserve and promote the development of the diversity of peatland habitats. The agreements control drainage and grazing, make provision for the removal of invasive tree scrub and protect the site from the burning 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.

**Threats and Pressures** (those in **bold** specifically relevant to LDP)

Pressures affecting site condition  
(from NatureScot Sitelink)  
Active raised bog - Under grazing  
Degraded raised bog - Invasive species, **water management**, other

General threats & pressures (from JNCC website)  
**Human induced changes to hydrology**, utility & service lines, invasive non-native species, **roads, paths & railroads**, forest planting on open ground, fire & fire suppression, **air pollution & air-borne pollutants, structures & buildings in the landscape, mining & quarrying, changes in abiotic conditions**, grazing.

**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 NatureScot 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.

**Threats and Pressures** (those in **bold** specifically relevant to LDP)

Pressures affecting site condition (from NatureScot Sitelink)  
Other activity

General threats & pressures (from JNCC website)

**Human induced changes to hydrology**, utility & service lines, invasive non-native species, **roads, paths & railroads**, fire & fire suppression, **air pollution & air-borne pollutants**, **structures & buildings in the landscape**, **mining & quarrying**, **changes in abiotic conditions**, grazing

**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 *Ranunculus fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation

**Annex II Species**

Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*  
 Otter *Lutra lutra*  
 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*  
 Sea Lamprey  
 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.

**Threats and Pressures** (those in **bold** specifically relevant to LDP)

Pressures affecting site condition (from NatureScot Sitelink)

Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) - Agricultural operations, **climate change**, forestry operations, invasive species, over-grazing, **water management, Water Dependant Pressures – morphological alterations, abstraction, point source pollution, diffuse pollution**

Brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*) - **Water Dependant Pressures – morphological alterations, flow regulation, abstraction, point source pollution, diffuse pollution**

Otter (*Lutra lutra*) - Forestry operations, **recreation/disturbance**

River lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) - **Water Dependant Pressures – morphological alterations, flow regulation, abstraction, point source pollution, diffuse pollution, water management, water quality**

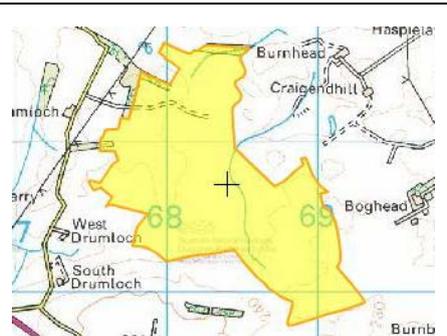
Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot - Invasive species, **water management, water quality**

Sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) - **Water Dependant Pressures – morphological alterations, flow regulation, abstraction, point source pollution, diffuse pollution, water management, water quality**

General threats & pressures (from JNCC website)

All Features - Pollution to ground water (point sources and diffuse sources), **human induced changes to hydrology**, invasive non-native species

**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**

Active Raised Bog\*  
 Degraded raised bog still capable of natural regeneration  
 (\*Priority Habitat)

**Site Condition**

**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 NatureScot'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 NatureScot'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 NatureScot 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.

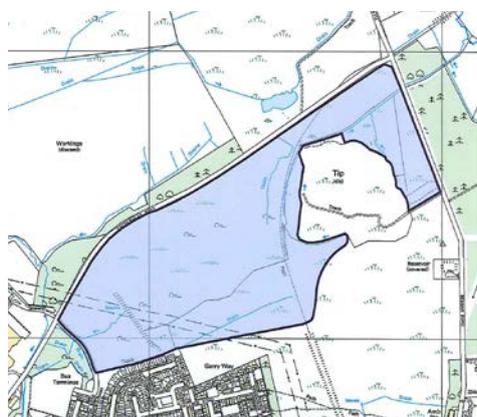
### Threats and Pressures (those in **bold** specifically relevant to LDP)

Pressures affecting site condition (from NatureScot Sitelink)  
Agricultural operations (ditches), grazing

General threats & pressures (from JNCC website)

**Human induced changes to hydrology**, utility & service lines, invasive non-native species, **roads, paths & railroads**, forest planting on open ground, fire & fire suppression, **air pollution & air-borne pollutants, structures & buildings in the landscape, mining & quarrying, changes in abiotic conditions**, grazing.

**North Shotts Moss** (53.36ha). The lowland raised bog at North Shotts Moss is on level ground with a high diversity of *Sphagnum* species, forming a series of ridges and hollows. The field layer is made up of heather, cross-leaved heath, hare's-tail cottongrass, common cottongrass and crowberry.



### Annex I Habitats

Active Raised Bog\*  
Degraded raised bog still capable of natural regeneration  
(\*Priority Habitat)

### Site Condition

**Bogs (wetland)** - Active Raised Bog – Favourable maintained  
**Bog (wetland)** - Degraded Raised Bog – Unfavourable no change

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

**Threats and Pressures (those in bold specifically relevant to LDP)**

Pressures affecting site condition (from NatureScot Sitelink)

Active raised bog – no negative pressures

Degraded raised bog -

**Dumping/spreading/storage of materials**

General threats & pressures (from JNCC website)

**Human induced changes to hydrology**, utility & service lines, invasive non-native species, **roads, paths & railroads**, forest planting on open ground, fire & fire suppression, **air pollution & air-borne pollutants, structures & buildings in the landscape, mining & quarrying, changes in abiotic conditions**, grazing

## Appendix 2. Special Protection Areas

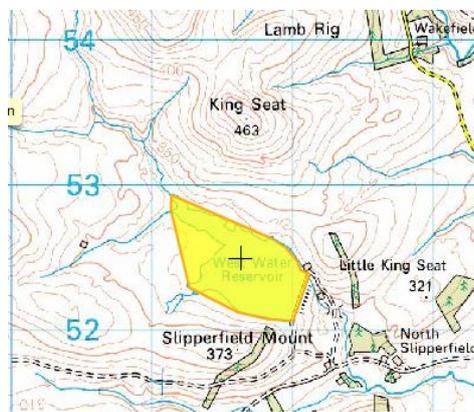
<p><b>Muirkirk &amp; North Lowther Uplands</b> (26,330 ha). The SPA is an extensive area of moorland extending south from near Darvel in South Ayrshire to near Kirkconnel in Dumfries and Galloway. Three areas of the SPA lie within South Lanarkshire – south of Glentaggart, west of Glespin, around Logan 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. Note that boundary of SPA was amended in 2018.</p>		
<p>For map please follow this link  <a href="https://sitelink.nature.scot/site/8616">https://sitelink.nature.scot/site/8616</a></p>	<p><b>Qualifying Species</b>  Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>), breeding Birds  Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>), breeding Birds  Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>), non-breeding Birds  Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>), breeding Birds  Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>), breeding Birds  Short-eared Owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>), breeding Birds</p>	<p><b>Site Condition</b>  <b>Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)</b> – Unfavourable Declining  <b>Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) (breeding and non-breeding)</b> – Unfavourable Declining  <b>Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)</b> – Unfavourable No change  <b>Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)</b> – Unfavourable No change  <b>Short-eared owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)</b> – Favourable Maintained</p>
<p><b>Conservation objective for the following Qualifying Species:</b>  Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)  Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)  Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)  Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)  Short-eared owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)</p> <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 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>		
<p><b>Vulnerability Status</b>  Breeding raptors and golden plover are potentially vulnerable to disturbance from agricultural practices, game management and recreational activities (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.</p> <p><b>Threats and Pressures</b> (those in <b>bold</b> specifically relevant to LDP)  Pressures affecting site condition (from NatureScot Sitelink)  Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>), breeding - Burning, <b>climate change</b>, forestry, under-grazing</p>		

Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), breeding - Agricultural operations, burning, over-grazing, game or fisheries management  
 Hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), non-breeding - No onsite activities noted  
 Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), breeding - Agricultural operations, burning, forestry, game or fisheries  
 Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*), breeding - No onsite activities noted  
 Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*), breeding - No negative pressures.

General threats & pressures (from JNCC website)

All Features - Mowing / cutting of grassland, grazing, Forest planting on open ground, **Renewable abiotic energy use**, Hunting and collection of wild animals, **Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities**, Fire and fire suppression, **Other ecosystem modifications**, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in biotic conditions

**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**

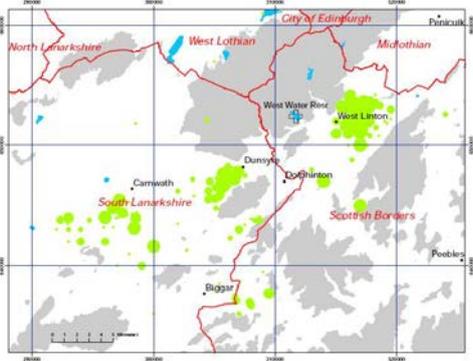
Shooting is now prohibited within the SPA boundary although consents are in place to allow for legal pest control. Shooting continues to take place outwith the site boundary on flight paths leaving the roost. Fishing currently has a closed period over the critical winter months for the bird interests. 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.

**Threats and Pressures** (those in **bold** specifically relevant to LDP)

Pressures affecting site condition (from NatureScot Sitelink)  
 Pink-footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), non-breeding - No negative pressures  
 Waterfowl assemblage, non-breeding - No negative pressures

General threats & pressures (from JNCC website)  
 All features - **Renewable abiotic energy use**

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/Carnwarth to Libberton and Carstairs

The initial arrival of the birds in autumn can 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 Craighendoran 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

<https://sitelink.nature.scot/site/8514>

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 NatureScot website for further details. <https://sitelink.nature.scot/site/1701>

### **Threats and Pressures** (those in **bold** specifically relevant to LDP)

Pressures affecting site condition (from NatureScot Sitelink)

Redshank (*Tringa totanus*), non-breeding - Fishing- shellfish harvesting, **recreation/disturbance**

General threats & pressures (from JNCC website)

### **Changes in abiotic conditions**



# South Lanarkshire

Planning and Building Standards Services

## Local Development Plan 2

South Lanarkshire  
Local Development Plan 2

South Lanarkshire Council  
Community and Enterprise Resources  
Planning and Building Standards Services  
Montrose House, Montrose Crescent  
Hamilton ML3 6LB  
[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://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](mailto:equalities@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)